



## Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

April 12, 2017

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## **CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY**

***Moving to Diversity.*** By Richelle L. Winkler, et al. Carsey School of Public Policy. Issue Brief #117. Spring 2017. 4 p.

<https://carsey.unh.edu/publication/moving-diversity>

"Migration—the flow of people from one place to another—influences local diversity by continually redistributing the population and altering the racial mix in both the sending and receiving communities." This brief discusses recent social mobility trends in the United States. Among its findings: "Migration is

making most American counties more diverse. Blacks and Hispanics are migrating to predominantly white counties, and white young adults are moving to urban core counties with relatively high proportions of blacks and Hispanics.”

## ECONOMY

***Ready to Work: Uprooting Inequality.* By UCLA Labor Center. Apr. 30, 2017. 51 p.**

<http://www.labor.ucla.edu/publication/ready-to-work-uprooting-inequity-black-workers-in-los-angeles-county/>

While educational attainment among African American Angelinos has improved substantially, with more than twice as many college graduates and one-third the non HS graduates as of 1980, their employment and earnings lag substantially behind white counterparts. Unemployment rates are higher overall (17% vs.9% White). African Americans are more likely to work in healthcare, social assistance and government jobs, but less likely to work in manufacturing, construction and professional jobs. They are also less likely to hold management or supervisory positions. “The way that we heard in the Rust Belt we lost middle-class manufacturing jobs, you could say the same for black workers here in L.A.,” says Saba Waheed, a researcher at the UCLA Labor Center who co-authored the study. ([Los Angeles Times](#), Mar. 21, 2017).

## EDUCATION

***Measuring Institutional Costs at California’s Public Universities.* By Kevin Cook, et al. Public Policy Institute of California. Mar. 2017. 12p.**

[http://www.ppic.org/main/publication\\_quick.asp?i=1228](http://www.ppic.org/main/publication_quick.asp?i=1228)

“California has recently increased its investment in higher education after many years of reducing state support. At the same time, the state’s four-year public systems, the University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU), are currently poised to raise tuition for the first time in several years. If the past is any indication, intense discussions lie ahead about the need for additional higher education resources. We offer a constructive starting point for those discussions... [and] rely on a measure that connects institutional costs to the number of degrees UC and CSU produce. This measure provides a clear understanding of trends in California’s institutional costs and allows comparisons with colleges and universities in other states.”

## EMPLOYMENT

***Projected Year the Wage Gap Will Close by State.* Institute for Women’s Policy Research. Mar. 2017. 2 p.**

<https://iwpr.org/publications/projected-year-wage-gap-will-close-state/>

“Given the rate of change over the past half-century, Florida is set to be the first state to eliminate the gender wage gap, in 2038, the analysis finds. Women are on pace to achieve pay parity in the United States as a whole a couple decades later, in 2059.... Florida, California, Maryland, Nevada, New York, Arizona, Vermont, Delaware, Rhode Island, and Texas are all projected to close their wage gaps by 2050... Part of the pay gap in some states seems to come as a direct result of the local employment markets—for instance, if a disproportionately high percentage of jobs are in fields like energy and construction, which are dominated by men.” ([Time](#), Mar. 22, 2017).

## ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

***Colorado River Basin Environmental Water Transfers Scorecard.*** By Leon Szeptycki, et al. Stanford Woods Institute for the Environment, et al. Mar. 2017. 24 p.

[http://waterinthewest.stanford.edu/sites/default/files/Co\\_River\\_Basin\\_Env\\_Transfers\\_Scorecard.pdf](http://waterinthewest.stanford.edu/sites/default/files/Co_River_Basin_Env_Transfers_Scorecard.pdf)

“The Colorado River and its tributaries support more than 35 million people and irrigate more than four million acres of farmland. At the same time, the river supports 30 fish species found nowhere else on earth and inspires millions of visitors and residents alike with its sheer beauty. However, growing water scarcity caused by increased water use, hydrologic variability and climate change loom over all the Colorado River provides.... This report focuses on one set of tools for reallocating water to one specific area of water need: water for rivers, streams, wetlands, and the aquatic species that depend on them.” California ranked No. 2 in this report’s Environmental Water Transfer Scorecard, which uses a numerical scoring framework to rank the ease or difficulty in state laws or policies regarding environmental water transfers.

## HEALTH

**“Conflicts of Interest for Patient-Advocacy Organizations.”** By Matthew McCoy, et al. *The New England Journal of Medicine*, vol. 376 no. 9 (Mar 2, 2017) 6 p.

<http://www.nejm.org/doi/pdf/10.1056/NEJMSr1610625> (Available at the California State Library)

This study shows that 83% of the nation’s 104 largest patient-advocacy organizations received financial contributions from drug, device and biotechnology companies and at least 39% have current or former industry executives on the governing board. The study highlights four important findings: industry financial support of patient-advocacy organizations is widespread, competing interests of board members and senior officials can cause conflicts of interest, patient-advocacy organizations have limited disclosure practices, and there is little evidence of self-regulation of conflicts of interest among patient-advocacy organizations. “Taken together, the ubiquity of industry support for patient-advocacy organizations, the variation in levels of support, and the limitations of the current disclosure practices of such organizations provide strong reasons in favor of creating a ‘sunshine’ law to cover industry payments to patient-advocacy organizations.”

## HUMAN SERVICES

***Providing Driver’s Licenses to Unauthorized Immigrants in California Improves Traffic Safety.*** By Hans Lueders, et al. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. Mar. 3, 2017. 6 p.

<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2017/03/28/1618991114.full>

“A California law giving immigrants here illegally the ability to get driver's licenses appears to have helped decrease hit-and-run crashes, according to a Stanford University study. The controversial law, part of a larger effort by state officials to provide rights and services to California residents in the country illegally, resulted in more than 850,000 people getting driver’s licenses since Assembly Bill 60 took effect in 2015. [This study] estimated that the rate of hit-and-runs decreased at least 7% in 2015 compared with 2014. Using a complex formula, the researchers concluded that there were 4,000 fewer hit-and-runs that year because of the new law.” ([Los Angeles Times](#), Apr. 3, 2017).

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

***WALNUT: Waging Doubt on the Integrity of MEMS Accelerometers with Acoustic Injection Attacks.*** By Timothy Trippel, et al. IEEE European Symposium on Security & Privacy. Apr. 2017 (Online ahead of print). 16 p.

<https://spqr.eecs.umich.edu/walnut/>

“[A] group of computer security researchers ... have found a vulnerability that allows them to take control of or surreptitiously influence devices through the tiny accelerometers that are standard components in consumer products like smartphones, fitness monitors and even automobiles.... With dozens of start-ups and large transportation companies pushing to develop self-driving cars and trucks, undetected vulnerabilities that might allow an attacker to remotely control vehicles are an unnerving possibility.... [T]he current research was inspired by ... a previous study in which drones were disabled with music.” ([New York Times](#), Mar. 14, 2017).

## TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

***Budgeting for Investment.*** By Steve Redburn. Brookings Institution. Mar. 2017. 12 p.

<https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/redburn-layout-final-pdf-3-6-17.pdf>

There is a strong consensus that the country needs to do a better job investing in public infrastructure. One issue with making smart infrastructure investment is that the budgetary process does a poor job differentiating between spending that will generate future returns from spending more generally. This study provides a set of best practices that the author argues could allow budget planners to better identify innovative public investments.

### ***About the California Research Bureau***

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