



## Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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## **CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY**

***California County Population Estimates and Components of Change by Year—July 1, 2010–2017.***

**California Department of Finance, Demographic Research Unit. Dec. 21, 2017.**

<http://www.dof.ca.gov/Forecasting/Demographics/Estimates/E-2/index.html>

“California’s population grew 0.77% between July 1, 2016 and July 1, 2017 to total 39.6 million persons. The current percentage increase continues the moderate growth that California has experienced for the past several years.... Natural increase (births minus deaths) remains the primary source of the state’s growth. The birth rate declined to 12.3 births per 1,000 population from 13.8 births per 1,000 population in

2010 and reached the fourth lowest level since the beginning of our data in 1905. As the baby boomer generation advances towards retirement ages, the death rate has slowly increased to 6.7 deaths per 1,000 population, up from 6.2 in 2010. Net migration added 80,000 residents.”

## EDUCATION

***2017 College Student Survey: A Nationally Representative Survey of Currently Enrolled Students.*** By Strada Education Network and Gallup. Jan. 2018. 35 p.

<http://stradaeducation.gallup.com/reports/225161/2017-strada-gallup-college-student-survey.aspx>

(Registration required)

“Representing the views of more than 32,000 students at 43 randomly selected four-year institutions, this survey reveals a crisis of confidence among most students regarding their readiness to launch careers: only a third of students believe they will graduate with the skills and knowledge to be successful in the job market (34%) and in the workplace (36%); just half (53%) believe their major will lead to a good job. The findings also point to solutions, revealing that students who have these three career-focused experiences at their institution are significantly more confident about their preparation for the workforce: speak often with faculty or staff about their career options; have at least one university official initiate a conversation with them about their career options; and believe their school is committed to helping their students find a rewarding career.”

***50-State Comparison: States’ School Accountability Systems.*** By Julie Woods, Education Commission of the States. Dec. 18, 2017.

<https://www.ecs.org/50-state-comparison-states-school-accountability-systems/>

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires states to evaluate the quality of schools and of student success. How will the states go about it? “This resource captures an important transition period in state accountability systems by providing a national overview of these systems as described in current state statute and regulation, where available, and in states’ ESSA plans (as of October 2017). State statute and regulation often outline or provide a foundation for accountability systems. In some cases, states may operate multiple systems to ensure school quality, not all of which are described in statute and regulation. To help fill in the blanks that are not described in state policies, other resources (where publicly available) have been provided.”

## EMPLOYMENT

***Work and Well-Being Among Low-Income Men.*** Institute for Research on Poverty University of Wisconsin, Madison. Nov. 2017. 2 p.

<https://www.irp.wisc.edu/publications/fastfocus/pdfs/FF30-2017.pdf>

The employment-to-population ratio for working-age men has dropped to 85% in 2016 from 94% in 1965. “Although the employment rate ... for women has returned to its pre-recession level, the rate for men has not. Moreover, the recovery has been slower for white men than for black or Hispanic men, although the absolute employment rate for white men was and remains higher than that for the other groups.” Skills and location gaps as well as imprisonment, poor mental and physical health, low-education, and social and family ties have been found to potentially exacerbate men’s labor force participation.

## ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

***Navigating a Flood of Information: Evaluating and Integrating Climate Science into Groundwater Planning in California.*** By Juliet Christian-Smith, et al. Stanford University Water in the West. Nov. 2017. 34 p.

<https://www.ucsusa.org/global-warming/regional-information/california-and-western-states/groundwater-climate-science-ca#.WmeZgWeum6g>

“While hundreds of local agencies across California draft their plans to ensure the sustainability of groundwater basins, water experts say in (this) white paper ... that these state-mandated plans need to incorporate climate change impacts to be sustainable.... Researchers analyzed two dozen local plans submitted to the state earlier this year. They found nearly half of these plans did not include a quantitative analysis of climate change, though the state requires them to do so.... The white paper makes a series of recommendations for process improvements that local, state and federal agencies should take to better incorporate climate science in groundwater planning. ([Stanford Water in the West News](#), Nov. 13, 2017).

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

***The Potential Effects Of Ending the SSI Cash-Out.*** Legislative Analyst’s Office. Jan. 8, 2018. 24 p.

<http://www.lao.ca.gov/reports/2018/3729/ssi-cash-out-010818.pdf>

A long-standing state policy provides Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP) recipients an extra \$10 payment in lieu of their eligibility for federal food benefits through the CalFresh program. This \$10 payment is known as the SSI cash-out or the CalFresh cash-out. The implications of ending the cash-out, a possibility after the 2017-18 budget deliberations, show that 76% of recipient household would still be eligible for CalFresh and see increased food benefits from CalFresh. About 26% of households, however, would see decreased food benefits or become ineligible for CalFresh. These households losing benefits, while having higher incomes than those retaining food benefits after cash-out, are not far above the federal poverty level.

## HEALTH

**“Trends in Self-Reported and Biochemically Tested Marijuana Use among Pregnant Females in California from 2009-2016.”** By Kelly C. Young-Wolff, et al. *JAMA*, vol. 318 no. 24 (Dec. 26, 2017) 2 p.

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/article-abstract/2667052?redirect=true>

“From 2009 to 2016, marijuana use among KPNC [Kaiser Permanente Northern California] pregnant females increased from 4% to 7%. Of concern, 22% of pregnant females younger than 18 years and 19% of pregnant females aged 18 to 24 years screened positive for marijuana use in 2016. Age-specific, self-reported prevalences were similar to US data, but toxicology prevalences were higher, suggesting use has been underestimated in self-reported surveys.... Initial evidence suggests that prenatal marijuana may impair fetal growth and neurodevelopment, but 79% of 785 pregnant women surveyed between 2007 and 2012 reported perceiving little to no harm in prenatal use. Continued monitoring of trends, exposure timing, and offspring outcomes is important as marijuana potency rises in an increasingly permissive legal landscape.”

## HUMAN SERVICES

**[Video] U.S. Welfare Reform Efforts Have Been Based on an Availability of Work that Doesn't Always Exist.** By Hilary W. Hoynes. University of California, Berkeley. Jan. 19, 2018.

<http://www.olab.berkeley.edu/welfare-reform-video/>

Hilary W. Hoynes, a professor of economics and public policy at the University of California, Berkeley, “specializes in the study of poverty, food and nutrition programs, and the impacts of government tax and transfer programs on low income families. In this video, she outlines successes and failures of federal efforts to reform welfare payments and direct recipients toward employment.” To see her recent publications, visit [her NBER page](#).

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

**Cyber Resilience Playbook for Public-Private Collaboration.** World Economic Forum. Jan. 2018. 72 p.

<https://www.weforum.org/reports/cyber-resilience-playbook-for-public-private-collaboration>

“[A]dvancing cyber resilience requires the public and private sectors to collaborate in new and innovative ways.” This report presents case studies and policy models on specific topics, including cyberinsurance, cross-border data flows, and botnet disruption. Connecting policy to values, the report provides a high-level discussion of each area—in particular, how public and private entities can take shared responsibility in areas of technological infrastructure.

## TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

**Rebuilding America's Infrastructure.** Infrastructure Working Group, Problem Solvers Caucus. Jan. 10, 2018. 16 p.

<https://esty.house.gov/sites/esty.house.gov/files/PSC%20Infrastructure%20Report.pdf>

The Problem Solvers Caucus is a bipartisan group of 48 members of Congress. The Caucus' Infrastructure Working Group has released a report with recommended policy solutions for the United States' infrastructure challenges over the next 100 years. Recommendations include “modernizing existing user fees, incentivizing private innovation and investment through public private partnerships, making smarter investments with limited federal dollars, and increasing accountability to taxpayers.”

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