



Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

Understanding the Quality of Alternative Citizenship Data Sources for the 2020 Census. By J. David Brown, et al. U.S. Census Bureau, Center for Economic Studies. Aug. 2018. 77 p.
<https://www2.census.gov/ces/wp/2018/CES-WP-18-38.pdf>

"[T]he researchers estimate that the addition of the [U.S Census citizenship] question could result in hundreds of thousands (or, under one set of assumptions, 1.75 million) fewer correct enumerations. They also estimate that the addition of the question would increase the costs of the 2020 census by at least \$91.2 million, and further stress that 'this cost estimate is a lower bound.' In other words, adding a

citizenship question to the 2020 census will increase costs, reduce accuracy, and likely will not produce a more accurate count of the citizen voting-age population.” ([Pacific Standard](#), Aug. 31, 2018).

ECONOMY

***Economic Effects and Responses to Changes in Honey Bee Health.* By Peyton Ferrier, et al. USDA ERS. Mar. 2018. 54 p.**

<https://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/pub-details/?pubid=88116>

“In 2016, almonds accounted for 82% of all U.S. expenditures on pollination services. High fees explain only part of this large share. Regardless of price, almonds account for 61% of all colony rentals and 52% of all acres on which colonies are placed.... Nearly all U.S. almond acreage is concentrated in California’s Central Valley region. As the crop’s demand for pollination services has outstripped local supply, farmers have paid high fees to bring in colonies from cross-country distances for the February bloom.” ([USDA](#), July 2, 2018) The report states that “[i]n recent years, 60 to 70% of all commercial honey bee colonies in the United States have been transported to California in February for the almond bloom.”

EDUCATION

***Building Tomorrow’s Talent: Collaboration Can Close Emerging Skills Gap.* Bloomberg Next. The Bureau of National Affairs, Inc. Aug. 2018. 6 p.**

https://www.bna.com/uploadedFiles/BNA_V2/Micro_Sites/2018/Future_of_Work/Workday%20Bloomberg%20Build-Tomorrow-Talent_FINAL.pdf

“A recent study revealed that four in 10 corporations and almost half of academic institutions believe that recent graduates lack certain so-called ‘soft skills’ needed in the workforce to be successful, including emotional intelligence, complex reasoning and negotiation and persuasion.... Employers are now more focused on interpersonal skills rather than GPA, according to the study. In response, some universities are releasing extracurricular transcripts that demonstrate a student’s individual skills in addition to grades. Such activities can provide a window into soft skills that employers increasingly are demanding in the workplace, from teamwork and self-regulation to multicultural competency and perseverance.” ([Diverse Issues in Higher Education](#), Aug. 3, 2018).

***Encouraging More High School Students to Consider Teaching.* By Michelle Croft, et al. ACT Research and Policy. June 2018. 8 p.**

<https://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/pdfs/Encouraging-More-HS-Students-to-Consider-Teaching.pdf>

Among ACT-tested high school graduates, choosing a career in teaching has declined in popularity. Students most interested in being K-12 teachers “are less academically prepared than other students.” The authors of this study make three recommendations to improve teacher recruitment among students: 1) increase salaries for beginning teachers; 2) implement targeted career pathways and ‘grow-your-own’ programs; and 3) inform students about the full compensation package of teachers, and how that package compares to other entry-level jobs after graduation.

EMPLOYMENT

***Nonemployer Establishments in Taxi and Limousine Service Grew by 45.9 Percent.* Census Bureau. June 2018.**

<https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2018/nonemployer-taxi.html>

Nonemployer taxi and limousine services, including ridesharing services such as Lyft and Uber, has grown by 45.9%. The number of self-employed taxi drivers tripled to an estimated 700,000 people between 2013 to 2016. “We see large differences in who was an incumbent and self-employed taxi driver in 2013 versus who is entering the industry in the past several years.... The incumbents in 2013 were mostly male and foreign-born, and only 18% had a wage and salary job in the same year.... In contrast to the 2013 incumbents, those new to the industry in 2015 were more likely to be female, less likely to be foreign-born, and 73% had a wage and salary job in the same year.”

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

***Securing the Vote: Protecting American Democracy.* National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM). Sep. 6, 2018. 180 p.**

<https://www.nap.edu/catalog/25120/securing-the-vote-protecting-american-democracy>

“NASEM's recommendations are all oriented around ensuring that election infrastructure is not vulnerable to tampering and that results can be verified. Chief among the recommendations is that all voting machines that do not create a paper trail allowing for independent auditing be ‘removed from service as soon as possible.’ The report follows two years of federal and state activity centered on protecting election systems from foreign meddling.... The report also calls for state mandates on ‘risk limiting’ audits prior to the certification of election results. Such an audit, researchers say, requires a hand examination of as few as several hundred ballots in an election containing tens of millions of votes.” ([StateScoop](#), Sep. 6, 2018).

HEALTH

“California’s Efforts to Cover the Uninsured: Successes, Building Blocks, and Challenges.”
By Walter Zelman, et al. *Health Affairs*, vol. 37 no. 9 (Sep. 2018) 9 p.

<https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/full/10.1377/hlthaff.2018.0475> (Available from the California Research Bureau)

“During the last century, California policy makers tried multiple approaches to achieve the goal of affordable health coverage for all: employer and individual requirements, single payer, and hybrids. All failed, primarily because of the amount of financing needed to cover the large numbers of uninsured Californians and the supermajority vote requirements for tax increases. These failures, however, provided important lessons for state and national reform efforts.... These reforms, as well as the experience derived from the broader coverage expansion efforts, contributed to the intellectual and policy frameworks that underlay major national reforms and created building blocks for the state’s successful implementation of the Affordable Care Act.”

HUMAN SERVICES

U.S. Safety Net Programs and Early Life Skills Formation: Results from a Prospective Longitudinal Cohort Study. By Corneliu Bolbocean, et al. National Bureau of Economic Research. July 2018. 47 p.

<http://www.nber.org/papers/w24832> (Available to .gov accounts or from the California Research Bureau)

This study estimates the effects of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and home visitation programs on early childhood skills development. “We find that participation in these programs has a positive and statistically significant effect on language development and boosts early life noncognitive outcomes.... We find that maternal participation in WIC in early childhood has a direct effect on language development, the effect of SNAP and home visitation program are much smaller in magnitude.”

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Administration of the Internet of Things. Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Office of the State Auditor. Sep. 5, 2018. 23 p.

<https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2018/09/05/201780234t.pdf>

Internet of Things (IoT) is the terminology used to describe the sharing of data between smart devices and the internet, via computers, laptops, and servers. More and more government agencies are allowing personal devices to be connected to their servers. The Massachusetts State Auditor queried 84 state agencies utilizing IoT technology regarding the efficacy and security of the technology. Of the 28 state agencies that responded, 68% believe that IoT increased efficiency. However, 43% of the agencies believe the risks of adopting the technology in its infancy outweigh the benefits, and 46% believe risks cannot be managed efficiently by the current controls.

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

The New Automobility. By Schaller Consulting. July 25, 2018. 41 p.

<http://www.schallerconsult.com/rideservices/automobility.htm>

Rideshare services such as Lyft and Uber have already surpassed traditional taxi services in many US cities, and is set to surpass local bus ridership in the US by the end of the year. Although some advocates hoped rideshare services would reduce the need for individuals to own their own vehicles, and therefore reduce congestion in urban areas, it is estimated that such services add 2.6 vehicle mile traveled for every mile of personal driving removed. This is because rideshare trips are not replacing personal automotive trips, but rather are replacing non-automotive trips, such as walking, biking or taking public transit.

About the California Research Bureau

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