



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

Issue 13-141

October 16, 2013

Due to the federal government shutdown, Studies in the News will not be including resources from federal websites that are currently offline.

Contents this week:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

U.S. violent youth crime arrests dropped nearly 40% since 2009

ECONOMY

Local business ownership and size matter for local economic well-being

EDUCATION

Food insecurity impacts school readiness

EMPLOYMENT

CA farmworkers: an overview

Occupations and automation: jobs at risk in the future

ENERGY

U.S. slated to become largest oil producing nation by 2020

ENVIRONMENT

CRS reviews debate over EPA greenhouse gas standards

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Best practices for state government financial reporting

HEALTH

“Bath salts” led to over 20k emergency room visits in 2011

HUMAN SERVICES

16% of U.S. adults provide unpaid elder care

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Paying for the national transportation system

VETERANS

CalVet encouraged to improve its outreach effort to CA veterans

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

“Violent Youth Crime in U.S. Falls to New 32-Year Low.” By Jeffrey A. Butts. John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Oct. 4, 2013. 1 p.

<http://johnjayresearch.org/rec/files/2013/10/databit201304.pdf>

“The FBI measures violent crime trends using the four offenses of murder, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. The number of youth arrests for all four offenses in 2012 represented a decline of

10% compared with 2011, and it contributed to an overall drop of 36% since 2003.... In 2008, there were approximately 300 violent youth crime arrests for every 100,000 juveniles in the population. Between 2009 and 2012, the rate of violence plummeted nearly 40% to fewer than 190 arrests per 100,000 juveniles.”

ECONOMY

Locally Owned: Do Local Business Ownership and Size Matter for Local Economic Well-being?
By Anil Rupasingha. Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. Discussion Paper 01-13. Aug. 2013. 38 p.
<http://www.frbatlanta.org/documents/pubs/discussionpapers/dp1301.pdf>

“The concept of ‘economic gardening’ – supporting locally owned businesses over nonlocally owned businesses and small businesses over large ones – has gained traction as a means of economic development since the 1980s.... [The author investigates] the importance of the size of locally based businesses relative to all businesses in a county measured by the share of employment by local businesses in total employment and finds evidence that local entrepreneurship matters for local economic performance and smaller local businesses are more important than larger local businesses for local economic performance.”

EDUCATION

Too Hungry to Learn: Food Insecurity and School Readiness. Part I of II. Children’s HealthWatch.
Aug. 28, 2013. 4 p.
http://www.childrenshealthwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/toohungrytolearn_report.pdf

This report addresses the relationship between food insecurity and diminished educational attainment. “A household experiences food insecurity when any member of the household does not have access at all times to enough healthful food for an active, healthy life.... Due to increased risk for developmental delays, many food-insecure children have great difficulty acquiring social and academic skills necessary to successfully transition to pre-school or kindergarten.... Food insecurity predicts poor performance during a child’s first years at school which has implications for future academic success.”

EMPLOYMENT

Farmworkers in California: A Brief Introduction. By Patrick Rogers, et al. California Research Bureau. Oct. 2013. 2 p.
<http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/13/S-13-017.pdf>

While California is one of the largest agricultural producing regions in the world, farmworkers in the state face a number of disadvantages. Farmworkers in California are at higher risk for living in poverty and are less likely to have health insurance than are the population as a whole. This Short Subject provides a brief overview of the demographic characteristics and geographic distribution of the nearly 300,000 farmworkers in California.

The Future of Employment: How Susceptible Are Jobs to Computerisation? By Carl Benedikt Frey, et al. Oxford University. Sep. 17, 2013. 72 p.
http://3278as3udzze1hdk0f2th5nf18c1.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/The_Future_of_Employment_OMS_Working_Paper.pdf

Based on 702 detailed occupations, this study estimates that approximately 47% of U.S. employment may be at risk of being replaced by automation. “Our model predicts that most workers in transportation and logistics occupations, together with the bulk of office and administrative support workers, and labour

in production occupations, are at risk.... More surprisingly, we find that a substantial share of employment in service occupations, where most US job growth has occurred over the past decades ... [is] highly susceptible to computerisation.... [A]s technology races ahead, low-skill workers will reallocate to tasks that are non-susceptible to computerisation – *i.e.*, tasks requiring creative and social intelligence. For workers to win the race, however, they will have to acquire creative and social skills.”

ENERGY

“The Reemergence of the United States as a Global Petroleum Producer.” By Edwin Bennion, et al. *Beyond the Numbers: Global Economy*, vol. 2, no. 19 (Aug. 2013) 8 p.

<http://www.bls.gov/opub/btn/volume-2/reemergence-of-the-united-states-as-a-global-petroleum-producer.htm>

“In May 2013, domestic production of petroleum in the United States surpassed imports for the first time since January 1997.... According to a forecast by the International Energy Agency, ‘The United States will overtake Saudi Arabia to become the world’s biggest petroleum producer before 2020, and will be energy independent 10 years later.’”

ENVIRONMENT

EPA Standards for Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Power Plants: Many Questions, Some Answers. By James E. McCarthy. Congressional Research Service. Sep. 30, 2013. 20 p.

<http://www.fas.org/sqp/crs/misc/R43127.pdf>

The EPA proposed new standards on Greenhouse Gas Emissions for newly constructed electricity-generating power plants. These standards would set an emissions limit of 1100 pounds of carbon dioxide (CO₂) per megawatt-hour of generated electricity. This has led to controversy because traditional coal-fired plants would not be able to meet the standard without significant carbon capture and storage efforts (approximately 40% of the CO₂ they produce would need to be captured to meet the guidelines). The report finds that most new construction would likely be for gas-fired plants or renewables, and thus would be less affected by the standards.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Voluntary Interim Financial Reporting: Best Practices for State Governments. National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers and Treasurers. Aug. 2013. 8 p.

http://www.nasact.org/nasact/publications/papers/best_practices_document.pdf

State governments can improve financial disclosure procedures by following a set of best practices. Among these practices are quarterly postings on major tax revenues, budget updates, cash flow forecasts, outstanding debt reports, economic forecasts, actuarial reports on state pension liability, updates on a state’s interest rate swap portfolio, and state investment reports.

HEALTH

“Bath Salts” Were Involved in over 20,000 Drug-Related Emergency Department Visits in 2011. The DAWN Report. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Sep. 17, 2013. 1 p.

<http://www.samhsa.gov/data/spotlight/spot117-bath-salts-2013.pdf>

“Bath salts” is the term for a new group of drugs containing a combination of chemicals, including an amphetamine-like stimulant. “The Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) first detected a measurable number of emergency department (ED) visits involving bath salts in 2011. Of the nearly 2.5 million ED visits that involved drug misuse or abuse in 2011, bath salts were named in 22,904 visits.”

HUMAN SERVICES

Unpaid Eldercare in the United States – 2011-2012 Data from the American Time Use Survey. Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. Sep. 18, 2013. 22 p.

<http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/elcare.pdf>

According to the data collected as part of the American Time Use Survey, “16% of the U.S. civilian noninstitutional population age 15 and over (39.6 million people) provide unpaid eldercare.... Nearly one-fourth of eldercare providers engage in unpaid eldercare on a given day, spending an average of 3.2 hours providing this care.... Eldercare providers are defined as individuals who provide unpaid care to someone age 65 or older who needs help because of a condition related to aging.... Eldercare can involve a range of care activities, such as assisting with grooming, preparing meals, and providing transportation.”

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Funding and Financing Highways and Public Transportation. By Robert S. Kirk, et al. Congressional Research Service. Sep. 23, 2013. 33 p.

<http://www.fas.org/sqp/crs/misc/R42877.pdf>

“Since 1956, federal surface transportation programs have been funded largely by taxes on motor fuels that flow into the highway trust fund (HTF). A steady increase in the revenues flowing into the HTF, due to increased motor vehicle use and occasional increases in federal fuel taxes, has accommodated growth in surface transportation spending over several decades. The growth in trust fund revenues, however, came to an end in 2008.... The mismatch between the desired surface transportation program and the revenues generated by motor fuels taxes persists, and is likely to emerge as a major issue as Congress considers options for reauthorizing the program beyond 2014.”

VETERANS

An Agenda for Veterans: The State’s Turn to Serve. Little Hoover Commission. Aug. 2013. 52 p.

<http://www.lhc.ca.gov/studies/217/Report217.pdf>

“In its report, the Commission urges the Governor and Legislature to aid the department’s transition by providing funding flexibility and improved oversight of veterans services. The Commission also urges CalVet to improve its outreach efforts, build a strong database of California veterans, monitor county veterans offices’ work more closely to ensure effectiveness, and modernize its approaches to providing solutions to the needs of the youngest generation of California veterans.” (*LHC Press Release*, Aug. 28, 2013).

About *Studies in the News*

Studies in the News (SITN) is a service provided by the California Research Bureau (CRB), a division of the California State Library. CRB provides independent, nonpartisan research and analysis for the Governor, Legislature and State Constitutional Officers.

- SITN lists of current studies related to public policy issues are e-mailed weekly. Archived issues are available at <http://www.library.ca.gov/sitn/crb/>.
- To add or remove your name from the SITN distribution list, or to update your e-mail address, please contact us at crb@library.ca.gov, or (916) 319-2691.
- SITN is available as an RSS feed at <http://www.library.ca.gov/sitn/crb/>.