



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

***Girlhood Interrupted: The Erasure of Black Girls’ Childhood.* By Rebecca Epstein, et al. Georgetown Law Center on Poverty and Inequality. Jun. 27, 2017. 24 p.**

<http://www.law.georgetown.edu/academics/centers-institutes/poverty-inequality/upload/girlhood-interrupted.pdf>

“Adults think that black girls are less innocent, less in need of protection and nurturing, and seem older than similarly aged white girls, which could lead to stiffer punishments in school.... American adults think black girls know more about adult topics and about sex than white girls of the same age. And those perceptions are greater when it comes to younger black girls ages 5-9 and 10-14.... The Department of Education said in 2014 that black girls are suspended at higher rates than girls of any other race or most boys. The data didn’t explain why the disparities exist or why the students were suspended.” ([NBC News](#), Jun. 27, 2017).

ECONOMY

“Estimating Economic Damage from Climate Change in the United States.” By Solomon Hsiang, et al. *Science*, vol. 356 no. 6345 (June 30, 2017) pp. 1362-1369.

<http://science.sciencemag.org/content/356/6345/1362.full>

“Unmitigated climate change will make the United States poorer and more unequal, according to a new study published in the journal *Science*. The poorest third of counties could sustain economic damages costing as much as 20% of their income if warming proceeds unabated. States in the South and lower Midwest, which tend to be poor and hot already, will lose the most, with economic opportunity traveling northward and westward.... The study is the first of its kind to price warming using data and evidence accumulated by the research community over decades. From this data, the team estimates that for each one degree Fahrenheit (0.55°C) increase in global temperatures, the U.S. economy loses about 0.7% of Gross Domestic Product, with each degree of warming costing more than the last.” ([Phys.org](http://phys.org), Jun. 29, 2017).

EDUCATION

***The State of Learning Disabilities: Understanding the 1 in 5.* By Sheldon H. Horowitz, et al. National Center for Learning Disabilities. May. 2017. 6 p.**

http://www.nclld.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Executive-Summary.Fin_.03142017.pdf

State Snapshots: <http://www.nclld.org/state-snapshots>

One in five students in school has one or more learning disabilities. In California, over 287,000 children were identified with specific learning disabilities in 2015-2016, accounting for the largest of the 13 disability categories covered under special education law. This report analyzes types of learning and attention issues and discusses the struggles that students face in their quest for academic success, including social, emotional, and behavioral challenges. The report recommends expansion of early screening, empowerment of students and families, cultivation of creative and informed educators, innovation in teaching and learning, and a strengthening and enforcement of civil rights laws as well as increased investment in public schools. This report also offers two-page snapshots for each state.

EMPLOYMENT

***What We Know and Don't Know about Declining Labor Force Participation: A Review.* By Eleanor Krause, et al. Brookings. May 2017. 38 p.**

[https://www.brookings.edu/wp-](https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/cf_20170517_declining_labor_force_participation_sawhill1.pdf)

[content/uploads/2017/05/cf_20170517_declining_labor_force_participation_sawhill1.pdf](https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/cf_20170517_declining_labor_force_participation_sawhill1.pdf)

“For decades, the portion of prime-age men (ages 25 to 54) in the labor force has been in decline.... Explanations for these trends tend to focus either on the *demand* for workers or the *supply* of labor. Trade and technology have reduced the demand for certain types of work, particularly less-skilled labor in fields like manufacturing.... On the supply side of the labor market, the problems include not only a lack of skills, but also high reservation wages, poor health, and the availability of disability insurance or other forms of unearned income. The trend away from work has coincided with a startling increase in premature mortality.... In sum, there appears to be a growing gap between the skills demanded by today's employers and those supplied by the labor force.”

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

Readying California Fisheries for Climate Change. By F. P. Chavez, et al. California Ocean Science Trust. June 2017. 70 p.

http://www.oceansciencetrust.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/Climate-and-Fisheries_GuidanceDoc.pdf

“Climate change is already affecting California fisheries, with wide-ranging implications for all California fish stocks and fishing communities. Scientists have studied climate change impacts on fish populations and fishing communities at the national level, and have developed broad recommendations for reducing impacts. However, a paucity of scientific information that is directly applicable to California fisheries management is hampering action by state fisheries managers. This report addresses that gap.” (*In-Brief*, June 19, 2017).

HEALTH

“Air Pollution and Mortality in the Medicare Population.” By Qian Di, et al. *The New England Journal of Medicine*, vol. 376 no. 26 (Jun. 29, 2017) 10 p.

<http://www.nejm.org/doi/pdf/10.1056/NEJMoa1702747>

Data from a cohort of 61 million Medicare beneficiaries in the U.S through 13 years of follow-up “showed that long-term exposures to PM2.5 and ozone were associated with an increased risk of death, even at levels below the current annual NAAQS [National Ambient Air Quality Standards] for PM2.5. Furthermore, the study showed that black men and persons eligible to receive Medicaid had a much higher risk of death associated with exposure to air pollution than other subgroups. These findings suggest that lowering the annual NAAQS may produce important public health benefits overall, especially among self-identified racial minorities and people with low income.”

HUMAN SERVICES

Nudging Change in Human Services: Final Report of the Behavioral Interventions to Advance Self-Sufficiency (BIAS) Project. By Lashawn Richburg-Hayes, et al. MDRC. May 2017. 137 p.

http://www.mdrc.org/sites/default/files/2017_MDRC_BIAS_Final_Report_FR.pdf

The Behavioral Interventions to Advance Self-Sufficiency (BIAS) project applies behavioral insights to the human services programs that serve poor and vulnerable families. “The project’s findings suggest that small changes in, for instance, program outreach or the way that information is conveyed can help reduce some of the complexities that low-income populations face when they interact with human services agencies. While such ‘nudges’ are shown to be an important aspect of the behavioral toolkit, the BIAS findings also suggest that it may be fruitful to extend the approach beyond program implementation to program design (at the local or state level) and policy formation (at the state or federal level).”

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Toys that Listen: A Study of Parents, Children, and Internet-Connected Toys. By Emily McReynolds, et al. University of Washington, et al. Jan. 2017. 11 p.

http://www.dailyuw.com/science/article_3ed51b24-5627-11e7-b59c-6b42e96aedfd.html

Connected toys are “able to respond more realistically to the child’s questions because their responses are stored in the cloud to give the best feedback possible. However, these toys have roused concern among parents because their kids are unaware that the toys are recording their responses.” This paper discusses privacy concerns surrounding children’s data collected by toys that record their conversations.

During interviews with nine parent-child pairs, researchers learned how parents and children interact with these toys, as well as their privacy expectations and concerns. The paper concludes with recommendations for policymakers, such as enforcing the child privacy protections already on the books and investigating toy manufacturers' privacy policies.

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