



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Immigration has short-term fiscal costs, long-term economic benefits

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GENERAL GOVERNMENT

The Economic and Fiscal Consequences of Immigration. By Francine D. Blau, et al. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine. Sep. 22, 2016. 508 p.

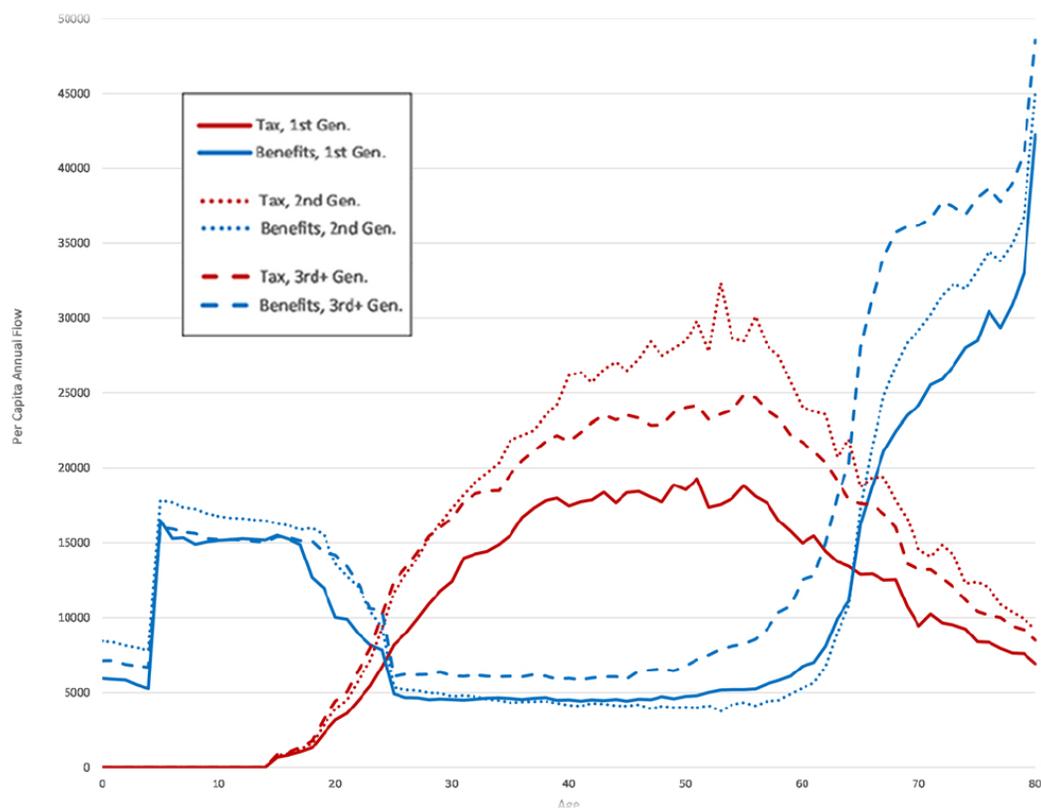
<https://www.nap.edu/catalog/23550/the-economic-and-fiscal-consequences-of-immigration>

(Free registration required)

“[T]here is ‘little evidence’ that immigration affects American workers’ employment levels to any significant extent.... [I]mmigration was more likely to affect other immigrants, because newer immigration reduces the employment rate of earlier arrivals.... [T]he impact of immigration on the wages of American workers was “very small” ...Those most likely to be affected were prior immigrants or native-born workers who have not completed high school.... First-generation immigrants are more costly to governments (mostly at the state and local levels) due the costs of education, but these children end up being among ‘the strongest economic and fiscal contributors in the U.S. population’. They contribute more in taxes than their parents, and also more than the rest of the native-born population. (*Politico*, Sep. 22, 2016).

From the study:

FIGURE 7-1 Age-specific taxes and benefits, by immigrant generation, United States, 2012



SOURCE: Panel analysis of Current Population Survey (CPS) data.

NOTE: All public spending is included in benefits except pure public goods (defense, interest on the debt, subsidies). Data are per capita age schedules based on CPS data, smoothed and adjusted to National Product and Income Accounts annual totals.

What others are saying:

"[M]any of the empirical studies included in the report, goes to the heart of a Democratic dilemma, which the party rarely addresses publicly. [S]upport for liberalized immigration policies ... is crucial to winning support from Hispanic voters.... [H]owever, the costs of liberal immigration policies are borne most heavily by two key Democratic constituencies.... The economic winners from rising immigration levels are closely associated with the establishment wing of the Republican Party: 'businesses and landowners and investors.'... It is just this wing that Trump ran against during the primaries." (*New York Times*, Sep. 29, 2016).

"The twin shortages plaguing the U.S. in 2016 – a shortage of cheap service labor, and a shortage of affordable housing – are products of the same little-noticed trend: For decades, the education level of immigrants has been rising.... Under the 'old normal' of less-educated immigrants, workers may have huddled in immigrant neighborhoods in inner cities.... But well-educated immigrants tend to desire, and can afford, the same kinds of neighborhoods that well-educated native-born Americans do ... so an influx of educated immigrants has the effect of raising prices and pricing out some native-born residents (and less educated immigrants)." (*Bloomberg*, Sep. 29, 2016).

"Federal and state governments combined spend more on the average American than the average American pays in taxes each year, and almost all Americans are descended from prior immigrants. Unless policies on taxation and public expenditures change, the descendants of today's immigrants can be expected to contribute to the national debt, just like the rest of the country. 'It's not just the immigrants who are running up the tab,' [president of nonpartisan Migration Policy Institute Michael] Fix said. 'It's everybody who's running up the tab.'" (*Washington Post*, Sep. 28, 2016).

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

***Race and Wrongful Convictions in the United States.* By Samuel Gross, et al. National Registry of Exonerations, UC Irvine. Mar. 7, 2017. 37 p.**

https://www.law.umich.edu/special/exoneration/Documents/Race_and_Wrongful_Convictions.pdf

This study provides statistical information on racial disparities when innocent defendants are wrongfully convicted of crimes and later exonerated. "African Americans are only 13% of the American population but a majority of innocent defendants wrongfully convicted of crimes and later exonerated. They constitute 47% of the 1,900 exonerations listed in the National Registry of Exonerations (as of October 2016).... Judging from exonerations, innocent black people are about seven times more likely to be convicted of murder than innocent white people.... [A] black prisoner serving time for sexual assault is three-and-a-half times more likely to be innocent than a white sexual assault convict."

ECONOMY

***Immigration Restrictions as Active Labor Market Policy: Evidence from the Mexican Bracero Exclusion.* By Michael A. Clemens, et al. National Bureau of Economic Research. Working Paper No. 23125. Feb, 2017. 70 p.**

<http://ftp.iza.org/dp10512.pdf>

The Bracero Program was a 1943 policy experiment between Mexico and the United States, permitting Mexican citizens to take temporary agricultural work. The program ended in 1964. This report studies the bracero exclusion and the effect on U.S. labor demand. "We find that bracero exclusion failed to raise wages or substantially raise employment for domestic workers in the sector.... Employers adjusted to foreign-worker exclusion by changing production techniques where that was possible, and changing production levels where it was not, with little change to the terms on which they demanded domestic labor."

EDUCATION

How Are Middle School Climate and Academic Performance Related Across Schools and Over Time? By Adam Voight, et al. Institute of Education Sciences, WestEd. Jan. 2017. 29 p.

https://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/regions/west/pdf/REL_2017212.pdf

“This study used grade 7 student data from approximately 1,000 middle schools in California for 2004/05–2010/11 to explore the relationship between school climate and academic performance across schools and over time.” Among the report’s findings: “1) schools with a more positive student-reported school climate had higher academic performance in English language arts and math; 2) changes in a school’s student-reported school climate over time were associated with changes in academic performance at that school and 3) changes in academic performance within a school that are associated with changes in student-reported school climate over time were substantially smaller than the differences in academic performance across schools with different school climate values in a given year.”

EMPLOYMENT

The Economic Impacts of California’s Major Climate Programs on the San Joaquin Valley.

By Betony Jones, et al. UC Berkeley Labor Center. Jan. 2017. 82 p.

<http://laborcenter.berkeley.edu/pdf/2017/economic-impacts-climate-programs-san-joaquin-valley.pdf>

This report finds that “[e]ven after accounting for as many of the costs as was possible, the state’s climate policies and programs have had a positive impact on the region’s employment and economy.... In estimating the region’s cost of compliance with cap and trade and measuring that against the investment of cap and trade revenue into the region, we estimate positive net employment of about 700 jobs over the first three years of the program (2013-15).... In the renewables sector, the solar and wind energy potential and transmission capacity of the Valley will continue to attract investment and create jobs and other economic benefits in the region.”

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

State Options to Keep Nuclear in the Energy Mix. By Daniel Shea, et al. National Conference of State Legislatures. Jan. 2017. 41 p.

<http://www.ncsl.org/research/energy/state-options-to-keep-nuclear-in-the-energy-mix.aspx>

“Since 2013, six nuclear reactors in the United States have permanently closed, another 12 reactors have been scheduled to shut down, and operators at several more plants have warned of other possible reactor closures in the coming years. While nuclear power provides almost 20% of the nation’s electricity generation, some nuclear plants in restructured electricity markets are finding it difficult to adapt to changes brought about in recent years by competing energy sources and relatively low electricity demand growth. This combination of factors has challenged nuclear’s place in the nation’s energy mix, drawing the attention of utilities, regulators, federal officials and state policymakers.... This report explores the reasons nuclear plants are at risk of closing and how state policymakers, federal officials and the industry are responding.”

HEALTH

How Neighborhoods Affect the Health and Well-Being of Older Americans. By Mark Mather. National Institute on Aging. Population Reference Bureau. Feb. 2017. 12 p.
<http://www.prb.org/pdf17/TRA%2035.pdf>

Research findings on the impact of neighborhood characteristics on health “can help policymakers and planners design new health-promoting policies and better target intervention programs. In some cases, improving neighborhood safety or making changes to the neighborhood’s built environment ... may be more cost-effective ways to improve health outcomes among older adults than changing individuals’ health behaviors. The potential negative effects of living in disadvantaged neighborhoods for the physical and mental health of older adults point to the need for neighborhood improvements that expand the quantity, quality, and accessibility of community resources (such as parks, libraries, and community centers) and enhance walkability and safety.”

HUMAN SERVICES

A New Approach to California’s Veterans Homes. Little Hoover Commission. Mar. 2017. 64 p.
<http://www.lhc.ca.gov/studies/237/Report237.pdf>

“Californians approved spending to nearly double the capacity of its veterans homes system from 1,984 beds in three homes to nearly 3,000 beds in eight homes. The California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet) broke ground on its new homes in June 2007 and for the next six years undertook unprecedented construction which culminated in October 2013 with the opening of the two newest homes in Fresno and Redding.... [V]eterans are offered a range of services including independent living, assisted living or residential care, intermediate care and skilled nursing for veterans who are age 55 or older or are disabled or homeless and in need of long-term care.”

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

“Neural Correlates of Maintaining One’s Political Beliefs in the Face of Counterevidence.”
By Jonas Kaplan, et al. *Scientific Reports* vol. 6 (Dec. 23, 2016). 11 p.
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5180221/>

Neuroimaging shows that the brain region controlling deep, emotional beliefs about personal and social identity lit up when a person is confronted with arguments contradicting strongly-held political views. The same brain region is associated with activity related to religious beliefs, self-representation and disengagement from the external world. Study participants were more likely to change their beliefs over non-political statements than for political statements, but this could be because political beliefs tend to be prescriptive while non-political beliefs were straightforward statements of fact. Participants were also chosen for their strong political beliefs, and therefore may be more knowledgeable and prepared with counterarguments.

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