



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

“Prevalence of 12-Month Alcohol Abuse, High-Risk Drinking, and DSM-IV Alcohol Use Disorder in the United States, 2001-2002 to 2012-2013.” By Bridget F. Grant, et al. *JAMA Psychiatry*. Online ahead of print. Aug. 9, 2017. 13 p.

<http://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapsychiatry/fullarticle/2647079>

“Americans are drinking more than they used to, a troubling trend with potentially dire implications for the country's future health care costs. The number of adults who binge drink at least once per week could be as high as 30 million, greater than the population of every state save California.... A similar number reported alcohol abuse or dependency. Between the genders, women showed the larger increase in alcohol abuse, according to the report.... While underage drinking has declined in recent years, adult consumption increased across all demographics. The jump also was especially large for older Americans, minorities and people with lower levels of education and income.” ([Bloomberg](#), Aug. 9, 2017).

ECONOMY

“The Aggregate Implications of Gender and Marriage.” By Margherita Borella, et al. *The Journal of the Economics of Ageing*. Online ahead of print. 2017. 21 p.

http://users.nber.org/~denardim/research/Borella_De-Nardi_Yang_JEOA_2016.pdf

“Three economists document systematic differences in the way American men and women participate in the labor force over the course of their lives. They use this evidence to make a persuasive argument: Quantitative economic models that ignore such differences can be poor guides to understanding the impact of government programs such as Social Security on savings and employment.” ([Bloomberg](#). July 27, 2017).

Racial Gaps in Labor Market Outcomes in the Last Four Decades and over the Business Cycle. By Tomaz Cajner, et al. Federal Reserve Board. Apr. 30, 2017. 34 p.

<https://www.federalreserve.gov/econres/feds/files/2017071pap.pdf>

“A team of economists from the Federal Reserve Board in Washington, D.C., documents a number of large and persistent differences in labor market outcomes between blacks and non-Hispanic whites in the U.S. Arguably the most important is that blacks -- especially black men -- are much more likely to lose their jobs. This risk of job loss is highly cyclical, which is why blacks fare so much worse than whites during recessions.” ([Bloomberg](#). July 27, 2017).

EDUCATION

Need-Based State Financial Aid. By Sara Pingel. Education Commission of the States. May 2017. 6 p.

http://www.ecs.org/ec-content/uploads/PS_Need_Based_Financial_Aid.pdf

This policy snapshot reviews the status of need-based state financial aid for all states. States with gains in need-based state financial aid include Idaho, Alaska, Mississippi and Oregon. States with losses include New Hampshire, Georgia, and Alabama. Twenty states have considered 40 pieces of legislation on this topic in 2017, and of these, six bills made it past one legislative chamber and two have been signed into law. Two California bills concerned with need-based state financial aid—AB227 and AB19—are pending, while AB214 was recently signed into law. Also covered is the five-year percent change in need-based state grant and scholarship programs, 2011-2015 by state, as well as annual expenditures.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

“Facilitative Adaptive Management in California’s Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.” By John A. Wiens, et al. *San Francisco Estuary & Watershed Science*, vol. 15, issue 2 (July 2017) pp. 1-15.

<http://escholarship.org/uc/item/8w35m437#page-1>

“Today the Delta is buffeted by the accelerating effects of climate change, invasive species, recurring droughts, floods, and social, economic, and political influences. Management in this mélange of change is challenging, not the least because of our incomplete knowledge of how these forces interact ... of even how the Delta ecosystem functions when these major drivers are changing.... Expanding the use of Adaptive Management in the Delta will require changes in the culture of management in the Delta. Agencies will need to be more collaborative, sharing staff and resources as challenges require. Managers and decision-makers will need to expect and prepare for uncertainty, take risks, be able to change their minds, and be rewarded for doing so.”

HEALTH

“The Antibiotic Course Has Had Its Day.” By Martin Llewely, et al. *The BMJ*, vol. 358, no. 3418 (July 26, 2017) 5 p.

<http://www.bmj.com/content/358/bmj.j3418> (Available at the California State Library)

“The ‘complete the course’ message has persisted despite not being supported by evidence and previous arguments that it should be replaced. One reason it may be so resilient is that it is simple and unambiguous, and the behaviour it advocates is clearly defined and easy to carry out. Nevertheless, there is evidence that, in many situations, stopping antibiotics sooner is a safe and effective way to reduce antibiotic overuse. Daily review of the continued need for antibiotics is a cornerstone of antibiotic stewardship in hospitals, but in primary care, where 85% of antibiotic prescriptions are written, no such ongoing assessment is attempted.”

HUMAN SERVICES

Economic Security Programs Help Low-Income Children Succeed Over Long Term, Many Studies Find. By Arloc Sherman, et al. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. July 17, 2017. 25 p.

<https://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/7-17-17pov.pdf>

“Government economic security programs such as food assistance, housing subsidies, and working-family tax credits—which bolster income, help families afford basic needs, and keep millions of children above the poverty line—also have longer-term benefits.... Studies of the long-term effect of government assistance show ‘remarkably consistent evidence’ of improved long-term outcomes for participating children.... Assistance programs ... and housing assistance not only help low-income families get by today, but also help children thrive in the long run by improving their health status, educational success, and future work outcomes.”

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Human Genome Editing: Science, Ethics, and Governance. Committee on Human Gene Editing. National Academies Press. 2017. 328 p.

<https://www.nap.edu/catalog/24623/human-genome-editing-science-ethics-and-governance>

Genome editing has excited interest around the world for the advances it may bring to human health, but with those advances come questions about how to avoid unwanted consequences surrounding the wide range of uses. “[I]t is important to examine the scientific, ethical, and social issues [genome editing] raises, and assess the capacity of governance systems to ensure the technologies’ responsible development and use.” This book looks closely at ethical issues surrounding genome editing, offering conclusions and recommendations for the policy and scientific community.

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

2017 Worst Case Housing Needs 2017 Report. By Nicole Elsasser Watson, et al. Aug. 9, 2017. 92 p.

<https://www.huduser.gov/portal/publications/Worst-Case-Housing-Needs.html>

“This Worst Case Housing Needs report is the sixteenth in a longstanding series providing national data and analysis of the critical problems facing very low-income renting families. Households with worst case needs are defined as very low-income renters who do not receive government housing assistance and who paid more than one-half of their income for rent, lived in severely inadequate conditions, or both. The report draws on data from the 2015 American Housing Survey (AHS).... We find that benefits of the

strengthening national economy are not adequately flowing to renter households at the lowest income levels and severe housing problems are on the rise.

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