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**CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY**

*Black Men Making It in America: The Engines of Economic Success for Black Men in America.*

“Our new report … spotlights two pieces of particular good news about the economic well-being of black men. First, the share of black men in poverty has fallen from 41% in 1960 to 18% today. Second, and more importantly, the share of black men in the middle or upper class -- as measured by their family income -- has risen from 38% in 1960 to 57% today…. Black men who worked full-time, had some college education, or were married were much more likely to be members of the middle or upper class by the time they got to their 50s…. We found that serving in the military was associated with a 72% increase in the
odds that black men made it into the middle class or higher as 50-something men…. Given that racial segregation, poverty, and bias affect the odds that young black males get caught up in the criminal justice system, systemic racism limits the economic fortunes of black men. What's more: right now, only a small minority of black men graduate from college: 17%.” (CNN Opinion, July 3, 2018).

EDUCATION


“Student lists are commercially available for purchase on the basis of ethnicity, affluence, religion, lifestyle, awkwardness, and even a perceived or predicted need for family planning services.” Existing privacy laws do not always include student lists. The authors recommend practices to protect student privacy: “Brokers of student data should be required to follow reasonable procedures to assure maximum possible accuracy of student data…. Parents and emancipated students should be able to opt out of uses of student data for commercial purposes unrelated to education or military recruitment…. When surveys are administered to students through schools, data practices should be transparent.”


“This report presents a comprehensive overview of basic needs insecurity issues in California’s public higher education system. Food and housing insecurity is a growing challenge for students, families, faculty and staff, institutional leadership, and the Legislature. Students suffering from basic needs insecurity face academic, financial, and health challenges their food and housing secure counterparts may not face. This has a direct impact on the Legislature’s goals for increasing student success and degree attainment, reducing the total cost of attendance, and closing the degree gap. The report examines the state’s three public higher education systems, the high cost of attendance at these systems when factoring in living expenses, availability of financial aid to cover those expenses, and the resulting impact on a student’s basic needs. This report also reviews the recent actions taken by the higher education systems and the Legislature to address basic needs insecurity, as well as policy recommendations for the future.”

EMPLOYMENT


“The U.S. labor market is hot…. So why does a large subset of workers continue to feel left behind?… Joblessness may be low in the United States and employers may be hungry for new hires, but it’s also strikingly easy to lose a job here…. When you lose your job in the United States, it’s harder to find another. Fewer than half of displaced workers find a job within a year, the researchers found….. Even when Americans do find another job, their earnings don’t recover…. These gaps at the lower end of the labor market can be traced back to weak government programs and hamstrung union bargaining, the report says. The United States spends less of its economic wealth on active efforts to help people who either don’t have a job or who are at risk of becoming unemployed than almost any other country in the study.”
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

https://www.arb.ca.gov/cc/inventory/data/data.htm

“The California Global Warming Solutions Act, A.B. 32, required state agencies to figure out a way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. This latest data … show that California’s greenhouse gas emissions were a little below 1990 levels in 2016, which was a 3% drop from 2015…. The largest decline in emissions came from the electricity sector, which showed a 16% drop in emissions in 2016…. This is all pretty good news, especially when considering that at the same time this was happening, the state’s economy was growing…. [T]he inventory shows that per capita emissions are about half the national average, and California is producing twice as many goods and services for the same amount of greenhouse gas emissions as the rest of the nation.” (StreetsBlogCal, July 11, 2018).

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

http://www.nber.org/papers/w24770 (Available to .gov accounts or from the California State Library)
Summary: https://www.brookings.edu/blog/up-front/2018/07/05/how-do-we-get-more-young-people-to-vote-as-adults-cash-transfers-to-their-parents-could-help/

Past research suggests relationships between parents’ voting behaviors and their children’s future voting behaviors (if parents don’t vote, children won’t vote) as well as between household incomes and voting in the U.S. (poverty is an obstacle to voting). However, if household incomes are increased during adolescence, then children from initially poorer households are 10% to 20% more likely to vote as adults. The income transfers have no effect on parents of any income level. Thus, family circumstance during childhood, particularly income, affects political participation levels in the United States, possibly due to better educational opportunities because of increased incomes, or to greater community investment because increased incomes means less need to relocate.

HEALTH

https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanplh/article/PIIS2542-5196(18)30140-2/fulltext (Available from the California State Library)

“A new global study links air pollution to an increased risk for type 2 diabetes – a troubling finding particularly for California’s Central Valley, with its notoriously high levels of hazardous particulates. Air pollution has long been widely known to pose a health threat: Consequences include asthma and other lung problems, and within the last decade, air pollution has been found to increase the risk for heart and kidney disease. The new link to type 2 diabetes comes in a study published by The Lancet Planetary Health, looking at the global and national impact of air pollution-associated diabetes. Findings attribute 3.25 million newly diagnosed cases of type 2 diabetes internationally, in 2016 alone, to air pollution…. Eight of the top ten cities in the U.S. that rank highest for short-term particle pollution are in California, according to the American Lung Association’s 2018 State of the Air report.” (The Sacramento Bee, July 12, 2018).
HUMAN SERVICES


This brief looks at the reasons why Hispanic parents seek out Early Care and Education (ECE) for their young children—in an effort to help “guide outreach by programs and inform policy adjustments that might better serve diverse groups.” The researchers found that “[a]lthough low-income Hispanic parents reported reasons for conducting an ECE search that were similar to those offered by their black and white peers, they reported fewer ECE search experiences overall. Low-income Hispanic parents were less likely to conduct an ECE search and, when they did, they were less likely to consider more than one provider. Their searches were also less likely to result in a change in provider for their child.”

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY


https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/fullarticle/2687861 (Available from the California State Library)

“Most teens today own a smartphone and go online every day, and about a quarter of them use the internet ‘almost constantly,’ according to a 2015 report by the Pew Research Center. [This study] suggests that such frequent use of digital media by adolescents might increase their odds of developing symptoms of attention deficit hyperactivity disorder…. The study followed 2,587 10th graders in schools in Los Angeles County over two years. The teens showed no symptoms of ADHD at the beginning of the study. By the end, teens with more frequent digital media use were more likely to have symptoms of ADHD.” Though the study does not prove causation, and does not provide a clinical diagnosis of ADHD, it does find an association between frequent use of digital media and the symptoms of attention deficit. (National Public Radio, July 17, 2018).

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