



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Rebuilding California's Juvenile Justice Data System: Recommendations to Improve Data Collection, Performance Measures and Outcomes for California Youth. California Juvenile Justice Data Working Group. Jan. 2016. 70 p.

<http://www.bscc.ca.gov/downloads/5-1%20JJDWG%20-%20Report%20FINAL%201-11-16.pdf>

"Increasingly across the nation, state and local juvenile justice systems are expanding data collection capacity to support effective and evidence-based practices and to promote positive outcomes for justice-involved youth.... Regrettably, California has allowed its juvenile justice data systems to fall into a pattern of long-term decline. The technology supporting the state's main juvenile justice data bank is antiquated and cannot be upgraded. There is no state-level capacity to track recidivism or other important outcomes for justice system youth.... This Final Report to the Legislature provides an analysis of the pertinent issues and needs and offers recommendations to improve California's juvenile justice data capacity and, correspondingly, to improve outcomes for justice-involved youth."

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

***From Cradle to Cane: The Cost of Being a Female Consumer.* By Anna Bessendorf. NYC Consumer Affairs. Dec. 2015. 76 p.**

<http://www1.nyc.gov/assets/dca/downloads/pdf/partners/Study-of-Gender-Pricing-in-NYC.pdf>

“Across her lifetime, a female consumer faces different degrees of markups. Babies’ and children’s products had the least pricing discrepancies, adult personal care products the most, and adult clothing and senior products were in the middle, at roughly equivalent pricing discrepancies by percent. This is notable, given the ‘adult’ stage of a consumer’s life is longer than any other lifecycle stage. Additionally, the frequency at which adults consume personal care products is higher than any other category of the consumer goods analyzed in this study. In the aggregate, over the course of a female consumer’s lifetime, these discrepancies would have a much larger financial impact, given that, on average, personal care products cost 13% more for women than men.”

EDUCATION

***Measuring Up to the Model: A Ranking of State Charter School Laws.* 7th ed. By Todd Ziebarth. National Alliance for Public Charter Schools. Jan. 2016. 120 p.**

http://www.publiccharters.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Model-Law-Final_2016.pdf

This report ranks public charter schools against the Alliance’s model for high-quality public charter schools. The components of this model include authorizer and overall program accountability, transparent charter application review and decision-making processes, performance-based charter school contract requirements, comprehensive school monitoring and data collection, among other points. California ranks 15th among the states, with some areas of improvement recommended in “strengthening authorizer accountability, beefing up requirements for performance-based charter contracts, and enacting the model law’s statutory guidelines for relationships between charter public schools and educational service providers.”

***Tracking Transfer: New Measures of Institutional and State Effectiveness in Helping Community College Students Attain Bachelor’s Degrees.* By Davis Jenkins, et al. Community College Research Center, et al. Jan. 2016. 56 p.**

<http://ccrc.tc.columbia.edu/media/k2/attachments/tracking-transfer-institutional-state-effectiveness.pdf>

This report looks at how effective two- and four-year institutions are in “enabling degree-seeking students who start college at a community college to transfer to four-year institutions to earn bachelor’s degrees.” The report found that outcomes at both types of institutions varied greatly by state, and that generally, “among four-year institutions, transfer students had better outcomes at public institutions, very selective institutions, and institutions with higher socioeconomic status (SES) students.” California was among the states with a high rate of transfer students completing bachelor degrees (47%), but had lower rates among low-income students.

EMPLOYMENT

The Public Cost of Low Wages in New York. By Ken Jacobs, et al. UC Berkeley Labor Center. Jan. 2016. 8 p.

<http://laborcenter.berkeley.edu/pdf/2016/Public-Cost-of-Low-Wages-in-New-York.pdf>

“Low wages exact a high public cost. Between 2011 and 2013 in New York, \$9 billion was spent each year on public support programs for working families. Higher wages would result in significant savings in Medicaid and CHIP (Children’s Health Insurance Program)—savings that would accrue to New York State and its localities, as well as to the federal government. In the case of TANF (Temporary Aid for Needy Families) ... higher wages would allow for a reallocation of funds away from cash assistance and into services such as child care, job training, and transportation support for low-income families....

[D]epending on hours worked, filing status, and number of children, some workers may actually see an increase in EITC (Earned Income Tax Credits) benefits as the result of an increase in the minimum wage.”

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

“Greenhouse Gas Reporting Rule: Leak Detection Methodology Revisions and Confidentiality Determinations for Petroleum and Natural Gas Systems.” (Proposed Rule) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. *Federal Register*, vol. 81, no. 19 (Jan. 29, 2016) pp. 4987-5006.

<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2016-01-29/pdf/2016-01669.pdf>

“The EPA is proposing revisions and confidentiality determinations for the petroleum and natural gas systems source category of the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program (GHGRP). In particular, the EPA is proposing to add new monitoring methods for detecting leaks from oil and gas equipment in the petroleum and natural gas systems source category consistent with the leak detection methods in the recently proposed new source performance standards (NSPS) for the oil and gas industry. The EPA is also proposing to add emission factors for leaking equipment to be used in conjunction with these monitoring methods to calculate and report greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions resulting from equipment leaks.” This rule may be of value to readers given the ongoing situation in Porter Ranch. Comments must be received on or before Feb. 29, 2016.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

State Legal Information Census: An Analysis of Primary State Legal Information.

By Sarah Glassmeyer. Jan. 11, 2016. 36 p.

<http://www.sarahglassmeyer.com/StateLegalInformation/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/GlassmeyerStateLegalInformationCensusReport.pdf>

“States do an overwhelmingly poor job of making primary legal information freely available online, according to a new study by a Harvard University researcher.... [This report] examined the websites of all 50 states to understand how each made its state statutes, agency regulations and case law accessible online.” The report found that no site provides an index to make it easy to search case law or provide a tool to identify new cases that cite the original, no site provides a tool to search across different cases, and very few sites provide a search mechanism. Additionally, “[m]any of the sites contain disclaimers that the information may not be fully updated or accurate ...” (*StateScoop*, Jan. 25, 2016).

HEALTH

2015 State Well-Being Rankings. Gallup Healthways. Jan. 27, 2016. 4 p.

http://info.healthways.com/hubfs/Well-Being_Index/2015_Data/Gallup-Healthways_State_of_American_Well-Being_2015_State_Rankings.pdf

Each year, Gallup-Healthways surveys thousands of U.S. adults to capture “how people feel about and experience their daily lives.” In 2015, California’s overall well-being index score rose two points to 62.7, which placed the state among the highest quintile in overall rankings. In the category “Physical,” where respondents claimed good physical health and energy, California ranked third behind Hawaii and Colorado. However, California was ranked 21st in “Financial” (able to achieve a secure economic life) and 29th in “Community” (feeling safe and having pride in community).

HUMAN SERVICES

California’s Health Care Safety Net: A Sector in Transition. California HealthCare Foundation.

Jan. 2016. 37 p.

<http://www.chcf.org/~media/MEDIA%20LIBRARY%20Files/PDF/PDF%20C/PDF%20CAHealthCareSafetyNetSectorTransition.pdf>

“The health care safety net is a patchwork of programs and providers that serve low-income Californians without private health insurance.... In 2014, 3 in 10 Californians could be counted in the safety-net population because they were low-income and enrolled in public programs or were uninsured. While public and private nonprofit hospitals provide the most care to the safety-net population, public hospitals are much more reliant on safety-net funding sources to finance their operations.... The safety-net population accounted for 83% of community clinic visits. Most of the funding for this care came from Medi-Cal, which funded 68% of community clinic visits, but provided 79% of the clinics’ net patient revenue.”

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

State Child Welfare Policy Database. Child Trends, et al.

<http://www.childwelfarepolicy.org/maps>

This website “aims to centralize and make publicly available an array of state child welfare policies so that policy makers, practitioners, and other stakeholders can stay abreast of the policies that protect our nation’s most vulnerable children.” Users can review policies by issue area, or by state.

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