



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

***The Supplemental Poverty Measure: 2016.* By Liana Fox. U.S. Census Bureau. Sep. 12, 2017.**

<https://www.census.gov/library/publications/2017/demo/p60-261.html>

“One in five Californians lives in poverty, the highest rate in the country.... [A]n estimated 20.4% of Californians lived below the poverty line in a three-year average of 2014, 2015 and 2016 Nationwide, 14.7% of people lived in poverty under the supplemental measure during the latest three-year average. ... Experts said California’s higher supplemental rate reflects the impact of higher housing prices and other costs.... Under the official poverty measure, meanwhile, 14.5% of California residents live in poverty, down from 15%.” ([Sacramento Bee](#), Sep. 12, 2017).

EDUCATION

Sharp Partisan Divisions in Views of National Institutions. By Carroll Doherty, et al. Pew Research Center. Jul. 2017. 18p.

<http://assets.pewresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2017/07/11101505/07-10-17-Institutions-release.pdf>

“While a majority of the public (55%) continues to say that colleges and universities have a positive effect on the way things are going in the country these days, Republicans express increasingly negative views. A majority of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents (58%) now say that colleges and universities have a negative effect on the country, up from 45% last year. By contrast, most Democrats and Democratic leaners (72%) say colleges and universities have a positive effect, which is little changed from recent years. The national survey by Pew Research Center, conducted June 8-18 among 2,504 adults, finds that partisan differences in views of the national news media, already wide, have grown even wider. Democrats’ views of the effect of the national news media have grown more positive over the past year, while Republicans remain overwhelmingly negative.”

Micro-Credentials: What Three Early Adopter States Have Learned So Far. By Jenny DeMonte, American Institutes for Research. September 2017. 12 p.

<http://www.air.org/sites/default/files/downloads/report/Micro-Credentials-for-Teachers-September-2017.pdf>

“States and districts use micro-credentials as a resource to supplement traditional professional development and as a way for teachers to demonstrate competency in instructional skills. In some states, the micro-credentials can count as professional development ‘credit’ toward requirements for retaining a teaching license.” The three state “early adopters”—Arkansas, Delaware and Tennessee—suggest that other states decide on the purpose for implementing the program, start small, provide choices for participants, determine how the micro-credentials will be scored or evaluated, and communicate with all stakeholders—teachers, education leaders, etc.—when developing such a program.

EMPLOYMENT

Banking on Women Leaders: A Case for More? By Ratna Sahay, et al. International Monetary Fund Working Paper. Sep. 2017. 38 p.

<http://www.imf.org/en/Publications/WP/Issues/2017/09/07/Banking-on-Women-Leaders-A-Case-for-More-45221?cid=em-COM-123-35841>

“[W]e measure the large gap between the representation of men and women in leadership positions in banks and bank supervision agencies worldwide. Women occupied less than 2% of bank CEOs positions, and less than 20% of the board seats in more than 80% of the observations across banks over time. Contrary to common perceptions, many low- and middle-income countries have a higher share of women in bank boards and banking supervision agency boards compared to advanced economies. Econometric analysis suggests that ... the presence of women as well as a higher share of women on bank boards is associated with greater bank stability... We also examine the share of women on boards of banking supervision agencies [and] find that it is associated with greater bank stability.”

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

“Availability of High-Magnitude Streamflow for Groundwater Banking in the Central Valley, California.” By Tiffany N. Kocis, et al. *Environmental Research Letters*, vol. 12, no. 8 (Jul. 2017) pp. 1-13.

<http://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1748-9326/aa7b1b/meta>

“California’s climate is characterized by the largest precipitation and streamflow variability observed within the coterminous US. This, combined with chronic groundwater overdraft . . . creates the need to identify additional surface water sources available for groundwater recharge using methods such as agricultural groundwater banking, aquifer storage and recovery, and spreading basins.... [W]e present a comprehensive analysis of the magnitude, frequency, duration and timing of high-magnitude streamflow (HMF) for 93 stream gauges covering the Sacramento, San Joaquin and Tulare basins in California.... The results suggest that there is sufficient unmanaged surface water physically available to mitigate long-term groundwater overdraft in the Central Valley.”

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Volatility of California’s Personal Income Tax Structure. Legislative Analyst’s Office. Sep. 28, 2017. 8 p.

<http://lao.ca.gov/publications/report/3703>

In a companion study to its February 2017 report on the volatility of California’s personal income tax base, the Legislative Analyst’s Office reviewed how the structure of the personal income tax contributes to that volatility. About 40% of the volatility is attributable to the selection of income types subject to tax. Another 40% of volatility is due to the tax rate structure, which taxes higher incomes at higher rates and thus magnifies any variation in tax amounts paid by high-income earners. Since the Legislature can control most aspects of the income tax base and structure, it could reduce tax revenue volatility.

HEALTH

Health Insurance Coverage: Early Release of Estimates from the National Health Interview Survey, January – March 2017. By Robin A. Cohen, et al. National Center for Health Statistics. Aug. 2017. 34 p.

<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhis/earlyrelease/insur201708.pdf>

“In the first 3 months of 2017, 28.1 million (8.8%) persons of all ages were uninsured at the time of interview—0.5 million fewer persons than in 2016 (a nonsignificant difference) and 20.5 million fewer persons than in 2010.” Uninsured adults aged 18-64 decreased from 22.3% (42.5 million) in 2010 to 12.1% (23.9 million) in 2017. Compared to other ethnicities, uninsured rates for Hispanic adults experienced the most declines, from 40.6% in 2013 to 24.1% in 2017. Adults living in states that opted for Medicaid expansion were less likely to be uninsured than those living in non-expansion states.

HUMAN SERVICES

Mapping America's Child Care Deserts. By Rasheed Malik, et al. Center for American Progress. Aug. 30, 2017.

<https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/early-childhood/reports/2017/08/30/437988/mapping-americas-child-care-deserts/>

“This report analyzes the locations of licensed child care providers in 22 states—covering two-thirds of the U.S. population—and finds that approximately half of Americans live in ‘child care deserts’ ... areas with little or no access to quality child care.” Key findings include: 1) rural areas with below-average incomes are most frequently child care deserts; 2) the child care market underserves Latino, American Indian and Alaska Native communities; and 3) child care deserts are associated with lower rates of maternal labor force participation. California is the highest of those 22 states; 62% of people live in a child care desert.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Privacy, Security, and Digital Inequality. By Mary Madden. Data & Society. Sep. 26, 2017. 125 p.

<https://datasociety.net/output/privacy-security-and-digital-inequality/>

This survey of 3,000 adults finds that “most of those living in U.S. households with annual incomes of less than \$20,000 per year are acutely aware of a range of digital privacy harms, but many say it would be difficult to access the tools and strategies that could help them protect their personal information online.... In light of new pressures surrounding immigration policy and status in the United States, the report is a highly relevant snapshot of the demands for privacy- and security-related training among some of the most vulnerable of these low-socioeconomic-status groups.”

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