



## **Studies in the News**

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## CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

***Voices from the Field: How California Stakeholders View Public Safety Realignment.* Draft for Review and Comments. By Joan Petersilia, et al. Stanford Criminal Justice Center. Nov. 2013. 246 p.**

<http://www.law.stanford.edu/publications/voices-from-the-field-how-california-stakeholders-view-public-safety-realignment>

“Two years after California loaded responsibility for most low-level criminal offenders onto counties, the titanic policy shift, according to a new study, is getting mixed reviews from law enforcement and justice officials, many of whom continue to fret about a possible rise in crime and decline in public safety.” Researchers in this study contacted “representatives of every aspect of the criminal justice system,” including judges, police, and even offenders. Findings include possible additional prisoners’ rights litigation due to substandard health care in local jails and offenders opting out of drug treatment or other rehabilitation programs to do “straight time” and thus serve a maximum of half their prison sentence. However, Realignment has also led to county collaborations among stakeholder groups such as in San Diego county, which is delivering counseling and other rehabilitative services to prisoners, including those choosing to do straight time. (*Oakland Tribune*, Nov. 10, 2013).

## CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

***The Youngest Americans: A Statistical Portrait of Infants and Toddlers in the United States.* By David Murphey, et al. Child Trends. Nov. 2013. 157 p.**

<http://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/MCCORMICK-FINAL.pdf>

From child health to parental well-being and neighborhood context, this report seeks a comprehensive understanding of the state of children in the United States. Twelve million young children live in a world that is more engaged with technology and more diverse ethnically than ever before. “Nearly half (48%) of America’s infants and toddlers live in low-income families (incomes less than twice the poverty line); one-quarter (25%) live in families below the official poverty line.... Economic disadvantage is concentrated in the families of black and Latino infants and toddlers; fully two-thirds (66%) of these young children are in low-income families.... Among single parents, and among married parents who are poor, one in ten is affected by depression.... More than six in ten (61%) of infants and toddlers do not receive developmental screening, an important strategy for preventing or intervening early in the course of threats to children’s optimal development.”

## ECONOMY

***Sparking Economic Growth 2.0: Companies Created from Federally-Funded University Research, Fueling American Innovation and Economic Growth.* The Science Coalition. Oct. 2013.**

**Full Report. 61 p.:** <http://www.sciencecoalition.org/pr.php?id=568>

**Searchable database /individual company write-ups:** <http://www.sciencecoalition.org/successstories>

“This report points to success rates of companies spun from federally-funded research universities.... Of the companies highlighted, 89 remain in business today, which is far better than the U.S. average new business survival rate of 50% after five years.... Moreover, 16 of the 20 youngest companies (less than five years old) also remain in business.” (*SSTI Weekly Digest*, Oct. 31, 2013).

## EDUCATION

***In School + on Track: Attorney General's 2013 Report on California's Elementary School Truancy and Absenteeism Crisis.*** Office of the Attorney General. Sep. 2013. 158 p.

[https://oag.ca.gov/sites/all/files/agweb/pdfs/tr/truancy\\_2013.pdf](https://oag.ca.gov/sites/all/files/agweb/pdfs/tr/truancy_2013.pdf)

"California is facing an attendance crisis, with dire consequences for our economy, our safety, and our children. Truancy and chronic absence occurs in elementary schools across the state, at rates that are deeply troubling. According to the California Department of Education, 691,470 California elementary school children, or 1 out of every 5 elementary school students, were reported to be truant in the 2011-2012 school year. Statewide, 38% of all truant students are elementary school children."

## EMPLOYMENT

***A Well-Educated Workforce is Key to State Prosperity.*** By Noah Berger, et al. Economic Analysis and Research Network. Aug. 22, 2013. 14 p.

<http://www.epi.org/publication/states-education-productivity-growth-foundations/>

This report finds that "[t]here is a clear and strong correlation between the educational attainment of a state's workforce and median wages in the state.... States can build a strong foundation for economic success and shared prosperity by investing in education.... Cutting taxes to capture private investment from other states is a race-to-the-bottom state economic development strategy that undermines the ability to invest in education.... States can increase the strength of their economies and their ability to grow and attract high-wage employers by investing in education and increasing the number of well-educated workers.... Investing in education is also good for state budgets in the long run."

## ENERGY

**"Measurements of Methane Emissions at Natural Gas Production Sites in the United States."** By David T. Allen, et al. In *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, Early Edition*.

Sep. 16, 2013. 6 p.

<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2013/09/10/1304880110.full.pdf+html>

"This work reports direct measurements of methane emissions at 190 onshore natural gas sites in the United States. The measurements indicate that well completion emissions are lower than previously estimated; the data also show emissions from pneumatic controllers and equipment leaks are higher than Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) national emission projections. Estimates of total emissions are similar to the most recent EPA national inventory of methane emissions from natural gas production. These measurements will help inform policymakers, researchers, and industry, providing information about some of the sources of methane emissions from the production of natural gas, and will better inform and advance national and international scientific and policy discussions with respect to natural gas development and use."

## ENVIRONMENT

***Land Subsidence along the Delta-Mendota Canal in the Northern Part of the San Joaquin Valley, California, 2003-2010.*** By Michelle Sneed, et al. U.S. Geological Survey. Nov. 21, 2013. 100 p.

<http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2013/5142/>

Groundwater depletion has been causing ground subsidence in the San Joaquin Valley since at least the 1920s. Deposits in the Central Valley are poorly consolidated, making them prone to compaction when

groundwater levels in aquifers drop. The Delta-Mendota canal supplies surface water to the area, minimizing the need to pump, but water availability can be volatile, subject to weather as well as regulatory concerns that lead to water being delivered elsewhere in the state. Ongoing subsidence continues to be a problem, pointing to the need for ongoing groundwater-level and land subsidence monitoring in the San Joaquin Valley.

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

***Freedom of Information Act: Office of Government Information Services Has Begun Implementing Its Responsibilities, but Further Actions Are Needed.*** By Valerie C. Melvin. Government Accountability Office. GAO-13-650. Sep. 2013. 32 p.

<http://www.gao.gov/assets/660/657697.pdf>

The Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) oversees the administration of FOIA. The OGIS has not conducted any review of agencies compliance with the law, nor has it developed a methodology for conducting reviews of agencies' FOIA policies and procedures. "Until OGIS establishes a methodology and time frame for proactively reviewing agencies' FOIA policies, procedures, and compliance, the office will not be positioned to effectively execute its responsibilities as required by the act."

## HEALTH

***Fixing the Oversight of Chemicals Added to Our Food.*** The Pew Charitable Trusts. Nov. 2013. 28 p.

<http://www.pewhealth.org/reports-analysis/reports/fixing-the-oversight-of-chemicals-added-to-our-food-85899518122>

"From 2010 to 2013, The Pew Charitable Trusts conducted a comprehensive assessment of the federal food additives regulatory program. Relying on a transparent process that engaged stakeholders, Pew examined food additive issues in partnership with the food industry, the public interest community, and the federal government, including the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, or FDA. We held five expert workshops and published six reports in peer-reviewed journals. This report summarizes our findings and provides recommendations to address the problems that we identified."

## HUMAN SERVICES

***Household Food Security in the United States in 2012.*** By Alisha Coleman-Jensen, et al. U. S. Department of Agriculture. Sep. 2013. 41 p.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/err-economic-research-report/err155.aspx#.UjicLW1epsE>

"[In 2012, 14.5% of American households] were food insecure at least some time during the year, including 5.7% with very low food security—meaning that the food intake of one or more household members was reduced and their eating patterns were disrupted at times during the year because the household lacked money and other resources for food." The prevalence of food insecurity varies considerably from state to state. California's estimated prevalence rate of food insecurity for 2010-12 (15.6%) was higher than the national average (14.7%). It increased by 1.5% from 2007-09 (14.1%) and 3.9% from 2000-02 (11.7%).

## TOOLS OF THE TRADE

***Community College Participation. California Competes. Nov. 19, 2013.***

[http://californiacompetes.org/news\\_and\\_events/cccmmap/](http://californiacompetes.org/news_and_events/cccmmap/)

“California Competes conducted an analysis of where students live and found that many areas of the state that could benefit—where few adults have college degrees—are not being reached. Participation is often low where it should be high. An interactive online map paints the picture, showing community college participation for 1,700 zip code areas and allows users to examine community college enrollment by indicators of need.”

## TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

***A New Way to Go: The Transportation Apps and Vehicle-Sharing Tools that Are Giving More Americans the Freedom to Drive Less. By Tony Dutzik, et al. U.S. PIRG Education Fund. Oct. 1, 2013. 54 p.***

<http://www.uspirg.org/reports/usp/new-way-go>

“America is in the midst of a technological revolution ... and a big shift in our transportation habits. Over the last 15 years, the Internet and mobile communications technologies have transformed the way Americans live and work. During that same period, growth in vehicle travel slowed and then stopped, with Americans today driving about as much on average as we did in 1996. Both changes have taken place most rapidly among young Americans, who have been the earliest and most enthusiastic adopters of new technologies, as well as the new social networking tools that are the foundation of the emerging ‘sharing economy.’ They have also been the group that has reduced its driving the most, with the average American between 16 and 34 years of age driving a startling 23% less in 2009 than in 2001.”

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