



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

February 27, 2019

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Unmet Promises - Continued Violence & Neglect in California's Division of Juvenile Justice.

By Maureen Washburn, et al. Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice. Feb. 2019. 102 p.

http://www.cjcj.org/uploads/cjcj/documents/unmet_promises_continued_violence_and_neglect_in_california_division_of_juvenile_justice.pdf

"California's state youth correctional system, the Division of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) ... has reached a crossroads. With more than 1,000 authorized staff and four aging facilities, all serving a youth population of just over 600, DJJ's cost per youth now exceeds \$300,000 per year. In total, California spends \$200

million each year to preserve an antiquated system that is operating at less than 40% of its capacity. Californians must reckon with spending levels that are not supported by outcomes while considering DJJ's devastating effects on youth health and well-being. No amount of reform can reverse the failures of a correctional model predicated on prison-like facilities that are isolated from communities. Yet with a record-low youth population and claims by DJJ that they have corrected past harms, the public has turned its attention away from the troubled state institution."

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

San Joaquin Valley Latino Immigrants: Implications of Survey Findings for Census 2020.
By Edward Kissam, et al. **San Joaquin Valley Census Research Project. Jan. 18, 2019. 44 p.**
https://www.shfcenter.org/assets/SJVHF/SJVCRP_Survey_Findings_Report_011819_Web.pdf

"A Trump administration plan to ask people about their citizenship status on the 2020 census could result in a massive undercount of California's Central Valley population.... Among undocumented immigrants, willingness to participate ... dropped from 80% to 25% when faced with the scenario of having to answer a citizenship question. Legal residents were also more wary ... with more than a third saying they would decline to participate.... [and] cited concern about endangering undocumented family members, as well as disgust over what they see as the citizenship question's racist overtones.... The projected undercount in the Central Valley could result in a loss of about \$200 million in federal funding a year to the region, or \$2 billion over the next decade." ([California Health Report](#), Feb. 18, 2019).

ECONOMY

Missing Growth from Creative Destruction. By Philippe Aghion, et al. **American Economic Review. Jan. 2019. 44 p.**
<http://www.klenow.com/missing-growth.pdf>

"Aghion et al. (2019) found that official statistics understate growth in sectors outside of manufacturing. They consider two types of innovation: creative destruction and in-house. Creative destruction involves new producers taking part of the market share from existing producers by creating products that are either of higher quality at a similar price or similar quality at a lower price. This Letter shows that, when one accounts for the productivity growth from creative destruction that is missed by official statistics, the contribution of nonmanufacturing sectors to aggregate productivity growth rises substantially, particularly after 2006.... Contrary to much economic commentary, continued expansion of the nonmanufacturing sector's share of the U.S. economy could actually boost true U.S. productivity growth if this process of creative destruction continues. Sectors such as services may have overtaken manufacturing as the engine of growth." ([FRBSF Economic Letter](#), Jan. 22, 2019).

EDUCATION

Doubling Graduation Rates in a New State: Two-Year Findings from the ASAP Ohio Demonstration. By Colleen Sommo, et al. **MDRC. Dec. 2018. 12 p.**
<https://www.mdrc.org/publication/doubling-graduation-rates-new-state>

"Graduation rates more than doubled for program participants at three Ohio colleges that replicated the City University of New York (CUNY) Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP) program. ASAP requires students to enroll full time and provides comprehensive financial and academic support and other support services. This brief presents two-year impact, implementation, and cost findings on the ASAP demonstration in Ohio. The random assignment evaluation shows that students in the program group clearly outperformed the control group with respect to credit accumulation and graduation.

Graduation rates more than doubled: 19% of the program group earned a degree or credential after two years compared with 8% of the control group.”

Financing School Facilities in California: A 10-Year Perspective. By Eric J. Brunner. **Getting Down to Facts.** Sep. 2018. 10 p.

http://www.gettingdowntofacts.com/sites/default/files/2018-09/GDTFII_Brief_Facilities.pdf

“This study suggests that California’s current approach to funding its school facilities presents challenges beyond the question of how much funding is available. Funding volatility is one such challenge. In addition, the system’s reliance on local general obligation bonds has left lower income and lower property-wealth communities with fewer facility dollars. The state’s system for allocating state monies for modernization appears to have exacerbated this inequity. Overall, this study reveals large facility spending differences across districts related to wealth and a state school facility program that does little to dampen inequality except at the very bottom of the wealth distribution. As a result, California’s system of school facility finance is relatively regressive.”

About Getting Down to Facts II: <https://gettingdowntofacts.com/about>

EMPLOYMENT

Public-Sector Unions and the Size of Government. By Agustina S. Paglayan. **American Journal of Political Science**, vol. 63 no. 1 (Jan. 2019) pp. 21-36.

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/epdf/10.1111/ajps.12388>

“While many educators credit their unions for helping them secure higher salaries and better working conditions, union critics accuse these organizations of hurting students by shielding low-performing and problematic teachers from disciplinary action or dismissal.... [W]e’ve gathered a sampling of research that offers insights into the work of teachers unions, including their impact on teacher salaries, student achievement and teacher turnover. We’ve included several studies that look specifically at collective bargaining agreements, or the written contracts that unions negotiate with districts to regulate such things as teacher evaluation, compensation, grievances, class size and job transfers.” ([Journalist’s Resource](#), Feb.12, 2019).

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Accidents Waiting to Happen; Toxic Threats to our Rivers, Lakes, and Streams. By Gideon Weissman, et al. **Environment America Research & Policy Center.** Apr. 30, 2018. 47 p.

<https://environmentcalifornia.org/feature/ame/accidents-waiting-happen>

This reports highlights water contamination “accidents waiting to happen” across the United States in five primary settings: industrial use and storage, oil trains and pipelines, manure lagoons, coal ash pits, and fracking wastewater. Examples of the types of risks, their frequency, the impact of climate change, and policy recommendations to mitigate them are included. “While some of these pollute rivers, lakes and streams on an ongoing basis, the risks of one-off catastrophic spills are even greater as climate change-fueled hurricanes and flooding cause overflows, breaches and accidents, the study explains.”

HEALTH

“A Randomized Trial of E-Cigarettes versus Nicotine-Replacement Therapy.” By Peter Hajek, et al. *The New England Journal of Medicine*. Online ahead of print. Jan. 30, 2019. 9 p.

<https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa1808779>

“[T]he study showed people who were randomly assigned to use e-cigarettes quit smoking at almost double the rate of people who were randomly assigned to nicotine replacement therapy. That’s an impressive finding—making e-cigarettes look even more promising for smoking cessation. But don’t expect it to resolve the debate about their usefulness—or their risks. As usual, there are a bunch of caveats to consider in interpreting the study’s findings. In this case, many of them have to do with how quickly e-cigarette technology is changing and whether this UK study will translate to the US context.” (*Vox*, Jan. 30, 2019).

Correction: Last week’s issue included a broken link in the Health section. The following is the correct link:

The Health Care Priorities and Experiences of California Residents. By Liz Hamel, et al. Kaiser Family Foundation and California Health Care Foundation. Jan. 2019. 44 p.

<https://www.chcf.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/HealthCarePrioritiesExperiencesCaliforniaResidents.pdf>

HUMAN SERVICES

Millions of Children Are Eligible for Subsidized Child Care, But Only a Fraction Received Services in 2017. By Kristin Schumacher. California Budget & Policy Center. Jan. 2019. 2 p.

https://calbudgetcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Fact-Sheet_Millions-of-Children-Are-Eligible-for-Subsidized-Child-Care-but-Only-a-Fraction-Received-Services-in-2017_01.28.2019.pdf

“In 2017, just 1 in 9 children eligible for subsidized child care and development programs in California were enrolled in a program that could accommodate families for more than a couple hours per day and throughout the entire year.... In California, policymakers have incrementally increased the number of spaces for children and boosted provider payment rates. State policymakers also took an important step forward by updating the decade-old income eligibility limits and implementing a 12-month eligibility period.... [However] without additional investments in new spaces for children, these changes could further limit access for low-income families.”

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

“Gender Shades: Intersectional Accuracy Disparities in Commercial Gender Classification.” By Joy Buolamwini, et al. *Proceedings of Machine Learning Research*, vol. 81 (2018) pp. 1-15.

<http://proceedings.mlr.press/v81/buolamwini18a/buolamwini18a.pdf>

“[A] new study from researchers at the M.I.T. Media Lab has found that Amazon’s system, Rekognition, had much more difficulty in telling the gender of female faces and of darker-skinned faces in photos than similar services from IBM and Microsoft.... Rekognition made no errors in recognizing the gender of lighter-skinned men. But it misclassified women as men 19% of the time, the researchers said, and mistook darker-skinned women for men 31% of the time.... [Facial recognition services] have emerged as a lightning rod in the debate about whether and how Congress should regulate powerful emerging technologies.” (*New York Times*, Jan. 24, 2019).

About the California Research Bureau

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