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**CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY**

https://doi.org/10.1177/0002764218756921

“When U.S. newspapers cover school shootings, they run more photos of the perpetrators than the victims…. Photos of perpetrators outnumber photos of each deceased victim by a ratio of 16 to 1, on average, according to an analysis of newspapers’ coverage of three school shootings in 2007, 2012 and 2015…. Editors also are more likely to run larger images of the killers. The study’s author … looked at the images that ran after the Virginia Tech shooting in 2007, which claimed the lives of 33 people; the Sandy
Hook Elementary shooting in 2012, which left 27 people dead; and the Umpqua Community College shooting in 2015, during which 10 people were fatally injured. A 2016 study ... finds that fame-seeking as a motive for rampage shooting dates back decades.” (Journalist’s Resource, Aug. 28, 2018).

ECONOMY

https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R45229.pdf

“The Congressional Research Service, which provides policy and legal analysis to Congress, estimated 90% of the benefits would go to the top 1%. Because those earning more than $100,000 would benefit most from the change, a disproportionate number of whites compared with minorities would see their incomes increase. Almost 9% of whites make more than $100,000, but only 2.6% of Hispanics and 3.1% of blacks do, according to 2017 Census Bureau data.” (The Center for Public Integrity, Aug. 21, 2018).

EDUCATION

https://www.aacu.org/leap/public-opinion-research

“The new AAC&U survey shows that 82% of executives and 75% of managers think completing a college education is ‘very important’ or ‘absolutely essential.’… While they are generally confident in higher education, business leaders’ faith does diminish around the skills that students are learning in college. While a majority of employers (57% of executives, 60% of managers) believe that students have the knowledge to succeed in entry-level positions, few of them think graduates can advance in a workplace—only 34% of executives and 25% of managers believe students have the skills to be promoted.” (Inside Higher Ed, Aug. 28, 2018).


This study looks at whether states which enroll more pre-K students in a given year have “higher scores on NAEP when those children reach fourth grade than states with lower levels of pre-K enrollment.” The author finds “no association between states’ federally reported scores on the fourth grade National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in various years and differences among states in levels of enrollment in their state’s pre-K program five years earlier than each of those years.” The author recommends that policymakers consider “more powerful forms of investment in better futures for children.”

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT


The America’s Pledge team, co-chaired by Gov. Edmund G. Brown, Jr. and former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, provides an assessment “of how U.S. states, cities, businesses, and others … are embracing new economic opportunities and technologies to implement climate targets and deliver
emissions reductions within their own jurisdictions and operations under their own authority.” The report offers a 10-strategy outline and includes new state research concerning potential vulnerabilities and solutions.

**GENERAL GOVERNMENT**


“The report examines the current and recent state of voter access and voting discrimination for communities of color, voters with disabilities, and limited-English proficient citizens. It also examines the enforcement record of the United States Department of Justice regarding the provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 since the Act’s last reauthorization in 2006, and particularly since the Supreme Court decision in *Shelby County v. Holder* in 2013…. In states across the country, voting procedures that wrongly prevent some citizens from voting—including but not limited to: voter identification laws, voter roll purges, proof of citizenship measures, challenges to voter eligibility, and polling places moves or closings—have been enacted and have a disparate impact on voters of color and poor citizens.”

**HEALTH**


“Data from the NHIS suggest that the uninsurance rate fell from 8.3 percent in 2010 to 5.3% in 2017 among children age 18 and under. Although children in states that did and did not expand Medicaid under the ACA experienced coverage gains over this period, a significant drop in uninsurance among children in non-expansion states from 2013 to 2015 was followed by an increase in their uninsurance rate between 2015 and 2017…. The dominance of cost as a driver of long-term uninsurance suggests the importance of increasing awareness of low-cost Medicaid and CHIP options for eligible uninsured children, but it also raises concerns about the uninsurance rate going forward as private health insurance premiums continue to rise.”

**HUMAN SERVICES**


“The U.S. Census Bureau announced today that real median household income increased by 1.8% between 2016 and 2017, while the official poverty rate decreased 0.4 percentage points…. The nation’s official poverty rate in 2017 was 12.3%, with 39.7 million people in poverty. The number of people in poverty in 2017 was not statistically different from the number in poverty in 2016.” Census Report data shows California’s poverty rate was 13.9% in 2016 and decreased to 12.4% in 2017. (Newsroom, Sep. 12, 2018).
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

https://www.nature.com/articles/s41377-018-0063-4

A new development in Internet-of-Things technology may overcome electromagnetic interference, which tends to disturb video or audio signals. Optical sensors "can provide a significant advantage in harsh environments…. Wireless sensors, whether electronic or photonic (light-based), can monitor such environmental factors as humidity, temperature and air pressure. Applications for wireless sensors encompass environmental and health-care monitoring, precision agricultural practices and smart cities’ data-gathering, among other possibilities." *(Science & Technology Research News, Sep. 13, 2018).*

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

UC Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education. Sep. 4, 2018. 73 p.  
http://laborcenter.berkeley.edu/driverless/  
Interactive Overview: http://driverlessreport.org/

“The $740-billion-a-year U.S. trucking industry is widely expected to be an early adopter of self-driving technology, with numerous tech companies and major truck makers racing to build autonomous trucks… Autonomous trucks could replace as many as 294,000 long-distance drivers, including some of the best jobs in the industry. Many other freight-moving jobs will be created in their place, perhaps even more than will be lost, but these new jobs will be local driving and last-mile delivery jobs that—absent proactive public policy—will likely be misclassified independent contractors and have lower wages and poor working conditions….. Trucking is an extremely competitive sector in which workers often end up absorbing the costs of transitions and inefficiencies. Strong policy leadership is needed to ensure that the benefits of innovation in the industry are shared broadly between technology companies, trucking companies, drivers, and communities.”

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