CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT
Monetary bail policies have ‘far-reaching negative consequences’ on criminal justice system

ECONOMY
Study estimates Trump trade war reduced U.S. real income $1.4 billion per month in 2018

EDUCATION
Girls outperform boys on recent national tech, engineering exam
Report explores needs of community colleges, ways to better fund them

EMPLOYMENT
Boosting early childhood education programs could help CA’s economy

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT
Assessing the risk factor of compound carcinogens in CA water

HEALTH
LAO: ‘Carve-out’ of pharmacy services could save CA millions of dollars

HUMAN SERVICES
Interactive map: foster care, adoption numbers for CA, U.S.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT


“The pretrial population—the number of people who are detained while awaiting trial—increased 433% between 1970 and 2015. This growth is in large part due to the increased use of monetary bail. But pretrial detention has far-reaching negative consequences. This evidence brief presents information on the way that pretrial detention is currently used and summarizes research on its impacts. These studies call into question whether pretrial detention improves court appearance rates, suggests that people who are detained are more likely to be convicted and to receive harsher sentences, and indicate that even short periods of detention may make people more likely to become involved with the criminal justice system again in the future. The brief concludes by highlighting strategies that some jurisdictions have employed to reduce the use of monetary bail and increase pretrial release.”
ECONOMY

https://www.nber.org/papers/w25672 (Available to .gov accounts or from the California Research Bureau)

“The costs of the new tariff structure were largely passed through as increases in U.S. prices, affecting domestic consumers and producers who buy imported goods rather than foreign exporters. The researchers estimate that the tariffs reduced real incomes by about $1.4 billion per month. Due to reduced foreign competition, domestic producer prices also increased. The prices of manufactured goods rose by one percentage point relative to a no-trade-war scenario.” (The NBER Digest, May, 2019).

EDUCATION

https://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/tel/

“The country’s 8th graders improved their scores on a national technology and engineering exam, with girls significantly outpacing boys and most gains seen among higher-performing students. Overall, scores on the National Assessment of Educational Progress in Technology and Engineering Literacy (TEL) in 2018 were two points higher than when the National Center for Education Statistics first administered the exam in 2014. The share of students scoring proficient or above rose from 43% to 46%.” (EdWeek, Apr. 30, 2019).


“Policymakers have left community colleges strikingly underfunded compared to four-year institutions and as a result have made it more difficult for them to serve their 9 million largely lower-income students, according to a new study by The Century Foundation. The report explains that two-year colleges face a crisis as they struggle with chronic poor performance by their students, on whom they spend about $14,000 each per year. Private research institutions, meanwhile, spend three times that amount, not including research functions. The report calls for more funding, including from the federal government, along with better research to establish what improvements to community college will cost and how they will pay off.” (EducationDive, Apr. 25, 2019).

EMPLOYMENT


“Numerous studies have shown that spending on ECE [early childhood education] programs is a good long-term investment for kids. Our study finds that increased investment would also generate immediate and long-lasting economic benefits for California.” For example, “[w]hen parents have access to high-quality ECE, they are able to increase their earnings. Many women in the workforce in California are breadwinners for their families, but they often take up low-wage or part-time work. Lack of access to ECE fuels this problem. Nationally, problems with child care cost parents $8.3 billion in lost wages. Investment in ECE can help working parents recoup these losses.”
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

“Applying a Cumulative Risk Framework to Drinking Water Assessment: A Commentary.”

“The report included first-time research on how the presence of multiple carcinogens in drinking water increases cancer risks. Regulators currently assess individual hazards instead of evaluating combinations of multiple pollutants found in drinking water. The study’s authors evaluated state and federal data that revealed arsenic, byproducts of disinfectants and chromium-6…. Nearly 5,000 people out of 3.1 million Californians in small- to medium-sized communities could develop cancer because they’re drinking water from close to 500 contaminated systems. Another 28.5 million Californians are drinking from more than 1,100 contaminated systems, leading to a potential 10,427 lifetime cancer cases. The report’s release coincides with a push by Gov. Gavin Newsom and some state lawmakers to create a new drinking water fee that would pay for improvements in communities with unsafe tap water.” (Sacramento Bee, May 2, 2019).

HEALTH

https://lao.ca.gov/Publications/Report/3997

The Legislative Analyst’s Office (LAO) released a report on the potential impact of a Medi-Cal carve out for managed care pharmacy services, originating from Governor Newsom’s Executive Order in early January 2019 to reduce the state’s rising prescription drug costs. Carving out a service refers to transitioning a Medi-Cal service from managed care to a fee-for-service. According to the LAO, carve out of pharmacy services could potentially save the state hundreds of millions of dollars annually. The savings would mostly result from the state paying for drugs dispensed by pharmacies to Medi-Cal beneficiaries at pharmacies’ cost of purchasing the drugs. However, the carve out would significantly impact major Medi-Cal stakeholders, such as enrollees, pharmacies, healthcare providers and Medi-Cal managed care plans. The report identified a number of concerns about carve out’s impact on coordination and management of beneficiary care.

HUMAN SERVICES


This interactive site provides state profiles with child welfare data, including “child maltreatment, foster care, kinship caregiving, and adoption. This resource compiles critical data from a variety of sources on children, youth, and families who came in contact with the child welfare system in federal fiscal year (FY) 2017.” State data is also compared to national averages.

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