



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

July 13, 2016

Contents this week:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Panel suggests reforms for SFPD to reduce bias in policing
Crime in CA: violent crimes and property crimes increased in 2015

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

U.S. birthrate remains lower than pre-Recession levels

EDUCATION

Post-Recession recovery illustrates need for college-educated workers

EMPLOYMENT

More older Americans employed past age 65, work longer hours

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Geospatial analysis of CA's 2015 utility services

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

CalPERS 2015 portfolio: valued at \$301.9 billion, \$27.8 billion in CA

HEALTH

CA county health departments may provide over \$67 per \$1 investment

HUMAN SERVICES

Budget cuts hamper social security services as demand increases

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Report of the Blue Ribbon Panel on Transparency, Accountability, and Fairness in Law Enforcement. San Francisco District Attorney's Office. July 2016. 249 p.

<http://sfblueribbonpanel.com/>

"A year-long inquiry into bias in the San Francisco Police Department has found the liberal city's department is in dire need of reform to rebuild public trust that's been broken after a series of scandals and long-time practices of policing of communities of color.... The report recommended that the department change its practices in a number of areas. The department should expand community policing efforts, improve and expand implicit bias training and make the collection of data across the board a priority, per the report. The department should also stop all practices that result in stop and frisk tactics. The department also needs to make its hiring practice more transparent and fair by streamlining background checks and having command staff oversight of the chief's hiring decision. The department should also increase its effort to hire people from diverse backgrounds, the report stated. Many of the report's recommendations on use of force reforms, from limiting carotid holds to expanding reportage incident of use of force, have already begun to be implemented." (*San Francisco Examiner*, July 11, 2016).

***Crime in California 2015.* Office of the Attorney General. June 2016. 74 p.**

<https://oag.ca.gov/crime>

“[This report] presents an overview of the criminal justice system in California. Current year statistics are presented for reported crimes, arrests, disposition of adult felony arrests, adult probation, criminal justice personnel, citizens’ complaints against peace officers, domestic violence-related calls for assistance, and law enforcement officers killed or assaulted. In addition, statistics for preceding years are provided for historical context.” The report found that violent crimes increased from 151,425 to 166,558 and property crimes increased from 946,682 to 1,023,828. These figures are 2.9% and 0.4% lower respectively than in 2010. After a 2-year decrease, homicide rate increased in 2015 from 4.4 to 4.8 per 100,000, while robbery and aggravated assault rates decreased by 13.2% and 1.1% respectively from 2010 to 2015.

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

***U.S. Births Remain Low as the Great Recession Wanes.* By Kenneth M. Johnson. Carsey School of Public Policy. June 7, 2016. 2 p.**

<https://carsey.unh.edu/publication/us-births-low>

“More than five years after economists announced the end of the recession, fertility levels have still not recovered. As a result, more than 3.4 million fewer babies were born in the United States between 2008 and 2015 than would have been expected if pre-recession fertility rates had been sustained.... This decline in births is entirely due to reduced fertility rates.... [T]he larger cohort of childbearing age women in 2015 produced fewer births than the smaller 2007 cohort did. If the fertility rates of 2007 had been sustained through 2015, the larger cohort of women of childbearing age would have been expected to produce nearly 600,000 more children in 2015 than were actually born.”

EDUCATION

***America’s Divided Recovery: College Haves and Have-Nots.* By Anthony P. Carnevale, et al. Center on Education and the Workforce, Georgetown University. July 2016. 44 p.**

<https://cew.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/Americas-Divided-Recovery-web.pdf>

This report describes how the recovery from the Great Recession has been uneven; more jobs are available for those with college degrees, while people with a high school diploma or less have struggled to find work. The result is a shift in who makes up the American workforce. The report states that college degrees continue to be an important asset. “Workers with a high school diploma or less now make up 34% of the workforce, 5 percentage points less than in 2007, when the recession began. Meanwhile, the share of workers with a Bachelor’s degree or higher increased from 32% to 36%.... These workers also now earn 57% of all wages. Including workers with an Associate’s degree or some college, workers with postsecondary education now make up 65% of total employment.”

EMPLOYMENT

***More Older Americans are Working, and Working More, Than They Used To.* By Drew DeSilver. Pew Research Center. June 2016. 3 p.**

<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/06/20/more-older-americans-are-working-and-working-more-than-they-used-to/>

“[T]oday’s older workers are spending more time on the job than did their peers in previous years.... In May, 18.8% of Americans ages 65 and older, or nearly 9 million people, reported being employed full- or part-time, continuing a steady increase that dates to at least 2000 (which is as far back as we took our

analysis). In May of that year, just 12.8% of 65-and-older Americans, or about 4 million people, said they were working.”

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

2016 Geospatial Analysis of California’s Utility Services: Electricity, Gas, Water and Broadband. Reagan R. Rockzsfforde, et al. California Public Utilities Commission. May 2016. 37 p.

[http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/uploadedFiles/CPUC_Public_Website/Content/About_Us/Organization/Divisions/Policy_and_Planning/PPD_Work/PPD_Work_Products_\(2014_forward\)/PPD%20Utility%20Service%20Report.pdf](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/uploadedFiles/CPUC_Public_Website/Content/About_Us/Organization/Divisions/Policy_and_Planning/PPD_Work/PPD_Work_Products_(2014_forward)/PPD%20Utility%20Service%20Report.pdf)

This report analyzes electric and gas bills and consumption patterns, low-income and energy efficiency programs, and broadband availability. “Using data from 2015, this analysis answers the following questions: What is the average residential electricity and gas bill by ZIP code? Where are the high-consumption areas for electricity, gas and water in the state? What is the daily per capita water usage in the state? How do income and regional climate affect usage of utility services? Where are the low-income customers located within the state? Which areas are the most in need of low-income and conservation programs? How much do consumers save through energy efficiency programs?”

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

CalPERS for California 2015: Supporting Economic Opportunity in California. California Public Employees’ Retirement System (CalPERS). May 2016. 36 p.

<https://www.calpers.ca.gov/docs/forms-publications/calpers-for-ca-2015.pdf>

“The California Public Employees’ Retirement System (CalPERS), the nation’s largest public pension fund, plays an important role in California’s economy, providing retirement and health benefits to over 1.8 million public employees, retirees, and their families, and nearly 3,000 employers. As of June 30, 2015, CalPERS investment portfolio totaled \$301.9 billion, an increase of one percent from the previous year. Within the CalPERS investment portfolio, 9.2%, or \$27.8 billion, is invested in California.” This report documents the scale and breadth of CalPERS investments throughout the state.

HEALTH

“Returns on Investment in California County Departments of Public Health.” By Timothy T. Brown. *American Journal of Public Health*. Published ahead of print. June 16, 2016. 6 p.

<http://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/pdf/10.2105/AJPH.2016.303233>

This report describes a method that may be used “to estimate the average return on investment for the overall activities of county departments of public health in California.” The author “gathered the elements necessary to estimate the average return on investment for county departments of public health in California during the period 2001 to 2008-2009. These came from peer-reviewed journal articles published as part of a larger project to develop a method for determining return on investment for public health by using a health economics framework.” The report estimates that California county departments of public health return between \$67.07 to \$88.21 for each \$1 invested.

HUMAN SERVICES

Budget Cuts Squeeze Social Security Administration Even as Workloads Reach Record Highs.
By Kathleen Romig, et al. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. June 3, 2016. 9 p.

<http://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/6-3-16socsec.pdf>

“The Social Security Administration’s (SSA) core operating budget has shrunk by 10% since 2010 after adjusting for inflation, even as the demands on SSA have reached all-time highs as the baby boomers have aged into their peak years for retirement and disability. Budget cutting ... has lowered SSA’s operating budget from an already low 0.9% of overall Social Security spending to just 0.7%, forcing the agency to do more with significantly less.... The cuts have hampered SSA’s ability to perform its essential services, such as determining eligibility in a timely manner for retirement, survivor, and disability benefits, paying benefits accurately and on time, responding to questions from the public, and updating benefits promptly when circumstances change.”

About *Studies in the News*

Studies in the News (SITN) is a service provided by the California Research Bureau (CRB), a division of the California State Library. CRB provides independent, nonpartisan research and analysis for the Governor, Legislature, and State Constitutional Officers.

SITN lists of current studies related to public policy issues are e-mailed weekly. Archived issues are available at <http://www.library.ca.gov/sitn/crb/>.

To add or remove your name from the SITN distribution list, or to update your e-mail address, please contact us at crb@library.ca.gov, or (916) 319-2691.

SITN is available as an RSS feed at <http://www.library.ca.gov/sitn/crb/>.