



Studies in the News

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CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

A Record 60.6 Million Americans Live in Multigenerational Households. By D'Vera Cohn, et al.
Pew Research Center. Aug. 2016. 4 p.

<http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2016/08/11/a-record-60-6-million-americans-live-in-multigenerational-households/>

"The number and share of Americans living in multigenerational family households has continued to rise, even though the Great Recession is now in the rear-view mirror.... Growing racial and ethnic diversity in the U.S. population helps explain some of the rise in multigenerational living.... Education levels make a difference, though: Young adults without college degrees now are more likely to live with parents than to be married or cohabiting in their own homes, but those with college degrees are more likely to be living with a spouse or partner in their own homes."

EDUCATION

High Hopes and Harsh Realities: The Real Challenges to Building a Diverse Workforce. By Hannah Putman, et al. Brookings Institution. Aug. 2016. 22 p.

https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/browncenter_20160818_teacherdiversityreportpr_hansen.pdf

“Our analysis finds that the effort to draw more black and Hispanic adults into the classroom faces obstacles at every point necessary to become a teacher.... These compounding factors mean that the pool of available teachers of color barely supports the current level of diversity in the teacher workforce, much less keeps pace with a young population which is growing increasingly diverse and will continue to do so for decades to come. Making serious progress toward a teacher workforce which is as diverse as the students it serves will require exceptionally ambitious patches to fix the leaky pipeline into the teaching profession. As we will show, the path toward reaching a diverse teacher workforce is much steeper than anyone has acknowledged to date.”

ESSA: Quick Guides on Top Issues. By Stephanie Aragon, et al. Education Commission of the States. Aug. 2016. 29 p.

<http://www.ecs.org/ec-content/uploads/ESSA-Quick-guides-on-top-issues.pdf>

The new Every Student Succeeds Act, the most recent reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act since 2001, is designed to give states greater “flexibility and control over education policy.” This publication gives state policymakers guidance on the new law, in such areas as Assessment Participation, Indicators of School Quality and Success, and Supporting Low-Performing Schools. The guide includes examples of pertinent state-level activities.

EMPLOYMENT

“How Many Workers Are Employed in California Agriculture?” By Philip L. Martin, et al. *California Agriculture*, vol. 70, no. 3 (July-Sep. 2016). Published ahead of print. Aug. 23, 2016. 6 p.

<http://ucanr.edu/sites/calagjournal/archive/?article=ca.2016a0011&fulltext=yes>

“In 2014, the average employment of hired workers in California crop and livestock agriculture, counting all occupations, rose by 10% to 410,900. However, although the state reports the number of jobs on farms regularly, it does not report the number of workers who fill these jobs.... [We] found two workers for each average or year-round equivalent farm job, making the total number of farmworkers employed in agriculture 829,300, or twice average employment.... Over 60% of all workers had only one farm employer, followed by 27% with two or more farm employers, and 35% were employed in Kern (116,000), Fresno (96,000) and Monterey (82,000) counties.”

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

The Impact of Removing Tax Preferences for U.S. Oil and Gas Production. By Gilbert E. Metcalf. Council on Foreign Relations. Aug. 2016. 41 p.

http://www.cfr.org/energy-policy/impact-removing-tax-preferences-us-oil-gas-production/p38150?cid=otr-marketing_use-TaxPreferencesPaper/

“The tax treatment of oil and gas investment in the United States has been a contentious policy issue for decades. Reform advocates argue that eliminating tax preferences for producers of oil and gas could increase government revenues by billions of dollars each year while defenders of the existing tax regime contend that changing it would lead to large declines in domestic oil and gas production and to significant job destruction.... [This study finds that] removing tax preferences would increase the global price of oil by only 1% by 2030. Domestic oil production could drop 5% and global consumption could fall by less

than 1% in that timeframe. Meanwhile, domestic natural gas prices could rise between 7 and 10%, and both domestic gas production and consumption could fall between 3 and 4%.”

Economic Impacts of the 2016 California Drought for Agriculture. By Josué Medellín-Azuara, et al. Center for Watershed Sciences. Aug. 2016. 95 p.

<https://watershed.ucdavis.edu/droughtimpacts>

“The drought continues for California’s agriculture in 2016, but with much less severe and widespread impacts than in the two previous drought years, 2014 and 2015. Winter and spring were wetter in the Sacramento Valley, to the extent of several reservoirs being required to spill water for flood control, but south of the Delta was unusually dry. The much-heralded El Niño brought largely average precipitation north of the Delta, replenishing some groundwater, and drier than average conditions to the southern Central Valley and southern California. The historical pattern of increasing water exports from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta in these circumstances was less available due to environmental restrictions on Delta pumping. Some concerns also remain for water supplies north of the Delta regarding temperature releases from Shasta reservoir.” (*California Water Blog*, Aug. 15, 2016).

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

“Impact of the Berkeley Excise Tax on Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Consumption.” By Jennifer Falbe, et al. *American Journal of Public Health*. Published ahead of print. Aug. 23, 2016. 7 p.

<http://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/pdf/10.2105/AJPH.2016.303362>

“In the fall of 2014, voters in Berkeley and San Francisco ... voted on proposals to tax sugar-sweetened drinks.... [The researchers] targeted low-income neighborhoods of each city,” who are more affected by price increases and have higher obesity and diabetes rates. “The tax did not pass in San Francisco. But it did in Berkeley.... In San Francisco ... people said that they were drinking slightly more sugary beverages. (It was a hot summer.) In Berkeley, though, reported consumption of sugar-sweetened drinks went down by 20%.... [A] 20% reduction in consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages would be enough to reduce rates of obesity and Type 2 diabetes in years to come.” (*National Public Radio*, Aug. 23, 2016).

HEALTH

Realizing the Potential of Telehealth. Deloitte Center for Health Solutions. Aug. 16, 2016. 14 p.

<http://www2.deloitte.com/us/en/pages/life-sciences-and-health-care/articles/telehealth-policy-brief.html>

“Many health care organizations are exploring strategies to leverage technology, including telehealth, to increase consumer engagement and focus on prevention and chronic care management outside the traditional physician office visit.” This report finds that “interest in and use of telehealth is rising. The policy landscape—including payment policy and care provisions across state lines—is evolving to keep up with consumer demand and technology innovations.” The report discusses current and potential federal regulation of telehealth. In a 2016 Deloitte survey of care consumers, it was found that “[a]round one third of surveyed consumers say they have no concerns about using telemedicine. However, 43% are concerned about quality of care being lower than if they saw a provider in person, while 35% have privacy and security concerns.”

HUMAN SERVICES

California's Foster Care System: The State and Counties Have Failed to Adequately Oversee the Prescription of Psychotropic Medications to Children in Foster Care. California State Auditor. Aug. 2016. 137 p.

<http://www.auditor.ca.gov/pdfs/reports/2015-131.pdf>

"Nearly 12% of California's more than 79,000 foster children were prescribed psychotropic medications during fiscal year 2014-15, whereas studies suggest that only about 4 to 10% of nonfoster children are prescribed these medications.... Many foster children had been authorized to receive psychotropic medications in amounts and dosages that exceeded the State's recommended guidelines.... The counties have not always provided adequate oversight to ensure the appropriateness of the psychotropic medications.... Fragmented oversight and poor data have hampered state and county efforts to ensure the appropriate prescribing of psychotropic medications to children in foster care."

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