



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

April 3, 2019

Contents this week:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Audit: CA DOJ should revise rules on processing rape kits

ECONOMY

Impact of women's changing trends in workforce participation in the 1980s, '90s
Increased women's property rights, holdings led to increased industrial investment

EDUCATION

New Common Core-aligned math textbooks have little influence on achievement tests

EMPLOYMENT

The worsening divide between white, black worker wage gap

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Trump tax plan may be reason CA revenues currently \$2 billion less than estimated

HEALTH

Study: The more sugary drinks consumed, higher risk of premature death

HUMAN SERVICES

California Family Leave Program relative to other states

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Tech roundtable finds the future of manufacturing will require innovative public policy

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Follow-Up: Sexual Assault Evidence Kits. California State Auditor. Mar. 7, 2019. 42 p.

<https://www.auditor.ca.gov/pdfs/reports/2018-501.pdf>

In a 2014 state audit, one finding was that the amount of benefits received from processing all sexual assault evidence kits was unknown. One of the recommendations of the audit was that California Department of Justice use its Rapid DNA Service, which operates in 39 California counties, to collect data that would demonstrate those benefits. This follow up "concludes that Justice has not made sufficient efforts to obtain case outcome information that could demonstrate the extent of the benefits of testing all collected sexual assault evidence kits." The follow up also recommends that any new law on processing the evidence kits include requirements that mandate case outcome provision to the Department of Justice.

ECONOMY

Changing Business Cycles: The Role of Women's Employment. By Stefania Albanesi. NBER. Mar. 2019. 65 p.

<https://www.nber.org/papers/w25655.pdf>

“The model is used to assess the impact of changing trends in female labor supply on productivity and [Total Factor Productivity (TFP)] growth and aggregate business cycles. We find that the growth in women’s labor supply and relative productivity contributed substantially to TFP growth starting from the early 1980s, even if it depressed average labor productivity growth.... Finally, we show that the discontinued growth in female labor supply after the 1990s plays a substantial role in the jobless recoveries following the 2001 and 2007-2009 recession.

Women's Liberation as a Financial Innovation. By Moshe Hazan, et al. SSRN. Updated Nov. 24, 2018. 62 p.

https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3275636 (Free registration required)

“Before women are granted property rights, there is no clear trend. Afterwards, there is an increase in industrialisation. This result also holds when we use a similar strategy (described in Figure 1) for which we compare the borders of neighbouring states, one of which granted rights. Interestingly, we find that the growth in industrialisation was strongly biased towards industries that used more capital per worker, as measured by the 1850 census of manufacturers. It is hard to overstate the social significance of the end of coverture for women. What was perhaps unexpected at the time was the financial significance for markets and economic growth. Our findings are based on the experience of women in the US, but they show clearly how expanding economic rights to women, or oppressed minorities, can create economic growth.” ([VoxEU](#), Mar. 23, 2019).

EDUCATION

Learning by the Book: Comparing Math Achievement Growth by Textbook in Six Common Core States. By David Blazar, et al. Center for Education Policy Research, Harvard University. Mar. 2019. 46 p.

https://cepr.harvard.edu/files/cepr/files/cepr-curriculum-report_learning-by-the-book.pdf

Researchers examined if there was any effect of switching to new Common Core-aligned textbooks on math achievement scores among fourth and fifth graders in states aligned with Common Core standards. California was one of six states in this study. The researchers found “little evidence of differences in average achievement gains for schools using different math textbooks. We also did not find impacts of textbooks for schools where teachers reported above-average levels of textbook usage, for schools that had been using the text for more than one year, or in schools that provided an above-average number of days of professional development aligned to the textbook.”

EMPLOYMENT

State of Working America Wages 2018. By Elsie Gould. Economic Policy Institute. Feb. 20, 2019. 39 p.

<https://www.epi.org/publication/state-of-american-wages-2018/>

“The largest black–white wage gaps are found at the top of the wage distribution. The 33.4% wage gap for the highest-wage workers is explained in part by occupational segregation, the disproportionate likelihood for white workers to occupy positions in the highest-wage professions, and the pulling away of the top more generally.... While black workers continue to increase their educational attainment, occupational segregation persists, and employers continue to wield considerable leverage to dictate wage

contracts, including ones that perpetuate discriminatory practices. Unfortunately, in lieu of stronger labor standards and worker bargaining power, it takes tighter and tighter labor markets for all workers to reap the rewards of a strong and growing economy.” ([Economic Policy Institute Working Economics Blog](#), Feb. 27, 2019).

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Structuring the Budget: Reserves, Debt and Liabilities. Legislative Analyst’s Office. Feb. 5, 2019. 32 p.

<https://lao.ca.gov/Publications/Report/3925>

Statement of General Fund Cash Receipts and Disbursements – January 2019. California State Controller. Feb. 22, 2019. 11 p.

<https://www.sco.ca.gov/Files->

[ARD/CASH/January%202019%20Statement%20of%20General%20Fund%20Cash%20Receipts%20and%20Disbursements.pdf](https://www.sco.ca.gov/Files-ARD/CASH/January%202019%20Statement%20of%20General%20Fund%20Cash%20Receipts%20and%20Disbursements.pdf)

Finance Bulletin February 2019. California Department of Finance. Feb. 11, 2019. 2 p.

http://www.dof.ca.gov/Forecasting/Economics/Economic_and_Revenue_Updates/documents/2019/February19.pdf

“State Controller Betty Yee [reported last week](#) that California’s total revenues equaled \$18.79 billion in January, nearly \$2 billion shy of what Gov. Gavin Newsom’s budget proposal estimated. H.D. Palmer, spokesman for the Finance Department, said that the cash shortage is most likely a reflection of a change in taxpayer behavior since the enactment of President Donald Trump’s tax plan last year. Palmer’s office is scheduled to release its [own report today](#) that he said will reflect similar findings in both the controller’s and the [Legislative Analyst’s Office report](#) from Feb. 5, which also recorded a \$2 billion shortfall.... [Palmer said] ‘The issue, we believe, is the month is not down because of underlying economic weakness. It’s because the change to federal tax law no longer gives [taxpayers] the benefit of paying in December. They can hold off paying until April.’” ([Sacramento Bee](#), Feb. 19, 2019).

HEALTH

“Long-Term Consumption of Sugar-Sweetened and Artificially Sweetened Beverages and Risk of Mortality in US Adults.” By Vasanti Malik, et al. *Circulation*, vol. 139 (Mar. 18, 2019) 13 p.

<https://www.ahajournals.org/doi/10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.118.037401>

“Compared with women who had sugary beverages less than once per month, those who had more than two servings a day—defined as a standard glass, bottle or can—had a 63% increased risk of premature death.... Men who did the same had a 29% increase in risk. Those who consumed more than one sugary beverage per month but fewer than two per day seemed to experience a dose effect: the more they drank, the greater the risk.... The main cause of premature death in the new research was cardiovascular disease, followed by cancer, primarily of the colon and breast, according to the study. Overall, the consumption of sugary beverages was found to increase the risk of premature death from cardiovascular disease by 31% and from cancer by 18% when the group who drank more than two per day was compared with those who had fewer than one per month.” ([CNN](#), Mar. 18, 2019).

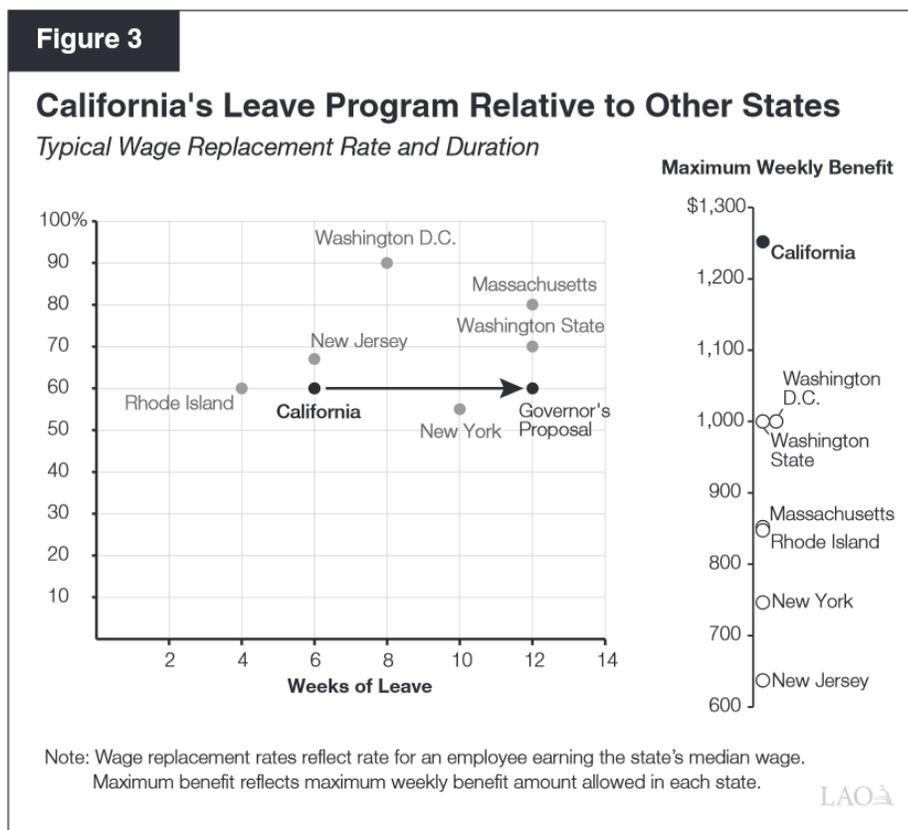
HUMAN SERVICES

Considering Options to Expand Paid Family Leave in California. Legislative Analyst's Office. Mar. 7, 2019. 16 p.

https://lao.ca.gov/handouts/state_admin/2019/Family-Leave-030719.pdf

“California's current paid family leave program, implemented in 2004, provides up to six weeks of partial wage replacement to workers who take time off to bond with a new child or care for an ill family member. In the 2019-20 Governor's Budget, the Governor included a conceptual proposal to expand paid family leave and make the program more flexible.” See the chart from the report to see how California's current paid family leave program is different from programs in other states and how it would change by Governor's proposal. In California, most workers receive weekly benefits equal to 60% of their normal pay during leave, up to a capped amount. Relative to other states, California's maximum weekly benefit is higher (\$1,252), but its wage replacement rate is toward the lower end.

From the report:



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Smart Factories: Issues of Information Governance. Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs. Mar. 2019. 68 p.

<https://manufacturingpolicy.indiana.edu/>

“Manufacturers cannot wait for perfect policy to emerge—the journey to smart manufacturing has already begun, and competitiveness considerations demand participation.” For a recent roundtable event in Washington, D.C., Indiana University invited policy experts to contribute papers on the future of U.S. manufacturing in the digital age. The chapters in this report explore themes of information governance,

cybersecurity and operations technology. “Information governance will impact how and when companies invest in smart manufacturing. Technology alone will not create smart factories—the right policies must also be in place to enable these technologies and reduce unnecessary barriers to market entry.”

About the California Research Bureau

The California Research Bureau at the California State Library develops independent, nonpartisan research and analysis for the executive and legislative branches. We provide policy research, 50-state reviews, academic and media summaries, data analysis and much more. To learn more about us, or to obtain a copy of reports featured here, contact crb@library.ca.gov, or call (916) 319-2691.

To subscribe to *Studies in the News* and view past issues, visit our website at <http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/newsletters>.