



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

Issue 14-101

January 8, 2014

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

From Courts to Communities: The Right Response to Truancy, Running Away, and Other Status Offenses. By Annie Salsich, et al. Vera Institute of Justice. Dec. 2013. 11 p.

<http://www.vera.org/sites/default/files/resources/downloads/from-courts-to-communities-response-to-status-offenses-v2.pdf>

“Youth who run away from home, routinely skip school, and engage in other risky behaviors that are prohibited precisely because of their young age are acting out in ways that should concern the adults in their lives. They need appropriate attention—but not from the juvenile justice system.... A new paradigm has emerged: Connect families with social services in their communities instead of turning to courts. The shift in approach is grounded in the understanding that families can resolve the problems that led them to seek help; they just need some guidance and support.”

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

***How Americans Value Public Libraries in Their Communities.* By Katherine Zickuhr, et al. Pew Internet and American Life Project. Dec. 11, 2013. 44 p.**

http://libraries.pewinternet.org/files/legacy-pdf/PIP_Libraries%20in%20communities.pdf

Most Americans used a library in the last 12 months (54%), and 72% live in a household where someone has used the public library during the past year. “Americans strongly value library services such as access to books and media; having a quiet, safe place to spend time, read, or study; and having librarians to help people find information. Other services, such as assistance finding and applying for jobs, are more important to particular groups, including those with lower levels of education or household income.” While most Americans know the location of their local library, they are not as familiar as they could be with all the services libraries have to offer.

ECONOMY

***Copyright Industries in the U.S. Economy: The 2013 Report.* By Stephen E. Siwek. The International Intellectual Property Alliance. Nov. 2013.**

Report. 29 p.: http://www.iipa.com/pdf/2013_Copyright_Industries_Full_Report.PDF

Executive Summary. 7 p.:

http://www.iipa.com/pdf/2013_Copyright_Industries_Executive_Summary.PDF

“The economic contributions of U.S. copyright industries reached new heights last year, for the first time contributing more than \$1 trillion to the gross domestic product and accounting for 6.5% of the nation’s economy....That’s up from \$965 billion in 2011....The study found that copyright industries employed nearly 5.4 million U.S. workers in 2012 and grew at an aggregate annual rate of 4.7% from 2009 to 2012, more than twice the rate of growth for the U.S. economy.” (*The Stockton Record*, Nov. 24, 2013).

EDUCATION

***Closing the Expectations Gap: 2013 Annual Report on the Alignment of State K-12 Policies and Practice with the Demands of College and Careers.* Achieve. Nov. 2013. 48 p.**

<http://www.achieve.org/files/2013ClosingtheExpectationsGapReport.pdf>

“With all 50 states and the District of Columbia having adopted college- and career-ready standards, Achieve’s eighth annual ‘Closing the Expectations Gap’ report, released today, shows how all states are aligning those standards with policies and practice to better ensure that all students are academically prepared for life after high school....Today, 19 states and the District of Columbia have adopted college- and career-ready graduation requirements. However, more than half the states in the country that have adopted the CCSS/CCR standards have not raised their graduation requirements to match those standards. This misalignment means that students may graduate unprepared for college and careers.”

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Using Ballot Measures to Drive Economic Investment in States and Metropolitan Areas. By Jessica A. Lee, et al. Brookings Institution. Dec. 2013. 16 p.

<http://www.brookings.edu/~media/research/files/reports/2013/12/11%20ballot%20measures/ballotmeasures.pdf>

In order to get state economies back on track, some leaders are looking to ballot measures to garner support for economic development projects. These measures can offer a new source of funding for major projects. Researchers point to California's Proposition 71, the Stem Cell Research and Cures Act from 2004, and Proposition 39, the Clean Energy Jobs initiative from 2012, as examples of ballot measures that brought about unique ways to invest in technological innovations.

HEALTH

Cancellation of Nongroup Health Insurance Policies. By Bernadette Fernandez, et al. Congressional Research Service. R43314. Nov. 19, 2013. 11 p.

<http://www.fas.org/sqp/crs/misc/R43314.pdf>

"This report provides background information about health insurance cancellations, non-renewals and rescissions, including applicable federal rules under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA) and ACA. Given that the concern about insurance cancellations has largely focused on the nongroup market, this report discusses federal requirements and implementation issues that apply to nongroup coverage."

HOUSING

America's Rental Housing: Evolving Markets and Needs. By the Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University. Dec. 4, 2013. 52 p.

http://www.jchs.harvard.edu/sites/jchs.harvard.edu/files/jchs_americas_rental_housing_2013_1_0.pdf

This report offers an overview of the housing rental market in the U.S.: demand, supply, affordability, and federal rental assistance. Demand has increased; from 2004 to 2012, the share of renter households increased from 31% to 35%. However, the number of affordable rentals does not match the need for those with low incomes; the number of renters paying more than 30% of their income on rent accounts for nearly half of all renters. California ranks among the top three states with a high share of cost-burdened renters. Researchers emphasize the need for more public assistance for housing, and for expansion of affordable housing among existing resources.

HUMAN SERVICES

Low-Income Families and the Cost of Child Care: State Child Care Subsidies, Out-of-Pocket Expenses, and the Cliff Effect. By Sarah Minton, et al. Urban Institute. Dec. 2013. 26 p.

<http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412982-low-income-families.pdf>

"The average annual price of full-time care for an infant in a child care center ranges from \$4,600 in Mississippi (about 30% of annual full-time minimum-wage earnings) to \$15,000 in Massachusetts (roughly equal to annual full-time minimum-wage earnings)... Child care subsidy programs ... help low-income families pay for care.... [However], [o]nce income exceeds a certain limit, which varies by state and family size, families are no longer eligible for subsidized care." The report uses a hypothetical family and child care provider and "state-defined maximum reimbursement rates as a proxy for the full price of care." In

California, there was no co-payment cost for families earning less than \$1,950 per month. Once the family's income exceeds the \$3,518 eligibility threshold, "a family whose children remained in a child care center would face a 318% increase in child care expenses."

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Former State Legislators in Congress. The Pew Charitable Trusts. Jan. 2014.

<http://www.pewstates.org/research/data-visualizations/interactive-former-state-legislators-in-congress-85899530114>

This link provides an interactive map displaying information on the members of Congress who previously served in their state legislatures. "About half of the current members of Congress served in their state legislatures. All of the members of the congressional delegations from Hawaii, Idaho, Nevada and Wyoming were state lawmakers. Delaware and North Dakota are the only states without members of Congress who were state legislators." About 56% of California's congressional delegation has state legislative experience.

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Main Concerns about Anchor Rods on the New Bay Bridge. By Yun Chung, et al. Berkeley Research Company. Nov. 2013. 18 p.

<http://www.paintsquare.com/ckfinder/userfiles/files/SupplementaryReport.pdf>

High Strength Steel Anchor Rod Problems on the New Bay Bridge. Revision 1. By Yun Chung, et al. Berkeley Research Company. Nov. 12, 2013. 105 p.

<http://www.paintsquare.com/ckfinder/userfiles/files/BayBridgeReport.pdf>

Report on the A354 Grade BD High-Strength Steel Rods on the New East Span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge with Findings and Decisions. Toll Bridge Program Oversight Committee, Department of Transportation. July 2013. 130 p.

http://baybridgeinfo.org/sites/default/files/pdf/A354_report.pdf

These three reports encompass the debate concerning the safety of the anchor rods on the new Bay Bridge. "The July 8, 2013 TBPOC [Toll Bridge Program Oversight Committee] Report has many errors, from typographical to wrong conclusions as to the cause of the shear key anchor rod failures. Caltrans' protocols for various laboratory and field tests ... on anchor rods missed the effects of cold rolled threads of anchor rods for the main cable (PWS) and of incomplete tempering during heat treatment of anchor rods for the tower base ... understanding of the hydrogen embrittlement susceptibility of these anchor rods is woefully inadequate and their remedial 'resolutions' remain questionable ... it cannot be considered a definitive professional engineering report intended to provide remedial 'resolutions' for what was clearly a major materials engineering failure on a \$6.4 billion project."

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