



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

Issue 14-141

October 15, 2014

Contents this week:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Model policies to minimize trauma to children of arrested parents

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

28% ceiling for CA elected women across state and local levels

ECONOMY

U.S. Census: median income stagnant, poverty rate decreased in 2013

EDUCATION

Educating California's English learners

Student loan debt among affluent families on the rise

EMPLOYMENT

Proposed SF city minimum wage law and its potential impact

ENVIRONMENT

Examining the impact of global warming on the CA drought

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

An assessment of the CA vote-by-mail process

HEALTH

Surgical options and costs to treat obesity vary by region

HOUSING

Prohibiting smoking in CA subsidized housing could yield cost savings

HUMAN SERVICES

Integrating social services to deliver more services to more people

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

CA spending on surface transportation averages \$523 per capita

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Safeguarding Children of Arrested Parents. Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Dept. of Justice. Aug. 2014. 38 p.

<https://www.bja.gov/Publications/IACP-SafeguardingChildren.pdf>

"The arrest of a parent can have a significant impact on a child whether or not the child is present at the time of the arrest. Depending on age and the quality of the relationship with the parent, children may feel shock, immense fear, anxiety, or anger towards the arresting officers or law enforcement in general. Over the past two decades, increasing emphasis has been placed on examination of the effects of these

events on children of various ages and the ways in which law enforcement can make sure that an involved child doesn't 'fall through the cracks.'" This study cites an April 2002 CRB report about children of arrested parents (CRB-02-009) and also provides a model policy to establish connections between law enforcement, child welfare services, and other stakeholder organizations to try and minimize the trauma a child experiences when a parent is arrested.

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

Women 2014: An Examination of the Status of Women in California State and Local Government.
The Leadership California Institute. Sep. 15, 2014. 19 p.

http://www.leadershipcaliforniainstitute.org/sites/all/files/Women_2014.pdf

Using numeric data and interviews of thirteen female legislators, this report reveals that "[I]n almost every level of California government women comprise under 30% of all elected representatives.... With exception of the number of women represented on California's school boards, where women have achieved substantial gains and make up almost half (47%) of all school board members, women's political representation in California state, county and city government can be characterized by [a] 28% ceiling." Elected women leaders also vary by party affiliation and, to a lesser extent, ethnic background. At the county and city-wide levels, most women come from business, education, legal, and government professions.

ECONOMY

Income and Poverty in the United States: 2013. By Carmen DeNavas-Walt, et al. Census Bureau.
Sep. 2014. 72 p.

<http://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2014/demo/p60-249.pdf>

"This report presents data on income and poverty in the United States based on information collected in the 2014 and earlier Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplements (CPS-ASEC) conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau." Findings include: at \$51,939, U.S. median income remains stagnant in 2013 following five straight years of decline; in 2013, the lowest household income in the top 5% (\$196,000) was 3.78 times the median household income (\$51,939); in 2013, there were 45.3 million people in poverty; the number of children in poverty fell from 16.1 million to 14.7 million; and children represented 23.5% of the total population and 32.3% of people in poverty.

EDUCATION

The Language of Reform: English Learners in California's Shifting Education Landscape.
By Carrie Hahnel, et al. The Education Trust-West. Sep. 2014. 40 p.

<http://www.edtrust.org/sites/edtrust.org/files/ETW%20The%20Language%20of%20Reform%20Report.pdf>

"Nearly 45% of Californians speak a language other than English at home, and in our schools, nearly 1 out of 4 students is learning English.... English learners often face ill-prepared teachers, less rigorous coursework, and insufficient academic supports. On top of the linguistic barriers they face, about 85% of California's English learners live in low-income households.... In this report, we highlight a number of California districts that are breaking this pattern. Through an analysis of unified district performance, we identify districts at the top of various peer groupings based on certain student demographic characteristics."

The Changing Profile of Student Borrowers. By Richard Fry. Pew Research Center. Oct. 7, 2014. 28 p.

<http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2014/10/07/the-changing-profile-of-student-borrowers/>

This report “finds that the increase in the rate of borrowing over the past two decades has been much greater among graduates from more affluent families than among those from low-income families. Fully half of the 2012 graduates from high-income families borrowed money for college, double the share that borrowed in 1992-93.” Students in 2012-13 borrowed \$110 billion for higher education. This report discusses borrowing rates and some of the common explanations for rate increases, such as the recent growth of for-profit universities and a trend toward pursuing graduate degrees.

EMPLOYMENT

San Francisco’s Proposed City Minimum Wage Law: A Prospective Impact Study.

By Michael Reich, et al. Center on Wage and Employment Dynamics. Aug. 2014. 24 p.

Report: <http://www.irlle.berkeley.edu/cwed/briefs/2014-04.pdf>

“San Francisco’s Mayor, members of the Board of Supervisors, and labor, business and community leaders recently agreed to place an initiative on the November 2014 ballot that would raise the minimum wage in the city to \$15.00 an hour by 2018, phased in over four steps.... About 142,000 workers—or 23% of San Francisco’s workforce—would receive a pay raise under the proposed law.... The proposed minimum wage law would have a modest impact on business operating costs and consumer prices.... Our review of a recent study by San Francisco’s Office of Economic Analysis (OEA) finds that the report’s estimation model is a flawed tool for understanding minimum wage effects, and that key inputs used in the analysis are inaccurate.”

ENVIRONMENT

“Explaining Extreme Events of 2013 From a Climate Perspective.” Edited by Stephanie C. Herring, et al. *Special Supplement to the Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society*, vol. 95, no. 9 (Sep. 2014) 108 p.

http://www2.ametsoc.org/ams/assets/File/publications/BAMS_EEE_2013_Full_Report.pdf

“Attribution of extreme events is a challenging science and one that is currently undergoing considerable evolution. In this paper, 20 different research groups explored the causes of 16 different events that occurred in 2013.” Three of the groups looked specifically at the 2013-2014 California Drought, and the likely contribution of human-induced climate change. Although the three groups did not agree on whether human-induced climate change could be blamed for the current drought, all three groups’ models predicted increasing climate variability for the state, and increasing risk of drought.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

California’s Uncounted Vote-By-Mail Ballots: Identifying Variation in County Processing.

By Mindy Romero, et al. U.C. Davis Center for Regional Change. Sep. 2014. 8 p.

<http://tinyurl.com/m2athgq>

The top reasons for uncounted vote-by-mail (VBM) ballots in California are: late receipt of ballots (47.8%) and either bad signatures (23%) or no signature (17%) on the ballots. Varying levels of county VBM outreach and education contribute to this problem. Greater voter education on VBM receipt deadlines, improved contact with voters before Election Day for non-matching or missing VBM signatures, and establishing statewide procedures for signature comparison are suggestions for improving the VBM process.

HEALTH

Variation in the Care of Surgical Conditions: Obesity. The Dartmouth Institute. Sep. 2014. 56 p.
http://www.dartmouthatlas.org/downloads/reports/Obesity_report_09_16_14.pdf

“Too often, treatment options, whether medical or surgical, are recommended without patients fully understanding the choices and participating in the decision; and these recommendations can vary markedly from one physician to the next.... The costs of care continue to rise and often differ across health care systems, even the most reputable and prestigious. Why can the ‘best’ surgical care at one academic medical center cost twice as much as another?” This report, one in a series, analyzes “unwarranted regional variation” in the treatment of obesity, and explores the lack of consensus in the medical community over surgical options.

HOUSING

“National and State Cost Savings Associated With Prohibiting Smoking in Subsidized and Public Housing in the United States.” By Brian A. King, et al. *Preventing Chronic Disease*, vol. 11, no. 171 (Oct. 2014) pp. 1-11.
http://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2014/pdf/14_0222.pdf

“The nation’s 80 million multiunit housing residents, including the nearly 7 million who live in subsidized or public housing, are especially susceptible to secondhand smoke infiltration between units.” This report calculates the cost savings if smoking were prohibited in subsidized and public housing in the United States. Using 2012 residency estimates from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the report projects an annual cost savings range of \$259 million to \$844 million, which includes estimated savings in health care, renovation costs and fire losses. California is projected to save \$37 - \$126 million.

HUMAN SERVICES

The Integration Imperative as the Driver of Reform: U.S. State and Local Government Innovations in Human and Social Services Delivery. Governing. Oct. 2014. 8 p.
<http://www.governing.com/papers/Where-are-States-and-Localities-at-in-Social-Services-Integration-.html>
[Free registration required]

“For many state and local government social services agencies, an important goal is to integrate services by leveraging new technologies and approaches to delivery in order to improve operations and better meet the needs of clients and community partners. Based on interviews with 41 states and 9 municipalities, this Governing Institute report, commissioned by KPMG, documents the specific ways in which states and localities are improving service delivery through integration. The report details states’ and localities’ progress in integration through five important trends: Client Pathways, Focus on Outcomes, Intergovernmental Integration, Intersectoral Integration and Place-Based Integration.”

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

***Intergovernmental Challenges in Surface Transportation Funding.* By Ingrid Schroeder, et al. The Pew Charitable Trusts. Sep. 2014. 28 p.**

<http://www.pewtrusts.org/~media/Assets/2014/09/SurfaceTransportationIntergovernmentalChallengesFunding.pdf?la=en>

“Today, all levels of government provide substantial funding for highway and transit infrastructure (referred to here as ‘surface transportation’ or ‘transportation’). Total federal, state, and local spending on surface transportation—which includes roads, bridges, tunnels, and other motor vehicle infrastructure; and buses, subways, commuter trains, and other public mass transit—averaged \$207 billion between 2007 and 2011 (the most recent year for which data are available), equal to 1.4% of the nation’s gross domestic product. Of that amount, the federal government provided 25% (\$51 billion); states contributed 40% (\$82 billion); and localities (i.e., municipalities, counties, and local transportation authorities) accounted for the remaining 36% (\$74 billion).” For California, the average spending on surface transportation by level of government is as follows: Federal: \$5.16B (21%, \$140 per capita); State and Local: \$19.24B (79%; \$523 per capita).

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