



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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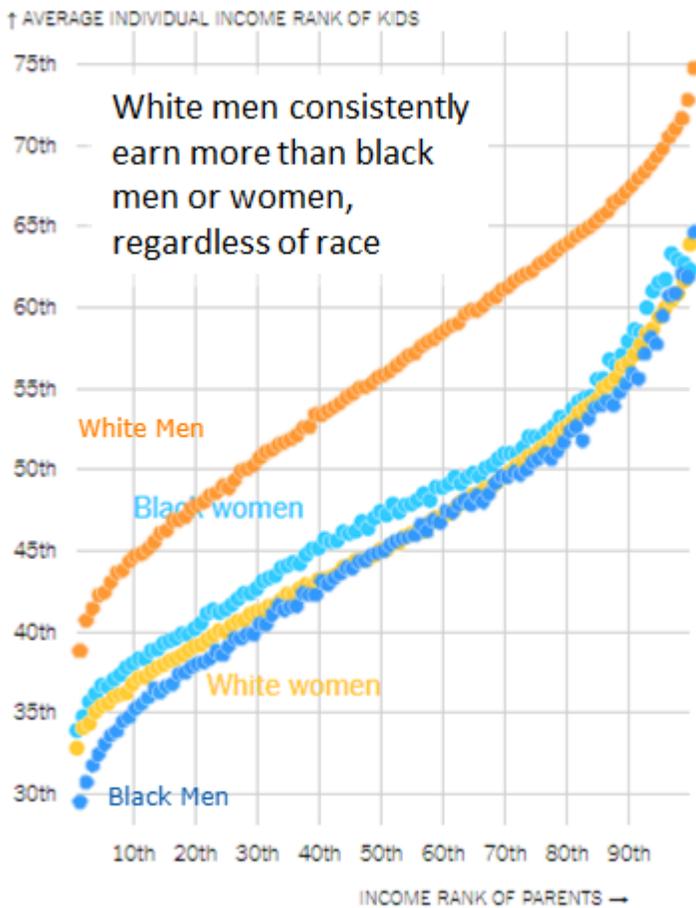
FEATURED STUDY: ECONOMY

***Race and Economic Opportunity in the United States: An Intergenerational Perspective.* By Raj Chetty, et al. NBER. Mar. 2018. 106 p.**
<http://www.nber.org/papers/w24441> (Available to .gov accounts or from the California State Library)

“[D]ifferences in family characteristics such as parental marital status, education, and wealth explain very little of the black-white income gap conditional on parent income. Differences in ability also do not explain the patterns of intergenerational mobility we document.... [T]he black-white gap persists even among boys who grow up in the same neighborhood. Controlling for parental income, black boys have lower incomes in adulthood than white boys in 99% of Census tracts. Both black and white boys have better outcomes in low-poverty areas, but black-white gaps are larger on average for boys who grow up in such neighborhoods. The few areas in which black-white gaps are relatively small tend to be low-poverty neighborhoods with low levels of racial bias among whites and high rates of father presence among

blacks.... These findings suggest that reducing the black-white income gap will require efforts whose impacts cross neighborhood and class lines and increase upward mobility specifically for black men.”

From the study:



What others are saying:

“Black boys raised in America, even in the wealthiest families and living in some of the most well-to-do neighborhoods, still earn less in adulthood than white boys with similar backgrounds, according to a sweeping new study that traced the lives of millions of children. White boys who grow up rich are likely to remain that way. Black boys raised at the top, however, are more likely to become poor than to stay wealthy in their own adult households.” ([New York Times](#), Mar. 19, 2018).

“In covering this study, a number of media outlets, scholars, and commentators argued the new research showed that family structure did not have much to do with the racial gap in mobility between black and white boys.... After controlling for boys’ household income growing up, Chetty et al. themselves conclude that ‘parental marital status has little impact on intergenerational gaps’.... The problem with this strategy, however, is that there are large gaps in black and white boys’ average household income growing up, and these gaps partly follow from racial differences in family structure.” ([National Review](#), Mar. 30, 2018).

“The second important point to note is that black women, white women, and black men all have relatively similar levels of earnings, that it’s really white men who have considerably higher levels of earnings.” ([Talk Poverty](#), Mar 30, 2018).

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

***Californians & Their Government.* Public Policy Institute of California. Mar. 2018. 31 p.**
<http://www.ppic.org/publication/ppic-statewide-survey-californians-and-their-government-march-2018>

In California's gubernatorial race, Democrat Gavin Newsom solidifies his lead (top choice for 28% of voters) and Republican John Cox gains ground (runner-up at 14%), but 24% of likely voters are still undecided. In the U.S. Senate race, Dianne Feinstein continues to lead Kevin de León, 42% to 16% (39% undecided). Immigration is the top issue (23%) likely voters want to hear gubernatorial candidates talk about until the June primary (gun control and school safety is second at 10%). There is bipartisan support for water bond (78% Democrats, 66% independents, 51% Republicans), but partisan split on affordable housing bond (85% Democrats, 33% Republicans) and high-speed rail (67% Democrats, 28% Republicans).

EDUCATION

***Gaps in College Spending Shortchange Students of Color.* By Sara Garcia. Center for American Progress. Apr. 2018. 15 p.**
<https://cdn.americanprogress.org/content/uploads/2018/04/03090823/Gaps-in-College-Spending-brief.pdf>

"Public two- and-four year institutions spend more than \$1,000 less per student of color—or nationally \$5 billion less per year—than what is spent on their white counterparts....The disparity can result in fewer tutoring opportunities, limited access to healthcare services, and cyclical difficulties for such schools to enhance completion rates for students of color. Public colleges in 34 of the states analyzed were found to spend less on students of color because of two primary factors: states policies around education spending tend to favor resources toward elite research institutions, instead of less selective two- and-four year institutions; and inequitable access to higher education through the K-12 pipeline results in disproportionate numbers of students of color going to college with fewer resources or be concentrated in states with empirically smaller higher ed budgets." (*Education Dive*, Apr. 9, 2018).

***Policy Snapshot: Targeted Teacher Recruitment.* By Stephanie Aragon, Education Commission of the States. Mar. 2018. 9 p.**
https://www.ecs.org/wp-content/uploads/Targeted_Teacher_Recruitment.pdf

This report summarizes what states are doing around the country to recruit and retain teachers in the face of serious shortages. States are focusing on the following measures in their proposals and enactments: 1) gathering accurate data to determine their needs, 2) allowing local school districts to develop their own recruitment plans, 3) creating "career pathways and grow-your-own programs" to recruit local high school students into teaching, and 4) developing more financial incentives for people to enter the profession. The report lists California's AB 99 (Ch. 15, Stat. of 2017)—creating the California Educator Development Program—as one example of recent legislation in this area.

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

***Improving California's Forest and Watershed Management.* Legislative Analyst's Office. Apr. 4, 2018. 44 p.**
<http://www.lao.ca.gov/Publications/Report/3798>

"Roughly one-third of California is forested, including the majority of watersheds that serve as the key originating water source for millions of people across the state. These forests also provide critical air, wildlife, climate and recreational benefits. However, a combination of factors have resulted in poor conditions across these forests and watersheds, including excessive vegetation density and an overabundance of small trees and brush. Such conditions have contributed to more prevalent and severe

wildfires and unprecedented tree mortality in recent years.” In this report, the LAO reviews the importance and benefits of forests, provides information on how they are currently managed, reviews current conditions of forests and watersheds statewide and highlights shortcomings in how the state manages them, and recommends to the Legislature how the state’s forests’ and watersheds’ management can be improved.

Nature-Based Solutions for Water: The United Nations World Water Development Report 2018.
UNESCO. 2018. 154 p.

<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0026/002614/261424e.pdf>

“We need new solutions to managing water resources to offset the rising challenges to water security from population growth and climate change. This report proposes an innovative response that has, in fact, been around for thousands of years: nature-based solutions. Today, more than ever, we must work with nature, instead of against it. Demand for water is set to increase in all sectors. The challenge we must all face is meeting this demand in a way that does not exacerbate negative impacts on ecosystems.... This [report] does not argue that nature-based solutions are a panacea, but our conclusion is clear—they are one of many important tools to shift to a more holistic approach to water management.”

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Searchable Database: See How Cannabis Laws, Support Differ Among California Cities.
By Brooke Staggs, et al. The Cannifornian. Jan. 4, 2018.

<http://www.thecannifornian.com/cannabis-business/database-see-cannabis-laws-support-differ-among-california-cities/>

This searchable database allows you to view whether a local California government allows or disallows medical and/or recreational cannabis sales. “Fewer than one in three California cities (144 out of 482) allow any kind of cannabis business to operate in their borders. And just 18 of the state’s 58 counties permit cannabis businesses in their unincorporated areas. Also, fewer than one in five California cities welcome medical marijuana dispensaries, while fewer than one in seven allow recreational cannabis stores, where anyone 21 and older has been able to shop for legal weed since Jan. 1.... While Proposition 64 (approved by 57% of state voters in November 2016) makes it legal for people to carry up to an ounce of marijuana and to grow it at home and consume it for pleasure, the law also gives cities and counties a strong say in how that law is implemented within their jurisdictions. That dichotomy has led to a crazy quilt of policies across the state.” ([OC Register](#), Apr. 9, 2018).

HEALTH

Consolidation in California’s Health Care Market 2010-2016: Impact on Prices and ACA Premiums.
Nicholas C. Petris Center on Health Care Markets and Consumer Welfare. Mar. 2018. 88 p.

http://petris.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/CA-Consolidation-Full-Report_03.26.18.pdf

This report examined the impact of rapid consolidation of the hospital, physician and insurance markets in California from 2010 to 2016 and found evidence that highly concentrated markets are associated with higher prices for hospital and physician services and ACA premiums. According to the U.S. Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission, the vast majority of counties in California warrant competitive concerns and scrutiny (44 of 58 California counties had highly concentrated hospital markets). Prices for medical procedures in Northern California, which is considerably more concentrated than Southern California, is 20% to 30% higher than in Southern California, even after adjusting for input cost differences (i.e. wages). These findings suggest “regulatory and legislative solutions need to be implemented to address health care market concentration in California.”

HUMAN SERVICES

The Prevalence of Adverse Childhood Experiences, Nationally, By State, and By Race/Ethnicity.
By Vanessa Sacks, et al. Child Trends. Feb. 20, 2018. 20 p.

https://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/ACESBriefUpdatedFinal_ChildTrends_February2018.pdf

Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) affect children's "health and well-being in childhood or later in life." This study "estimated the national prevalence of eight specific ACEs and compared the prevalence of these ACEs across states." Key findings include "economic hardship and divorce or separation of a parent or guardian are the most common ACEs reported nationally, and in all states. Just under half (45%) of children in the United States have experienced at least one ACE." California fares a little better than the national average—about 40% of children have experienced at least one ACE. The prevalence of ACEs is highest among black and Hispanic children.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Bots in the Twittersphere. By Stephen Wojcik, et al. Pew Research Center. Apr. 9, 2018. 30 p.

<http://www.pewinternet.org/2018/04/09/bots-in-the-twittersphere/>

"The role of so-called social media 'bots'—automated accounts capable of posting content or interacting with other users with no direct human involvement—has been the subject of much scrutiny and attention in recent years.... Pew Research Center set out to better understand how many of the links being shared on Twitter—most of which refer to a site outside the platform itself—are being promoted by bots rather than humans. To do this, the Center used a list of 2,315 of the most popular websites and examined the roughly 1.2 million tweets (sent by English language users) that included links to those sites during a roughly six-week period in summer 2017. The results illustrate the pervasive role that automated accounts play in disseminating links to a wide range of prominent websites on Twitter."

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