

## Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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Contents this week:

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

Pre-trial detention often targets the wrong people

### **ECONOMY**

G-20: Clean energy investment on the rise worldwide

### **EDUCATION**

Incentives move talented teachers to underserved schools

### **EMPLOYMENT**

Low-wage workers are older, better-educated

### **ENERGY**

Creative ways for states to fund clean tech

### **ENVIRONMENT**

WA: Preparing for climate change

### **GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

Forecast: 2012 will see modest growth in state tax revenues

### **HEALTH**

Autism prevalence varies by race, sex

### **HOUSING**

TARP's Hardest Hit Fund: only 3% spent on homeowner assistance

### **HUMAN SERVICES**

IHSS budget cut will hit L.A. County the hardest

### **TOOLS OF THE TRADE**

Global Go To Think Tanks Report 2011

### **TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE**

Committee reviews long-term bridge monitoring project

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

**“Predicting Violence.”** By Shima Baradaran, et al. *Texas Law Review*, vol. 90, issue 3. pp. 487-571.  
<http://www.texaslrev.com/issues/vol/90/issue/3/baradaran>

“The last several years have seen a marked rise in state and federal pretrial detention rates.... This analysis suggests two important conclusions: First, judges often detain the wrong people. Judges often overhold older defendants, defendants with clean records, and defendants charged with fraud and public-order offenses. Second, using our model, judges would be able to release 25% more defendants while decreasing both violent crime and total pretrial crime rates.”

## ECONOMY

***Who's Winning the Clean Energy Race? 2011 Edition.*** The Pew Charitable Trusts. 2012.

**Full Report. 56 p.:**

[http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/Clean\\_Energy/Clean%20Energy%20Race%20Report%202012.pdf](http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/Clean_Energy/Clean%20Energy%20Race%20Report%202012.pdf)

**Interactive Map:**

<http://www.pewenvironment.org/news-room/other-resources/interactive-map-whos-winning-the-clean-energy-race-2011-edition-85899378762>

“Global clean energy finance and investment grew to \$263 billion in 2011, a 6.5% increase over the previous year.... Among Group of Twenty (G-20) nations, the United States reclaimed the top spot from China, which led the global clean energy race since 2009. Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, and India were also among the nations that most successfully attracted private investments last year. Clean energy investment, excluding research and development, has grown by 600% since 2004, on the basis of effective national policies that create market certainty. This report examines key financial, investment, and technological trends in 2011 related to the clean energy economy of G-20 members.”

## EDUCATION

***Moving Teachers: Implementation of Transfer Incentives in Seven Districts.*** By Steven Glazerman, et al. Institute for Educational Sciences, National Center on Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance. Apr. 2012. 115 p.

[http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/publications/pdfs/education/TTI\\_fnlrpt.pdf](http://www.mathematica-mpr.com/publications/pdfs/education/TTI_fnlrpt.pdf)

“By offering \$20,000 per teacher, seven school districts piloting a transfer-incentive strategy, known as the Talent Transfer Initiative (TTI), filled 90% of their targeted vacancies in hard-to-staff schools with some of the districts' highest-performing teachers. A new study from Mathematica Policy Research highlights the implementation experience and intermediate impacts of TTI, which is intended to expand disadvantaged students' access to the most effective teachers.”

## EMPLOYMENT

***Low-wage Workers are Older and Better Educated than Ever.*** By John Schmitt, et al. Center for Economic and Policy Research. Apr. 2012. 6 p.

<http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/min-wage3-2012-04.pdf>

“This paper makes the point that today's low-wage workers are older and better educated than in the past, and that, all else equal, older and better-educated workers earn more than younger and less-educated workers. Had the minimum wage risen in step with low-wage workers' age and educational attainment, it would be at least 9 to 14% higher than is suggested by simply adjusting the federal minimum's historical peak level to keep pace with inflation.”

## ENERGY

***Beyond Boom and Bust: Putting Clean Tech On a Path To Subsidy Independence.*** By Mark Muro, et al. Brookings Institution. Apr. 2012. 65 p.

[http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2012/0418\\_clean\\_investments\\_muro.aspx](http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2012/0418_clean_investments_muro.aspx)

“[W]ithout Congressional action, federal clean tech spending will fall to just \$11 billion by 2014, a drop-off that has already begun. Total federal spending is expected to reach just \$16.1 billion in 2012, close to half of its level the previous year. Meanwhile, 70% of federal clean energy policies enacted in 2009 are set to expire in the next two years, according to the researchers’ analysis of 92 federal policies and programs.... Though states lack the resources to replace all the money once spent at the federal level, says Muro, they are well-positioned to foster the growth of clean energy technology, partly because states can leverage universities for research.” (Jim Malewitz, *Stateline.org*, Apr. 20, 2012).

## ENVIRONMENT

***Preparing for a Changing Climate: Washington State’s Integrated Climate Response Strategy.*** By Hedia Adelsman, et. al. State of Washington Department of Ecology. Apr. 2012. 207 p.

<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs/1201004.pdf>

Seven high-priority, overarching response strategies to help Washington State adapt to climate change are outlined. These include: protecting people and communities most vulnerable to climate impacts; reducing risk of damage to buildings, transportation, and other infrastructure; reducing risks to oceans and coastlines; improving water management by considering future water supplies and addressing competing demands; reducing forest and agriculture vulnerability through enhanced pest and disease surveillance; safeguarding fish, wildlife, habitat, and ecosystems and improving the ability of wildlife to migrate to more suitable habitat; and supporting the efforts of local communities by strengthening the capacity to respond and engage the public.

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

**“Tax Revenues Surpass Previous Peak But Growth Softens Once Again.”** By Lucy Dadayan. The Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government. *State Revenue Report*, no. 87 (Apr. 2012). 19 p.

[http://www.rockinst.org/pdf/government\\_finance/state\\_revenue\\_report/2012-04-19-SRR\\_87.pdf](http://www.rockinst.org/pdf/government_finance/state_revenue_report/2012-04-19-SRR_87.pdf)

“Starting at the end of calendar year 2008 and extending through 2009, states suffered five straight quarters of decline in tax revenues. They have now enjoyed eight consecutive periods of growth, and the first quarter of 2012 is likely to extend the string to nine. Forecasts of only moderate economic growth in 2012 indicate little likelihood of major improvement in revenue performance for states over the short term.” The report warns about a “growing divide between state and local revenue trends” where local revenues coming mostly from local property taxes have been declining in real value.

## HEALTH

***Prevalence of Autism Spectrum Disorders - Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network, 14 Sites, United States, 2008.*** By Jon Baio. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Mar. 2012. 24 p.

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/ss/ss6103.pdf>

For 2008, the overall estimated prevalence of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASDs) among the 14 Autism and Developmental Disabilities Monitoring Network (ADDN) sites was 11.3 per 1,000 (one in 88) children

aged 8 years. Overall ASD prevalence estimates varied widely across all sites, and by sex (approximately one in 54 boys and one in 252 girls were identified as having ASDs) and racial/ethnic group. ASD prevalence increased 23% from 2006 to 2008 and 78% from 2002 to 2008. Because the ADDM Network sites do not make up a nationally representative sample, these combined prevalence estimates should not be generalized to the United States as a whole.

## HOUSING

***Factors Affecting Implementation of the Hardest Hit Fund Program. Office of the Special Inspector General for the Troubled Asset Relief Program. Apr. 2012. 84 p.***  
[http://www.sig tarp.gov/reports/audit/2012/SIGTARP\\_HHF\\_Audit.pdf](http://www.sig tarp.gov/reports/audit/2012/SIGTARP_HHF_Audit.pdf)

One of the goals of the Troubled Asset Relief Program was to assist states hit hardest by the housing bust. As of December 31, 2011, only 3% of the \$1.5 billion in funds available has been spent to assist homeowners, due mainly to an overconcentration on directing funds to unemployment assistance for homeowners with negative equity. Setting “meaningful and measurable” performance goals and posting this data on the Hardest Hit Fund website are two recommendations for improving the effectiveness of this program.

## HUMAN SERVICES

***The Governor’s Proposed Budget Would Reduce In-home Supportive Services for 254,000 Low-income Seniors and People with Disabilities. California Budget Project. Apr. 9, 2012. 2 p.***  
[http://cbp.org/pdfs/2012/120409\\_Impact\\_IHSS\\_Budget\\_Cuts.pdf](http://cbp.org/pdfs/2012/120409_Impact_IHSS_Budget_Cuts.pdf)

State spending on In-home Supportive Services (IHSS) will be cut \$207 million in 2012-13 if the governor’s current proposal passes. The legislature already cut hours of care services for IHSS participants by 3.6% in 2010-11 and 20% in 2011-12. Those impacted by the governor’s proposed cuts would lose an additional 9 to 14 IHSS hours per month. Los Angeles County includes the largest number of people impacted (101,170) by the proposed cut.

## TOOLS OF THE TRADE

*Public policy resources are highlighted in this new section of Studies in the News. We’ll periodically feature California State Library resources as well as public websites that are useful to the daily work of California’s legislators and policy makers.*

***The Global Go To Think Tanks Report 2011: The Leading Public Policy Research Organizations in the World. Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, University of Pennsylvania. Jan. 18, 2012. 90 p.***  
<http://www.gotothinktank.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/01/2011GlobalGoToThinkTanksReport-UNEditionWITHOUTLETTER.pdf>

This report remains “the first and most comprehensive ranking of the world’s top think tanks ... based on an annual global peer and expert survey of close to 1,500 scholars, policymakers, journalists, and regional and subject area experts.” Top think tanks are listed by region and area of research, as well as by special achievements such as most innovative policy ideas and greatest impact on public policy.

## TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

***Long-Term Bridge Performance Committee Letter Report: March 16, 2012.*** Transportation Research Board, Long-Term Bridge Performance Committee. The National Academies of Science. Mar. 16, 2012. 7 p.

[http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/reports/ITBP\\_March\\_2012.pdf](http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/reports/ITBP_March_2012.pdf)

“This committee provides an ongoing peer review of the Long-Term Bridge Performance (LTBP) program, which is a 20-year research effort to measure and monitor the performance of a nationally representative sample of bridges.” Findings from a two-year pilot data collection phase were reported to the committee by LTBP staff. A draft report will follow. The committee emphasized that stakeholder access to LTBP data is very important and that LTBP staff should work closely with state transportation departments in both revising data collection protocols and revisions of the LTBP data portal. Richard D. Land, Acting Chief Deputy Director of Caltrans, is a member of this committee.

### **About *Studies in the News***

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