CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY
Researchers map out CA communities at risk of mass shootings

ECONOMY
Two trends in entrepreneurship help explain rise in inequality
Increases in income inequality may be overstated

EDUCATION
How CA’s Master Plan could be altered to meet changing needs of students, economy
ADHD diagnosis: the connection between month of birth, school enrollment

EMPLOYMENT
How an aging population affects public, private sector pension savings

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT
Under current policies, home energy systems may increase carbon emissions

HEALTH
Study looks at 2015 CA wildfire smoke, impact on lungs, ER visits

HUMAN SERVICES
‘Job Characteristics of Low-Income Hispanic Parents’

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
Old Twitter geolocation data still a threat to privacy

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

https://www.journalacs.org/article/S1072-7515(18)30798-1/fulltext

“A trauma research team has developed a profile of commonalities among communities where mass shootings have occurred. It includes a shortage of mental health professionals, a relative lack of socialization opportunities, higher rates of income inequality, and relatively high housing…. Ironically, study results showed that communities in states with the strictest gun laws had a 53% greater risk of mass shootings…. ‘Our data agrees that stricter gun laws are associated with less overall violent crimes,’
[study author Dr. Markowiak] added, 'It's just that these multiple-shooting events appear to be an exception to that rule.’… However, study researchers identified two types of gun laws that stood out as having a correlation with a lower incidence of multiple shootings: mandatory reporting of mental health records to the National Incident Criminal Background Check System and restrictions on open carry of firearms.” (Science Daily, Oct. 23, 2018).

From Fatherly (Nov. 11, 2018):

**ECONOMY**


https://drive.google.com/file/d/1lnkax3Vz6Ln4awmQsJNTM0mxF4qIP_kk/view

“In the data, there are two trends in entrepreneurship since 1975: the average debt-to-asset ratio among entrepreneurs has increased, and the number of entrepreneurs (the entrepreneurship rate) has fallen. I study how the distribution of wealth changes over time, when these two trends are accounted for in a model. … When the fall in the number of entrepreneurs and the rise in their leverage are accounted for, the model explains more than 90% of the rise in the share of the top 1% and just under half of the rise in the share of the top 0.01% of households between 1975 and 2007.”


https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2017/demo/P60-259.pdf

“Stephen Rose of the Urban Institute (not exactly a right-wing or libertarian think tank) compares recent studies measuring changes in inequality and finds that although inequality has increased the Piketty and Saez (2003) results, which generated a tremendous amount of discussion and research, are very likely over-stated.” (Marginal Revolution, Oct. 9, 2018).
**EDUCATION**


“This report responds to supplemental reporting language contained in the 2017 Budget Act, which directed the Governor’s Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to ‘conduct a review of state policies developed under the Master Plan for Higher Education in California and future workforce needs.’” Among this report’s findings: (1) it is unlikely that California’s system of higher education can meet the needs of today’s students and tomorrow’s workforce; (2) the state and institutions of higher learning need to bring segments and campuses more closely together; (3) demographic, socioeconomic and labor market transformations have changed the face of higher education.

“Attention Deficit–Hyperactivity Disorder and Month of School Enrollment.”

“Rates of diagnosis and treatment of ADHD are higher among children born in August than among children born in September in states with a September 1 cutoff for kindergarten entry…. The results of this study suggest that a child’s age relative to the ages of classmates could affect the likelihood that the child will receive a diagnosis of and treatment for ADHD. We found that among children who were taking ADHD medications, the average duration of treatment among children born in August was significantly longer than that for children born in September, which suggests that the children born in August who received a diagnosis of ADHD because of their August birthdays received more intensive treatment than the average child with ADHD who was born in September.”

**EMPLOYMENT**

*The Future of Saving: The Role of Pension System Design in an Aging World.*

 “[T]his analysis focuses on the interplay between public and private saving, as well as the role of pension system attributes (coverage of the elderly, benefits, and the type of funding) in shaping saving profiles across countries in the coming decades. The findings suggest that differences in countries’ progression along the demographic transition will interact with their pension system characteristics, resulting in differential paths for private and public saving rates. Aggregate saving is influenced by the promise of generous retirement benefit payouts; rapidly aging countries with generous public pension systems could experience a precipitous decline in both public and private saving. The results also suggest that the aging-related decline in private saving could be mitigated by funded defined contribution pension systems.”
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT

https://pubs.acs.org/doi/epdf/10.1021/acs.est.8b03834
(Available from the California Research Bureau)

“Home energy storage systems might save you money, but under current policies, they would also often increase carbon emissions…. If residents use these systems to reduce their electricity bills, the batteries would draw energy from the grid when it is cheapest. And because utilities don't structure how much they charge with the goal of lowering emissions, the cheapest power more often comes from power sources that emit carbon, such as coal. In addition, batteries do not operate at 100% efficiency: as a result, households that use them draw more power from the electric grid than they actually need. For the systems to actually reduce greenhouse gasses, utilities need to change their tariff structures substantially to account for emissions from different power source. They would need to make energy cheaper for consumers when the grid is generating low-carbon electricity, researchers said.” (Science Daily, Dec. 11, 2018).

HEALTH

https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6015400/

“Wood smoke contains some of the same toxic chemicals that city pollution does. While humans have long been around fire, they generally inhale it in small doses over cooking or heat fires. Humans have not, however, evolved to handle prolonged inhalation of caustic air from something like the Paradise blaze…. An extensive study of the 2015 wildfire season in Northern California found that smoke exposure led to increased emergency room visits for adults of all ages, but particularly those over 65 years old. One of the biggest research projects on the subject, the study looked at nearly 1.2 million emergency room visits during the summer of 2015, and found that during smoke-dense periods, there was a statistically significant increase in emergency room visits for heart attack, stroke and respiratory infection.” (New York Times, Nov. 16, 2018).

HUMAN SERVICES


“Many low-income Hispanic parents are employed. In any given month in 2013, we estimate that 61% of low-income U.S.-born Hispanic fathers and 83% of low-income foreign-born Hispanic fathers had a job. In the same year, nearly half of low-income U.S.-born Hispanic mothers had a job, as did 38% of low-income foreign-born Hispanic mothers…. Among low-income Hispanic parents, approximately half work irregular or nonstandard schedules, many do not have access to employer-provided health insurance, and many may face tenuous job security, having been in their jobs for less than one year. Notably, many low-income working parents, including Hispanic parents, report having jobs with multiple stressors.”
Older versions of the official Twitter app used to follow a policy of including precise Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates within the metadata of each tweet. This study uses an algorithmic tool to evaluate the potential for privacy loss caused by this still-publicly available GPS data. The authors caution that even older metadata can easily be used to compromise privacy. "An international group of researchers has developed an algorithmic tool that uses Twitter to automatically predict exactly where you live in a matter of minutes, with more than 90% accuracy. It can also predict where you work, where you pray, and other information you might rather keep private." (Wired, Jan. 10, 2019).