



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

December 14, 2016

Studies in the News is going on hiatus for the holidays. We will resume publication on Wednesday, January 4, 2017.

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CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

Anti-Muslim Assaults Reach 9/11-Era Levels, FBI Data Show. By Katayoun Kishi. Pew Research Center. Nov. 21, 2016. 4 p.

<http://pewrsr.ch/2gvT1i2>

“The number of physical assaults against Muslims in the United States reached 9/11-era levels last year, according to [this] analysis of new hate crime statistics from the FBI. There were 91 reported aggravated or simple assaults motivated by anti-Muslim bias in 2015, just two shy of the 93 reported in 2001. Separately, the number of anti-Muslim intimidation crimes—defined as threatening bodily harm—also rose in 2015, with 120 reported to the FBI.... [T]his was the most anti-Muslim intimidation crimes reported

in any year since 2001, when there were 296. Overall, the FBI reported 257 incidents of anti-Muslim hate crimes in 2015, a 67% increase from the previous year.”

EDUCATION

***California Teacher Shortages: A Persistent Problem.* By Anne Podolsky, et al. Learning Policy Institute. Nov. 2016. 8 p.**

https://learningpolicyinstitute.org/sites/default/files/product-files/California_Teacher_Shortages_Persistent_Problem_BRIEF.pdf

“[A] survey of over 200 California school districts reveals that three out of four districts report having a shortage of qualified teachers and that this shortage has gotten worse in the past two years. Districts report having to hire untrained teachers and substitutes, assign teachers out of field, cancel courses, and increase class sizes. They also report efforts to respond to shortages with a variety of policies to strengthen teacher preparation partnerships and pathways into the district, increase compensation, improve hiring and management, and enhance working conditions. To better address shortages, particularly in high-need fields and schools, the state and districts will need to develop a variety of evidence-based strategies targeted to communities’ different needs.”

EMPLOYMENT

***Hispanic Workers in the United States.* By Cherrie Bucknor. Center for Economic and Policy Research. Nov. 2016. 33 p.**

<http://cepr.net/publications/reports/hispanic-workers-2016-11>

The report “provides an overview of the diverse backgrounds of the Hispanic workforce, and shows how each group experiences unique challenges in the labor market, specifically in terms of unemployment, wages, poverty, language barriers, and access to health and retirement benefits. [It] also shows that union representation has helped to address some of these challenges.” Mexicans represent the highest percentage of Hispanic people in the workforce (62.1%). About two-thirds (67%) of Hispanic workers are U.S. citizens. Hispanic workers can be found in every state, but most live in California (6.4 million), followed by Texas (4.5 million) and Florida (2.2 million).

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

***Report to the Council on Climate Preparedness and Resilience.* National Drought Resilience Partnership. Aug. 2016. 24 p.**

<http://www.circleofblue.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/NDRP-August-Report-FINAL-8.30.16.pdf>

“Since 2012, significant portions of the country have experienced extreme to exceptional drought conditions, challenging the viability of agricultural production, impacting drinking water supplies, jeopardizing the integrity of critical infrastructure, increasing energy costs, harming ecosystems, and causing extensive economic and health impacts. On March 21, 2016, President Obama signed a Presidential Memorandum directing Federal agencies to build national capabilities for long-term drought resilience. The President tasked the National Drought Resilience Partnership (NDRP) to work collaboratively to deliver on a Federal Action Plan including six goals and 27 associated actions to promote drought resilience nationwide.... This report highlights accomplishments against the President’s Action Plan and provides an overview of some of the Administration’s work on drought response since 2009.”

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

2016 Determinations for Section 203 of Voting Rights Act. U.S. Census Bureau. Dec. 5, 2016. 7 p.

http://www.census.gov/rdo/data/voting_rights_determination_file.html

Press Release and Summary:

<http://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2016/cb16-205.html>

“The U.S. Census Bureau released ... a list of 263 jurisdictions across the nation that must provide language assistance during elections for groups of citizens who are unable to speak or understand English adequately enough to participate in the electoral process. These determinations are pursuant to specifications, as amended in July 2006, in the Voting Rights Act.... The 2016 determinations found a total national population of 21,739,327 voting-age citizens subject to minority language assistance that reside in the 263 covered jurisdictions, compared with 19,209,431 and 248 jurisdictions in 2011, an increase of 13.2 percent. The determinations found a total of 16,621,136 Hispanics, 4,760,782 Asians, and 357,409 American Indian and Alaska Native voting-age citizens in the covered jurisdictions.”

HEALTH

Mortality in the United States, 2015. By Jiaquan Xu, et al. Department of Health and Human Services. Dec. 2016. 8 p.

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/products/databriefs/db267.htm>

“U.S. life expectancy dipped by a little more than a month last year from 2014, to 78.8 years, according to a report from the National Center for Health Statistics. It's the first decline in more than two decades. And after years of gains, U.S. life expectancy has been essentially flat for a few years, which means an inauspicious trend could be in the works.... The culprits for our declining years, the report says, were increases in mortality from heart disease, chronic lower respiratory diseases, unintentional injuries, stroke, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, kidney disease and suicide. Not surprisingly, that group plus cancer and the flu make up the top 10 causes of death in the U.S.” (*USA Today*, Dec. 8, 2016).

HUMAN SERVICES

Point-in-Time Estimates of Homelessness: The 2016 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Nov. 2016. 98 p.

<https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/2016-AHAR-Part-1.pdf>

The Department of Housing and Urban Development's annual snapshot assessment of homelessness in America found that “Homelessness across the United States fell slightly last year [-2.6% or -14,780] but increased in California [2.1% or 2,404] and other West Coast states, largely due to a shortage of affordable housing ... As it has for many years, Los Angeles recorded by far the highest homeless count outside of New York City — 43,854, up nearly 7% from 41,174 in 2015. New York's tally came in at 73,523, down 2% from 75,323 in 2015.” Only 25% of Los Angeles homeless people were sheltered compared to New York where nearly all homeless people were sheltered (96%). (*San Francisco Chronicle*, Nov. 17, 2016).

Family Caregiving and Out-of-Pocket Costs: 2016 Report. By Chuck Rainville, et al. AARP. Nov. 2016. 56 p.

http://www.aarp.org/content/dam/aarp/research/surveys_statistics/ltc/2016/family-caregiving-cost-survey-res-ltc.pdf

This study found that family caregivers are spending \$6,954 in 2016 on caregiving expenses which amounts to, on average, 20% of their total income. “Hispanic/Latino and low-income caregivers were especially hard hit—spending an average of 44% of their total annual income to take care of a loved one

... Household expenses—rent, mortgage payments, home modification such as ramps and handrails—make up the lion’s share of a family caregiver’s out-of-pocket costs, about 41% of their total spending. Medical needs account for the second largest portion of caregivers’ spending—about 25% of the total. That includes nursing care and insurance costs among other medical expenses.” (CBS News, Nov. 14, 2016).

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