



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Correctional Officer Health and Safety: Some State and County Correctional Facilities Could Better Protect Their Officers From the Health Risks of Certain Inmate Attacks. California State Auditor. Sep. 2018. 68 p.

<http://www.auditor.ca.gov/pdfs/reports/2018-106.pdf>

"Officers and staff members who work in California's ... correctional facilities face threats to their health and safety, including being subject to a type of assault in which an inmate throws bodily fluids at them—

commonly known as a gassing attack. A gassing attack can have serious health implications for the victim, including the potential transmission of communicable diseases from the bodily fluids and psychological trauma from the incident. The auditor states that three of the correctional facilities visited do not have procedures in place to ensure that they provide adequate care to victims. In addition, the facilities did not consistently investigate gassing incidents in a thorough and timely manner, and have not established adequate internal processes to prevent attacks.

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

***The Persistent Effect of U.S. Civil Rights Protests on Political Attitudes.* By Soumyajit Mazumder. *American Journal of Political Science*. Aug. 2018. 14 p.
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/ajps.12384> (Available from the California Research Bureau)**

“[S]ocial movements can not only beget institutional change, but also long-run, attitudinal change.... Whites from counties that experienced historical civil rights protests are more likely to identify as Democrats and support affirmative action, and less likely to harbor racial resentment against blacks. These individual-level results are politically meaningful—counties that experienced civil rights protests are associated with greater Democratic Party vote shares even today. This study highlights how social movements can have persistent impacts on a nation's politics.”

ECONOMY

***Material Hardship among Nonelderly Adults and Their Families in 2017.* By Michael Karpman, et al. Urban Institute. Aug. 2018. 18 p.
https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/98918/material_hardship_among_nonelderly_adults_and_their_families_in_2017.pdf**

“The Urban Institute, a left-leaning Washington think tank, surveyed more than 7,500 adults about their experience making ends meet. It found that about 40% of people ages 18 to 64 faced some sort of hardship last year. ... The stats become more troubling the deeper you drill down. More than 35% of families with at least one working adult reported difficulty meeting at least one basic need last year. Almost a quarter of Americans experienced food insecurity.... [A] staggering 18% faced issues paying medical bills, and nearly as large a percentage reported skipping treatment ... because they couldn't afford it. Slightly more than 10% of Americans missed a rental or mortgage payment.” ([Los Angeles Times](#), Aug. 31, 2018).

EDUCATION

**“Who Goes to Private School? Long-term Enrollment Trends by Family Income.” By Richard J. Murnane, et al. *Education Next*, vol. 18, no. 4 (Fall 2018) pp 1-9.
<https://www.educationnext.org/who-goes-private-school-long-term-enrollment-trends-family-income/>**

“As a result of growing residential segregation by income, low-income families are increasingly concentrated in urban areas. In such places, one quarter of high-income families enroll their children in private schools compared to a much smaller—and declining—proportion of middle- and low-income families. As a result, both urban public schools and urban private schools have less socioeconomic diversity today than they had several decades ago. Higher-income families increasingly live either in the suburbs or enroll their children in private schools. Moreover, the private schools their children attend are more likely to be expensive nonsectarian schools than was the case four decades ago. Together, these trends indicate an increasingly polarized pattern of school enrollment. As a result, American schools—both public and private—are increasingly segregated by income.”

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Managing Drought in a Changing Climate: Four Essential Reforms. By Jeffrey Mount, et al. Public Policy Institute of California. Sep. 2018. 30 p.

<http://www.ppic.org/publication/managing-drought-in-a-changing-climate-four-essential-reforms/>

“While California is making good progress in some areas of drought management, a more focused plan of action is needed.” The report puts forward four reforms to “prepare for and respond to droughts in California’s changing climate”: 1) Plan ahead for urban water management, groundwater sustainability, safe drinking water in rural areas of California, and freshwater ecosystems; 2) upgrade the water grid, including above- and below-ground storage, conveyance, etc.; 3) update water allocation rules; and 4) locate reliable funding for adaptation to climate change.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Homeless Exclusion Districts: How California Business Improvement Districts Use Policy Advocacy and Policing Practices to Exclude Homeless People from Public Space. By Jeffrey Selbin, et al. UC Berkeley School of Law, Policy Advocacy Clinic. Aug. 22, 2018. 52 p.

https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3221446

“The research paper ... links the rise of the [business improvement] districts, which now number about 200 in California, to an increase in the number of anti-homeless laws. ‘BIDs seek to enact, maintain, and strengthen laws that criminalize activity like sitting, resting, sleeping, panhandling, and food sharing in public spaces,’ the report said.... The authors recommend that the state Legislature rewrite laws to prohibit using property assessment fees for policy advocacy and policing.... Officers of districts ... faulted the report as vague and oversimplified.... The districts have long been criticized for targeting homeless people for removal. But the new study argues that they are breaking state law by using mandatory property assessments—some from public entities—to advocate for legislation.” ([Los Angeles Times](#), Sep. 18, 2018).

HEALTH

“Transgender Adolescent Suicide Behavior.” By Russell B. Toomey, et al. *Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics*, vol. 143 no. 4 (Sep. 2018) 10 p.

<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2018/09/07/peds.2017-4218> (Available from the California Research Bureau)

“Fifty-one percent of transgender male adolescents reported at least one suicide attempt—the highest rate in the study. The second highest was among young people who are nonbinary—those who do not identify exclusively as male or female—at 42%, while 30% of transgender female adolescents reported attempting suicide.... The study shed light on additional factors examined in efforts to grapple with the problem of self-harm. While racial background and parental educational attainment, as well as whether the adolescent lives in a more urban area, were influential among the youth population at large, these were not meaningful factors among transgender youth, the study showed.... The study concluded that, ‘Suicide prevention efforts can be enhanced by attending to variability within transgender populations, particularly the heightened risk for female to male and nonbinary transgender adolescents.’” ([Washington Post](#), Sep. 14, 2018).

HUMAN SERVICES

***A Promising Alternative to Subsidized Lunch Receipt as a Measure of Student Poverty.* By Matthew M. Chingos. Brookings. Aug. 16, 2018.**

<https://www.brookings.edu/research/a-promising-alternative-to-subsidized-lunch-receipt-as-a-measure-of-student-poverty/>

Schools have identified their economically disadvantaged students as those eligible for the federal free or reduced-priced lunch (FRL) program. However, it became challenging under a [community eligibility](#) provision, “which allows schools with at least 40% of students identified as eligible for FRL to provide free lunches to all of their students and eliminate paper applications going forward.” However, several states, such as Delaware and Massachusetts, are leading the way in adopting new methods for identifying low-income students “based on their families’ participation in programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Medicaid, and the foster care system.”

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

“Indirect Reciprocity and the Evolution of Prejudicial Groups.” By Roger M. Whitaker et al. *Scientific Reports*, vol. 8 no. 13247 (Aug. 15, 2018) 14 p.

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-018-31363-z/>

Experts from Cardiff University and MIT have shown that groups of autonomous machines are capable of developing prejudice by identifying, copying, and learning this behavior from one another.... “It is feasible that autonomous machines with the ability to identify with discrimination and copy others could in [the] future be susceptible to prejudicial phenomena that we see in the human population.... Many of the AI developments that we are seeing involve autonomy and self-control, meaning that the behavior of devices is also influenced by others around them. Vehicles and the Internet of Things are two recent examples.” The study also found that increasing exposure to additional subpopulations reduced the potential for prejudice to take hold. ([Daily Mail](#), Sep. 7, 2018).

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Google News Lab

Earlier this week, Google News Lab launched [Google Trends Midterm](#), which allows a user to examine real-time Google search trends at the state, county and city level. Google Trends Midterm is intended to help journalists see what issues matter where they live. The News Lab has also partnered with ProPublica to build an [Election DataBot](#), which pulls together Google Trends data, candidate spending data, campaign ads, deleted tweets and campaign statements.

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