



## Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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## **CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY**

***The Geography of Desperation in America.* By Carol Graham, et al. Brookings Institution. July 24, 2017.**

<https://www.brookings.edu/research/the-geography-of-desperation-in-america/>

“Poor minorities (defined here as blacks and Hispanics) face similar—and often worse—poverty-related challenges than do non-Hispanic poor whites. Yet they are more resilient in the face of negative shocks, less likely to report depression or commit suicide, and significantly more optimistic about the future.... One surprise is the low level of optimism and high level of worry in the minority dense and generally ‘blue’

state of California.... High levels of income inequality in these states may explain these patterns, as may the nature of jobs that poor minorities hold.”

## ECONOMY

***The Economic and Fiscal Consequences of Immigration.* By National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. National Academies Press. 2017. 643 p.**

<https://www.nap.edu/download/23550>

“Less-skilled immigrants are also consumers of American-made goods and services.... Their cheap labor raises economic output and also reduces prices.... [and] their children tend to have substantially more skills. In fact, the children of immigrants contribute more to state fiscal coffers than do other native-born Americans, according to a report by the National Academies.” ([New York Times](#), Aug. 8, 2017).

## EDUCATION

***First-Generation Student Success at the University of California.* By University of California Office of the President, Institutional Research and Academic Planning. Aug. 2017. 12 p.**

<https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/sites/default/files/First-Generation%20Student%20Success%20at%20UC%208-2017.pdf>

This report looks at first-generation students in the University of California using a variety of lenses: demographics, building a pipeline to college, the recruitment and application process, first generation student experience, graduation rates, and earnings and employment. Findings include: 42% of all undergraduates are first-generation students, academic preparation and outreach programs serve as a vital pipeline to ensuring success for these students, 81% of first-generation students graduate within six years, median income two years after graduation is \$27,963, first-generation students are more diverse than their undergraduate peers.

## EMPLOYMENT

***Working Conditions in the United States: Results of the American Working Conditions Survey 2015.* By Nicole Maestas, et al. RAND. Aug. 30, 2017. 79 p.**

[https://www.rand.org/pubs/research\\_reports/RR2014.html](https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR2014.html)

Intense physical exertion, exposure to unpleasant and potentially hazardous materials, threatening social environments, and tight deadlines are among the burdens U.S. workers report experiencing at work. Only 38% their jobs offer good prospects for advancement. “Not all of these burdens are equally distributed. Non-graduate workers, for instance, were more likely to report intense or repetitive physical exertion as well as unpleasant and potentially hazardous working conditions.... Other burdens, like working under time pressure, were more evenly distributed among those who did and did not graduate from college, though in different forms.... People did report some upsides. For instance, workers tend to turn to each other for support.” ([GovExec](#), Aug. 14, 2017).

## ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

***Tahoe: State of the Lake Report 2017.*** By Alison Toy, et al. UC Davis Tahoe Environmental Research Center. Jul. 2017. 96 p.

<http://terc.ucdavis.edu/stateofthelake/>

“[This] report summarizes data collected in 2016 as part of the center’s ongoing, decades-long measurement program, while also presenting research driven by important questions of the day. This includes how drought has impacted Tahoe’s forests, the lake’s response to increasing levels of algae on the shoreline, climate change, and invasive species. It also takes a look at what new technologies, including autonomous underwater vehicles, are finding in the deepest parts of the lake.” Highlights of the report include a survey of dead and dying trees, climate change, boats, clams, algal growth, precipitation and clarity levels. ([Press Release](#), July 26, 2017).

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

***California Deferred Deposit Transaction Law—Annual Report and Industry Survey.*** California Department of Business Oversight. May 31, 2017. 41 p.

[http://www.dbo.ca.gov/Licensees/Payday\\_Lenders/pdfs/2016%20CDDL%20\(payday\)%20Annual%20Report%20FINAL%207-5-17.2.pdf](http://www.dbo.ca.gov/Licensees/Payday_Lenders/pdfs/2016%20CDDL%20(payday)%20Annual%20Report%20FINAL%207-5-17.2.pdf)

“A growing number of cash-strapped California seniors are turning to high-interest payday loans, according to a report from the California Department of Business Oversight.... Seniors, many of whom are living on fixed incomes, are now the largest group of payday loan borrowers in California, according to the report. Californians 62 and older accounted for 23.4% of the 2016 total, and they took out nearly 2.7 million loans, a nearly three-fold increase from the previous year. The average payday loan amount borrowed in 2016 was \$251 compared with \$237 the previous year and the average length of a transaction remained unchanged at 17 days. Under California law, the maximum amount a consumer can borrow through a payday loan is \$300.” ([San Jose Mercury News](#), July 11, 2017).

## HEALTH

***Nurses’ Knowledge and Teaching of Possible Postpartum Complications.*** By Patricia Suplee, et al. *American Journal of Maternal Child Nursing*. Aug. 2017. 7 p.

[http://journals.lww.com/mcnjournal/Abstract/publishahead/Nurses\\_Knowledge\\_and\\_Teaching\\_of\\_Possible.99869.aspx](http://journals.lww.com/mcnjournal/Abstract/publishahead/Nurses_Knowledge_and_Teaching_of_Possible.99869.aspx)

“The nationwide survey of 372 postpartum nurses ... found that many of them were ill-informed about the dangers new mothers face. Needing more education themselves, they were unable to fulfill their critical role of educating moms about symptoms like painful swelling, headaches, heavy bleeding and breathing problems that could indicate potentially life-threatening complications. By failing to alert new mothers to such risks, the peer-reviewed study found, nurses may be missing an opportunity to help reduce the maternal mortality rate in the U.S., the highest among affluent nations. An estimated 700 to 900 women die in the U.S. every year from pregnancy- and childbirth-related causes and 65,000 nearly die, according to the Centers for Disease Control. The rates are highest for black mothers and women in rural areas. In a recent CDC Foundation analysis of data from four states, nearly 60% of maternal deaths were preventable.” ([ProPublica](#), Aug. 17, 2017).

## HUMAN SERVICES

***How Hard Should We Push the Poor to Save for Retirement?* By Andrew G. Biggs. American Enterprise Institute. July 2017. 21 p.**

<https://www.aei.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Biggs-Retirement-Savings-072017.pdf>

“State-run retirement plans for private sector workers are proposed as way to increase retirement incomes for principally low-wage earners who are not currently offered a retirement plan at work. But research and data indicate that this may not work as planned.... First, tax data indicate that most low-income retirees have incomes adequate to maintain their pre-retirement standard of living. Second, recent research has found that employees automatically enrolled in retirement plans may accrue additional debts that offset much or all of their own contributions. Third, income-and asset-tests for federal and state transfer programs could reduce benefits to low-earners in substantially greater amounts than they could save in auto-IRA accounts.”

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

***Artificial Intelligence for Citizen Services and Government.* By Hila Mehr. Harvard Kennedy School, Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation. Aug. 2017. 19 p.**

[https://ash.harvard.edu/files/ash/files/artificial\\_intelligence\\_for\\_citizen\\_services.pdf](https://ash.harvard.edu/files/ash/files/artificial_intelligence_for_citizen_services.pdf)

“Despite the clear opportunities, AI [artificial intelligence] will not solve systemic problems in government, and could potentially exacerbate issues around service delivery, privacy, and ethics if not implemented thoughtfully and strategically. Agencies interested in implementing AI can learn from previous government transformation efforts, as well as private-sector implementation of AI.... This paper explores the various types of AI applications ... with a focus on citizen inquiries and information. It also offers strategies for governments as they consider implementing AI.”

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

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