



## **Studies in the News**

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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CA poverty rate has declined, but has yet to return to pre-recession level

## **CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY**

***Americans' Online News Use is Closing in on TV News Use.*** By Jeffrey Gottfried, et al. Pew Research Center. Sep. 7, 2017.

<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/09/07/americans-online-news-use-vs-tv-news-use/>

“The share of Americans who often get news from TV—whether from local TV news, nightly network TV news or cable news—is down from 57% in early 2016. At the same time, the portion of Americans often getting news online, either from news websites/apps or social media, grew from 38% in early 2016 to 43% today. What’s more, the decline in television news use occurs across all three types of TV news asked about in the survey—local, network and cable—but is greatest for local television news.... The two oldest age groups saw considerable increases in online news use—10 percentage points for those 65 and older (30% vs. 20% in early 2016) and 6 points among those ages 50 to 64 (35% vs. 29%).”

***About 6 in 10 Young Adults in U.S. Primarily Use Online Streaming to Watch TV.*** By Lee Rainie. Pew Research Center. Sep. 13, 2017.

<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/09/13/about-6-in-10-young-adults-in-u-s-primarily-use-online-streaming-to-watch-tv/>

“The rise of online streaming services such as Netflix and HBO Go has dramatically altered the media habits of Americans, especially young adults. About six-in-ten of those ages 18 to 29 (61%) say the primary way they watch television now is with streaming services on the internet, compared with 31% who say they mostly watch via a cable or satellite subscription and 5% who mainly watch with a digital antenna.” Other survey findings indicate that college-educated viewers are more likely to use online streaming (35% vs. 22%), and lower-income households (less than \$30,000) are more likely to rely on digital antenna for TV viewing.

## ECONOMY

***Inequality of Educational Opportunity? Schools as Mediators of the Intergenerational Transmission of Income.*** By Jesse Rothstein. Washington Center for Equitable Growth. Aug. 2017. 65 p.

<http://equitablegrowth.org/working-papers/inequality-of-educational-opportunity-schools-as-mediators-of-the-intergenerational-transmission-of-income/>

Building on Chetty, et al’s [important work on intergenerational mobility](#), the author seeks to identify the impact K-12 school quality has on outcomes. “Although this evidence is observational rather than causal, it strongly suggests that differences in elementary and secondary school quality are not an important determinant of variation in income mobility.... There appears to be more of a role for access to higher education in driving economic mobility, though even here the contribution is not large relative to the overall variation.” Instead, the author indicates, “[t]his points to job networks or the structure of the local labor and marriage markets, rather than the education system, as likely factors influencing intergenerational economic mobility.” It is important to note that school quality has proven difficult to measure, and test scores may not be a reliable measure of quality.

## EDUCATION

***Shelters, Cars and Crowded Rooms: Housing Crisis Forces More Students into Homelessness.*** By Carolyn Jones, et al. EdSource. Oct. 2, 2017. 15 p.

<https://edsources.org/2017/homeless-students/588020>

“Since 2014, the number of homeless children in California has jumped 20%. In the most recently released data, 202,329 young people are living in cars, motels, shelters, on the street or in crowded homes shared with other families. That’s just over 3% of the enrolled K-12 students, more than twice the national rate, but the actual numbers are almost certainly higher.” The three California school districts with the highest percentage of homeless students in 2016 were: Baker Valley Unified (San Bernardino County); Ravenswood City Elementary (San Mateo County); and Santa Maria Bonita (Santa Barbara County).

## EMPLOYMENT

***Women in the Workplace 2017.* By Alexis Krivkovich, et al. McKinsey & Company. Oct. 2017. 19 p.**  
<https://www.mckinsey.com/global-themes/gender-equality/women-in-the-workplace-2017?cid=other-eml-alt-mip-mck-oth-1710>

“Drawing on data from 222 companies employing more than 12 million people, as well as on a survey of over 70,000 employees and a series of qualitative interviews [this report finds that] [m]any employees think women are well represented in leadership when they see only a few.... Further, many men don’t fully grasp the state of women in the workplace, and some worry that gender diversity efforts disadvantage them. As a result, men are less committed to the issue.... Many companies also overlook the realities of women of color, who face the greatest obstacles and receive the least support. When companies take a one-size-fits-all approach to advancing women, women of color end up underserved and left behind.”

## ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

**“Geophysical Potential for Wind Energy over the Open Oceans.” By Anna Possner, et al. *PNAS* (Oct. 3, 2017) pp. 1-6.**  
<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2017/10/03/1705710114.full>

“Before the current wind power boom, researchers estimated that wind turbines on land could provide as much as 7 watts of power per square meter. But recent modeling shows that land turbines will probably provide only 1 watt per square meter when installed at scale. The problem is that turbines deplete the strength of winds downstream from them, creating a phenomenon called ‘wind shadow’ that has proven a bigger issue than predicted.” Scientists at the Carnegie Institution for Science wondered if wind turbines built in the open ocean, where air currents are 70% stronger than on land, would also encounter wind shadow problems. They conducted virtual experiments suggesting that these types of turbines installed in the North Atlantic Ocean could “produce three times as much power as an existing wind farm in Kansas of similar size.” ([Science](#), Oct. 9, 2017).

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

***Congressional Primer on Responding to Major Disasters and Emergencies.* By Jared T. Brown, et al. Congressional Research Service. Sep. 8, 2017. 16 p.**  
<https://fas.org/sgp/crs/homesecc/R41981.pdf>

“The principles of disaster management assume a leadership role by the local, state, and tribal governments affected by the incident. The federal government provides coordinated supplemental resources and assistance, only if requested and approved. The immediate response to a disaster is guided by the National Response Framework (NRF), which details roles and responsibilities at various levels of government, along with cooperation from the private and nonprofit sectors, for differing incidents and support functions.... While the disaster response and recovery process is fundamentally a relationship between the federal government and the requesting state or tribal government, there are roles for congressional offices.”

## HEALTH

**“Estimating the Effects of Health Insurance and other Social Programs on Poverty under the Affordable Care Act.”** By Dahlia K. Remler, et al. *Health Affairs*, vol. 36 no. 10 (Oct. 2017). 11 p. <http://content.healthaffairs.org/content/36/10/1828.abstract> (Available at the California State Library)

Researchers argued that healthcare needs should be included in poverty measures to accurately reflect the household’s basic resources, and developed the first U.S. poverty measure that accounts for healthcare needs and the value of health benefits. They found that “[p]rivate health insurance benefits reduced poverty by 3.7 percentage points. Public health insurance benefits (from Medicare, Medicaid, and Affordable Care Act premium subsidies) accounted for nearly one-third of the overall poverty reduction from public benefits. Poor adults with neither children nor a disability experienced little poverty relief from public programs, and what relief they did receive came mostly from premium subsidies and other public health insurance benefits. Medicaid had a larger effect on child poverty than all nonhealth means-tested benefits combined.”

## HUMAN SERVICES

**California’s Official Poverty Rate Declined in 2016, but Federal Proposals Could Increase Economic Hardship.** By Alissa Anderson, et al. California Budget & Policy Center. Sep. 2017. <http://calbudgetcenter.org/resources/californias-official-poverty-rate-declined-2016-federal-proposals-increase-economic-hardship/>

“Millions of people in California continue to struggle to get by on extremely low incomes in spite of our state’s recent economic gains. More than 5.5 million Californians, including almost 1.8 million children, lived in poverty in 2016 based on the official poverty measure. In addition, poverty remained more widespread last year than it was in 2007 when the national recession began. Specifically, 14.3% of Californians had incomes below the official poverty line in 2016, down from a recent high of 17.0% in 2012, but still well above the state poverty rate in 2007 (12.4%).”

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