



Studies in the News

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Realignment, Incarceration, and Crime Trends in California. By Magnus Lofstrom, et al.

Public Policy Institute of California. May 2015. 10 p.

http://www.ppic.org/main/publication_quick.asp?i=1151

“When California’s historic public safety realignment was implemented in October 2011, many were concerned about the impact it would have on crime rates. In a 2013 report, we found that realignment did not increase violent crime in its first year, but that it did lead to an increase in auto thefts. In this report, we assess whether these trends continued beyond realignment’s first year.... Our analysis of updated state-level crime data from the FBI confirms our previous findings. Violent crime rates remain unaffected by realignment, and although California’s property crime rate decreased in 2013, it did not drop more than in comparable states—so the auto theft gap that opened up in 2012 has not closed.” The report also noted

that with the passage of Proposition 47, further reductions in incarceration may have an even greater effect on crime trends.

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

***Millennial Childbearing and the Recession.* By Nan Marie Astone, et al. Urban Institute. Apr. 2015. 9 p.**

<http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/alfresco/publication-pdfs/2000203-Millennial-Childbearing-and-the-Recession.pdf>

“Between 2007 and 2012 ... birth rates among women in their twenties declined more than 15%. A dramatic decline in birth rates among unmarried women is the most important factor in the overall reduction in childbearing among African Americans and Hispanics. Among non-Hispanic whites, most of the fertility decline can be attributed to a decline in the share of women married.... It remains to be seen ... if this generation will have fewer children than their older counterparts.... These results indicate that in the near future the number of very young children will drop at least temporarily. This affects planning how many Head Start spots, vials of vaccine, and seats in classrooms we will need.”

ECONOMY

***Gen Y and Housing: What They Want and Where They Want It.* By M. Leanne Lachman, et al. Urban Land Institute. May 13, 2015. 40 p.**

<http://uli.org/report/gen-y-housing-want-want/>

“Contrary to popular belief, most Millennials are not living the high life in the downtowns of large cities, but rather are living in less centrally located but more affordable neighborhoods, making ends meet with jobs for which many feel overqualified, and living with parents or roommates to save money.” The report finds that “[o]nly 13% of Gen Yers live in or near downtowns; 63% live in other city neighborhoods or in the suburbs.” When it comes to their economic future, “[n]ine out of ten expect to match or exceed their parents’ economic circumstances.”

EDUCATION

***California's Future: Higher Education.* Public Policy Institute of California. Feb. 2015. 6 p.**

http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/report/R_215HJR.pdf

“California’s higher education system is not keeping up with the changing economy. Projections suggest that the state’s economy will continue to need more highly educated workers. In 2025, if current trends persist, 41% of jobs will require at least a bachelor’s degree and 36% will require some college education short of a bachelor’s degree. However, given current trends, the supply of highly educated workers is not on pace to meet that demand.”

Public School Teacher Attrition and Mobility in the First Five Years: Results from the First Through Fifth Waves of the 2007-08 Beginning Teacher Longitudinal Study—First Look.

By Lucinda Gray, et al. National Center for Education Statistics, et al. Apr. 2015. 40 p.

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2015/2015337.pdf>

The Beginning Teacher Longitudinal Study (BTLN) looks at the age, gender and job satisfaction of teachers who began teaching in 2007 or 2008, from those who taught pre-kindergarten through 12th grade and including those who left the profession. This first look at the results presents “selected findings for the years 2007-2008 through 2011-12.” The percentage of teachers who continued to teach after the first year varied by first year salary level, with 97% of beginning teachers starting at \$40,000 per year or

more staying on to the next year. Only 87% with salaries less than \$40,000 a year stayed onto the next year. There were no differences detected between the percentage of teachers who started teaching with a bachelor's degree and those who had a master's degree.

EMPLOYMENT

The Glass Ceiling and the Paper Floor: Gender Differences among Top Earners, 1981-2012.
By Fatih Guvenen, et al. National Bureau of Economic Research. NBER Working Paper No. 20560.
Apr. 2015. 43 p.
<http://www.nber.org/papers/w20560>

"We analyze changes in the gender structure at the top of the earnings distribution in the United States over the last 30 years.... Despite making large inroads, females still constitute a small proportion of the top percentiles: the glass ceiling, albeit a thinner one, remains.... A large proportion of the increased share of females among top earners is accounted for by the mending of, what we refer to as, the paper floor—the phenomenon whereby female top earners were much more likely than male top earners to drop out of the top percentiles. We also provide new evidence ... for both genders: the rising share of top earnings accruing to workers in the Finance and Insurance industry, the relative transitory status of top earners, the emergence of top earnings gender gaps over the life cycle, and gender differences among lifetime top earners."

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

How Will Longer Lifespans Affect State and Local Pension Funding? By Alicia Munnell, et al.
Center for State & Local Government Excellence. Apr. 2015. 14 p.
<http://slge.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/SLGE-15-03-How-Will-Longer-Lifespans-Affect-State-and-Local-Pension-Funding-3.pdf>

"Americans are living longer—and that creates new funding challenges for state and local pension plans. New mortality tables are prompting some plans to revise their longevity assumptions and that is increasing their unfunded liabilities. Fortunately,... the fiscal impacts of these changes is relatively small if public funds use the new longevity table the private sector is now required to use for its defined benefit plans.... The question underlying this analysis is whether outdated mortality assumptions are a serious problem among state and local plans. The answer appears to be 'no'."

HEALTH

"Vital Signs: Leading Cause of Death, Prevalence of Diseases and Risk Factors, and Use of Health Services Among Hispanics in the United States—2009-2013." By Kenneth Dominguez, et al.
Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, vol. 64, no. 17 (May 8, 2015) pp. 469-478.
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/wk/mm6417.pdf>
Fact sheet. 4 p.: <http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/pdf/2015-05-vitalsigns.pdf>

This report analyzes the leading causes of death and risk factors for diseases among Hispanics. "The study noted that Hispanics are 50% more likely than non-Hispanic whites to succumb to liver disease and complications from diabetes. The CDC also found some slight differences in the leading causes of death among Latinos compared to whites. For Hispanics the top five are cancer, heart disease, unintentional injuries, stroke and diabetes. For non-Latino whites it's heart disease, cancer, chronic lower respiratory disease, unintentional injuries and stroke. The CDC looked at subgroups within the Latino community and found that different groups have varying degrees of health risk." (NBC News, May 5, 2015).

“Changes in Depressive Symptoms and Incidence of First Stroke Among Middle-Aged and Older U.S. Adults.” By Paola Gilsanz, et al. *Journal of the American Heart Association*, vol. 10, no. 1161 (May 13, 2015) 21 p.

<http://jaha.ahajournals.org/content/4/5/e001923.full?sid=ee78a136-dc87-430a-bb1d-2f5c4b881f63>

“Medical researchers have known for several years that there is some sort of link between long-term depression and an increased risk of stroke. But now scientists are finding that even after such depression eases, the risk of stroke can remain high.... Even two years after their chronic depression lifted ... a person's risk for stroke was 66% higher than it was for someone who had not experienced depression.... [T]he study's findings imply that the negative health effects of depression are likely cumulative over time—people whose diagnosis of depression was very recent were not more likely to have a stroke than people who never had symptoms.” (NPR, May 14, 2015).

HUMAN SERVICES

Domestic Food Assistance: Multiple Programs Benefit Millions of Americans, but Additional Action Is Needed to Address Potential Overlap and Inefficiencies. By Kay E. Brown.

Government Accountability Office. GAO 15-606T. May 20, 2015. 16 p.

<http://www.gao.gov/assets/680/670313.pdf>

In this testimony before the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Nutrition, the GAO stated that “[t]he federal government spent over \$100 billion on 18 domestic food assistance programs in fiscal year 2014. Federal spending on the five largest food assistance programs has increased over the last 20 years.... In 2010, GAO recommended that USDA identify and develop methods for addressing potential inefficiencies among food assistance programs and reducing overlap among the smaller programs.... In 2013, USDA commissioned a study on the feasibility and potential cost to assess the extent of overlap and duplication among these programs.... While such a study will provide important information, it does not address GAO’s recommendation. GAO continues to believe that further action is needed.”

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Air Traffic Control: FAA Needs a More Comprehensive Approach to Address Cybersecurity as Agency Transitions to NextGen. By Gerald Dillingham, et al. Government Accountability Office. GAO-15-370. Apr. 14, 2015. 56 p.

<http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-370>

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) “is responsible for overseeing the national airspace system, which comprises ATC [air traffic control information] systems, procedures, facilities, and aircraft, and the people who operate them. FAA is implementing NextGen to move the current radar-based ATC system to one that is based on satellite navigation and automation. It is essential that FAA ensures effective information-security controls are incorporated in the design of NextGen programs to protect them from threats.... This report (1) identifies the cybersecurity challenges facing FAA as it shifts to the NextGen ATC system and how FAA has begun addressing those challenges, and (2) assesses the extent to which FAA and its contractors, in the acquisition of NextGen programs, have followed federal guidelines for incorporating cybersecurity controls.”

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