



Studies in the News

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CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

Millennials and Political News: Social Media—the Local TV for the Next Generation? Pew Research Center. June 1, 2015. 29 p.

<http://www.journalism.org/files/2015/06/Millennials-and-News-FINAL.pdf>

“About six-in-ten online Millennials (61%) report getting political news on Facebook in a given week, a much larger percentage than turn to any other news source.... Roughly a quarter (24%) of Millennials who use Facebook say at least half of the posts they see on the site relate to government and politics.... This occurs even though Millennials express less interest in political news.... The data do not suggest, however, that Millennials’ relative lack of engagement with or awareness of sources is based on some sort of deep-seated mistrust of the news media.... A longer-term question that arises from this data is what younger Americans’ reliance on social media for news might mean for the political system.”

EDUCATION

The State of Higher Education in California: Latinos. The Campaign for College Opportunity. Apr. 2015. 39 p.

http://collegecampaign.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/2015-State-of-Higher-Education_Latinos.pdf

“Latinos in California are less likely to have a college degree and lag far behind other ethnic groups in college readiness and enrollment. Just 12% of Latinos between 25 and 64 have at least a bachelor’s degree, compared with 42% of whites.... [T]hey are about 46% of the traditional college-age population, they are just 40% of students at community colleges, 35% at California State University campuses and 22% at University of California campuses.... Latino students are more likely to be working, caring for other family members or be the first in their family to attend college—all factors in students not completing a degree.” (*Sacramento Bee*, May 27, 2015).

Harnessing the Power of Technology in the Classroom. By Sunny Deye. National Conference of State Legislatures. May 22, 2015. 6 p.

http://www.ncsl.org/Portals/1/Documents/educ/technology_final.pdf

This policy brief highlights what states have been doing to promote the use of technology in schools. States such as California, Indiana, North Carolina, Ohio and Texas have changed the definition of “textbooks” to include digital content and devices. Some states are developing technology plans that include more teacher training in the use of technology and integration in the classroom. The researchers suggest several questions to consider in developing technology programs in schools: 1) What is your state’s vision for the use of this technology? 2) What is your state’s strategy for providing ongoing support and funding for equipment, software, broadband, tech support, etc.?, and 3) Have your schools established learning standards and teacher training for using technology?

EMPLOYMENT

Retirement Security: Most Households Approaching Retirement Have Low Savings.

By Charles A. Jeszeck. Government Accountability Office. GAO-15-419. May 2015. 51 p.

<http://www.gao.gov/assets/680/670153.pdf>

“Many retirees and workers approaching retirement have limited financial resources. About half of households age 55 and older have no retirement savings (such as in a 401(k) plan or an IRA)... [M]any older households without retirement savings have few other resources, such as a defined benefit (DB) plan or nonretirement savings, to draw on in retirement.... Among those with some retirement savings, the median amount of those savings is about \$104,000 for households age 55-64 and \$148,000 for households age 65-74, equivalent to an inflation-protected annuity of \$310 and \$649 per month, respectively. Social Security provides most of the income for about half of households age 65 and older.”

ENVIRONMENT

Uncertainty in Global Groundwater Storage Estimates in a Total Groundwater Stress Framework.

By Alexandra S. Richey, et al. Water Resources Research. June 16, 2015. 56 p.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/2015WR017351/pdf>

A recent study spearheaded by the University of California at Irvine finds significant uncertainty about the remaining total volume in the world’s groundwater. “We don’t actually know how much is stored in each of these aquifers. Estimates of remaining storage might vary from decades to millennia.” The authors conclude that available groundwater reserves are likely much lower than decades-old estimates that are currently being used.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Maintaining and Expanding California's National Security Mission: Report and Recommendations of the Governor's Military Council. Office of the Governor. June 2015. 84 p.

http://gov.ca.gov/docs/GOV_MIL_REPORT_June.pdf

California has more than 30 major military installations contributing billions of dollars towards the economy. As the U.S. reduces its military defense spending across the board, there is uncertainty as to its impacts on the military presence in the state. This report explores possible impacts and makes recommendations as to what can be done to strengthen our state's role in national security.

HEALTH

Coverage Expansions and the Remaining Uninsured: A Look At California During Year One of ACA Implementation. By Rachel Garfield, et al. Henry J. Kaiser Foundation. May 2015. 44 p.

<http://files.kff.org/attachment/report-coverage-expansions-and-the-remaining-uninsured-a-look-at-california-during-year-one-of-aca-implementation>

"While much attention has been paid to enrollment in new coverage options and changes in the uninsured over the past year, less is known about how this coverage has affected people's lives. To help fill this gap, the Kaiser Family Foundation is conducting a series of comprehensive surveys of the low and moderate-income population." The survey found that Covered California enrollees "are more likely to be racially diverse and are made up primarily of working adults without dependent children." Adults in Covered California "were more likely than those with other private coverage to say a provider would not see them due to coverage." Also, newly-insured adults were less likely to understand the details of their plans.

HUMAN SERVICES

How Much Could Policy Changes Reduce Poverty in New York City? By Linda Giannarelli, et al. Urban Institute. Mar. 9, 2015. 116 p.

<http://www.urban.org/research/publication/how-much-could-policy-changes-reduce-poverty-new-york-city>

"A combination of policies would reduce the poverty rate of New York City residents from 21.4% to 6.7%, according to an analysis for three NYC non-profits. The project used the TRIM3 microsimulation model and NYC data from the American Community Survey to analyze the potential effects of seven policies: transitional jobs (TJ), earnings supplements, a higher minimum wage, increased benefits from SNAP (food stamps), more housing vouchers, guaranteed child care subsidies, and a tax credit for seniors and people with disabilities. The TJ policy had the biggest individual impact, reducing poverty from 21.4 to 15.9%."

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Claims Related to Stormwater Discharges. By Margaret L. Hines, et al. National Cooperative Highway Research Program. May 2015. 11 p.

http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/nchrp/nchrp_rrd_395.pdf

This brief investigates the effectiveness of stormwater runoff management permits in preventing hazardous waste violation claims against transportation agencies. It is not enough to possess a permit; rather, the agency must be in full compliance with the permit to limit potential liability. It finds that for state

and local agencies who manage stormwater by permit, “[t]he mere possession of an NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permit in itself does not shield a state agency from liability resulting from a hazardous waste violation claim.... Regardless of the permittee’s ownership status of a highway property from which a discharge of hazardous material flows, the permittee must ensure that the discharge is not in excess of the levels specified in the permit.”

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