

Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Realigning Justice Resources: A Review of Population and Spending Shifts in Prisons and Community Corrections. By Ram Subramanian, et al. Vera Institute of Justice. Sep. 2012. 36 p.
<http://www.vera.org/files/Full%20Report.pdf>

“Although approaches to corrections and responses to budget shortfalls varied widely across responding states, for most states the overall trend between 2006 and 2010, in both prison and community corrections, was one of growth. However, when the findings from just the last two years of the study period are considered, a different story emerges. Between 2009 and 2010, Vera observed a stark downward shift in expenditures across many states and systems of prison and community corrections despite variations in population change.... Vera’s study demonstrated that there is not always a discernible relationship between population and spending shifts from one part of the system to another.”

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

California Voters Somewhat Ambivalent About Government Policies Toward Illegal Immigrants Living Here. By Mark DiCamillo, et al. *The Field Poll.* Sep. 28, 2012. 8 p.

<http://www.field.com/fieldpollonline/subscribers/RIs2430.pdf>

“A large majority of voters (67%) supports allowing illegal immigrants currently in the country a path to citizenship if they meet certain requirements over a period of time. However, voters do not accept granting them the same entitlements as legal residents. For example, by a 56% to 40% margin voters oppose allowing illegal immigrants to get California drivers’ licenses. Larger margins oppose granting illegal immigrants the same discounts on tuition at the state’s public universities as legal residents can get (61% oppose vs. 33% favor), or having access to the same government health and financial assistance benefits that legal residents are eligible for (65% oppose vs. 27% favor).”

ECONOMY

Taxes and the Economy: An Economic Analysis of the Top Tax Rates Since 1945. By Thomas L. Hungerford. *Congressional Research Service.* Sep. 14, 2012. 23 p.

<http://tpmdc.talkingpointsmemo.com/PDF/0915taxesandeconomy.pdf>

“There is not conclusive evidence ... to substantiate a clear relationship between the 65-year steady reduction in the top tax rates and economic growth. Analysis of such data suggests the reduction in the top taxes ha[s] had little association with saving, investment, or productivity growth.... [T]he top tax rate reductions appear to be associated with the increasing concentration of income at the top of the income distribution.... [T]he share of income controlled by the top 0.1% of U.S. families increased from 4.2% in 1945 to 12.3% by 2007 [before] falling to 9.2% during the recession.” (CBS Miami, Sep. 17, 2012).

EDUCATION

E Pluribus... Separation: Deepening Double Segregation for More Students. By Gary Orfield, et al. *The Civil Rights Project, University of California, Los Angeles.* Sep. 19, 2012. 120 p.

<http://civilrightsproject.ucla.edu/research/k-12-education/integration-and-diversity/mlk-national/e-pluribus...separation-deepening-double-segregation-for-more-students/epluribus-9-24-12.pdf>

“[T]he harms of school segregation [are] clear: separate remains extremely unequal. Schools of concentrated poverty and segregated minority schools are strongly related to an array of factors that limit educational opportunities and outcomes. These include less experienced and less qualified teachers, high levels of teacher turnover, less successful peer groups and inadequate facilities and learning materials.” Today, Hispanic and Black students still face extremely high levels of segregation based on race and income. The lines of segregation are not legally enforced, but rather exacerbated by residential segregation. This report seeks to find ways to improve lasting school diversity and reduce the harm caused by racial and income segregation.

The Urgency of Now: The Schott 50 State Report on Public Education and Black Males. Schott Foundation for Public Education. Oct. 2012. 56 p.

<http://www.blackboysreport.org/urgency-of-now.pdf>

This report reviews graduation rates for various demographic groups and finds that “nationally only 52% of Black males and 58% of Latino males graduate from high school in four years, while 78% of White, non-Latino males graduate in four years. While states and districts have been able to provide supports to secure a timely high school diploma for over three-quarters of White, non-Latino males, only a little more than half of Black and Latino males were provided with the same supports.... This is the first year that

more than half of the nation's Black males in Grade 9 graduated with regular diplomas four years later." The report includes recommendations for improving graduation rates for Black and Latino male students.

EMPLOYMENT

Home-based Workers in the United States: 2010. By Pete J. Mateyka, et al. U.S. Census Bureau. Oct. 2012. 32 p.
<http://www.census.gov/prod/2012pubs/p70-132.pdf>

The percentage of wage workers working from home has risen over the past decade. Approximately 10% of wage workers work at least one day a week from home as compared to 7% in 1997. "About one-fourth of home-based workers were in management, business, and financial occupations," and, "[h]ome-based work in computer, engineering, and science occupations increased by 69% between 2000 and 2010." The highest percentage of home-based wage workers is found in metropolitan areas in the southwest, west, and southeast.

ENERGY

2012 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard. By Ben Foster, et al. American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy. Oct. 3, 2012. 163 p.
<http://www.aceee.org/sites/default/files/publications/researchreports/e12c.pdf>

ACEEE "ranks states on their policy and program efforts, document best practices, and provide recommendations for ways in which states can improve their energy efficiency performance.... Joining Massachusetts in the top five are California, New York, Oregon, and Vermont, which together comprise a group of truly leading states that have made broad, long-term commitments to developing energy efficiency as a state resource."

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Improving California's Democracy. By Mark Baldassare, et al. Public Policy Institute of California. Oct. 2012. 17 p.
<http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=1033>

"This report examines several important voting trends in California. We first look at voter registration and participation, finding that millions of Californians are not registering to vote, that many who do register are not joining the major political parties, and that many registered voters are not participating in elections. We then analyze key voting groups and their defining issues, finding that many Californians are disgruntled, distrustful, and divided over the role of their state government today. However, we also find some key areas of agreement – particularly regarding trust in local government and the initiative process."

HEALTH

The Business Case for Wellness Programs in Public Employee Health Plans. By Robert L. Clark, et al. The Center for State and Local Government Excellence. Sep. 27, 2012. 12 p.
http://slge.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/The-Business-Case-for-Wellness_12-004.pdf

"Many state and local governments have introduced wellness programs to improve employees' health and to reduce health insurance costs.... A study of the California Public Employees Retirement System found retirees who participated in a health education program reduced health risk, used fewer medical

services, and had lower claims costs than did the control group. The program is estimated to have saved \$3.2 to \$8 million in annual claims costs.” Additional key findings include: financial incentives encourage employees and retirees to change behaviors; few governments or agencies have conducted systematic assessments of plans; and wellness programs likely will yield higher dividends to public employers than to private employers due to the longer career pattern of public employees.

HOUSING

The Boom and Bust of U.S. Housing Prices from Various Geographic Perspectives. By Jeffrey P. Cohen, et al. Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis Review. Sep/Oct. 2012. 29 p.
<http://research.stlouisfed.org/publications/review/12/09/341-368Cohen.pdf>

“During the boom, housing prices tended to rise much faster in metropolitan areas in the East and West Coast regions than in the country’s interior. After adjusting for inflation, 7 of 19 metropolitan areas have experienced real declines in housing prices from the start of the boom to the present. Although lower-priced houses showed a larger percentage increase during the boom, higher-priced houses fared relatively better over the boom and bust. Changes in land prices, which are not easily measured, appear to have driven housing prices to a greater extent than changes in the prices of housing structures.”

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Organizational Transformation: Enterprise Architecture Value Needs to Be Measured and Reported. General Accountability Office. Sep. 26, 2012. 104 p.
<http://gao.gov/assets/650/648827.pdf>

“According to OMB [Office of Management and Budget], the federal executive branch plans to spend at least \$75 billion on information technology (IT) investments in fiscal year 2012.... GAO previously identified enterprise architecture as a mechanism for reducing duplication and overlap in investments.” Among the 27 agencies that GAO studied, fewer than half had established a method or metrics for measuring outcomes resulting from the use of their architectures. “Agencies cited a lack of guidance as a key reason why they have not established methods and metrics for measuring outcomes and benefits. Although [OMB] ... has issued recent enterprise architecture guidance to agencies, OMB has not yet provided sufficient details on the method and metrics that could be used to measure architecture program outcomes.”

About *Studies in the News*

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