



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Enhancing Victims' Rights after Conviction. By Victor Palace. NCSL LegisBrief. June, 2019. 2 p.
http://www.ncsl.org/Portals/1/Documents/legisbriefs/2019/JuneLBs/Victims-Rights_20.pdf

In order to ensure that crime victims were not ignored by the legal systems of which they are the cornerstone, laws were passed to empower crime victims as part of the judicial process. "Every state has a set of statutes intended to empower victims in the judicial process. Most states [including California] have even amended their constitutions to include a victims' bill of rights to ensure lasting protection for victims of crime.... All states ... notify victims of release and parole proceedings."

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

Families Receiving Assistance from Public Housing, Section 8 Project-Based Rental Assistance, Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation, or Housing Choice Voucher Program. National Housing Law Project. May 2019. 2 p.

https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/d97bc4_c9d58b0ad9df40f6a4dc63924a65b1a4.pdf

National Housing Preservation Database

<https://preservationdatabase.org/>

“Saving HUD Multifamily Homes: How to Use the National Housing Preservation Database (NHPD)”

<https://www.nhlp.org/wp-content/uploads/Saving-Homes-Series-How-to-Use-NHPD.pdf>

“Nearly 1 million people in California could lose their homes under a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development plan seeking to evict undocumented family members from public housing.... A state-by-state breakdown released by the National Housing Law Project shows 936,830 people in California would be impacted by HUD’s policy – a total number of 436,340 households. Of those individuals, 846,670 are citizens.... In Fresno, it is estimated that 2,606 people would be impacted, of which 1,402 would be children. That number of individuals spreads across 570 mixed-immigration status families.” ([Sacramento Bee](#), Jun. 7, 2019).

EDUCATION

Virtual Schools in the U.S. 2019. By Alex Molnar. National Education Policy Center. May 2019. 125 p.

<https://nepc.colorado.edu/sites/default/files/publications/Virtual%20Schools%202019.pdf>

“After years of rapid growth, full-time online education for K-12 students appears to be plateauing amid ongoing concerns about poor performance, financial mismanagement, and inadequate regulation and accountability structures. That’s according to new research from the National Education Policy Center, a longtime critic of the virtual school sector. A collection of reports released by the group this week says that as of the 2017-18 school year, there were 501 full-time virtual K-12 schools in the U.S., enrolling more than 297,000 students. That represents less than 1 percent enrollment growth over the previous year.” ([Education Week](#), June 7, 2019).

Online College Students: Comprehensive Data on Demands and Preferences. By Carol B. Aslanian, et al. LearningHouse, et al. June 2019. 60 p.

<https://49hk843qjpwu3qfmw73ngy1k-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/OCS-2019-FINAL-WEB-Report.pdf>

“Among the most interesting data points in this year’s survey appears in a section of the study about how online students decided where, what and how to study. A majority (58%) said they had decided what to study (in terms of discipline) before they decided to study online, rather than the reverse. And more than three in five of the students (63%) said they had decided to study online because that fit best with their ‘current work/life responsibilities,’ not because online was their ‘preferred way to learn’ (34%). While studying online theoretically gives students who are place bound for work or family reasons more geographic flexibility than does in-person study, the Online College Students research shows that ever larger numbers of fully online students are staying close to home.” ([Inside Higher Ed](#), June 5, 2019).

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Overbuilding & Curtailment: the Cost-effective Enablers of Firm PV Generation. By Marc Perez, et al. Solar Energy. Mar. 2019. 11 p.

<https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/6111597-Solar-Energy-Journal-study.html>

The study authors argue that overbuilding solar arrays and curtailing production is the most cost-effective way of achieving the states clean energy goals and stabilizing supply. A Los Angeles Times article reporting on the study notes that overbuilding can create flexibility for grid operators, yet “[t]he key question is how much extra solar power is beneficial, and how much is a waste of money.” The uncertainty of energy storage costs and challenges with citing solar farms are also questions to consider. Former Governor Jerry Brown had proposed a regional plan that would have allowed for sharing of excess capacity, yet some lawmakers feared a loss of control over the energy supply. Recent attempts include SB 772, which would have repurposed an abandoned mine as a hydroelectric plant. ([Los Angeles Times](#), June 5, 2019).

HEALTH

“Ultra-processed Diets Cause Excess Calorie Intake and Weight Gain: An Inpatient Randomized Controlled Trial of Ad Libitum Food Intake.” By Kevin Hall, et al. *Cell Metabolism*, vol. 30 (May 16, 2019) pp. 1-11.

[https://www.cell.com/cell-metabolism/fulltext/S1550-4131\(19\)30248-7#%20](https://www.cell.com/cell-metabolism/fulltext/S1550-4131(19)30248-7#%20)

“The study, conducted by researchers at the National Institutes of Health, is the first randomized, controlled trial to show that eating a diet made up of ultra-processed foods actually drives people to overeat and gain weight compared with a diet made up of whole or minimally processed foods. Study participants on the ultra-processed diet ate an average of 508 calories more per day and ended up gaining an average of 2 pounds over a two-week period. People on the unprocessed diet, meanwhile, ended up losing about 2 pounds on average over a two-week period.... [W]hat was so impressive was that the NIH researchers documented this weight gain even though each meal offered on the two different diets contained the same total amount of calories, fats, protein, sugar, salt, carbohydrates and fiber.” ([NPR](#), May 16, 2019).

HUMAN SERVICES

At the Intersections: A Collaborative Resource on LGBTQ Youth Homelessness 2019. True Colors United. 2019. 124 p.

<https://truecolorsunited.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/2019-At-the-Intersections-True-Colors-United.pdf>

“Homelessness is one of the most pressing issues facing a disproportionate number of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer/questioning (LGBTQ) youth in our country today. According to a recent report, LGBTQ youth and young adults are 120% more likely to experience homelessness than their straight and cisgender peers. Service providers also estimate anywhere from 20-40% of youth experiencing homelessness identify as LGBTQ, while only 7-10% of the general youth population identifies as such.... The goal of this updated report is to provide stakeholders at the local, state, and national levels with a nuanced understanding of the circumstances that contribute to youth homelessness, and LGBTQ youth homelessness in particular.”

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Issue Primer – Blockchain Technology. By Sara Noceto and John Thompson. Senate Office of Research. June 2019. 12 p.

<https://sor.senate.ca.gov/sites/sor.senate.ca.gov/files/Issue%20Primer%20-%20Blockchain.pdf>

“As interest in blockchain has grown, some governments around the country have implemented pilot programs or begun studying its implications or potential applications for government functions, including the risks and challenges it presents. In California, legislation enacted in 2018 requires the formation of a

new working group composed of public and private representatives to report to the Legislature by July 2020 with an assessment of blockchain for use by state government and California-based businesses. As an introductory primer on blockchain technology, this brief explains what it is, how it works, some of its potential applications, and how other states are taking steps to explore the emerging technology.”

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Comparison of the Electric Car Market in China and the United States. By Lingzhi Jin, et al. International Council on Clean Transportation, May 2019.

<https://www.theicct.org/publications/comparison-electric-car-market-china-and-united-states>

This working paper compares the market and technological characteristics of electric cars in China and the United States, based on 2015 and 2017 data. The study finds that in both Chinese and U.S. markets a handful of cities accounted for the majority of electric car sales. The top 30 cities in both countries made up over 70% of the total electric car market in 2017, and approximately 40% of passenger vehicle sales. In both countries, fewer than 10 brands made up approximately 90% of the total electric car market share in 2015 and 2017. In China, brands tend to perform better in markets where they are headquartered or have a manufacturing facility. In the United States, leading models are similar across states, as most automakers have robust nationwide distribution and dealership networks.

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