



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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Medical records at risk of theft due to poor IT security

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

***California's Population.* By Hans Johnson. Public Policy Institute of California. Mar. 2017. 2 p.**
http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/jtf/JTF_PopulationJTF.pdf

This brief offers the latest state population figures. "With slightly more than 39 million people (according to 2016 estimates), California is the nation's most populous state —its population is almost one and a half

times that of second-place Texas (28 million). One of every eight US residents lives in California. By 2050, California's population is projected to reach 50 million people."

ECONOMY

***Robots and Jobs: Evidence from US Labor Markets.* By Daron Acemoglu, et al. National Bureau of Economic Research. Mar. 2017. 91 p.**

<http://www.nber.org/papers/w23285> (Available to .gov accounts or at the California State Library)

This paper discusses the impact of computer-assisted technologies such as robots on future jobs and wages. It is estimated that one more robot per thousand workers reduces overall wages by a quarter to a half a percent. "The paper also helps explain a mystery that has been puzzling economists: why, if machines are replacing human workers, productivity hasn't been increasing. In manufacturing, productivity has been increasing more than elsewhere—and now we see evidence of it in the employment data, too." ([New York Times](#), Mar. 28, 2017).

EDUCATION

***Affording the Dream: Student Debt and State Need-Based Grant Aid for Public University Students.* By Charlie Eaton, et al. Center for Studies in Higher Education. Feb. 2017. 13 p.**

http://www.cshe.berkeley.edu/sites/default/files/shared/publications/docs/2.ROPS_CSHE_4.17.Eaton%20et%20al.%20AffordingTheDream.03.03.2017.pdf

"Public research universities are a key vehicle for educational mobility. Yet rising student debt for undergraduate students has created new risks, particularly for lower income students at lower ranked universities. We find that student loan default rates reached 35% for low-income students at public universities with low research rankings during the Great Recession.... We find that generous state aid programs are associated with lower actual costs of attendance for low-income students." The report concludes by discussing how even states with generous grant aid programs may need to rethink tuition to protect low-income students from high debt and the risk of default.

"PK-3: What Does It Mean for Instruction?" By Deborah Stipek, et al. *Social Policy Report*, vol. 30, no. 2 (2017) pp. 1-23.

http://www.srcd.org/sites/default/files/documents/spr_30_2_final.pdf

PK-3 encompasses the idea of continuity in instruction from preschool to third grade—by aligning preschool standards with K-3 standards, and insuring that students learn by building on knowledge acquired at each level of schooling. This report "proposes a conceptualization of productive continuity in academic instruction, as well as in the social climate and classroom management practices that might affect children's social-emotional development. It also considers ways in which schools might seek to achieve continuity in parents' and children's experiences." The researchers make recommendations for policymakers on how to carry out the goals of this concept—among them: aligning standards across grades at state and district levels, creating databases which follow student's progress from PK through elementary school, and continuing emphasis on social-emotional development along with academic skills.

EMPLOYMENT

Working through the Haze: Implications of Legalized Marijuana for California Workers' Compensation System. By Ellen Sim Langille. California Workers' Compensation Institute. Nov. 2016. 18 p.

<https://www.cwci.org/document.php?file=3090.pdf>

"Are workers' compensation payers in California obligated to provide payment or reimbursement for recreational marijuana as part of a treatment for work-related injuries? The simple answer is, nobody knows yet. Employers and carriers are required to provide medical treatment that is reasonably required to cure or relieve the effects of the injury. But as a matter of federal law marijuana is classified as a Schedule 1 controlled substance, and by definition is devoid of any medical value.... In all likelihood, the development of case law will determine whether marijuana can be considered as a legitimate treatment for work-related injuries."

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

"A Model Integrating Longshore and Cross-Shore Processes for Predicting Long-Term Shoreline Response to Climate Change." By Sean Vitousek, et al. *Journal of Geophysical Research: Earth Surface* (2017) 47 p.

<https://www.usgs.gov/news/disappearing-beaches-modeling-shoreline-change-southern-california>

"Using a newly-developed computer model called 'CoSMoS-COAST' (Coastal Storm Modeling System – Coastal One-line Assimilated Simulation Tool) scientists predict that with limited human intervention, 31 to 67% of Southern California beaches may become completely eroded (up to existing coastal infrastructure or sea-cliffs) by the year 2100 under scenarios of sea-level rise of one to two meters.... Although a majority (72%) of beaches in Southern California show historical trends of accretion or getting larger (due to large artificial beach nourishments since the 1930s), future predictions indicate that nearly all of the beaches will experience erosion (will get smaller) due to accelerated sea-level rise."

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Understanding and Challenging Opposition to Housing Construction in California's Urban Areas. Paavo Monkkonen. UC Davis. Dec. 1, 2016. 38 p.

<http://uccs.ucdavis.edu/uccs-crre-housing-policy-brief-white-paper>

Housing affordability and availability are pressing issues in California. Rents are out of reach for minimum wage workers. When affordable units are available, there are not sufficient units to meet the need. New development is needed, yet the opposition is vigorous. This paper outlines why opposition to new housing is an important policy concern, the causes of local opposition (categorized in three ways), and the ways in which local groups block development. "The fourth and final section outlines some new and old ways in which the state can challenge and reorient resistance to new housing and increased density."

HEALTH

"Future Life Expectancy in 35 Industrialized Countries: Projections with a Bayesian Model Ensemble." By Vasilis Kontis, et al. *The Lancet*. Feb. 2017. 13 p.

<http://thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736%2816%2932381-9/fulltext>

"The USA has the highest child and maternal mortality, homicide rate, and body-mass index of any high-income country, and was the first of high-income countries to experience a halt or possibly reversal of

increase in height in adulthood, which is associated with higher longevity. The USA is also the only country in the OECD without universal health coverage, and has the largest share of unmet health-care needs due to financial costs. Not only does the USA have high and rising health inequalities, but also life expectancy has stagnated or even declined in some population subgroups. Therefore, the poor recent and projected US performance is at least partly due to high and inequitable mortality from chronic diseases and violence, and insufficient and inequitable health care.”

HUMAN SERVICES

Chart Book: SNAP Helps Struggling Families Put Food on the Table. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Mar. 1, 2017. 35 p.

<http://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/3-13-12fa-chartbook.pdf>

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is “one of the few means-tested government benefit programs available to almost all households with low incomes.... Research shows that SNAP reduces poverty and food insecurity, and that over the long-term, these impacts lead to improved health and economic outcomes, especially for those who receive SNAP as children.... This chart book highlights some key characteristics of the 40 million people using the program as well as trends and data on program administration and use.” The report analyzes the importance of SNAP as a boost to retailers, as SNAP households spend most of their benefits at large grocery stores and superstores..

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

IBM X-Force Threat Intelligence Index 2017. IBM Security. Mar. 2017. 30 p.

<https://assets.documentcloud.org/documents/3527813/IBM-XForce-Index-2017-FINAL.pdf>

“Highly valuable [medical] records, which sell on the black market for far-higher prices than stolen credit card information, are vulnerable in a sector that many professionals say does not do enough for security beyond minimum compliance requirements. About 25% of attacks on health care sector IT were malicious insider incidents, well above the rates in industries such as financial services (5%), manufacturing (4%) and retail (2%).... As electronic records increasingly replace paper based records ..., the digitization comes with potential risks both within organizations and ‘through indirect compromise such as third-party [electronic health record] vendor breaches.’” ([Cyberscoop.com](http://www.cyberscoop.com), Mar. 29, 2017).

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