

## Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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

***States Report Reductions in Recidivism.*** The Council of State Governments, Justice Center. Sep. 2012. 8 p.

[http://www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/documents/0000/1569/9.24.12\\_Recidivism\\_Reductions\\_9-24\\_lo\\_res.pdf](http://www.nationalreentryresourcecenter.org/documents/0000/1569/9.24.12_Recidivism_Reductions_9-24_lo_res.pdf)

States are working on reducing recidivism as a way of reducing prison populations and cutting expenses associated with the criminal justice portion of state budgets. "The report of the 2010 National Summit on Justice Reinvestment and Public Safety highlighted four principles that ... are critical to any effort to reduce recidivism: focusing resources on individuals most likely to reoffend; investing in research-driven, evidence-based programs; implementing effective community supervision policies and practices; and applying place-based approaches." This brief presents data from seven states (KS, MI, MS, OH, OR, TX, VT) that successfully reduced their recidivism rates between 2007 and 2010 and discusses some of the ways these states reduced recidivism.

## CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

***Beyond Guns and God: Understanding the Complexities of the White Working Class in America.*** By Robert P. Jones, et al. Public Religion Research Institute. Sep. 20, 2012. 72 p.  
<http://publicreligion.org/site/wp-content/uploads/2012/09/WWC-Report-For-Web-Final.pdf>

“Despite working more hours than white college-educated Americans ... white working-class Americans are more likely to report that they are in worse financial shape. Approximately two-thirds of white working-class Americans report being in fair (39%) or poor shape (27%) financially. By contrast, over 6-in-10 white college-educated Americans say they are in good (51%) or excellent (12%) financial shape. One-in-five (20%) white working-class Americans do not have health insurance.... More than one-third (36%) of white working-class Americans who are insured rely on government programs like Medicare and Medicaid for health insurance.”

## ECONOMY

***Redesigning State Economic Development Agencies.*** By Erin Sparks, et al. National Governors Association. Sep. 2012.  
Full Report. 23 p.: <http://www.nga.org/files/live/sites/NGA/files/pdf/RedesigningStateEconomicPaper.pdf>  
Brief. 3 p.: <http://www.nga.org/files/live/sites/NGA/files/pdf/RedesigningStateEconomicBrief.pdf>

“Current economic realities provide governors a unique opportunity to review their states’ economic landscapes and propose critical changes to consolidate and streamline their approaches to economic development.... This brief highlights three strategies that can increase the effectiveness of economic development agencies: engaging and sustaining private sector involvement, encouraging collaboration, and creating an evaluation system.” (NGA Press Release, Sep. 12, 2012).

## EDUCATION

***Diminishing Funding and Rising Expectations: Trends and Challenges for Public Research Universities.*** By National Science Board. National Science Foundation. Sep. 2012.  
Report. 34 p.: <http://www.nsf.gov/nsb/sei/companion2/files/nsb1245.pdf>  
California fact sheet. 1 p.:  
<http://www.nsf.gov/nsb/sei/companion2/files/StateFacts/NSBPublicResearchUniversityFacts-CA.pdf>

Enrollment at California’s nine biggest public research universities – eight UC campuses and San Diego State University – increased 14% from 2002 to 2010 while funding for each student enrolled dropped 30%, down to \$11,228 per student, during the same period. Tuition increases and a greater reliance on tuition and fees from out-of-state and international students to compensate for declining state appropriations will make it harder for students from lower- and middle-income California families to pay for a high quality education.

## ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

“The Social Cost of Carbon in U.S. Regulatory Impact Analyses: An Introduction and Critique.” By Laurie T. Johnson, et al. *Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences*, vol. 2 (Sep. 12, 2012) pp. 205-221.  
<http://www.springerlink.com/content/863287021p06m441/fulltext.pdf>

“The federal government is significantly underestimating the costs of carbon pollution because it is using a faulty analytical model.... [T]he model used by the government is incomplete because it all but ignores the economic damages that climate change will inflict on future generations. The real benefits of carbon reduction range from 2.6 to more than 12 times higher than the government’s estimate.... [A]fter

incorporating the economic costs of carbon and other pollutants from fossil fuel generation, building new generation using wind and solar power would be more cost effective than either natural gas or coal.” (NRDC *Environmental News*, Sep. 17, 2012).

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

***Report of the State Budget Crisis Task Force.* Rockefeller Institute of Government. July 31, 2012. 112 p.**

<http://www.statebudgetcrisis.org/wpcms/wp-content/images/Report-of-the-State-Budget-Crisis-Task-Force-Full.pdf>

“The United States Constitution leaves to states the responsibility for most domestic governmental functions: states and their localities largely finance and build public infrastructure, educate our children, maintain public safety, and implement the social safety net. State and local governments spend \$2.5 trillion annually and employ over 19 million workers.... Within the limits of time and resources, we have examined the financial condition of six heavily populated states – California, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, Texas, and Virginia.”

## HEALTH

***F as in Fat: How Obesity Threatens America's Future 2012.* By Jeffrey Levi, et al. Trust for America's Health, et al. Sep. 2012.**

<http://www.healthyamericans.org/report/100/>

“The number of obese adults, along with related disease rates and health care costs, are on course to increase dramatically in every state in the country over the next 20 years.... For the first time, the annual report includes an analysis that forecasts 2030 adult obesity rates in each state and the likely resulting rise in obesity-related disease rates and health care costs.... [T]he analysis also shows that states could prevent obesity-related diseases and dramatically reduce health care costs if they reduced the average body mass index of their residents by just 5% by 2030.”

***“Summary of the Evidence of Breast Cancer Service Screening Outcomes in Europe and First Estimate of the Benefit and Harm Balance Sheet.”* By Euroscreen Working Group. *Journal of Medical Screening*, vol. 19, suppl. 1 (Sep. 2012) pp. 5-13.**

[http://jms.rsmjournals.com/content/19/suppl\\_1/5.full.pdf+html](http://jms.rsmjournals.com/content/19/suppl_1/5.full.pdf+html)

“[D]octors in Europe formed the Euroscreen network to review studies on mammograms and develop a ‘balance sheet’ on the pros and cons of mammograms. This balance sheet could be used by women to help them decide whether to get a mammogram, as well as by policy-makers and doctors.” The research concluded that “for every 1,000 women screened every 2 years from age 50 to age 69 and followed to age 79: seven to nine lives would be saved; there would be four cases of overdiagnosis; 170 women would have a false positive result and have to have another mammogram or non-invasive test; and 30 women would have a false positive result and have to have a biopsy or other invasive test.” (breastcancer.org, Sep. 17, 2012).

## HUMAN SERVICES

***Child Poverty and Its Lasting Consequence.* By Caroline Ratcliffe, et al. The Urban Institute. Sep. 2012. 30 p.**

<http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412659-Child-Poverty-and-Its-Lasting-Consequence-Paper.pdf>

“One in six newborns were born poor over the past 40 years, and nearly half remained poor half their childhoods. These persistently poor children are nearly 90% more likely than never-poor children to enter their 20s without completing high school and are four times more likely to give birth outside of marriage

during their teenage years. Children whose parents did not complete high school are less likely to complete high school themselves. This paper examines the magnitude of child poverty, family characteristics related to childhood poverty persistence, and childhood poverty's lasting consequences.”

## TOOLS OF THE TRADE

***Why Not the Best? Quality Improvement Resources for Health Care Professionals.***

<http://www.whynotthebest.org/>

The Commonwealth Fund has developed a database to track performance of various measures of health care quality such as process-of-care, patient satisfaction, incidence of infection, and adoption of electronic medical records. Users can generate reports by type of hospital and region down to the county level, or can view prepared reports such as “California Counties: Prevention Quality Indicators.” Data are derived from the American Hospital Association, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality Inpatient Quality Indicators, Patient Safety Indicators, and Prevention Quality Indicators.

## TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

***Banking on Infrastructure: Enhancing State Revolving Funds for Transportation.*** By Robert Puentes, et al. Brookings-Rockefeller. Sep. 2012. 20 p.

<http://www.brookings.edu/~media/research/files/papers/2012/9/12%20state%20infrastructure%20investment%20puentes/12%20state%20infrastructure%20investment%20puentes>

“In recent years, states and the federal government experimented with a set of innovative finance mechanisms, credit programs, and revolving loan funds to stretch public and private dollars and support the kind of infrastructure investments necessary to build the Next Economy. For transportation projects, much of this support comes in the form of below market revolving loans and loan guarantees from state infrastructure banks (SIBs.) Since established in the 1990s they have provided billions in financing for more than 1,000 projects mostly focused on the 100 largest metropolitan areas.... This research shows that SIBs can be valuable tools for delivering infrastructure projects and can generate more investment per dollar than traditional federal and state grant programs.”

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