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Contents this week:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT
Gun ownership increase linked to higher domestic homicide rate

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY
Financial abuse of elderly more likely by family than by strangers

ECONOMY
Workers losing jobs prefer to be replaced by automation than by other people

EDUCATION
Task force report recommends restrictions on charter school authorizations
CA bond measures improve achievement among low SES students, but not until later

EMPLOYMENT
In-home care jobs expected to increase substantially, but suffer high turnover

ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT
The carbon footprint of plastics
Evaluating the carbon footprint of dockless e-scooters

HUMAN SERVICES
Food insecurity rates of Klamath River Native American communities worst in U.S.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT


“A higher rate of firearm ownership is associated with a higher rate of domestic violence homicide … but … the same does not hold true for other kinds of gun homicide [such as those involving friends, acquaintances and strangers]. That means that women, who make up most victims of domestic homicide,
are among those most at risk.... The study reaffirms a well-known connection between access to guns and abusive relationships turning deadly, at a time when intimate partner homicides are on the rise. Research has shown that women killed by their partners are more likely to be murdered with a firearm than by all other means combined, and the presence of a gun in domestic violence situations can increase the risk of homicide for women by as much as 500 percent, according to the National Domestic Violence Hotline.” (New York Times, July 22, 2019).

CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY


“Family members were the most frequently identified perpetrators of alleged [elder] abuse at nearly 48% of calls in which relationship could be determined. The most common abuse perpetrated by family was financial abuse (61.8%), followed by emotional abuse (35%), neglect (20.1%), physical abuse (12%) and sexual abuse (0.3%). Of the calls that alleged abuse by a family member, more than 32% reported more than one abuse type.... Elder abuse affects an estimated one in 10 older adults annually, but is often underreported. Aside from its physical, psychological and social impact on victims, their families and society, elder abuse attributes to more than $5.3 billion in U.S. annual health care costs.” (Science Daily, Aug. 15, 2019).

ECONOMY


“Different groups of participants were asked to consider a similar set of scenarios but rate how they felt about it. When the job being lost was someone else's, replacement by a robot induced stronger negative emotions. When the job being lost belonged to the person being asked, the situations reversed, and human replacements produced stronger negative emotions.... When it comes to [automation taking jobs] in general, our concerns about our fellow humans win out, and we're against seeing them lose their jobs to machines. But ... 'when one's own job is at risk ... social comparison processes become more relevant and overshadow prosocial feelings.' [This] has implications about everything from automation and employment policy discussion to how to structure retraining for people who have lost their jobs.” (Ars Technica, Aug. 7, 2019).

EDUCATION


“[T]he statewide task force on charter schools is unanimously recommending that school districts be given more discretion to approve new charter schools by including ‘saturation’ and need for new schools as factors that districts could consider.... More leeway in decision-making on new charter schools was one of four recommendations — reached by consensus — of the California Charter School Policy Task Force, whose 11 members include representatives of charter school organizations, labor unions and organizations representing county offices of education, school administrators and school districts.” The
The report also included some stricter recommendations, agreed on by a majority of the task force, including: a one-year moratorium on the creation of new virtual charter schools, allowing authorizers to “consider fiscal impacts as part of the authorization process,” and limiting the authorization of new charter schools “to local districts with an appeals process that takes place at the County Board of Education only when there was an error by the district governing board.” (EdSource, Jun. 7, 2019).


“Contradictory evidence of the relationship between education funding and student achievement could reflect heterogeneous effects by revenue source or student characteristics. This study examines potential heterogeneous effects of a particular type of local revenue – bond funds for capital investments – on achievement by socioeconomic status. Comparing California school districts within a narrow window on either side of the cutoff of voter support required to pass a general obligation bond measure, this study uses dynamic regression discontinuity models to estimate effects of passing a bond on academic achievement among low- and high-SES students. Results consistently suggest that passing a bond measure increases achievement among low- but not high-SES students. However, these benefits for low-SES students are delayed and emerge 6 years after an election.”

**EMPLOYMENT**

**Shoring Up the Long-Term Care Workforce.** By Kate Bradford. NCSL LegisBrief. Aug. 2019.  

“Nearly 90% of [the elderly population aged 65 and older] prefers to remain in their own homes for as long as possible. More home care jobs are projected to be added than any other single occupation between 2016 and 2026…. Direct care jobs are often characterized as having low pay, poor benefits, and minimal training and advancement opportunities. Such factors can be associated with a high turnover rate … which ranges from 45% to 60%…. Some states and health plans target improved reimbursement and workforce protections such as workers' bill of rights laws. Others focus on training programs for direct care workers to help improve skills and job and consumer satisfaction…. A few states are looking at alternative policies…. Some states have convened stakeholder task forces…. Minnesota launched … a statewide job board that … helps workers find the right employment fit.”

**ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT**

https://www.ciel.org/plasticandclimate/

“The researchers estimate that, by 2030, emissions from the plastic industry will reach 1.34 gigatons per year (equivalent to more than 295 500-megawatt coal power plants), and, by 2050, emissions from plastic production will be 14% of the global remaining carbon budget, in order to keep global temperature rise below 1.5 degrees Celsius. The report concludes with recommendations for governments: The authors encourage ending the production and use of single-use plastic and fostering zero waste, ending construction of new petrochemical infrastructure, and enforcing new targets to curb greenhouse gas emissions from plastic production.” (Pacific Standard, May 17, 2019).

“A new study by researchers at North Carolina State University found the carbon footprint of an e-scooter, over the course of its often short life, is greater than many micro-mobility and public transit advocates may be comfortable with. Because the scooters need to be gathered, recharged and redistributed—usually thanks to some form of fossil-fuel powered vehicle—their green bonafides are greatly reduced, the study found. The research also found that many scooters only have a 12-month to 24-month life cycle, further eating into environmental benefits once their materials and production are considered…. Researchers also took into consideration the carbon footprint of shipping the scooters to the United States from China, where they are generally produced, as well as the electricity used to recharge them. Both of these factors turned out to be negligible when studying the devices’ overall environmental impact.” (Government Technology, Aug. 19, 2019).

HUMAN SERVICES


“The tribes, like the Karuk, who live in the vast, towering forests of the Klamath River Basin … now face food shortages at higher rates than almost anywhere else in the country. While 11.8% of households nationally experience some level of food insecurity, a recent federally funded five-year study found that 92% of the households in the Klamath Basin suffer from some kind of food insecurity. Almost 65% rely on food assistance, compared with 12% nationally…. While the tribes once had unfettered access to millions of acres, over decades, that land has been effectively closed off … by the federal government. Climate change and poor forest management have made the lands that are left less fertile for food sources…. On top of all that, there aren’t as many employment opportunities in remote areas, so all people can afford … are unhealthy commodity foods.” (The New York Times, Aug. 14, 2019).

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