



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

Support for Same-Sex Marriage Grows, Even Among Groups That Had Been Skeptical. Pew Research Center. June 26, 2017. 16 p.

<http://assets.pewresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2017/06/23153542/06-26-17-Same-sex-marriage-release.pdf>

Support for same-sex marriage has increased in the past decade among all demographic and partisan groups, including some that had opposed it only recently. For the first time, majorities of baby boomers (56%) and African Americans (51%) favor same-sex marriage. Nearly as many Republicans favor (47%) as oppose (48%)—a shift from just a few years ago, when Republicans opposed same-sex marriage by nearly two-to-one. While most white evangelical Protestants still oppose same-sex marriage, younger white evangelicals are more supportive than their older counterparts; 47% of white evangelical Millennials and Gen Xers favor same-sex marriage.

ECONOMY

Leisure Luxuries and the Labor Supply of Young Men. By Mark Aguiar, et al. National Bureau of Economic Research. June 2017. 66 p.
<http://www.nber.org/papers/w23552> (Available to .gov accounts or from the California State Library)

Since 2004, time-use data show men ages 21 to 30 have shifted their leisure time activities to video gaming and other recreational computer activities. Is there a link between this shift and a decline in labor hours? “The paper ... argues that video games help explain why younger men are working fewer hours.... By 2015, American men ... were working 203 fewer hours a year.... Other experts have pointed to a host of reasons—globalization, technological change, the shift to service work—that employers may not be hiring young men.... Between 2004 and 2015, young men’s leisure time grew by 2.3 hours a week. A majority of that increase—60%—was spent playing video games.” ([New York Times](#), July 3, 2017).

EDUCATION

Centers Serving High Percentages of Young Hispanic Children Compare Favorably to Other Centers on Key Predictors of Quality. By Julia Mendez, et al. National Research Center on Hispanic Children & Families. June 2017. 10 p.
<http://www.hispanicresearchcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Predictors-of-Quality.pdf>

“Overall, we found that ECE centers with a large proportion of Hispanic children are either exceeding or are comparable to other centers on most predictors of quality. High-Hispanic-serving centers are doing as well and even outpacing low-Hispanic-serving centers in terms of staff coaching and mentoring experiences and program report of curriculum use. Additionally, children and families who enroll in high-Hispanic-serving centers are more likely to have access to health screenings and other family support services.”

EMPLOYMENT

Employers Steal Billions from Worker’s Paychecks Each Year. By David Cooper, et al. Economic Policy Institute. May 2017. 85 p.
<http://www.epi.org/files/pdf/125116.pdf>

“We find that, in [the 10 most U.S. populous] states, 2.4 million workers lose \$8 billion annually (an average of \$3,300 per year for year-round workers) to minimum wage violations—nearly a quarter of their earned wages. This form of wage theft affects 17% of low-wage workers, with workers in all demographic categories being cheated out of pay.” In California, 19.2% of low-wage minimum-wage-eligible workers experience minimum wage violations. Some of the demographic categories in California with the largest percentage of people impacted by wage violations for minimum wage work are women, those under 20, Blacks, those unmarried with no kids, and people who earn less than \$10,000 annually.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

“Country-Specific Effects of Neonicotinoid Pesticides on Honey Bees and Wild Bees.” By B.A. Woodcock, et al. *Science*, vol. 356, issue 6345 (June 30, 2017) pp. 1393-1395. Published ahead of print.
<http://science.sciencemag.org/content/356/6345/1393/tab-pdf>

“Widely used insecticides damage the survival of honeybee colonies, the world’s largest ever field trial has shown for the first time, as well as harming wild bees. The farm-based research, along with a second

new study, also suggests widespread contamination of entire landscapes and a toxic 'cocktail effect' from multiple pesticides.... The negative effects varied across countries, leading pesticide manufacturers to question whether the research, which they funded, were real." ([The Guardian](#), June 29, 2017).

HEALTH

Enabling Precision Medicine: The Role of Genetics in Clinical Drug Development: Proceedings of a Workshop. The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. July 2017. 117 p. <http://nationalacademies.org/hmd/reports/2017/enabling-precision-medicine-the-role-of-genetics-in-clinical-drug-development-proceedings.aspx>

This publication is a summary of a March 2017 workshop on the development of precision medicines. "Novel clinical trial designs that enroll participants based on their genetics represent a potentially disruptive change that could improve patient outcomes, reduce costs associated with drug development, and further realize the goals of precision medicine.... Genetic diversity is an important consideration when recruiting for a clinical trial and can both increase the ability to generalize results to the real world and enhance opportunities for new discoveries. Given that there is geographic, ethnic, and racial variability in the prevalence of genetic variants, trials could be designed to better reflect the known distribution of variants based on these factors."

HUMAN SERVICES

A National Campaign to Improve Foster Care. By Ron Haskins. Brookings. June 2017. 7 p. https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/ccf_20170622_foster_parenting_haskins.pdf

"About 260,000 children enter foster care each year; at any given moment, a total of around 400,000 of the nation's children are in foster care.... Two types of placements with families are used by child welfare offices across the nation." The report finds that 30% of children in foster care are in kinship care, while 45% of foster children live with non-relative foster families. "[A] group of child welfare advocates, researchers, community activists, and foundation officials have initiated a national campaign called CHAMPS (CHildren need AMazing ParentS).... CHAMPS will work with state policymakers, child welfare administrators, and advocates to leverage research and spur policy reforms in up to 25 states over the next five years."

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Corporate Surveillance in Everyday Life. By Wolfie Christl. Cracked Labs. June 2017. 93 p. <http://crackedlabs.org/en/corporate-surveillance>

This 10-part review examines the practices and inner workings of the personal data industry. "Established commercial practices of data collection on consumers have rapidly evolved into pervasive networks of digital tracking and profiling.... [I]nformation about people's behaviors, social relationships, and most private moments is increasingly used in contexts or for purposes completely different from those in which it was recorded ... for example, to decide which payment options someone gets in an online shop. In addition, there is some evidence that the extensive data collected for digital fraud detection is also used to recognize consumers and link information about them for marketing purposes, and vice-versa."

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