



## Studies in the News

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## **CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT**

***Suspect Treatment: Unscreened Sex Offenders and Unethical Counselors to Treat Addicts.***

**By John Hill. California Senate Office of Oversight and Outcomes. May 13, 2013. 52 p.**

<http://sooo.senate.ca.gov/sites/sooo.senate.ca.gov/files/suspect%20treatment%200513%20final.pdf>

“About 36,000 registered or certified counselors work in 2,534 private and publicly funded drug and alcohol programs, ranging from luxury residential rehabs to DUI and outpatient programs. This workforce

is key to the successful treatment of alcoholics and other addicts.” According to this report, California is one of two states among the 15 largest states that do not require criminal background checks for counselors. The report states that, with the July 2013 scheduled shift of responsibility from the State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs to the Department of Health Care Services, this “would be an opportune time for an overhaul of the counselor certification system” and the state legislature should reconsider “past efforts to give the state the authority to license and/or certify counselors.”

## **CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY**

***Insecure Communities: Latino Perceptions of Police Involvement in Immigration Enforcement.***  
By Nik Theodore. Department of Urban Planning and Policy, University of Illinois at Chicago.  
May 2013. 28 p.

[http://www.policylink.org/atf/cf/%7B97c6d565-bb43-406d-a6d5-eca3bbf35af0%7D/INSECURE\\_COMMUNITIES\\_REPORT\\_FINAL\\_V2.PDF](http://www.policylink.org/atf/cf/%7B97c6d565-bb43-406d-a6d5-eca3bbf35af0%7D/INSECURE_COMMUNITIES_REPORT_FINAL_V2.PDF)

Forty percent of polled Los Angeles Latinos agree that they are less likely to contact police if they have been a victim of crime because they fear they or other people they know will be asked about their immigration status. “[T]his report presents the results of a survey that was designed to measure how and to what extent police involvement in immigration enforcement has affected Latinos’ perceptions of the police and public safety.”

## **ECONOMY**

***The Constant: Companies that Matter.*** By Paul Kedrosky. Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation.  
May 2013. 11 p.

<http://www.kauffman.org/uploadedFiles/DownloadableResources/companies-that-matter.pdf>

This study finds that while the pace at which the United States produces \$100 million companies has been stable over the last 30 years, the locations and sectors in which those companies are created are changing. This paper explores the rate and founding locations of these companies in the United States from 1980 to the present. Findings include: the largest contributors, in percentage terms, represent the consumer discretionary and industrial sectors; geographically, company production is located in the Southeastern and Western United States. The author anticipates seeing greater changes in the future regarding the locations and sectors.

## **EDUCATION**

***Raising Revenues Locally: Parcel Taxes in California School Districts 1983 – 2012.*** By Lisa Chavez, et al. EdSource. May 2013. 24 p.

<http://www.edsource.org/assets/files/publications/pub13-ParcelTaxesFinal.pdf>

Under current law, parcel taxes must pass with a two-thirds majority. Only 25% of California districts have attempted to pass a parcel tax in the last 30 years, and only 10% of districts have succeeded, more than half of which are wealthy districts. This report states that changing to a 55% majority to pass parcel taxes would increase this number and could mean that poorer districts would have a better chance at increasing school revenues.

## EMPLOYMENT

***Quality Employment for Women in the Green Economy: Industry, Occupation, and State-by-State Job Estimates.*** By Arian Hegewisch, et al. Institute for Women's Policy Research. Apr. 2013. 72 p.  
<http://www.iwpr.org/publications/pubs/quality-employment-for-women-in-the-green-economy-industry-occupation-and-state-by-state-job-estimates/>

Women who work in green jobs have higher estimated median earnings, but women are underrepresented in green jobs nationally and “hold three out of ten green jobs (29.5%), significantly less than their share of all jobs (48%).” In California, women have a 30% share of green jobs. Among other reasons, “[t]he underrepresentation of women in green jobs is part of a broader problem of women’s underrepresentation in science, technological, engineering and math (STEM) occupations.”

***Proposition 39: Jobs and Training for California’s Workforce.*** By Carol Zabin, et al. Donald Vial Center on Employment in the Green Economy, UC Berkeley. May 2013. 24 p.  
[http://www.irl.berkeley.edu/vial/publications/prop39\\_jobs\\_training.pdf](http://www.irl.berkeley.edu/vial/publications/prop39_jobs_training.pdf)

This report makes recommendations on the implementation of Proposition 39, the initiative that is to direct tax money toward the creation of energy efficiency and clean energy jobs in California. “Proposition 39 investments will create an estimated 3,410 direct person-year jobs and 7,843 total person-year jobs annually, including indirect and induced jobs, if \$550 million is used for energy efficiency retrofits distributed via grants.... An estimated two-thirds of the direct jobs (or 2,273 jobs) will be in skilled construction trades occupations.... Proposition 39 should require performance goals and data tracking for the quantity and quality of construction jobs created and the demographic and geographic distribution of workers, particularly for entry-level jobs.”

## ENERGY

***Disruptive Challenges: Financial Implications and Strategic Responses to a Changing Retail Electric Business.*** By Peter Kind. Energy Infrastructure Advocates. Jan. 2013. 26 p.  
<http://www.eei.org/ourissues/finance/Documents/disruptivechallenges.pdf>

“Recent technological and economic changes are expected to challenge and transform the electric utility industry.... Taken together, these factors are potential ‘game changers’ to the U.S. electric utility industry, and are likely to dramatically impact customers, employees, investors, and the availability of capital to fund future investment.... Those states that have experienced prior upheavals in their regulatory model (e.g., California) have had to tighten their approach to regulatory cost recovery to convince investors that past problems have been addressed. If a state has not been as receptive to addressing its approach to past problems, then investors will be highly reticent to deploy capital in those jurisdictions.”

## ENVIRONMENT

***Stress Relief: Prescriptions for a Healthier Delta Ecosystem.*** By Ellen Hanak, et al. Public Policy Institute of California. Apr. 2013. 32 p.  
<http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=1051>

“A century and a half of human uses of the Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta and its greater watershed have transformed the aquatic ecosystem, sharply reducing native fish populations. Efforts to reverse these declines have been largely unsuccessful, and the rising costs of regulation have fueled social conflicts. These conflicts have often played out in the courtroom, where scientific uncertainty has been used to undermine the legitimacy of Delta science.... This report summarizes the results of a wide-

ranging study examining steps California can take to improve the health of the Delta ecosystem through science-based, integrated management of the many sources of ecosystem stress.”

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

***Trends in State Tax Collections.*** By Jennifer Burnett, Council of State Governments. Apr. 2013. 4 p.

[http://knowledgecenter.csg.org/drupal/system/files/cr\\_trendsinstatetaxcollections.pdf](http://knowledgecenter.csg.org/drupal/system/files/cr_trendsinstatetaxcollections.pdf)

“State revenues from taxes decreased during the Great Recession, but have been making a slow recovery since.” Sales taxes were the largest category of taxes across all states in 2012, representing 42.7% of tax revenues. Income taxes were the second largest category, at 40.5% of total tax revenue. In California, income taxes made up 56% of tax revenue, and sales and gross receipts made up 34.4% of tax revenues.

## HEALTH

***Sodium Intake in Populations: Assessment of Evidence.*** Institute of Medicine of the National Academies. May 2013. 4 p.

[http://www.iom.edu/~media/Files/Report%20Files/2013/Sodium-Intake-Populations/SodiumIntakeinPopulations\\_RB.pdf](http://www.iom.edu/~media/Files/Report%20Files/2013/Sodium-Intake-Populations/SodiumIntakeinPopulations_RB.pdf)

“[A] number of recent studies have looked at the direct effects of sodium on health outcomes, not just blood pressure as an indicator of risk. These studies on direct health outcomes were the primary focus of the IOM committee.” The committee found that lowering sodium intake does lower the risk of health problems such as cardiovascular disease and stroke, but did not see significant health benefit to lowering the sodium intake level to the recommended 1,500 mg/day. Further, the committee found no evidence that subpopulations are affected by sodium intake levels differently from the general U.S. population.

## HUMAN SERVICES

***Sequestration Could Deny Rental Assistance to 140,000 Low-Income Families.*** By Douglas Rice. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Apr. 2, 2013. 10 p.

<http://www.cbpp.org/files/4-2-13hous.pdf>

“[S]equestration will cut more than \$2 billion in 2013 from housing assistance and community-development programs administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)... The Housing Choice Voucher program helps 2.2 million low-income households to rent modest housing at an affordable cost. Half of these households are headed by seniors or people with disabilities; most of the rest are families with children. On average, these households have incomes of about \$12,500, well below the poverty line.... Because of funding limitations, however, only one in four eligible households receives a housing voucher or some other type of federal rental assistance, and there are long waiting lists for assistance in nearly every community.”

***Estimated Cuts in Federal Housing Assistance and Community Development Programs Due to Sequestration, 2013.*** Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Updated Mar. 5, 2013. 6 p.

<http://www.cbpp.org/files/1-28-13hous.pdf>

“For non-security discretionary programs – including nearly all housing assistance and community development programs – the revised sequestration will mean a funding reduction of 5.0% beginning on

March 1, unless Congress acts to reverse the cuts. [This report shows] our estimates, by state, of the likely impact of sequestration cuts on core housing assistance and community development programs in 2013.” In 2012, 306,341 California families received Housing Choice Vouchers. Under sequestration, it is estimated that 15,676 families will not benefit from the Housing Choice Voucher program.

## TOOLS OF THE TRADE

***Grants Management: Oversight of Selected States' Disbursement of Federal Funds Addresses Timeliness and Administrative Allowances.*** By Stanley J. Czerwinski, et al. Government Accountability Office. GAO-13-392. Apr 16, 2013. 27 p.

<http://www.gao.gov/assets/660/653807.pdf>

The GAO reviewed the administration of three federal pass-through grant programs (the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant, \$193.3 million to states in federal Fiscal Year 2012; Community Services Block Grant, \$658.1 million; and the State-Administered Community Development Block Grant, \$882.3 million) in three states (Illinois, Massachusetts, and Tennessee) to illustrate oversight on and timeliness of states' disbursement of funds to subrecipients. The report provides a general overview of how pass-through grant programs function.

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