

## Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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LA, SF top congested corridors

### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT**

*Understanding the Health Implications of Prisoner Reentry in California: State-of-the-State Report.*

By Lois M. Davis, et al. RAND. Nov. 2011. 250 p.

<http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/MG1165.html>

“When prisoners are released and return to communities, an often overlooked concern is the health care needs that former prisoners have and the role that health care plays in how successfully they reintegrate. To a large extent, the reentry population will eventually become part of the uninsured and medically indigent populations in communities. This volume examines the health care needs of newly released prisoners in California, including the need for mental health and substance abuse treatment.”

## CULTURE & SOCIETY

***Hear Us Now? A California Survey of Digital Technology's Role in Civic Engagement and Local Government.*** By April Manatt, et al. New American Foundation. Oct. 2011. 24 p.

[http://newamerica.net/sites/newamerica.net/files/policydocs/100511CA\\_hear\\_us\\_now.pdf](http://newamerica.net/sites/newamerica.net/files/policydocs/100511CA_hear_us_now.pdf)

With little public notice or scrutiny, most of California's 5,000+ local governments are experimenting with interactive technologies to engage the public and improve services. Benefits are wide ranging; early results are uneven. New digital technologies give citizens greater power than ever before to govern themselves, but Californians don't know what others are doing, what works, or how to measure success. Forty-one local government initiatives, experiments, and applications are identified with links to best-practice resources to provide ready access to advice, metrics, and successful models.

## DEMOGRAPHY

***Downward Mobility from the Middle Class.*** By Gregory Acs. Pew Charitable Trusts Economic Mobility Project. Sept. 2011. 36 p.

[http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/Economic\\_Mobility/Pew\\_PollProject\\_Final\\_SP.pdf](http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/Economic_Mobility/Pew_PollProject_Final_SP.pdf)

A third of Americans raised in the middle class — defined here as those between the 30th and 70th percentiles of the income distribution — fall out of the middle as adults. Marital status, education, test scores and drug use have a strong influence on whether a middle-class child loses economic ground as an adult. Compared with married women, women who are divorced, widowed or separated are between 31 and 36 percentage points more likely to fall down the economic ladder. Men who are divorced, widowed or separated are 13 percentage points more likely to drop out of the middle class than are married men, and men who have never married are six to ten percentage points more likely to fall than married men.

## ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT

***California & Metro Forecast.*** Business Forecasting Center, University of the Pacific, Eberhardt School of Business. Nov. 2011. Full report, 64 p. (Available in the California State Library). Summary, 3 p.:

<http://forecast.pacific.edu/cametroforecast/News%20Release%20November-2011.pdf>

"This quarterly report finds that the economic outlook for California over the next two years has deteriorated. Real Gross State Product is forecast to grow 1.5% in 2012 and 2.2% in 2013 before picking up to a 3.5% to 4% pace in 2014 and 2015 after housing begins to significantly contribute to growth. Job growth will remain at a 1% to 1.5% annual pace through 2013, enough to keep pace with the labor force but too slow to bring the California unemployment rate below 10% until the end of 2014. The bright spot is 165,600 new construction jobs are expected to be created over the next four years, about 17.8% of California's total non-farm job growth; it is also anticipated to be the fastest growing sector in 2013, growing 3.9% or by 23,800 jobs."

## EDUCATION

***"The Widening Achievement Gap Between the Rich and the Poor: New Evidence and Possible Explanations."*** By Sean F. Reardon. IN: *Whither Opportunity? Rising Inequality and the Uncertain Life Chances of Low-Income Children.* Russell Sage Foundation. 2011. 50 p. Book chapter and technical appendix:

<http://cepa.stanford.edu/content/widening-academic-achievement-gap-between-rich-and-poor-new-evidence-and-possible-explanations>

“The achievement gap between children from high- and low-income families is roughly 30% to 40% larger among children born in 2001 than among those born twenty-five years earlier. In fact, it appears that the income achievement gap has been growing for at least fifty years....The income achievement gap (defined here as the income difference between a child from a family at the 90th percentile of the family income distribution and a child from a family at the 10th percentile) is now nearly twice as large as the black-white achievement gap. Fifty years ago, in contrast, the black-white gap was one and a half to two times as large as the income gap....The income achievement gap is large when children enter kindergarten and does not appear to grow (or narrow) appreciably as children progress through school.”

**PPIC Statewide Survey: Californians and Higher Education. By The Public Policy Institute of California. Nov. 2011. 35 p.**

<http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=999>

California residents are conflicted about higher education finance. While more than 60% of the respondents to the latest PPIC survey said the higher education system is headed in the wrong direction, more than half would not support raising student fees further and half would not support higher taxes. Nearly 75% agreed there is not enough funding for higher education in California.

## ENERGY

**FERC Staff Preliminary and Conceptual Transmission Siting Proposal Draft. By the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. United States Department of Energy, Office of Electricity Delivery & Energy Reliability. Sept. 2, 2011. 8 p.**

<http://www.congestion09.anl.gov/documents/docs/Transmission%20Siting%20Narrative%20Draft%20%28Clean%208%2026%2011%29.pdf>

“The Obama Administration is pushing a plan to consolidate federal authority over transmission line siting, in hopes of not only fast-tracking new renewable energy projects but also alleviating congestion on electric grids and adding jobs in a weathered economy. But a recent draft of the plan has been greeted with skepticism from energy officials in at least 30 states, who say it would circumvent state authority to safeguard the concerns of landowners, ratepayers and others who might prefer to have decision making reside in state capitals....As recently as 2005, Congress tried increasing the federal role with the Energy Policy Act....No permits have been issued under the new mechanism, and parts of the provision were twice challenged successfully in federal courts.” (*Stateline.org* Sept. 28, 2011).

**National Electric Transmission Corridor Report and the Ordered National Corridor Designations. United States Department of Energy, Office of Electricity Delivery & Energy Reliability. 2011.**

<http://nietc.anl.gov/nationalcorridor/index.cfm>

The website includes links to the extensive hearings and notices on transmission corridors but not to federal court decisions. It includes the “Southwest Area National Corridor Map” and “List of Counties and Cities in the Designated Corridors” which show new power line corridors in eight California counties: Los Angeles (five or more), San Bernardino (four), Kern (three), San Luis Obispo (two), Orange (two), and one in each county of Inyo, Riverside, and Imperial.

## ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

**Stewart & Jasper Orchards v Salazar. United States Ninth District Appellate Court. 10-15192. Mar. 25, 2011.**

<http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/datastore/opinions/2011/03/25/10-15192.pdf>

**Order List 656. United States Supreme Court. 10-1551. Oct. 31, 2011.**

<http://www.supremecourt.gov/orders/courtorders/103111zor.pdf>

"The court rejected the petition filed on behalf of San Joaquin Valley farm companies including the Stewart & Jasper Orchards of Stanislaus County. The court's decision leaves intact an earlier ruling by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, which had rejected the farmer's potentially far-reaching arguments. The farmers contended that the delta smelt was strictly an "intrastate" species, found only in California, and that therefore Congress lacked the authority to impose environmental restrictions. A three-judge panel of the 9th Circuit determined otherwise in its March ruling, concluding that the Endangered Species Act "bears a substantial relation" to interstate commerce and therefore fit within the constitutionally granted authority of Congress." (*Sacramento Bee*, Oct. 31, 2011).

## HEALTH

**"Medicaid Expansion and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act: Lessons and Hopes for Implementation of Healthcare Reform." By Autumn Kieber-Emmons, et al. IN: *California Journal of Politics & Policy*, vol. 3, no. 4 (2011) 10 p.**

<http://www.bepress.com/cjpp/vol3/iss4/5> (Available in the California State Library).

Currently, Medicaid, called Medi-Cal in California, serves 7.5 million Californians at a cost of \$45 billion/year. Healthcare reform expansion will allow 3.6 million additional Californians to enroll in Medicaid. Such an increase in coverage is not without a price, with some estimates of up to \$3 billion/year of additional state expenditures anticipated by 2020. This expansion comes in the face of a current \$22 billion budget deficit and limitations to the already existing state Medi-Cal program.

## HUMAN SERVICES

***Diverging Pathways: How Wealth Shapes Opportunity for Children.* By Trina Shanks, et al. Insight Center for Community Economic Development. Oct. 2011. 16 p.**

<http://insightccd.org/uploads/CRWG/DivergingPathways.pdf>

"Children of color are four times more likely than white children to be born into the most economically fragile households...Latino, black and American Indian children under the age of five are three times as likely as whites and some Asian ethnicities to live in households with little income and few or no assets, such as cash savings, stocks and bonds or retirement savings. Even when children of color live in households that do have these assets, they are worth less. This means that the chances for these households to draw upon financial resources for high quality early education, for college tuition or to pass along an inheritance are slim."

## TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

***Congested Corridors Report 2011.* By Bill Eisle, et al. The Texas Transportation Institute. Nov. 2011. 94 p.**

<http://tti.tamu.edu/documents/corridors-report-2011.pdf>

On U.S. freeways, 328 corridors account for only 6% of the nation's total freeway lane miles and 10% of the traffic, but 36% of the congestion, including 33% of urban freeway truck delay. Specific corridors in the Los Angeles and San Francisco areas account for nine of the top ten and 21 of the top 40 most congested routes.

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