



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

***The Effect of Grade Retention on Adult Crime: Evidence from A Test-Based Promotion Policy.* By Ozkan Eren, et al. National Bureau of Economic Research. Dec. 2018. 56 p.
<https://www.nber.org/papers/w25384> (Available to .gov accounts or from the California Research Bureau)**

“[W]e find that being retained in eighth grade has large long-run effects on the likelihood of being convicted of a crime by age 25 and on the number of criminal convictions by age 25. Effects are largest for violent crimes: the likelihood of being convicted increases by 1.05 percentage points, or 58.44%, when students are retained in eighth grade. Our data allow an examination of mechanisms, and we show that the effects are likely driven by declines in high school peer quality, lowered non-cognitive skill acquisition, and a reduction in educational attainment. However, we find little effect on juvenile crime, which suggests the effects on adult criminal engagement are driven by worse job market prospects and non-cognitive skills that stem from lower educational investments by students.”

ECONOMY

'Superstars': The Dynamics of Firms, Sectors, and Cities Leading the Global Economy. By James Manyika, et al. McKinsey Global Institute. Oct. 2018. 60 p.

<https://www.mckinsey.com/featured-insights/innovation-and-growth/superstars-the-dynamics-of-firms-sectors-and-cities-leading-the-global-economy>

"Among the world's largest companies, economic profit is distributed unequally along a power curve, with the top 10% of firms capturing 80 percent of positive economic profit.... The bottom 10% of companies destroy as much value as the top 10% create, and today's bottom-decile companies have 1.5 times more economic loss, on average, than their counterparts of 20 years ago. That means for every company that creates economic value, there is another company that destroys economic value. Yet these value-destroying companies continue to survive, holding on to their resources for increasingly longer durations and continuing to attract capital." (*McKinsey*, Apr. 2019).

EDUCATION

First Comes Diploma, Then Comes Debt: Unequal Debt Burdens Among University of California Undergraduates. By The Institute for College Access & Success. Mar. 2019. 12 p.

https://ticas.org/sites/default/files/pub_files/first_comes_diploma_then_comes_debt.pdf

"Students of color and low-income graduates are up to three times more likely to take on student loan debt than their white and wealthy peers at University of California schools.... Despite UC's robust financial aid offerings, the groups discovered that 67% of African-American and 66 percent of Latino graduates walked away with loan debt, far surpassing 40% of their white counterparts and well above the 50% average for all students. The study also revealed that 22% of students from families making more than \$173,000 have loan debt, compared to 65% of students from a \$29,000 income household." (*Sacramento Bee*, Mar. 22, 2019).

The Adequacy and Fairness of State School Finance Systems: Findings from the School Finance Indicators Database School Year 2015-2016. By Bruce D. Baker, et al. Albert Shanker Institute, Rutgers University. Apr. 2019. 36 p.

http://schoolfinancedata.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/SFID_AnnualReport_2019.pdf

"We introduce in this report an updated, public database of state school finance measures, and present results for three key measures in this system: effort, adequacy, and progressivity. Our results indicate, as would be expected, that states vary widely on all three measures. There are several states in which educational resources are comparatively adequate and distributed equitably. In general, however, resources in most states tend to be allocated non-progressively or even regressively. That is, higher-poverty districts do not receive more funds—and in some cases receive substantially less—than do lower-poverty districts, even controlling for factors that affect costs, such as regional wage variation, district size, and population density. Moreover, using models that estimate the spending levels required to achieve common outcome goals, we find that the vast majority of states spend well under the levels that would be necessary for their higher-poverty districts to achieve national average test scores."

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

California's Housing Emergency Update. California Housing Partnership. Mar. 21, 2019. 4 p.

https://1p08d91kd0c03rlxhmtydpr-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/CHPC_HousingNeedReport_2019_PRINT_High-Res1.pdf

"Despite recent laws and new funding to boost housing construction, California still needs 1.4 million more affordable rental units.... Of more than 2 million very low-income renter households in California,

roughly two-thirds are severely cost burdened, meaning they spend more than half their income on rent.... The California Housing Partnership, a nonprofit funded by charitable organizations including the Wells Fargo Foundation and the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, looked specifically at low-income families to determine how many were spending a high share of their income on rent.... [T]he state spends nearly \$14 on homeowners in the form of real property and mortgage interest tax deductions for every \$1 it spends on renters. The report calls for the state to give \$1 billion annually to cities and counties to fund more housing. It also calls for more tax breaks to help low-income families.” ([Sacramento Bee](#), Mar. 21, 2019).

HEALTH

2019 County Health Rankings Report: California. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Mar. 2019. 16 p.

<http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/reports/state-reports/2019-california-report>

U.S. health rankings. 16 p: <http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/reports/2019-county-health-rankings-key-findings-report>

“A new study revealing California’s healthiest, and least healthy, counties highlights the divide between both urban and rural California as well as richer and poorer counties.... The findings showed that the Bay Area, Napa Valley and Southern California were home to some of the healthiest counties in the state, while the least healthy counties all were found in rural Northern California and along the Central Valley.” The study found that there are fewer opportunities and resources for improved health among groups that have been historically marginalized, such as people of color, the poor, those with physical or mental disabilities, LGBTQ and women. ([Sacramento Bee](#), Mar. 22, 2019).

HUMAN SERVICES

Five Things You May Not Know about the US Social Safety Net. By Sarah Minton, et al. Urban Institute. Feb. 2019. 14 p.

https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/99674/five_things_you_may_not_know_about_the_us_social_safety_net_1.pdf

“To understand more about the safety net’s reach and who might be most affected by changes to safety net programs, we take an initial look at how many people are served by the current system and the characteristics of those recipients.... We outline five key findings about the reach of the current US safety net: 1) Nearly one in five people is served by at least one of these safety net programs; 2) Almost one-third of all children receive assistance; 3) Three in four people living in poverty are connected to at least one of these safety net programs; 4) Non-Hispanic black people are most likely to participate in one of the programs; and 5) The safety net’s reach varies across states.”

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Cyber-physical Risks of Hacked Internet-connected Vehicles. By Skanda Vivek, et al. Georgia Institute of Technology. arXiv. Feb. 28, 2019. 11 p.

<https://arxiv.org/pdf/1903.00059.pdf>

“[I]f someone can hack one car, what happens if they manage to hack many at once in a major metropolitan city?” In a paper presented in March at the American Physical Society, the authors described the potential effect on busy New York City streets if self-driving cars are hacked. “Worst-case scenario: a small-scale hack affecting just 10% of cars on the road would be sufficient to cause city-wide gridlock, essentially cutting half of Manhattan off from the rest of the city. And unlike compromised data, compromised vehicles can lead to physical injury.” The paper’s findings “suggested a possible strategy for

reducing the risk of this worst-case scenario. Vivek *et al.* suggest using multiple networks for connected vehicles, thereby decreasing how many cars can be compromised in a single hack.” ([Ars Technica](#), Mar. 13, 2019).

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