



## Studies in the News

California Research Bureau, California State Library

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## **ECONOMY**

***Rent Control: What Does the Research Tell Us about the Effectiveness of Local Action? By Prasanna Rajasekaran, et al. Urban Institute. Jan. 2019. 12 p.***

[https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/99646/rent\\_control.\\_what\\_does\\_the\\_research\\_tell\\_us\\_about\\_the\\_effectiveness\\_of\\_local\\_action\\_1.pdf](https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/99646/rent_control._what_does_the_research_tell_us_about_the_effectiveness_of_local_action_1.pdf)

“Rajasekaran, Treskon and Greene have a nice white paper summarizing the literature on the winners and losers of rent control in the few jurisdictions where it exists in the US. That literature shows that (1) rent control does indeed benefit incumbents; (2) does harm to those outside the rent control system; (3) probably reduces the stock of rental housing and (4) probably reduces the quality of the housing stock. Diamond, McQuade and Qian find that the costs and benefits of San Francisco's second generation rent control (which has vacancy decontrol and no control of new buildings) are about equal.” ([Richard's Real Estate and Urban Economics Blog](#), June 13, 2019).

## EDUCATION

***Despite Rising Costs, College is Still a Good Investment.*** By Jaison R. Abel, et al. Liberty Street Economics. June 2019. 8 p.

<https://libertystreeteconomics.newyorkfed.org/2019/06/despite-rising-costs-college-is-still-a-good-investment.html>

“Amid constant discussion of whether college is ‘worth it’ or whether new models will displace the bachelor’s degree, new research shows that there is a clear economic edge for those who earn bachelor’s degrees over those with a high school diploma. And the research shows that the rate of return on the investment of paying for college is high enough to make the decision to go to college a wise one for most students. The new research notes the constant questioning of the economic value of earning a bachelor’s degree, particularly with many students taking on debt to pay for college. The research, by the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, acknowledges some fluctuations in the wage premium for bachelor’s degree holders and their economic return on paying for college. But it says that there is no doubt about the economic value of earning a bachelor’s degree.” (*Inside Higher Ed*, June 10, 2019).

***The Arts in Schools of Choice.*** By Mary Dell’Erba, Education Commission of the States. May 2019. 8 p.

[https://www.ecs.org/wp-content/uploads/The\\_Arts\\_in\\_Schools\\_of\\_Choice.pdf](https://www.ecs.org/wp-content/uploads/The_Arts_in_Schools_of_Choice.pdf)

“Schools, districts and states can establish a variety of policies and practices to ensure that students—regardless of whether they attend a traditional public school or school of choice—have opportunities to engage in the arts. Data dashboards allow parents to consider arts availability when making choices for their students, and strategic plans aligned with policy can provide arts opportunities to all students regardless of school or neighborhood.” In this study, California is highlighted for its dashboard for public use—allowing users to check out how arts programs have been integrated into California schools.

## EMPLOYMENT

***The Future of Women at Work: Transitions in the Age of Automation.*** By Anu Madgavkar et al. McKinsey Global Institute. June 2019. 168 p.

<https://www.mckinsey.com/featured-insights/gender-equality/the-future-of-women-at-work-transitions-in-the-age-of-automation>

“Men and women need to be skilled, mobile, and tech-savvy in the automation age, but women face pervasive barriers.... Entirely new occupations will...be created, but approximately 60% of new US occupations have been in male-dominated fields.... Women are well represented in fast-growing healthcare, which could account for 25% of potential jobs gained for women.... Policy makers and businesses need to step up interventions, some targeted at women, to overcome these barriers. High priorities include more investment in training and transitional support; more provision of childcare and safe and affordable transportation; addressing stereotypes about occupations; boosting women’s access to mobile internet and digital skills in emerging economies; and supporting women in STEM professions and entrepreneurship.”

## ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

***Amplification of Future Energy Demand Growth Due to Climate Change.*** By Bas J. van Ruijven, et al. Nature Communications. June 24, 2019. 12 p.

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-019-10399-3>

“Whereas previous studies focused largely on energy use for a single country, continent, or sector, this new research is a global analysis using projections from 21 climate models, as well as population and

economic projections for five socioeconomic scenarios. The scientists found that global energy demand will increase 11 to 27% by 2050 with modest global warming, and 25 to 58% with more severe warming. The tropics, southern Europe, China, and the United States will all experience the greatest increases in demand.... The higher temperatures climb and the more air conditioning families need to keep cool, the more expensive utility bills will become—a situation that ... will be especially damaging to low-income households, who already spend a larger portion of their monthly budget on utilities than higher-income homes.” ([PBS News Hour](#), June 27, 2019).

## HEALTH

***The Impact of Car Pollution on Infant and Child Health: Evidence from Emissions Cheating.***  
By Diane Alexander, et al. Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research. June 2019. 81 p.  
<https://siepr.stanford.edu/sites/default/files/publications/19-014.pdf>

Cars marketed as “clean diesel” have been demonstrated to have sometimes “covertly activated equipment during emissions tests that reduced emissions below official thresholds, and then reversed course after testing.” In this study, “we demonstrate that a 10% cheating-induced increase in car exhaust increases rates of low birth weight and acute asthma attacks among children by 1.9 and 8.0%, respectively. These health impacts occur at all pollution levels and across the entire socioeconomic spectrum.... Our paper has three main takeaways for policy makers. First ... our results suggest that a singular focus on disadvantaged populations living close to pollution hotspots misses the larger picture. Second, regulators, consumers, and communities need to be informed about these broader health costs of car pollution.... Third, strong regulation needs to be paired with strong enforcement to be successful.”

## HUMAN SERVICES

***Homelessness in Sacramento County: Results from the 2019 Point-in-Time Count.*** Institute for Social Research and Sacramento Steps Forward. June 2019. 91 p.  
<https://sacramentostepsforward.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/2019-Final-PIT-Report-1.pdf>

“Even as the city and county of Sacramento pour millions of dollars into ending homelessness, a count this year found 1,905 more people living on the streets, in cars or in shelter beds since 2017, raising the estimated number of homeless people countywide to 5,570.... It marks a roughly 52% jump in homelessness compared to two years ago, when the survey found 3,665 homeless people living in the county. Researchers behind the count say a more accurate increase estimate is about 19% when accounting for this year’s new methodology, which doubled the area covered and tripled the number of volunteers conducting the count.” ([Sacramento Bee](#), June 26, 2019).

### ***About the California Research Bureau***

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