



Studies in the News

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CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

***Mapping Twitter Topic Networks: From Polarized Crowds to Community Clusters.* By Marc A. Smith, et al. Pew Research Center. Feb. 20, 2014. 57 p.**

<http://www.pewinternet.org/2014/02/20/mapping-twitter-topic-networks-from-polarized-crowds-to-community-clusters/>

"Our social media network maps of Twitter have illustrated six different structures of connection around different kinds of topics.... Social media network maps can be useful in understanding the variety of social structures that emerge. Network maps can reveal the structures of the crowd and highlight strategic locations or roles in these webs of connection. By mapping social media network spaces, researchers

and practitioners can learn about the most common and best uses for these communication services.” The authors offer an appendix explaining how to map networks using open source software.

ECONOMY

Tech Trade in the States: A State-by-State Overview of International Trade in Tech Goods.
By Matthew Kazmierczak, et al. TechAmerica Foundation. Feb. 2014. 93 p.
<http://www.techamerica.org/Docs/TechAmerica%20Foundation%20-Tech%20Trade%20in%20the%20States%20Updated%202.10.14.pdf>

“[This report] provides 2012 data on tech trade at the national level and export data for all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The report also provides an estimate to the number of jobs supported by these export activities.... The U.S. tech industry exported \$204 billion goods in 2012, up 1.3% from \$201 billion in 2011.” The U.S. tech industry “exports more technology products to its North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) partners, Mexico and Canada, than any other country in the world.” At the state level, California is the second largest tech exporting state, totaling \$45 billion in 2012, supporting 328,000 jobs.

EDUCATION

Quarterly Report on Household Debt and Credit, February 2014. Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Feb. 2014. 31 p.
http://www.newyorkfed.org/householdcredit/2013-Q4/HHDC_2013Q4.pdf

Student loan debt grew by \$114 billion to \$1.08 trillion in 2013, higher than the rise in credit card debt, which increased by \$13 billion, or auto loans which actually decreased in 2013. The 90+ day delinquency rate on student debit was 11.5%, higher than credit card debt delinquency at 9.5% and auto loan delinquency at 3.4%.

EMPLOYMENT

Union Advantage for Black Workers. By Janelle Jones, et al. Center for Economic and Policy Research. Feb. 2014. 10 p.
<http://www.cepr.net/documents/black-union-2014-02.pdf>

“Since at least the early 1970s, and likely earlier, unionization rates for black workers have been higher than for other racial groups in the United States.... Nevertheless, the share of unionized black workers has been falling almost continuously since the early 1980s, reflecting a trend also seen in the workforce as a whole.... [W]e review the most recent data available to examine the impact of unionization on the wages and benefits paid to black workers. These data show that even after controlling for factors such as age and education level, unionization has a significant positive impact on black workers' wages and benefits.”

ENVIRONMENT

Hydraulic Fracturing & Water Stress: Water Demand by the Numbers. By Monika Freyman. Ceres. Feb. 2014. 85 p.

<http://www.ceres.org/issues/water/shale-energy/shale-and-water-maps/hydraulic-fracturing-water-stress-water-demand-by-the-numbers> (Free registration required)

“The rise of hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling technologies for extracting oil and gas resources has a significant impact on water availability, particularly in already water stressed regions of the country. Ceres’ latest research on this topic ... shines a spotlight on the volumes of water used for hydraulic fracturing by specific companies and puts regional industry water use into the context of local water stress, groundwater depletion and drought.”

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

McCutcheon et al. v. Federal Election Commission. U.S. Supreme Court. 12-536. Apr. 2, 2014. 94 p.

http://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/13pdf/12-536_e1pf.pdf

In a 5-4 decision, the justices struck down limits on aggregate campaign contributions. Individual contributors may contribute the legal maximum to candidates in Congress and for President, without violating a limit on all contributions. However, the federal campaign limits that restrict how much an individual donor can give to any one candidate party committee are still in effect.

HEALTH

Realizing the Dream for Californians Eligible for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA): Demographics and Health Coverage. By Claire D. Brindis, et al. UC Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education. Feb. 2014. 24 p.

http://laborcenter.berkeley.edu/healthcare/DACA_health_coverage.pdf

“While millions of Californians are expected to gain health insurance under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), between three and four million Californians are predicted to remain uninsured. Of these, approximately one million are undocumented immigrants who are not eligible for federal coverage options under the ACA. Included in this group are teens and young adults who are eligible for or have been granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA). California policymakers are currently considering state and local options to expand health coverage to all Californians, including those eligible for DACA. This report describes the demographics and current health coverage of this group.”

HOUSING

Housing Landscape 2014. By Janet Viveiros, et al. Center for Housing Policy. Feb. 2014. 8 p.

<http://www.nhc.org/media/files/Landscape2014.pdf>

Using American Community Survey data from 2009-2012, the authors found that “[f]or millions of households, housing costs account for more than half of the household's monthly income. These cost pressures put a strain on households, leaving too little for other necessities like food, health care, transportation, and child care.” Metro areas in California, Florida and New York experience the greatest affordability challenges. In 2012, California had 4.9 million working households, nearly 1.6 million of which had severe housing cost burden.

HUMAN SERVICES

Characteristics of Families Receiving Multiple Public Benefits. By Sara Edelstein, et al. Urban Institute. Feb. 2014. 13 p.

<http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/413044-characteristics-of-families.pdf>

“Many low-income families with children receive food support (SNAP, WIC, and/or school meals) and health benefits (Medicaid, CHIP, and/or other state programs), and the majority of families that receive one to three benefits are limited to these two categories of benefits. Fewer families receive housing assistance, energy assistance, TANF, SSI, child care subsidies, or transportation assistance. These benefits are rarely received on their own, but mostly as part of a package with four to five benefits. Higher levels of benefit receipt are associated with lower income, earnings, and employment, and greater material hardship, but the relationships are not exact.”

TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

California Commission on Disability Access: Annual Report to the California State Legislature in Compliance with Government Code Sections 8299.07 (a) and 8299.08 (d). California Commission on Disability Access. Feb. 2014. 33 p.

<http://www.cdda.ca.gov/res/docs/pdf/CCDA%202013%20Legislative%20Report%20FINAL.pdf>

This report provides “construction-related physical access violations alleged and complaints filed in state and federal courts.... A total of 9,043 construction-related physical access violations were alleged in the 3,047 state/federal cases and demand letters during the 16-month period from September 2012–December 2013.... The top two ranking alleged violations—loading zones/van access and parking spaces—composed 26% of the total reported violation types.”

VETERANS

Hidden Heroes: America’s Military Caregivers. By Rajeev Ramchand, et al. RAND. Mar. 31, 2014. Report. 292 p.

http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR499.html

Brief. 5 p.:

http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/research_briefs/RB9700/RB9764/RAND_RB9764.pdf

“This report summarizes the results of a study designed to describe the magnitude of military caregiving in the United States today, as well as to identify gaps in the array of programs, policies, and initiatives designed to support military caregivers.” The authors found that post-9/11 military caregivers differ from other caregivers and there are an estimated 5.5 million military caregivers in the United States. The report includes recommendations to ensure military caregivers are provided the support and services needed to serve as effectively as possible.

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