



## Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT**

*Monetary Sanctions in the Criminal Justice System.* By Alexes Harris, et al. Laura and John Arnold Foundation. Apr. 2017. 213 p.

<http://www.monetarysanctions.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/Monetary-Sanctions-Legal-Review-Final.pdf>

Monetary sanctions are thought to be a “dimension of punishment, an opportunity for restorative justice, and a source of revenue.” However, the United States lacks a single set of laws governing the enforcement of these legal financial obligations. Monetary sanctions can accumulate quickly, especially when unpaid obligations trigger additional sanctions. This can cause a burden on individuals and their families. Because monetary sanctions can be an

important source of revenue for justice and non-justice related activities, stakeholders sometimes resist their removal or reduction. This report compares monetary sanction legal statutes and case laws in nine states, including California.

## CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

**“Nighttime Temperature and Human Sleep Loss in a Changing Climate.”** By Nick Obradovich, et al. *Science Advances*, vol. 3 no. 5 (May 26, 2017) 6 p.

<http://advances.sciencemag.org/content/3/5/e1601555>

“[The authors] predicted more restless nights, especially in the summer, as global temperatures rise. They found that the poor, who are less likely to have air-conditioning or be able to run it, as well as the elderly, who have more difficulty regulating their body temperature, would be hit hard. If global emissions are allowed to continue at a high level, the paper found, then additional nights of sleeplessness can be expected beyond what people normally experience. By 2050, for every 100 Americans, an extra six nights of sleeplessness can be expected every month, the researchers calculated. By 2099, that would more than double, to 14 additional nights of tossing and turning each month for every 100 people, in their estimation.” ([New York Times](#), May 26, 2017).

## ECONOMY

***The Fall of the Labor Share and the Rise of Superstar Firms.*** By David Autor, et al. NBER. May 2017. 75 p.

<http://www.nber.org/papers/w23396> (Available to .gov accounts or from the California State Library)

“From manufacturing to retailing, giant companies have managed to gobble up a larger and larger share of the market. While such concentration has resulted in enormous profits for investors and owners of behemoths like Facebook, Google and Amazon, this type of ‘winner take most’ competition may not be so good for workers as a whole. Over the last 30 years, their share of the total income kitty has been eroding. And the industries where concentration is the greatest is where labor’s share has dropped the most, according to research that analyzed confidential financial data from hundreds of companies.” ([New York Times](#), Mar. 8, 2017).

## EDUCATION

***Governors’ Top Education Priorities: 2017 State of the State Addresses.*** By Alyssa Rafa, et al. Education Commission of the States. Mar. 2017. 7 p.

<http://www.ecs.org/ec-content/uploads/Governors%E2%80%99-Top-Education-Priorities-2017-State-of-the-State-addresses.pdf>

“Each year, Education Commission of the States tracks and analyzes governors’ addresses, identifying emerging trends and priority issue areas. To date, 42 governors have delivered their 2017 State of the State addresses. This Education Trends report highlights the top seven education priorities identified by governors in 2017: school finance, workforce development and career technical education, teacher issues, early learning (pre-kindergarten – third grade), postsecondary affordability, technology, and school choice.”

***The National K-12 Foreign Language Enrollment Survey Report.*** By The Language Flagship at the Defense Language and National Security Education Office. June 2017. 51 p.  
<https://www.americancouncils.org/sites/default/files/FLE-report-June17.pdf>

“Education in foreign languages in the U.S., particularly at the K-12 level, continues to experience dynamic changes.” This report is an analysis of K-12 foreign language enrollment in the United States. The researchers found “foreign language enrollments account for approximately 20% of the total school age population. A total of 11 states have foreign language graduation requirements; 16 states do not have foreign language graduation requirements; and 24 states have graduation requirements that may be fulfilled by a number of subjects—one of which is foreign languages.” In California, with a K-12 population just over 6 million, 13.91% of the K-12 population is enrolled in foreign language classes. California’s highest language enrollments are Spanish, French and American Sign Language.

## **EMPLOYMENT**

***The State of American Vacation 2017. Project Time Off.*** June 2017. 14 p.  
<http://www.projecttimeoff.com/sites/default/files/StateofAmericanVacation2017.pdf>

This report finds employees are beginning to use more of their earned vacation time, yet taking time off continues to be a challenge to the American worker. “Employees who forfeit their vacation days do not perform as well as those who use all their time.... Unused vacation days cost the U.S. economy \$236 billion in 2016, due to lost spending.... Though women are more likely than men to say vacation time is ‘extremely’ important to them (58% to 49%), it is a statement of idealism, not behavior, as just 44% of women used all their vacation time.... The clear majority of managers agree that vacation improves health and well-being (82%), boosts morale (82%), and alleviates burnout (81%).”

## **ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT**

***Rising Seas in California: An Update on Sea-Level Rise Science.*** By Gary Griggs, et al. California Ocean Science Trust. Apr. 2017. 71 p.  
<https://calmatters.org/wp-content/uploads/rising-seas-in-california-an-update-on-sea-level-rise-science-1.pdf?x35230>

This report “provides guidance to state agencies for incorporating sea-level rise projections into planning, design, permitting, construction, investment and other decisions.... [We] are updating this statewide guidance to reflect recent advances in ice loss science and projections of sea-level rise.” Scientific understanding of sea-level rise is advancing at a rapid pace. “Coastal California is already experiencing the early impacts of a rising sea level, including more extensive coastal flooding during storms, periodical tidal flooding, and increased coastal erosion.” The report concludes that waiting for scientific certainty is not a safe or prudent option because it can hinder preparation efforts, adaptation strategies, and adaptation actions.

## **HEALTH**

***Cost Estimate: H.R. 1628 Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017.*** Congressional Budget Office. June 26, 2017. 49 p.  
<https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/115th-congress-2017-2018/costestimate/52849-hr1628senate.pdf>

In this highly anticipated report, the Congressional Budget Office and the Joint Committee on Taxation estimate that enacting the Senate’s legislation would reduce the cumulative federal deficit by \$321 billion between 2017 and 2026. “[T]he immediate increase in the ranks of the uninsured would be slightly larger than under the House version, with an estimated 15 million fewer Americans likely to have coverage in

2018, compared to 14 million in the House bill. The Senate's bill also would reduce federal spending on subsidies for people who buy individual health insurance policies significantly more than the House's version, cutting spending for tax credits by \$408 billion by 2026." ([Washington Post](#), June 26, 2017).

**"Deaths from Alzheimer's Disease – United States, 1999-2014." By Christopher A. Taylor, et al. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, vol. 66 no. 20 (May 26, 2017) pp. 521-526.**  
<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/66/wr/mm6620a1.htm>

In 2014, Alzheimer's disease was the sixth leading cause of death in the United States. Between 1999 and 2014, death rates from Alzheimer's disease grew by 55% nationwide and 87% in California, in part due to the growing elderly population. "The increasing rates of Alzheimer's deaths are not only problematic because of their obvious direct health effects on persons with Alzheimer's. The debilitating nature of Alzheimer's means that there are financial and societal costs borne by patients and their families, and by states and counties that operate publicly funded long-term care facilities. It is estimated that total health and long-term care costs for persons with Alzheimer's and other dementias in the United States will total \$259 billion in 2017, more than two thirds of which is expected to be covered by public sources such as Medicare and Medicaid."

## HUMAN SERVICES

***Child Care Expenses Push Many Families Into Poverty.* By Marybeth J. Mattingly, et al. Carsey Research. May 2, 2017. 2 p.**  
<http://scholars.unh.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1303&context=carsey>

"One third of poor families who pay for child care for their young children are pushed into poverty by their child care expenses. Families most often pushed into poverty by child care expenses include households with three or more children, those headed by a single parent, those with a black or Hispanic head of household, and those headed by someone with less than a high school degree or by someone who does not work full time.... [L]owering out-of-pocket child care expenses for families with young children would serve to reduce poverty.... [S]ubsidies may expand access to higher quality child care or open the door to increased labor force participation."

### ***About the California Research Bureau***

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