



## Studies in the News

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Contents this week:

### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT**

Negative impacts of parent incarceration on children's health

### **CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY**

Poll: Charitable behaviors and priorities in the United States

### **ECONOMY**

10.2 million CA immigrants contribute \$650 billion to state GDP

### **EDUCATION**

Increased course requirements not enough for college prep

### **EMPLOYMENT**

Shortening unemployment assistance yields little fiscal benefit

Families increasingly rely on women's earnings

### **ENVIRONMENT**

Fracking found to have minimal overall environmental impact in CA

### **GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

CA absentee ballots: ways to improve uncounted ballot rates

### **HEALTH**

Policies to improve physical activity levels in communities

### **HUMAN SERVICES**

\$2 a day: a look at America's poorest citizens

### **TOOLS OF THE TRADE**

CA Student Immunization Data

### **TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE**

Taxis vs. ridesourcing: comparing services in SF

### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT**

**“Stress Proliferation Across Generations? Examining the Relationship between Parental Incarceration and Childhood Health.”** By Kristin Turney. *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, vol. 55 (Sep. 2014) pp. 302-319.

**(Available at the California State Library)**

“More than 1.7 million children have a parent in a state or federal prison at any given time ... and the vast majority of these children are racial-ethnic minorities.... Further, the cumulative risk of experiencing parental incarceration is especially high for some groups. For example, among black children of fathers without a high school diploma, about 50% will experience paternal incarceration by age 14, compared

with 7% or white children with comparably educated fathers.” The report discusses the negative effects of adult incarceration on children. These effects tend to have an impact on children’s health, leading to behavioral problems, speech and language delays and attention deficiencies. The author suggests there may be implications for racial and social class inequalities in children’s health.

## **CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY**

***Money? Time? Blood? What are Americans Giving? The Harris Poll. Aug. 2014. 8 p.***

[http://www.harrisinteractive.com/vault/Harris%20Poll%2079%20-%20Charitable%20Giving\\_8.14.2014.pdf](http://www.harrisinteractive.com/vault/Harris%20Poll%2079%20-%20Charitable%20Giving_8.14.2014.pdf)

“Charitable donations rose in 2013, the first growth seen since the 2008 recession.... Broadening the scope to all types of giving, a recent Harris Poll finds that nine out of ten Americans (91%) have made some sort of contribution within the past two to three years, with money only the second most common type of giving (66%), after used clothing (73%).... Some disparities emerge when focusing instead on what sorts of causes Americans care most about personally, or where they donate their time and/or money to the most. While youth/families is also the top cause in this context (18%), education (11%) falls to fourth place, after animals and medical research (12% each).”

## **ECONOMY**

***Looking Forward: Immigrant Contributions to the Golden State 2014. Edited by Jon Rodney. The California Immigrant Policy Center. Sep. 2014. 2 p.***

<http://www.caimmigrant.org/contributions.html>

**(Free registration required)**

This report provides details on immigrants’ contributions to California, and includes demographics, labor force participation, economic contributions, entrepreneurship, and numbers of eligible voters among all immigrants. The report divides the state into seven regions, with regional level data provided. The report found that more than 27% of California residents are immigrants; of the 10.2 million immigrants, 2.6 million are undocumented and 47% of California’s immigrants are citizens. At \$650 billion, immigrants contribute about 31% of the state’s gross domestic product. Undocumented immigrants contribute about \$130 billion and the over 117,500 undocumented intermittent workers total earned income of more than \$800 million.

## **EDUCATION**

***Missing the Mark: Students Gain Little from Mandating Extra Math and Science Courses. By Richard Buddin, et al. ACT Research and Policy. Aug. 2014. 7 p.***

<http://www.act.org/research/policymakers/pdf/MissingtheMark.pdf>

“[M]any states have increased the mandated minimum course requirements in math and science over the past several years. Twenty-seven states required at least one more year of math instruction for the high school graduation class of 2013 than for the class of 2006.... Using student-level data for nine Illinois high school graduation classes, this report examines the relationship between high school graduation requirements and student outcomes and assesses how changes in math and science requirements affected student outcomes.... Despite the introduction of higher graduation requirements in math and science, there was little effect on student course taking, achievement, or college enrollment.”

## EMPLOYMENT

***State Cuts to Jobless Benefits Did Not Help Workers or Taxpayers.*** By Josh Bivens, et al. Economic Policy Institute. July 2014. 37 p.

<http://www.epi.org/publication/state-unemployment-insurance-cuts/>

This brief provides an overview of the federal Unemployment Insurance (UI) system, focusing on “states that decided to shorten the duration of jobless benefits, reviewing possible reasons why state policymakers made this decision, and examining the (admittedly thin) data record of pre- and post-duration changes to see if the shortened durations had measurable impact on state labor markets.... [T]he cuts that eight states made to the duration of unemployment benefits did very little to change their fiscal condition.... The effect of shortened unemployment benefits on state labor markets was very much in line with the existing empirical research on the effect of UI durations: There was no visible improvement in state labor market outcomes.”

***Families Continue to Rely on Wives as Breadwinners Post-Recession: An Analysis by State and Place Type.*** By Kristin Smith, et al. Carsey School of Public Policy. July 31, 2014. 11 p.

<http://scholars.unh.edu/carsey/219/>

“The recession affected men’s employment more than women’s, with 69% of the jobs that were lost being held by men. Overall unemployment reached a high of 10.0% in October 2009, with men’s unemployment at 11.2% and women’s at 8.7%. The unemployment rate has slowly declined during the recovery and was down to 6.4% for men and 6.2% for women in June 2014. Married-couple families have responded to husbands’ job loss with an increased dependence on wives’ earnings. Research on the Great Recession shows that wives whose husbands stopped working were more likely to enter the labor force and, among wives already employed, more likely to increase their hours working for pay.” There was a 4.5 percentage point change in California wives’ contribution to family earnings from pre- to post-recession time.

## ENVIRONMENT

***Advanced Well Stimulation Technologies in California: An Independent Review of Scientific and Technical Information.*** California Council on Science and Technology. Aug. 28, 2014. 400 p.

[http://ccst.us/projects/fracking\\_public/BLM.php/](http://ccst.us/projects/fracking_public/BLM.php/)

This study, commissioned by the federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM), addresses current practices and potential hazards in oil and gas well stimulation, especially hydraulic fracturing, and examines locations in California where well stimulation technology might allow expanded production in the future. Some data used for this report came from well stimulation notices required under California law. The study discusses water usage, waste disposal, air quality, potential seismic activity and impacts on local wildlife. The research suggests that, given the data that is available, well stimulation appears to have minimal environmental impact. BLM has indicated this report will have a bearing on oil and gas production leases on federal lands in California beginning in 2015.

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

***Improving California’s Vote-By-Mail Process: A Three-County Study.*** By Kim Alexander, et al. California Voter Foundation. Aug. 2014. 28 p.

<http://calvoter.org/issues/votereng/votebymail/study/findings.html>

A study of vote-by-mail (VBM) processes for four statewide elections in Orange, Sacramento and Santa Cruz counties finds that 99.2% of VBM ballots were counted and 0.8% were not counted. Some of the problems attributed to the uncounted ballots are: late-arriving ballots, ballots lacking a signature, or ballots envelope signatures that did not match the signature on file. California has one of the highest

uncounted ballot rates among the states. Recommendations include allowing ballots postmarked on Election Day to be counted, requiring counties to notify voters when their ballots are uncounted, and requiring counties to report uncounted VBM ballots at each election and the reason they were uncounted.

## HEALTH

***2014 State Indicator Report on Physical Activity.* Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. July 2014. 28 p.**

[http://www.cdc.gov/physicalactivity/downloads/pa\\_state\\_indicator\\_report\\_2014.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/physicalactivity/downloads/pa_state_indicator_report_2014.pdf)

This report “provides information for each state on state-level supports for the three environmental and policy strategies ... for increasing physical activity and physical activity behaviors. This report ... shows that physical activity among adults and youth is higher in some states than others; and overall, most states have environmental supports such as sidewalks or walking paths in place that encourage physical activity.” The report concludes with policy implications for enhancing physical activity opportunities in schools and communities.

## HUMAN SERVICES

***How Poor are America’s Poorest? U.S. \$2 a Day Poverty in a Global Context.* By Laurence Chandy, et al. Brookings Institution. Aug. 2014. 21 p.**

<http://www.brookings.edu/research/papers/2014/08/poverty-america-global-context-chandy-smith>

“The \$2 threshold has traditionally been used to measure poverty in the developing world and is far below the official U.S. poverty line, which is equivalent to around \$16 per person per day.... We obtain estimates of the \$2 a day poverty rate in the U.S. for 2011/12 that range from 4% (12 million people) to zero depending on the definition of resources and the data source used. Obtaining a definitive estimate of \$2 a day poverty would require an uncontested definition of poverty and a data source with no flaws—neither of which we have. While the estimates we obtain vary, the fact that even some have millions of Americans living under \$2 a day is alarming.” (*Brookings Blog*, Aug. 26, 2014).

## TOOLS OF THE TRADE

***Immunization Levels in Child Care and Schools.* California Department of Public Health.**

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/immunize/pages/immunizationlevels.aspx>

California students are required to provide proof of immunization for school and child care entry. Schools and child care facilities are also required to assess and report on the immunization status of their enrollees. This resource provides “the most recent summary reports and data files that measure compliance with the school immunization law, conducted in licensed child care facilities and all schools with kindergartens and/or 7th grades.” Results from 2013-14 indicate that 96.6% of 7<sup>th</sup> grade students from reporting schools completed their required pertussis immunization. The remaining 3.4% of students had medical or personal-belief exemptions.

## TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

***App-Based, On-Demand Ride Services: Comparing Taxi and Ridesourcing Trips and User Characteristics in San Francisco.*** By Lisa Rayle, et al. University of California Transportation Center. Aug. 2014. 22 p.

<http://www.uctc.net/research/papers/UCTC-FR-2014-08.pdf>

“In spring 2014, 380 complete surveys were collected from three ridesourcing ‘hot spots’ in San Francisco. Survey results are compared with matched-pair taxi trip data and results of a previous taxi user survey. The findings indicate ridesourcing serves a previously unmet demand for convenient, point-to-point urban travel.... Ridesourcing wait times are markedly shorter and more consistent than those of taxis, while ridesourcing users tend to be younger, own fewer vehicles and more frequently travel with companions. Ridesourcing appears to substitute for longer public transit trips but otherwise complements transit. Impacts on overall vehicle travel are ambiguous.”

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