

Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

Comparing White and African-American Homeless Youth in San Francisco: Research Findings and Policy Implications. By Colette Aeurswald, et al. California Homeless Youth Project. Oct. 2012. 4 p.

<http://cahomelessyouth.library.ca.gov/docs/pdf/76146-Compare-WA-Brief-Report.pdf>

"Both white and African American youth described similar and significant family dysfunction, including physical, sexual, and emotional abuse; neglect and abandonment; and parental drug abuse in their childhood homes. They were of similar ages (15 years old on average) when they first became unstably housed. However, African American youth were more likely to report they had been removed from their homes and placed in foster care than white youth (61% versus 23%).... Understanding the specific characteristics, beliefs, and behaviors of these youth is ... critical to providing effective supports and services to assist them in finding and maintaining stable housing."

ECONOMY

The State of Working America. By Lawrence Mishel, et al. Economic Policy Institute. EPI Digital Edition, 12th ed. Sep. 2012. 49 p.

<http://stateofworkingamerica.org/>

“This edition shows that the vast majority of American workers have largely been shut out of the nation’s economic growth over the past three decades. The typical American family has added hundreds of extra hours of work each year, while also earning better education credentials, yet is still struggling to keep up.... [W]ealth for the typical American family would have been \$62,000 higher in 2010 had the growth in wealth over these same years had not been overwhelmingly claimed by families at the very top. The research also shows that growing income inequality has not been offset by increased mobility.”

EDUCATION

Data Backpacks: Portable Records & Learner Profiles. By John Bailey, et al. Digital Learning Now. Oct. 2012. 31 p.

<http://digitallearningnow.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/DLN-Smart-Series-Databack-Final1.pdf>

This paper argues that current student records do not provide enough information to teachers and schools to customize the learning process for individual students. The authors propose the development of a “digital backpack” that would include both academic information and a learner profile. The digital backpack, essentially an electronic record with both academic information and a learner profile, would follow individual students throughout their K-12 career. These backpacks would contain test scores, grades/report cards, teacher’s notes and impression on learning style, evaluations, and a place where parents could annotate the record. This would allow for more customized learning for each student.

The Student Debt Crisis. By Anne Johnson, et al. Center for American Progress. Oct. 25, 2012. 32 p.

<http://www.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/WhiteStudentDebt-4.pdf>

Over 60% of white and Latino students graduate with student loan debt, and the figure is over 80% for African American students. Major reasons include the economic recession, the dramatic rise in college and university tuition, aggressive loan writing by private student loan companies, and the increasing prominence of for-profit education. Heavy loads of student debt cause significant problems, even as graduates move into the workforce. Student loan debt reduces a graduate’s new job purchasing power, which in turn delays making major purchases, such as a new car or house, and can reduce the positive effect of new employment on the economy.

EMPLOYMENT

Job Growth During the Recovery. By Linda Levine. Congressional Research Service.

Oct. 16, 2012. 15 p.

<http://www.fas.org/sfp/crs/misc/R41434.pdf>

Two California employment sectors were hardest hit by the recession and have been especially slow to recover: manufacturing and construction. Nationally, “[i]n 2011, manufacturing employment surpassed its level at the recession’s end. In 2012, construction employment remains over 400,000 jobs below its level in June 2009.... [S]tates with the weakest housing markets have experienced comparatively large cutbacks in employment of the industry’s mostly blue-collar work force. Employment declines in the construction industry (i.e., residential and nonresidential building construction, heavy and civil engineering

construction, and specialty trades contractors) in Nevada, Arizona, Florida, and California have been especially steep according to BLS establishment survey data.”

ENERGY

State Clean Energy Finance Banks: New Investment Facilities for Clean Energy Deployment.

By Ken Berlin, et al. Brookings Institution. Sep. 2012. 26 p.

<http://www.brookings.edu/research/papers/2012/09/12-state-energy-investment-muro>

“Propelled by private entrepreneurship, technology gains, and public support, clean energy and energy efficiency solutions began to proliferate in recent years. However, federal policy gridlock and state budget challenges are now jeopardizing the availability of government finance, exacerbating the serious finance challenges that impede the large-scale deployment of low-carbon energy solutions.” (Brookings Institution, Sep. 12, 2012).

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Millionaire Migration in California: The Impact of Top Tax Rates. By Charles Varner, et al. Stanford Center on Poverty and Inequality. 2012. 44 p.

http://www.stanford.edu/group/scspi/_media/working_papers/Varner-Young_Millionaire_Migration_in_CA.pdf

“Migration is a very small component of changes in the number of millionaires in California. While the millionaire population sees a typical year-to-year fluctuation of more than 10,000 people, net migration sees a year-to-year fluctuation in a range of 50 to 120 people. At the most, migration accounts for 1.2% of the annual changes in the millionaire population. The remaining 98.8% of fluctuation in millionaire population is due to income dynamics at the top – California residents growing into the millionaire bracket, or falling out of it again.”

HEALTH

Adult Obesity: More Pounds, More Health Care Dollars. The Council of State Governments. Sep. 2012. 2 p.

<http://knowledgecenter.csg.org/drupal/content/adult-obesity-more-pounds-more-health-care-dollars>

“New adult obesity rates show Americans continue to add pounds to their weight despite the proliferation of educational materials on the association of obesity to a number of chronic diseases, including diabetes, heart disease and even many forms of cancer.” California’s adult obesity rate is currently less than 25%, but that rate is projected to rise to 46.6% by 2030. The study notes that the Center for Disease Control recommends six community strategies to prevent obesity.

Mothers with a Higher Pre-Pregnancy Body Mass Index are at Increased Risk for Gestational Diabetes Mellitus. By Curtis Condon, Ph.D., et al. Orange County Health Care Agency.

Oct. 24, 2012. 9 p.

<http://ochealthinfo.com/gdm>

Gestational diabetes mellitus (GDM) has been found to be the most common, serious prenatal condition in Orange County, California, affecting nearly 3,000 women (7.1%) in 2009. Women with a body mass index of 25 or higher were two times more likely to develop the disease. GDM has been shown to increase women’s chances of developing other health complications, which can affect both maternal and fetal health. The authors recommend enhanced educational and screening efforts in at-risk populations, encouraging pregnant women to implement lifestyle changes to reduce overweight and obesity.

HOUSING

A Comparison of 25 Years of Consumer Expenditures by Homeowners and Renters. By Adam Reichenberger. Consumer Expenditure Survey, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Oct. 2012. 8 p. <http://www.bls.gov/opub/btn/volume-1/pdf/a-comparison-of-25-years-of-consumer-expenditures-by-homeowners-and-renters.pdf>

From 1986 to 2010, homeowners and renters spent about the same inflation-adjusted dollars in overall expenditures, but the areas of spending shifted. Housing remained the largest expenditure, with decreases in spending on transportation, food and apparel. Both homeowners and renters are now spending more on personal insurance, pensions and healthcare.

HUMAN SERVICES

Welfare Rules Databook: State TANF Policies as of July 2011. By David Kassabian, et al. The Urban Institute. Aug. 2012. 213 p. <http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412641-Welfare-Rules-Databook-2011.pdf>

“The Welfare Rules Databook provides tables containing key Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) policies for each state as of July 2011, as well as longitudinal tables describing selected state policies from 1996 through 2011. The tables are based on the information in the Welfare Rules Database (WRD), a publicly available, online database tracking state cash assistance policies over time and across the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The Databook summarizes a subset of the information in the WRD.”

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

Census Bureau’s Quarterly Summary of State & Local Tax Revenue
<http://www.census.gov/govs/qtax/>

“The Quarterly Summary of State and Local Government Tax Revenue provides quarterly estimates of state and local government tax revenue at a national level, as well as detailed tax revenue data for individual states. This quarterly survey has been conducted continuously since 1962. The information contained in this survey is the most current information available on a nationwide basis for government tax collections.”

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