



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

For the First Time in Modern Era, Living with Parents Edges Out Other Living Arrangements for 18- to 34- Year Olds. By Richard Fry. Pew Research Center. May 2016. 27 p.

<http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2016/05/24/for-first-time-in-modern-era-living-with-parents-edges-out-other-living-arrangements-for-18-to-34-year-olds/>

“For the first time in more than 130 years, Americans ages 18-34 are more likely to live with their parents than in any other living situation.... This is not a record high percentage for the number of young people living at home—in 1940, for instance, approximately 35% of people in that age range lived at home.... [T]aken as a whole, women, white people, Asian/Pacific Islanders and people with bachelor's degrees are still more likely to live with spouses or partners than with their parents. But the overall trend is the same for every demographic group—living with parents is increasingly common.” (*Capital Public Radio*, May 24, 2016).

EDUCATION

Do Students Benefit from Going Backward? The Academic and Labor Market Consequences of Four- to Two-Year College Transfer. By Vivienne Yuen Ting Liu. Center for Analysis of Postsecondary Education and Employment, Columbia University. June 2016. 37 p.
<http://capseecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/capsee-do-students-benefit-from-going-backward.pdf>

“About 16% of students who begin in a four-year college transfer to a two-year college within six years ... this paper examines the effects of 4–2 transfer on ‘struggling’ students, those who earned less than a 3.0 grade point average in the first term. Results indicate that these 4–2 transfer students are more likely than similar non-transfer students to attain two-year college credentials (including associate degrees and long- and short-term certificates); the gain is concentrated in women who tend to enroll in health-related programs. What is more, struggling students who transfer to two-year colleges are no less likely than struggling non-transfer students to earn a bachelor’s degree.... The findings indicate that 4–2 transfer can improve college completion for students struggling in four-year institutions.”

EMPLOYMENT

The Price We Pay: Economic Costs of Barriers to Employment for Former Prisoners and People Convicted of Felonies. By Cherrie Bucknor, et al. Center for Economic and Policy Research. June 2016. 26 p.
<http://cepr.net/images/stories/reports/employment-prisoners-felonies-2016-06.pdf?v=5>

This study looks at the impact of former prisoners and those with felony convictions on the economy. “Between 6.0 and 6.7% of the male working-age population were former prisoners, while between 13.6 and 15.3% had been convicted of a felony. Employment effects were larger for men than women.... Among men, those with less than a high school degree experienced much larger employment rate declines than their college-educated peers.... Black men suffered a 4.7 to 5.4 percentage-point reduction in their employment rate, while the equivalent for Latino men was between 1.4 and 1.6 percentage points, and for white men it was 1.1 to 1.3 percentage points.”

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

The Outlook for U.S. Production of Shale Oil. By Mark Lasky. Congressional Budget Office. May 2016. 34 p.
https://www.cbo.gov/sites/default/files/114th-congress-2015-2016/workingpaper/51599-workingpaper_2016-01.pdf

“This paper models the production of energy from shale resources and examines the outlook for that production...[the] model, coupled with a forecast of crude oil prices that the Congressional Budget Office published in January 2016, indicates that the rig count, a simple measure of drilling activity, will probably fall until mid-2016. Thereafter, the gradual response of production to that decrease in drilling activity is expected to cause shale oil production to decline until mid-2017; the fastest rate of decline will probably occur in mid-2016. After 2017, however, continued improvements in mining productivity are expected to help production of shale oil regain its early-2015 peak by 2020 despite much lower prices than those in the 2013-2014 period.... [A]bsent a major supply shock, oil prices are unlikely to stray outside a range of \$33 per barrel to \$73 per barrel for a sustained period during the next five years.”

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Survey Findings: State and Local Government Workforce: 2016 Trends. Center for State & Local Government Excellence. May 26, 2016. 10 p.

<http://slge.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/State-and-Local-Government-Workforce-2016-Trends.pdf>

“This report reflects the survey responses of members of the International Public Management Association for Human Resources ... and National Association of State Personnel Executives.... The online survey was conducted from March 15 to April 7, 2016 ... with 331 members responding.” The survey found that recruiting and retaining qualified personnel continues to be the most important issue of state and local government human resources managers, rounded off by succession planning and staff development. The report includes responses regarding retirement plans, healthcare and retirement preparedness.

HEALTH

Survey of Non-Group Health Insurance Enrollees. Kaiser Family Foundation. May 2016. 36 p.

<http://kff.org/health-reform/poll-finding/survey-of-non-group-health-insurance-enrollees-wave-3/>

This report “seeks to shed light on the experiences and opinions of those purchasing their own health insurance in the non-group market.... The majority of enrollees in ACA-compliant non-group plans give their overall coverage a positive rating, with 14% calling their plan ‘excellent’ and about half (52%) saying it is ‘good.’ However, the share rating their coverage as ‘not so good’ or ‘poor’ is higher in 2016 (31%) than it was in the two previous waves of the survey (20% in 2014 and 21% in 2015). Non-group enrollees have consistently given their plans lower ratings than their counterparts in employer-sponsored plans, however among those with employer coverage, the share rating their coverage as ‘not so good’ or ‘poor’ is also higher in 2016 than it was in previous years.”

HUMAN SERVICES

Profiles of Progress: California Counties Taking Steps to a More Inclusive and Smarter Safety-Net. Health Access. May 19, 2016. 29 p.

http://www.health-access.org/images/pdfs/2016_County_Report_Profiles_of_Progress_5_20_16.pdf

“In the last year, the counties of Sacramento, Contra Costa, and Monterey as well as a consortium of 35 rural counties created limited-benefit pilot programs that cover the remaining uninsured without regard to immigration status. Efforts in other counties are pending, joining counties like Los Angeles and Santa Clara that are improving existing indigent care programs to better provide primary and preventative care and a medical home. Each of these counties are profiled in this paper, which highlights these historic changes, helps provide context and analysis for the rationale for these reforms, and predicts additional advances in the near future.”

Income Inequality and the Safety Net in California. By Sarah Bohn, et al. Public Policy Institute of California. May 2016. 28 p.

http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/report/R_516SBR.pdf

“Income inequality has been growing for decades.... Top [California] incomes are 40% higher than they were in 1980, while middle incomes are only 5% higher and low incomes are 19% lower.... [S]ocial safety net programs shrink income inequality substantially (by 40%).... [and] are especially helpful to families with young children and single-parent families.... On average, the majority of family resources come from work, even for very low-income families. Strengthening the employment and wages of workers today and in the future holds promise for restricting growth in inequality.... While policy cannot recalibrate inequality

at will, policymakers and the public can take action to influence the factors that drive the polarization of income and/or to mitigate the consequences of that polarization.”

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