



## **Studies in the News**

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## CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

***Spring 2014 Population Projections.*** California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Office of Research. June 2014. 27 p.

[http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Adult\\_Research\\_Branch/Research\\_Documents/Spring-2014-Population-Projections-Publication\\_06092014.pdf](http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Adult_Research_Branch/Research_Documents/Spring-2014-Population-Projections-Publication_06092014.pdf)

“This report presents ... Spring 2014 adult institution and parole population projections for fiscal years 2013-14 through 2018-19.... The CDCR total institutional population increased 6.0% from 2004 to 2007 (163,500 to 173,312 respectively), followed by a 23.3% decline from 2007 through 2013 (173,312 to 132,911, respectively ...). The largest annual percent decrease in total population occurred post-Realignment between 2011 and 2012 (16.7%) followed by a lesser decline of 1.7% from 2012 to 2013.”

## CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

**“A Grand Gender Convergence: Its Last Chapter.”** By Claudia Golden. *American Economic Review*, 104(4) (Aug. 2014) pp. 1091-1119.

[http://scholar.harvard.edu/files/goldin/files/goldin\\_aeapress\\_2014\\_1.pdf](http://scholar.harvard.edu/files/goldin/files/goldin_aeapress_2014_1.pdf)

“[W]hat must the ‘last’ chapter contain for there to be equality in the labor market? The answer may come as a surprise. The solution does not (necessarily) have to involve government intervention ... [b]ut it must involve changes in the labor market, especially how jobs are structured and remunerated to enhance temporal flexibility. The gender gap in pay would be considerably reduced and might vanish altogether if firms did not have an incentive to disproportionately reward individuals who labored long hours and worked particular hours. Such change has taken off in various sectors, such as technology, science, and health, but is less apparent in the corporate, financial, and legal worlds.”

## ECONOMY

***Chasing the American Dream: Understanding What Shapes Our Fortunes.*** By Mark Robert Rank, et al. Oxford University Press. 2014. 226 p.  
(Available at the California State Library)

The “American Dream,” which promises a prosperous life achieved through hard work in a land of equal opportunity for all to attain success and fulfillment, has captured the imagination of people from all walks of life and from all parts of the world. The authors conducted a longitudinal study covering 40 years of income data that looked at the price Americans pay for goods and services. The study found that the risk of economic vulnerability has increased over the past four decades. In addition, the American Dream has become harder to reach and equally difficult to sustain. The authors assert that the future of the United States depends upon widening the pathways to the American Dream to accommodate more people.

## EMPLOYMENT

***Promoting Entrepreneurship: Innovations in State Policy.*** National Conference of State Legislatures. July 2014. 15 p.

<http://www.ncsl.org/documents/fiscal/entrepreneurshipFINAL05.pdf>

“Entrepreneurship is important to economic growth and job creation. Many state governments have embraced entrepreneurship, and some are developing specific entrepreneurship policies. Entrepreneurs have unique needs that can best be addressed with state initiatives that promote access to capital, help simplify the start-up process and promote a culture of entrepreneurship.”

## ENERGY

***Transforming Multifamily Housing: Fannie Mae's Green Initiative and ENERGY STAR® for Multifamily.*** By Chrissa Pagasitas. Fannie Mae. Sep. 2014. 25 p.

[https://www.fanniemae.com/content/fact\\_sheet/energy-star-for-multifamily.pdf](https://www.fanniemae.com/content/fact_sheet/energy-star-for-multifamily.pdf)

“Energy performance has a major impact on the quality and affordability of multifamily housing. Rising utility rates create financial risk for owners of multifamily properties and reduce affordability for tenants. Unfortunately, there has been very little information and key metrics available to the multifamily industry regarding the energy performance of multifamily properties.... The report uses market survey data to generate insights into energy and water use in relation to specific property characteristics, such as building age, occupant density, building type, building location, and climate.... The Green Initiative, a partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), compiles comprehensive multifamily energy and water data ... which serves as the basis for the EPA's ENERGY STAR Score for multifamily.” (FM Commentary, Sep. 11, 2014).

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

***High-Risk Update: State Agencies Credited Their Employees With Millions of Dollars Worth of Unearned Leave.*** Bureau of State Audits, California State Auditor. Aug. 2014. 69 p.

<http://www.auditor.ca.gov/pdfs/reports/2012-603.pdf>

“State agencies have credited their employees with millions of dollars worth of unearned leave because the State has weak controls over its accounting of employees' leave records.... As of December 2013 the value of these erroneous leave hours was nearly \$6.4 million, an amount that will likely increase over time as employees receive raises or promotions. These errors also include nearly 16,000 hours of sick leave, which state employees can convert to state service credit when they retire, ultimately increasing the State's pension payments.”

## HEALTH

***State Employee Health Plan Spending: An Examination of Premiums, Cost Drivers, and Policy Approaches.*** The Pew Charitable Trusts. Aug. 2014. 52 p.

<http://www.pewtrusts.org/~media/Assets/2014/08/StateEmployeeHealthCareReportAugust2014pdf.pdf>

This nationwide survey is “a first-of-its kind analysis of the costs and characteristics of state employee health plans.” The survey finds that “[s]tates spent \$30.8 billion to insure 2.7 million employee households, a slight uptick in spending from 2011 and 2012 ... after adjusting for inflation. The average per-employee per-month premium for coverage of employees and dependents was \$963. States paid \$808 (84%) of the total, and employees covered the remaining \$155 (16%). Employees paid an additional \$70 per month, on average, in cost-sharing elements such as deductibles, copayments, and coinsurance.” In California, the average employee contribution is 23%, which is higher than the national average of 16%.

## HOUSING

***Housing America's Older Adults: Meeting the Needs of an Aging Population.***

Joint Center for Housing Studies of Harvard University. Aug. 2014. 44 p.

[http://www.jchs.harvard.edu/research/housing\\_americas\\_older\\_adults](http://www.jchs.harvard.edu/research/housing_americas_older_adults)

"With the oldest baby boomers reaching retirement age after 2010, the population aged 65 and over is projected to soar to 73 million by 2030, an increase of 33 million in just two decades." This report looks at the present and future housing needs of older Americans. Many adults in their 50s and 60s will lack the resources to obtain safe, affordable housing as they age, which can lead to homelessness or institutionalization. This report discusses the role of federal, state and local governments in planning affordable housing, and describes opportunities in the private sector to innovate in the areas of housing and affordable care.

## HUMAN SERVICES

***California's Homeless Students: A Growing Population.*** By Shahera Hyatt, et al.

California Homeless Youth Project. Sep. 2014. 12 p.

[http://cahomelessyouth.library.ca.gov/docs/pdf/CaliforniasHomelessStudents\\_AGrowingPopulation.pdf](http://cahomelessyouth.library.ca.gov/docs/pdf/CaliforniasHomelessStudents_AGrowingPopulation.pdf)

"During the 2012-2013 school year, nearly 270,000 students experienced homelessness in California, representing 21% of the homeless students in the United States.... This brief identifies what we know about the size of California's homeless youth population in the educational system and provides statewide data on the numbers of homeless youth by county and legislative district.... The brief concludes with recommendations for improving educational success for homeless students and suggests ways to increase state and local capacity for data collection."

## TOOLS OF THE TRADE

***Minimum Wage Legislation Database.*** National Conference of State Legislatures. July 2014.

<http://www.ncsl.org/research/labor-and-employment/minimum-wage-legislation-database.aspx>

"Minimum wage bills from the current legislative session are available in a searchable database. You can search by state, bill number, author, status or keyword, or track all minimum wage-related bills by leaving the search boxes blank. You also can track specific issues, by selecting a topic, including proposed increases to the state minimum wage, indexing of future increases to the cost-of-living, tipped wages, subminimum wages, state authority over local minimum wages, Constitutional amendments, or other issues."

## TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

***"America's Poor Neighborhoods Plagued by Pedestrian Deaths."*** By Mike Maciag.

*Governing* (Aug. 2014) pp. 1-13.

[http://media.navigatored.com/documents/Governing\\_Pedestrian\\_Fatalities\\_Report.pdf](http://media.navigatored.com/documents/Governing_Pedestrian_Fatalities_Report.pdf)

"*Governing* compiled data on all fatal pedestrian accidents reported in the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Fatality Analysis Reporting System from 2008-2012. Using each accident's geographic coordinates, the total number of accidents was computed for all Census tracts, which are sized similarly to neighborhoods. Within metro areas, low-income tracts recorded pedestrian fatality rates approximately twice that of more affluent neighborhoods. Examining Census tracts' poverty rates yielded a similar pattern. Metro-area tracts below the national poverty rate of 15% registered 5.3 deaths per 100,000

residents over the five-year period. By comparison, poor neighborhoods where more than a quarter of the population lived in poverty recorded a rate of 12.1 deaths per 100,000 people.”

## VETERANS

***California's Women Veterans: Responses to the 2013 Survey.* By Matthew K. Buttice. California Research Bureau. Sep. 2014. 70 p.**  
<http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/14/14-002.pdf>

“The 2013 survey builds on previous iterations by offering a new set of questions based on the lessons learned in 2009 and 2011, as well as feedback from members of the California women veteran community.” Among the findings, “[o]verall awareness about state veteran benefits was low among respondents and knowledge varied across demographic and service-related characteristics.... More than one third of respondents who reported not using U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs healthcare indicated they did not know they were eligible for coverage.” The survey results point to an opportunity for increased outreach and education for women veterans.

### **About *Studies in the News***

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