



## Studies in the News

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## **CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY**

*Three Decades of Nonmarital First Births among Fathers Aged 15–44 in the United States.*

By Gladys M. Martines. National Center for Health Statistics. June 2015. 8 p.

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db204.pdf>

"Nonmarital childbearing in the United States increased from the 1940s to the 1990s, peaked in 2007–2008, and declined in 2013.... Using data from the National Survey of Family Growth (NSFG), this study examines nonmarital first births reported by fathers aged 15–44. This report presents trends in nonmarital first births by father's age at birth and Hispanic origin and race. Given increases in births occurring in cohabiting unions, first births within cohabitation are also examined.... The percentage of fathers aged 15–44 whose first births were nonmarital was lower in the 2000s (36%) than in the previous 2 decades. The percentage of fathers with a nonmarital first birth over the past 3 decades has remained similar for Hispanic and non-Hispanic white men, but has declined for non-Hispanic black men (1980s, 77%; 2000s, 66%)."

## ECONOMY

***Building Millennials' Financial Health Via Financial Capability.*** By Terri Friedline, et al. University of Kansas School of Social Welfare, Center on Assets, Education, and Inclusion. June 2015. 30 p. [https://static.newamerica.org/attachments/3330-building-millennials-financial-health-via-financial-capability/Millennials\\_Financial\\_Health.5a49a18e2eab40a5afd1925ef695a1e0.pdf](https://static.newamerica.org/attachments/3330-building-millennials-financial-health-via-financial-capability/Millennials_Financial_Health.5a49a18e2eab40a5afd1925ef695a1e0.pdf)

Many Millennials, particularly those from low-income households, begin adulthood in a vulnerable financial position. A survey of Millennials revealed that only 19% are “financially capable,” defined as having a financial education and a savings account. In the face of unexpected expenses, almost half (44%) had turned to loan alternatives such as payday lenders. This report discusses ways that policy makers and financial institutions can improve the financial capability of young adults. Financial education in high school is worthwhile, but may be more effective when combined with Child Savings Accounts. Because Millennials often delay home ownership, they cannot take advantage of the associated tax breaks; policymakers may wish to craft other types of strategic tax incentives.

## EDUCATION

***Early Childhood Education by MOOC: Lessons from Sesame Street.*** By Melissa S. Kearney, et al. National Bureau of Economic Research. Working Paper 21229. June 2015. 69 p. [https://www.wellesley.edu/sites/default/files/assets/site/files/wellesleysesamestudy\\_full.pdf](https://www.wellesley.edu/sites/default/files/assets/site/files/wellesleysesamestudy_full.pdf)

“In this paper we investigate whether the first cohorts of preschool children exposed to Sesame Street experienced improved outcomes subsequently.... The results indicate that Sesame Street accomplished its goal of improving school readiness; preschool-aged children in areas with better reception when it was introduced were more likely to advance through school as appropriate for their age. This effect is particularly pronounced for boys and non-Hispanic, black children, as well as children living in economically disadvantaged areas. The evidence regarding the impact on ultimate educational attainment and labor market outcomes is inconclusive.”

## EMPLOYMENT

***#BlackWorkersMatter.*** By Sean Thomas-Breitfeld, et al. The Discount Foundation and Neighborhood Funders Group. May 2015. 78 p. <http://www.discountfoundation.org/blackworkersmatter>

This paper is comprised of six reports that focus on connections between black workers and the labor movement. “The first and longest report focuses on black worker organizing, its history, and the challenges it faces, relying heavily on interviews from activists and leaders prominent in the worker organizing field.” This history is followed by a look at how gender and low-wage work are related to black jobs, how the labor movement has interacted with black workers, and what good jobs mean to black communities. The authors conclude by suggesting policies aimed at raising the minimum wage, providing benefits, eliminating on-demand scheduling, and banning interview questions about conviction history, among other things.

## ENERGY

**“100% Clean and Renewable Wind, Water, and Sunlight (WWS) All-Sector Energy Roadmaps for the 50 United States.”** By Mark Z. Jacobson, et al. *Energy & Environmental Science*. Advance Article. May 25, 2015.

Report. 133 p.: <http://web.stanford.edu/group/efmh/jacobson/Articles/I/USStatesWWS.pdf>

Interactive graphic: <http://thesolutionsproject.org/>

The authors of this report suggest that the United States is capable of obtaining 100% of its energy from renewable sources by 2050. “[I]n aggregate, the United States’ energy mix could be: 30.9% onshore wind, 19.1% offshore wind, 30.7% utility-scale photovoltaics, 7.2% rooftop photovoltaics, 7.3% concentrated solar power with storage, 1.25% geothermal power, 0.37% wave power, 0.14% tidal power, and 3.01% hydroelectric power. Every state, of course, will have a different mix. The report concludes that California can meet 54.5% of its energy needs with some type of solar power, with wind power accounting for 35%. Five percent will come from geothermal, with hydroelectric power, wave power, and tidal turbines making up smaller percentages of the mix.” (*IEEE Spectrum*, June 22, 2015).

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

***Fiscal Survey of the States: An Update of State Fiscal Conditions.*** By Kathryn Vessey White, et al. National Association of State Budget Officers. Spring 2015. 92 p.

<http://www.nasbo.org/sites/default/files/NASBO%20Spring%202015%20Fiscal%20Survey%20of%20States%20-%20S.pdf>

This report provides detailed “estimated fiscal 2015 financial figures and governors’ budget for each state. Overall, state spending is set to continue to climb in the new fiscal year, but at a slower rate than before.... [It] finds general fund expenditures are projected to grow 3.1% in fiscal 2016 without accounting for inflation, down from a 4.6% gain the prior year.” The survey finds the cost of K-12 and health care are outpacing state budget growth. State budgets continue to record modest growth but often not enough to keep pace with the cost of K-12 education, health care and other escalating items. The survey also includes a number of tables to make state comparisons easier to assess. (*Governing*, June 16, 2015).

## HEALTH

***Sports and Health in America.*** National Public Radio, et al. June 2015. 73 p.

<http://media.npr.org/documents/2015/june/sportsandhealthpoll.pdf>

This poll, produced in association with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, finds that Americans’ participation in sports changes as they grow older. About three-quarters of adults surveyed said they played sports when they were younger. However, by the time they are in their late 20s, only 26% say they have played sports within the past year. The findings point to a gender gap in sports participation among adults, with men more than twice as likely as women (35% to 16%) to say they play sports. Lower-income adults are less than half as likely as more affluent adults to play sports (15% to 35%).

## HUMAN SERVICES

***California's Infants and Toddlers: Future Promise, or Missed Opportunities?* Child Trends. May 2015. 4 p.**

<http://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/2015-19CAInfantsandToddlers.pdf>

This brief provides demographic profiles of California's infants and toddlers—birth through age two—who will be leading California in 2050. Nearly half of them live in “families with incomes just barely high enough to meet their basic needs.” However, California faces a serious shortage of licensed child care, serving only “318,000 infants and toddlers in center-based care and family child care homes ... That is only enough for one in five of the 1.5 million infants and toddlers in California.” It also addresses issues on unknown quality of child care and an unsustainable subsidy system.

## TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

***The Essential Federal Role in Highway Research and Innovation.* By Stephen R. Godwin, et al. Transportation Research Board of the National Academies. Apr. 21, 2015. 46 p.**

<http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/sr/sr317.pdf>

“This report discusses the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA's) role in highway research and innovation and explains why this role will be critical in transforming the nation's aging and overstressed network of highways into one that is safer, more reliable, and more resilient. These improvements will be essential in supporting the nation's economic growth and competitiveness and enhancing Americans' quality of life, particularly given the expected 20% growth in population and 80% growth in gross domestic product over the next 25 years.”

### **About *Studies in the News***

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