



## Studies in the News

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### **CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT**

***Reducing the Effects of Incarceration on Children and Families.*** By Angela Carter, et al. Center for Poverty Research, University of California, Davis. July 2015. 4 p.

<http://poverty.ucdavis.edu/policy-brief/reducing-effects-incarceration-children-and-families>

“In 2010, an estimated 2.7 million children and one in nine African-American children had an incarcerated parent. Incarceration creates challenges for inmates’ families. Resources that inmates had contributed are removed, while incarceration introduces new expenses. Children with incarcerated fathers have worse educational outcomes and poorer mental health than otherwise comparable children. Employment assistance and less restrictive visitation rules may mitigate the economic and emotional effects incarceration has on families.”

## CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY

***Zeroing In on Place and Race: Youth Disconnection in America's Cities.*** By Kristen Lewis, et al. Social Science Research Council. June 2015. 36 p.

<http://ssrc-static.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/MOA-Zeroing-In-Final.pdf>

Disconnected youth are teenagers and young adults, ages 16 to 24, who are neither in school nor working. One in seven young adults in the United States is defined as disconnected. "Of the ninety-eight major metro areas included in this report—home to two in three Americans—disconnection rates range from under 8% in the Omaha, Nebraska, and Bridgeport, Connecticut, metro areas to over 20% in greater Lakeland, Florida; Bakersfield, California; and Memphis, Tennessee. At the national level, youth disconnection rates for blacks (21.6%), Native Americans (20.3%), and Latinos (16.3%) are markedly higher than rates for Asian Americans (7.9%) or whites (11.3%)."

## ECONOMY

***Aging in Place: Implications for Remodeling.*** By Abbe Will. Joint Center for Housing Studies, Harvard University. June 2015. 41 p.

[http://www.jchs.harvard.edu/sites/jchs.harvard.edu/files/w15-4\\_will\\_1.pdf](http://www.jchs.harvard.edu/sites/jchs.harvard.edu/files/w15-4_will_1.pdf)

As people get older, many choose to "age in place" in their current homes and communities, rather than move to places that may be better suited to their needs. This report looks at changes in home improvement spending behavior of older households from the Department of Housing and Urban Development's American Housing Survey. The report projects that with the retirement of the Baby Boom generation, there will be a future demand-supply gap of homes with the accessibility features needed, which suggests the need for "significant retrofit spending on existing homes to narrow this supply-demand gap."

## EDUCATION

***Who Believes in Me? The Effect of Student-Teacher Demographic Match on Teacher Expectations.*** By Seth Gershenson, et al. Upjohn Institute. Working Paper. 15-231. Sep. 2015. 43 p.

[http://research.upjohn.org/up\\_workingpapers/231/](http://research.upjohn.org/up_workingpapers/231/)

"Teachers are an important source of information for traditionally disadvantaged students. However, little is known about how teachers form expectations and whether they are systematically biased. We investigate whether student-teacher demographic mismatch affects high school teachers' expectations for students' educational attainment. Using a student fixed effects strategy that exploits expectations data from two teachers per student, we find that non-black teachers of black students have significantly lower expectations than do black teachers. These effects are larger for black male students and math teachers. Our findings add to a growing literature on the role of limited information in perpetuating educational attainment gaps."

## EMPLOYMENT

***Manufacturing Job Loss: Trade, Not Productivity, Is the Culprit.*** By Robert E. Scott. Economic Policy Institute. Aug. 11, 2015. 9 p.

<http://s2.epi.org/files/2015/ib402-manufacturing-job-loss.pdf>

"[T]he collapse in demand during the Great Recession and ensuing glacial recovery was responsible for most or all of the 1.4 million net manufacturing jobs lost between 2007 and 2014.... Taken together, steps

to eliminate trade deficits (by ending currency manipulation and unfair trade) and rebuild U.S. infrastructure could easily generate sufficient demand for manufactured products to return most or all of the 5 million manufacturing jobs lost between 2000 and 2014.”

## ENERGY

***Green Goods & Services: The Distribution of Solar Panels & Energy Subsidies in California.*** California Center for Jobs & the Economy. Aug. 2015. 14 p.

<http://centerforjobs.org/news/green-goods-services-the-distribution-of-solar-panels-energy-subsidies-in-california/>

As California considers expanding its alternative energy programs, this report shows that the benefits to date have favored specific legislative districts, income groups and regions. “For the period 2007-2013, about half the solar panels installed in California were in the zip codes with the top 30% of median household income. The bottom 20% received only 7.8%.... The Bay Area has consistently benefited more from these programs than other regions of the state, both in absolute terms and relative to their population size.... In sharp contrast, Los Angeles region has been underrepresented in these programs, containing over 29% of the population but having only 19% of solar panel installations 2007-2013.”

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

***Women of Color in California's Legislature: Increasing, But Still Not Representative.*** By John Cornelison. California Research Bureau. Aug. 2015. 2 p.

<http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/15/S-15-003.pdf>

This analysis traces the paths by California women of color to the Legislature, beginning in 1966 when the first women of color were elected. It provides details about election trends by racial and ethnic groups, as well as by party affiliation. This is the second in the California Research Bureau *Women in Politics* series.

## HEALTH

**“Vaccination Coverage Among Children in Kindergarten—United States, 2014-15 School Year.”** By Rane Seither, et al. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, vol. 64, no. 33 (Aug. 28, 2015) pp. 897-904.

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/wk/mm6433.pdf>

“Nationwide data released Thursday by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show that although California children are immunized at a high level, the state's vaccination rate still lags behind the rest of the country. The nationwide median vaccination coverage for kindergartners for measles, mumps and rubella as well as for diphtheria, tetanus and acellular pertussis, or whooping cough, was about 94% for the 2014-2015 school year. And exemption rates remained very low, with a median of 1.7%, the report shows.... The national rates were calculated using data from 4 million children entering kindergarten in 2014.” (*Los Angeles Times*, Sep. 3, 2015).

## HUMAN SERVICES

***Behind at the Starting Line: Poverty Among Hispanic Infants.*** By Daniel T. Lichter, et al. Carsey Research. Summer 2015. 10 p.

<http://scholars.unh.edu/carsey/251/>

“Births account for a growing share of the Hispanic population increase: nearly 25% of all U.S. births are now to Hispanics.... A disproportionate share of Hispanic infants start life’s race behind the starting line, poor and disadvantaged. This is important because the proportion of all U.S. births that are Hispanic is growing rapidly. The poverty risk is especially high among rural Hispanic infants and those in new destinations. Despite higher poverty risks, Hispanic infants receive less governmental assistance. High Hispanic infant poverty has immediate and long-term consequences for infants and the nation.”

## TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

***Mapping the Digital Divide.*** Council of Economic Advisors. July 2015. 10 p.

[http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/wh\\_digital\\_divide\\_issue\\_brief.pdf](http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/wh_digital_divide_issue_brief.pdf)

“This report examines the state of the digital divide using new data from the Census’ 2013 American Community Survey (ACS), which we link with the most recent version of the National Broadband Map (NBM). The large scale of the ACS allows us to examine Internet use at a level of granularity that was not previously possible. Our most important findings illustrate how the digital divide reflects factors that influence the demand for Internet, such as household income, and also the costs of providing it (e.g. population density).” The report concludes that “[o]verall, the evidence shows that we have made progress [yet]... there is still a substantial distance to go, particularly in our poorest neighborhoods and most rural communities.”

### **About *Studies in the News***

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