



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

October 19, 2016

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CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

Non-Metro Areas Gained about as Much as Metro Areas in 2015, American Community Survey Data Indicate. By Isaac Schapiro, et al. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. 3 p.

http://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/9-16-16pov_0.pdf

“The ACS reflects a comparable definition of metro and non-metro areas in 2014 and 2015, and a large and statistically reliable sample. By contrast, the Current Population Survey (CPS) data released September 13, which implied that non-metro areas didn’t share in the economic gains in 2015, include a change in the definitions of metro and non-metro areas between 2014 and 2015. As a result, the narrative in some media stories that non-metro areas were left behind in 2015, based on the CPS data released September 13, appears to be inaccurate; it rests on an apples-to-oranges comparison (as the Census Bureau website itself flags).”

EDUCATION

***Educator Pipeline at Risk: Teacher Labor Markets After the Great Recession.* By Lisette Parlow, et al. Center for American Progress. Sep. 2016. 27 p.**

<https://cdn.americanprogress.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/14084443/TeacherPrep-report.pdf>

“This report investigates potential reasons for the sharp decline in enrollments in teacher preparation programs in recent years and finds evidence that educator job losses resulting from the Great Recession were associated with diminished interest in teaching. Decreases in average teacher salary and the trend of what are termed ‘last in, first out’ employment decisions were also associated with decreasing enrollment of prospective teachers in both traditional and alternative certification programs.” The authors make recommendations to improve this situation, such as “increasing teacher compensation, ending seniority-based layoff policies, and providing prospective teachers with relevant local labor market information in order to reduce shortages and prevent further declines in enrollment in teacher preparation programs.”

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

***Arsenic in California Drinking Water:* By Tom Pelton, et al. The Environmental Integrity Project. Sep. 2016. 30 p.**

<http://environmentalintegrity.org/wp-content/uploads/CA-Arsenic-Report.pdf>

“More than three years after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency found California in noncompliance with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act, 95 community water systems in the state, serving more than 55,000 people are still providing water with illegal levels of arsenic, according to an examination of state data for the last two years. Arsenic occurs naturally in the soil and groundwater in parts of California and is a known carcinogen that may also damage the developing brains of children and cause other health problems. Many of the people drinking excessive levels of arsenic are poor and/or Latino or African American, with a cluster in the San Joaquin Valley.”

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

***Improving the Health Care System: Seven State Strategies.* By Julia C. Martinez, et al. National Conference of State Legislatures. July 2016. 28 p.**

<http://www.ncsl.org/Portals/1/Documents/Health/ImprovingHealthSystemsBrief16.pdf>

“The U.S. health system faces challenges including inefficiencies, escalating costs and variations in health care quality, access and results. ... A reformed system would deliver better care at lower costs without disparities from one health organization and community to another.... A health system that delivers quality care more affordably is possible. State legislatures play important roles in cutting wasteful spending while improving their own state’s health systems. ... [This] brief highlights seven target areas and strategies that have demonstrated results in states that are implementing them.”

***How Privatization Increases Inequality.* In the Public Interest. Sep. 2016. 61 p.**

<https://www.inthepublicinterest.org/report-how-privatization-increases-inequality-2/>

“Privatizing [government] services like foster care or highway toll collection can disproportionately impact low-income users.... That impact can occur directly, through higher fees for privatized services, or indirectly, if a service provider cuts costs by offering low-pay jobs.... [T]here’s a tendency to shift responsibility for the service outcome to the individual rather than the service provider.... In California, where a large percentage of foster care is privatized, children living in homes run by private agencies are one-third more likely to be victims of abuse than children in state supervised homes.” (*Governing.com*, Oct. 13, 2016).

HEALTH

“Sponsorship of National Health Organizations by Two Major Soda Companies.” By Daniel G. Aaron, et al. *American Journal of Preventative Medicine*. Published online ahead of print. Oct. 3, 2016. 11 p.

[http://www.ajpmonline.org/article/S0749-3797\(16\)30331-2/fulltext](http://www.ajpmonline.org/article/S0749-3797(16)30331-2/fulltext)

“This study investigates the nature, extent, and implications of soda company sponsorship of U.S. health and medical organizations, as well as corporate lobbying expenditures on soda- or nutrition-related public health legislation from 2011 to 2015.” Using records of donations and lobbying expenditures found through Internet searches, the report catalogs sponsorship of national health organizations by soda companies. “[T]he Coca-Cola Company and PepsiCo were found to sponsor a total of 96 national health organizations, including many medical and public health institutions whose specific missions include fighting the obesity epidemic.”

HUMAN SERVICES

Incomes Fell for Poorest Children of Single Mothers in Welfare Law’s First Decade. By Danilo Trisi, et al. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. Aug. 11, 2016. 18 p.

<http://www.cbpp.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/8-11-16pov2.pdf>

“In the decade following the 1996 welfare law, the safety net became weaker for many of the poorest and most vulnerable children, as support shifted toward those in working families. From 2005 to 2012, income support rebounded somewhat, thanks in large measure to SNAP [Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program], including a temporary expansion enacted during the Great Recession that has now expired. Some policymakers have proposed TANF-like [Temporary Assistance for Needy Families] changes to SNAP and other key safety net programs. If such changes reduce access to assistance as they have with TANF, however, the poorest children in single-mother families could end up still worse off.”

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

DeltaView. Delta Stewardship Council. Sep. 2016.

<http://deltacouncil.ca.gov/delta-view>

“The Delta Stewardship Council today announced the release of a new online database, DeltaView, which is designed to allow visitors to track projects in the Delta by gleaning information such as project goals and descriptions, cost and funding sources, key dates, responsible agencies, and relevant performance measures. DeltaView is now available for Beta testing by the public. The reporting tool is intended to improve in communication between agencies, stakeholders, and the public as it promotes transparency, tracks performance, and fosters collaboration. (*Association of California Water Agencies, Sep. 7, 2016*).

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

Federal Automated Vehicles Policy: Accelerating the Next Revolution in Roadway Safety. U.S. Department of Transportation. Sep. 2016. 116 p.

<https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/docs/AV%20policy%20guidance%20PDF.pdf>

Summary by the Senate Office of Research. 4 p.:

<http://sor.senate.ca.gov/sites/sor.senate.ca.gov/files/Federal%20Update%20Autonomous%20Vehicles2.pdf>

CA DMV Draft Regulations Public Workshop (Wed, Oct 19, 2016):

https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/wcm/connect/e12bbed6-f168-4fa3-bc09-4ca244c56ad0/avworkshopnotice_10192016.pdf?MOD=AJPERES

The automobile industry is rapidly making advancements in the production of cars capable of driving themselves with minimal human involvement. California has been a center of development for these autonomous vehicles. The hope is that self-driving cars can help reduce the 35,000 roadway fatalities in the US, as well as increase the infrastructure capacity of current roadways while providing a benefit to those with disabilities who cannot drive themselves. The US Department of Transportation has produced a Federal Automated Vehicles Policy, with the goal of supporting these developments and ensuring “these technologies are safely introduced..., provide safety benefits today, and achieve their full safety potential in the future.” The California DMV will discuss proposed regulations at a public workshop on October 19.

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