



## **Studies in the News**

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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## **EDUCATION**

**"Teacher Race and School Discipline." By Constance A. Lindsay et al. Education Next, vol. 17, no. 1. Winter 2017. 7 p.**

<http://educationnext.org/teacher-race-and-school-discipline-suspensions-research/>

Researchers analyzed student data in North Carolina elementary schools, looking at whether students are expelled or suspended at different rates if they are matched to same-race teachers. "We find consistent evidence that North Carolina students are less likely to be removed from school as punishment when they and their teachers are the same race. This effect is driven almost entirely by black students, especially black boys, who are markedly less likely to be subjected to exclusionary discipline when taught by black teachers.... Although these results are based on a single state, they should encourage efforts to promote greater diversity in the teaching workforce, which remains overwhelmingly white."

## EMPLOYMENT

***Highlights of Women's Earnings in 2015.*** Bureau of Labor Statistics. Nov. 2016. 174 p.  
<http://www.bls.gov/opub/reports/womens-earnings/2015/home.htm>

This report highlights the latest broad level earnings comparisons for full-time, year-round workers. “In 2015, women’s earnings ranged from 74 to 82% of men’s among workers age 35 and older.... Women’s earnings have increased considerably among the major race and Hispanic ethnicity groups since 1979..., with White women experiencing the greatest earnings growth. From 1979 to 2015, inflation-adjusted earnings (also called constant-dollar earnings) have increased by 32% for White women, by 19% for Black women, and by 18% for Hispanic women.... The long-term trend in men’s earnings has been quite different than that for women. Inflation-adjusted earnings for White and Black men declined during the 1980s and the first part of the 1990s, followed by a period of growth, before tapering off. For Hispanic men, earnings also dropped until the mid-1990s, but then began to trend upward.”

## ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

**“Nonlinear, Interacting Responses to Climate Limit Grassland Production Under Global Change.”**  
By Kai Zhu, et al. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. Sep. 2016. 6 p.  
<http://www.pnas.org/content/early/2016/08/30/1606734113.full.pdf>

“In the course of a 17-year experiment on more than 1 million plants, scientists put future global warming to a real world test—growing California flowers and grasslands with extra heat, carbon dioxide and nitrogen to mimic a not-so-distant, hotter future. The results, simulating a post-2050 world, aren’t pretty. And they contradict those who insist that because plants like carbon dioxide—the main heat-trapping gas spewed by the burning of fossil fuels—climate change isn’t so bad, and will result in a greener Earth. At least in the California ecosystem, the plants that received extra carbon dioxide, as well as those that got extra warmth, didn’t grow more or get greener.” (*KQED*, Sep. 6, 2016).

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

***Growth, Carbon, and Trump: State Progress and Drift on Economic Growth and Emissions ‘Decoupling’.*** By Devashree Saha, et al. Brookings. Dec. 8, 2016.  
<https://www.brookings.edu/research/growth-carbon-and-trump-state-progress-and-drift-on-economic-growth-and-emissions-decoupling/>

“In all, 33 states and the District of Columbia achieved reductions in emissions while expanding their economies between 2000 and 2014.... Nine of 12 [states with the largest emissions reductions] still recorded real GDP gains exceeding 15%. Another 22 states also managed to cut emissions between 2000 and 2014 but did so at a slower rate. Cutting emissions did not appear to hinder steady economic growth. Over the 14-year period, all but two states—Michigan and Maine—recorded real GDP gains exceeding 10%.... [G]iven the policy reversal at the federal level, states will play an increasingly important role in combating climate change.” (*Governing*, Dec. 8, 2016).

## HEALTH

**“Out-of-Network Emergency-Physician Bills—An Unwelcome Surprise.”** By Zack Cooper, et al. *New England Journal of Medicine*, vol. 375 no. 20 (Nov. 17, 2016) 4 p.  
<http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMp1608571> (Available at the California State Library)

Emergency room physicians can often sidestep the price competition other physicians face because patients are not afforded the opportunity to choose physicians in their health network. The resulting out-of-network bills can cost patients thousands of dollars. “To determine the scope of this problem nationwide, we analyzed claims data from a large commercial insurer that covers tens of millions of people.... Our results are deeply troubling: of the 99.35% of ED [emergency room] visits that occurred at in-network facilities, 22% involved out-of-network physicians. This figure masks significant geographic variation in surprise-billing rates among HRRs [hospital referral regions]. In McAllen, Texas, and St. Petersburg, Florida, surprise-billing rates were 89% and 62%, respectively. In contrast, in Boulder, Colorado, and South Bend, Indiana, the surprise-billing rate was near zero, suggesting that surprise billing is a solvable problem.”

## HUMAN SERVICES

***Anticipating Changes in Regional Demand for Nursing Homes.*** By Laurel Beck, et al. Public Policy Institute of California. Nov. 2016. 12 p.  
[http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/report/R\\_1116LBR.pdf](http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/report/R_1116LBR.pdf)

This report examines major regions in California, comparing the anticipated demand for nursing homes with capacity. “California’s nursing homes provide a major source of personal and medical care for the state’s most vulnerable residents—the elderly and the disabled. By 2030 the state’s 65-and-over population will grow by 87%.... The statewide growth in nursing home capacity is driven by an increase in beds across most regions. As of 2014, each region had some excess capacity across their skilled nursing facilities. However, our projections show that all regions will see demand grow beyond their existing capacity by 2030.” The need for additional capacity will vary by region; for instance, the Bay Area, San Joaquin Valley/Central Sierra, and the Inland Empire will have far higher demand than other areas.

## TOOLS OF THE TRADE

***2016 Best-Performing Cities: Where America’s Jobs are Created and Sustained.*** By Ross DeVol, et al. Milken Institute. Dec. 2016. 58 p.  
<http://www.best-cities.org/2016/best-performing-cities-report-2016.pdf>  
Interactive map: <http://www.best-cities.org/>

Milken Institute’s annual report examines the economic growth of urban areas in the United States. Metrics included in the index, such as job creation, wage gains, and high-tech industry developments, point to the relative growth of large cities and metropolitan areas. This year, California was represented six times in Milken Institute’s Top 25 Best-Performing Large Cities, with the San Jose metropolitan area topping the list.

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