



We are pleased to bring you the summer 2021 issue of the CJPP, the first one edited by the new team at California State University, Sacramento. The issue addresses a variety of topical concerns, with a special focus on how governmental entities reacted to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We begin with a rigorous study of the benefits from Medicaid expansion under the federal Affordable Care Act (Obamacare). Building on prior research by offering a unique focus on the Golden State, Natalie Schwehr, Lacey Hartman, and Giovann Alarcón use a national data set to compare changes in health outcomes in California with those of states that rejected Medicaid expansion. The researchers find that Medicaid expansion produced significant gains in outcomes for low-income Californians. In short, this major policy change produced its intended effects.

The second article addresses the controversy about adding a citizenship question to the 2020 United States Census. That Trump Administration proposal (which ultimately was not implemented) generated much concern about discouraging Census participation from mixed-status households. Researchers Stephanie DeMora and Melissa Michelson analyze the results from a 2018 field experiment aimed at determining if reassurances from community organizations about the confidentiality of census information encourages people to participate. They find limited evidence to support such a claim, suggesting that concerns about the Trump proposal were realistic.

We next turn to various perspectives on responses to the pandemic. In a full-length article, Sue Burrell and Shannan Wilber consider the pandemic's effects on a highly vulnerable population: California youth incarcerated in county-run detention facilities. Analyzing information from a variety of sources, Burrell and Wilber identify a number of significant problems with the governmental response at both the county and state levels, ending with specific recommendations for policy change. In the first of three shorter commentaries, Alana Jeydel examines what aspects of political campaigns changed, and assesses what modifications are and are not likely to endure. Scott Miller considers how a particular county court needed to modify its practice to promote access to justice. Chris Micheli summarizes how lobbying has been altered under the pandemic and assesses how participants view the move toward online interactions.

We hope you find the contents of this issue both timely and provocative. And we look forward to future contributions to the CJPP from academics and practitioners.