

Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

Contents this week:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Frequent user costs for jails and shelters

CULTURE & SOCIETY

Coming of age in a tough economy

DEMOGRAPHY

California's political geography

Rural demographic changes

ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT

Local tools to shape the economic recovery

Catalyzing private investment for public good

Labor force growth slows

EDUCATION

Survey of STEM education programs

HOUSING

America's severe housing cost burden

Cautious local policies moderate foreclosure damage

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Frequent Users of Jail and Shelter Systems in the District of Columbia: An Overview of the Potential for Supportive Housing. By Douglas Gilchrist-Scott, et al. Urban Institute. Feb. 2012. 4 p. <http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412504-Frequent-Users-of-Jail-and-Shelter-Systems-in-the-District-of-Columbia.pdf>

"This brief provides an overview of the characteristics, needs, and jail and shelter use costs of frequent users [of jail and shelter systems] in the District of Columbia (DC). [Urban Institute] estimates that, on average, each frequent user costs the DC government approximately \$8,607 a year through their jail and shelter use alone. To inform future policies and practices, this brief presents the potential cost savings to the DC government of reducing jail and shelter use through supportive housing, based on the success of a supportive housing program...in another large city."

CULTURE & SOCIETY

Young, Underemployed and Optimistic: Coming of Age, Slowly, in a Tough Economy. Pew Research Center. Feb. 9, 2012. 67 p.

<http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/files/2012/02/young-underemployed-and-optimistic.pdf>

“A plurality of Americans believe young adults are having the toughest time of any age group in today's economy, and even more of the public says young people are finding it harder to pay for college, find a job, buy a home or save for the future than it was for their parents' generation. In spite of the hardships young adults currently face, their long-term economic optimism remains notably unscarred.”

DEMOGRAPHY

California's Political Geography. By Eric McGhee, et al. Public Policy Institute of California. Feb. 2012. 10 p.

http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/report/R_212EMR.pdf

“Although California votes solidly Democratic, Californians (including non-voters) hold important elements of conservative belief in most parts of the state. On an ideological scale ranging from strong conservative to strong liberal, public opinion data show the average Californian falling in the middle and leaning slightly conservative....In fact, growth in Democratic support over time has not been uniform across the state, but has a strong geographic dimension.”

Rural Demographic Change in the New Century: Slower Growth, Increased Diversity. By Kenneth M. Johnson. Carsey Institute. Winter 2012. 12 p.

<http://www.carseyinstitute.unh.edu/publications/IB-Johnson-Rural-Demographic-Trends.pdf>

“This brief examines rural demographic trends in the first decade of the twenty-first century using newly available data from the 2010 Census....[D]emographic changes have important policy implications. First, as rural America becomes more racially and ethnically diverse, rural institutions that serve young people, such as education and health care, will be the first to feel the impact and new challenges of this growing diversity....The second policy implication stems from a familiar problem: high and persistent child poverty.”

ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT

Getting to Work: Unemployment and Economic Recovery in Los Angeles. By Daniel Flaming, et al. Economic Roundtable. Feb. 2012. 27 p.

http://www.economicrt.org/pub/Getting_to_Work/Getting_to_Work_2012.pdf

“Unemployment and under-employment currently represent \$25.8 billion in annual wages not earned in Los Angeles County, \$28.2 billion in lost private sector economic activity and \$4 billion in tax revenue not generated. Over a fifth of LA County's labor force is unemployed or under-employed. The most important tools of local government for shaping the economy...include decisions over the use of land, the most valuable asset in the local economy; transportation infrastructure, the most powerful tool for shaping land use; and education and training, which determine the productivity and earnings of the labor force. The minimum requirement for effective action...is an understanding of the strengths, opportunities and risks in the local economy.”

Impact at Scale: Policy Innovation for Institutional Investment with Social and Environmental Benefit. By David Wood, et al. Insight at Pacific Community Ventures, and The Initiative for Responsible Investment at Harvard University. Feb. 2012.

Executive Summary. 12 p.:

<http://www.rockefellerfoundation.org/media/download/512c81e3-ea9f-475a-abf1-76cd236470f6>

Full Report. 64 p.:

<http://www.rockefellerfoundation.org/media/download/02164e4d-8556-4977-bb58-a53b3ca5192b>

“This report examines the practices of the largest U.S. investors in investing for both financial return and positive social and environmental impact. It also explores the extensive role of public policy in shaping how institutional investors channel capital. The research reveals numerous government strategies that catalyze private investment for public good, including laws in 20 states that allow or encourage ‘economically targeted investments’ where a public pension system invests in its home state to support local economic growth while also targeting a financial return to the fund.”

Labor Force Growth Slows, Hispanic Share Grows. By Rakesh Kochhar. Pew Research Center. Feb. 13, 2012. 4 p.

<http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2012/02/13/labor-force-growth-slows-hispanic-share-grows-2/?src=prc-newsletter>

Hispanics will account for 74% of the growth in the nation's labor force from 2010 to 2020, according to new projections from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). While the Hispanic share is growing due to births and immigration, the aging of the non-Hispanic white population is expected to reduce their numbers in the labor force. The BLS projects that growth in the labor force will be less than the growth in the working-age population. Through 2020, the labor force will increase 6.8% while the working-age population will increase 10.6%.

EDUCATION

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Education: Survey of Federal Programs. Government Accountability Office. Jan. 2012. E-supplement.

<http://gao.gov/special.pubs/gao-12-110sp/index.htm>

This e-supplement companion to the GAO report, *Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics Education: Strategic Planning Needed to Better Manage Overlapping Programs across Multiple Agencies*, provides results from a survey of federal STEM education programs. The survey's purpose was “to gather program information – such as objectives, services provided, target groups served, obligations, and outcome metrics tracked – on federal STEM education programs. This information was used to help assess the level of overlap that exists among federal STEM education programs.” In fiscal year 2010, the GAO found 13 federal agencies had invested over \$3 billion in 209 STEM-related programs.

HOUSING

Housing Landscape 2012. By Laura Williams. Center for Housing Policy. Feb. 2012. 8 p.

<http://www.nhc.org/media/files/Landscape2012.pdf>

Nearly one in four American working households (households that worked 20 hours or more per week) spends more than half of its income on housing costs – described as “a severe housing cost burden.” Despite falling home prices, incomes for all households, working and not working, have declined, impacting the ability to cover housing costs. In California, 34% of working households are considered to have a severe housing cost burden.

“Local Development Policies and the Foreclosure Crisis in California: Can Local Policies Hold Back National Tides?” By Garrett Glasgow, et al. *Urban Affairs Review*, vol. 48, no. 1, (Jan. 2012) pp. 64-85. Preprint.

<http://www.polsci.ucsb.edu/faculty/glasgow/research/UAR2011.pdf>

“Can local governments shape the long-run fortunes of their communities through their own policies, or is the autonomy of localities swamped by larger macroeconomic forces? Cities reported to have stronger city council opposition to residential growth had a lower incidence of foreclosures a decade later, even after controlling for the rate of increase in the housing stock and other local economic, demographic, and geographic characteristics. Although the foreclosure crisis was driven by national and global forces, more cautious local government policy approaches to residential growth appeared to moderate the damage.”

About *Studies in the News*

Studies in the News (SITN) is a service provided to the Legislature, the Governor’s Office, and State Constitutional Officers by the California Research Bureau, a section of the California State Library.

- SITN lists of current studies related to public policy issues are e-mailed periodically. Prior lists can be viewed at the California State Library’s website at <http://www.library.ca.gov/sitn/crb>.
- To update your e-mail address, or add/remove your name from the *Studies in the News* distribution list, please contact us at crb@library.ca.gov, or (916) 319-2691.
- *Studies in the News* is available as an RSS feed at <http://www.library.ca.gov/sitn/crb/>.