

July 2011

## DIVERSITY

### **AMERICA'S CHILDREN: KEY NATIONAL INDICATORS OF WELL-BEING, 2011**

Forum on Child and Family Statistics, July 2011

[http://childstats.gov/pdf/ac2011/ac\\_11.pdf](http://childstats.gov/pdf/ac2011/ac_11.pdf)

The report was compiled by the Federal Interagency Forum on Child and Family Statistics, a working group of 22 federal agencies that collect, analyze, and convey data on issues related to children and families. The report uses the most recently available major federal statistics on children and youth to measure family and social environment, economic circumstances, health care, physical environment and safety, behavior, education, and health.

### **THE MEXICAN-AMERICAN BOOM: BIRTHS OVERTAKE IMMIGRATION**

Pew Hispanic Center, July 14, 2011

<http://pewhispanic.org/reports/report.php?ReportID=144>

Births have overtaken immigration as the main driver of the dynamic growth in the U.S. Hispanic population. This new trend is especially evident among the largest of all Hispanic groups -- Mexican-Americans, according to a new analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data by the Pew Hispanic Center, a project of the Pew Research Center.

### **WEALTH GAPS RISE TO RECORD HIGHS BETWEEN WHITES, BLACKS AND HISPANICS**

Pew Research Center Social & Demographic Trends, July 26, 2011

[http://pewsocialtrends.org/files/2011/07/SDT-Wealth-Report\\_7-26-11\\_FINAL.pdf](http://pewsocialtrends.org/files/2011/07/SDT-Wealth-Report_7-26-11_FINAL.pdf)

Median household wealth among Hispanics fell from \$18,359 in 2005 to \$6,235 in 2009--a 66% decline. This was larger than the decrease for black households (53%) and white households (16%), according to an analysis of newly-available Census Bureau data by the Pew Research Center's Social & Demographic Trends project. Plummeting house values were the principal cause of the erosion in wealth among all groups, but Hispanics were hit hardest by the housing market downturn. In 2009, the typical white household had 18 times more wealth than the typical Hispanic household, by far the largest gap since the government first reported such data in 1984.

## EDUCATION

### **CHARTING NEW TERRITORY: TAPPING CHARTER SCHOOLS TO TURN AROUND THE NATION'S DROPOUT FACTORIES**

Center for American Progress, June 30, 2011

[http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2011/06/pdf/charter\\_schools.pdf](http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2011/06/pdf/charter_schools.pdf)

The president and U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan have set their sights on turning around the nation's 5,000 lowest-performing schools, and they are hoping charter school operators will help shoulder part of the effort.

### **GRADUATE AND FIRST-PROFESSIONAL STUDENTS: WHO THEY ARE AND HOW THEY PAY FOR THEIR EDUCATION: 2007-08**

National Center for Education Statistics, July 26, 2011

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2011/2011174.pdf>

This Statistics in Brief focuses on graduate and first-professional students, exploring the types of programs in which they are enrolled, costs associated with those programs, and how those costs are financed via aid and work.

### **STUDENT TEACHING IN THE UNITED STATES**

National Council on Teacher Quality, July 2011

<http://www.nctq.org/edschoolreports/studentteaching/reports.jsp>

The report examines policies and practices at 134 universities and colleges to answer questions like... "Who is mentoring our future teachers?" "Do student teachers receive the feedback they need to improve?" "Does the experience sufficiently replicate the experience of being a teacher?"

## ELECTIONS

### **ARE AMERICANS READY NOW FOR A MORMON PRESIDENT?**

Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, July 5, 2011

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/2048/polls-are-republicans-ready-for-a-mormon-president-romney-huntsman>

Overall, being a Mormon is hardly an asset for presidential candidates, but it is not a deal-breaker for most Americans. A quarter of Americans say they would be less likely to support a presidential candidate who is Mormon, while 68% say it would not make a difference. For perspective, about the same number say they would be less likely to vote for a candidate who has used marijuana in the past.

### **GOP MAKES BIG GAINS AMONG WHITE VOTERS**

Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, July 22, 2011

<http://pewresearch.org/pubs/2067/2012-electorate-partisan-affiliations-gop-gains-white-voters>

As the country enters into the 2012 presidential election cycle, the electorate's partisan affiliations have shifted significantly since Obama won office nearly three years ago. Notably, the GOP gains have occurred only among white voters.

## **THE HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT AND ELECTIONS REFORM: OVERVIEW AND ISSUES**

Congressional Research Service, June 27, 2011

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/167975.pdf>

Even before the 2000 presidential election had been resolved by the U.S. Supreme Court in December of that year, more than a dozen bills to reform the election process had been introduced in the Congress. Legislative activity continued when the 107th Congress convened the following month, along with the release of various independent reports and studies on election reform. In December 2001, the House passed H.R. 3295, the Help America Vote Act. The Senate passed S.565, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Equal Protection of Voting Rights Act, in early 2002, after adopting 40 amendments. Following conference negotiations, the compromise bill, the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HAVA, P.L. 107-252) was enacted in October.

HAVA imposed a number of requirements on the states with respect to election administration, provided payments to the states to meet the new requirements, created a new independent agency, made changes to improve military and overseas voting, and authorized other election reform activities.

## **THE STATE OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE POLICY: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS AND ISSUES FOR CONGRESS**

Congressional Research Service, July 18, 2011

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/169367.pdf>

For decades, Congress, regulatory agencies, and courts have emphasized the need to reduce potential corruption by providing public disclosure of information about campaign contributions and expenditures. Preventing corruption and enhancing transparency remain prominent themes in campaign finance policy, but what those goals mean and how they should be accomplished appears to be in flux.

## **IMMIGRATION**

### **THE ECONOMIC INTEGRATION OF IMMIGRANTS IN THE UNITED STATES: LONG- AND SHORT-TERM PERSPECTIVES**

Migration Policy Institute, July 2011

<http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/EconomicIntegration.pdf>

The United States has provided excellent economic opportunities for generations of immigrants, who are set to play an increasingly significant role in the US economy in coming decades as more baby boomers retire. Because many immigrants are concentrated in low-wage or low-skill jobs, the 2007-09 economic crisis accentuated their vulnerabilities in the labor market, with a risk that the crisis could prove to be a turning point in their future upward socioeconomic mobility. While historically, in the absence of government integration policies, the workplace has played a key role in immigration integration, it remains unclear if this approach will continue to ensure strong economic integration moving forward.

## **MEXICAN AND CENTRAL AMERICAN IMMIGRANTS IN THE UNITED STATES**

Migration Policy Institute, June 2011

<http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/MexCentAmimmigrants.pdf>

The Mexican and Central American immigrant population in the United States has increased by a factor of 20 since 1970 — a period during which the overall US immigrant population increased four-fold. This report examines the age, educational, and workforce characteristics of immigrants and the second generation from Mexico and Central America, finding that these immigrants are younger, more likely to be male, and more likely to be married with children than the US born or other immigrant groups. A high proportion is unauthorized, with key implications for their economic and social status and the overall immigration debate.

## **SCIENTISTS, MANAGERS, AND TOURISTS: THE CHANGING SHAPE OF EUROPEAN MOBILITY TO THE UNITED STATES**

Migration Policy Institute, July 2011

<http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/EuropeanMigration.pdf>

Once the dominant immigrant stream into the United States, European migration to the country has fallen sharply since World War II, a result of economic, demographic, and policy trends across the Atlantic. Today's migration from European Union Member States is characterized by highly skilled immigrants who are more educated, earn better wages, have greater English proficiency, and are more strongly represented as scientists, professionals, and businesspeople than other immigrant groups. European migration has maintained a relatively low profile in immigration policy debates, however the Europe-favoring Visa Waiver Program has figured prominently into the immigration policy arena because of its relation to enhanced border security.

## **JUSTICE**

### **FACTS ABOUT THE DEATH PENALTY**

Death Penalty Information Center, July 8, 2011

<http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org/documents/FactSheet.pdf>

Between January and the end of June 2011, there were 25 executions in 9 states. During the same time period last year, there were 29 executions. Of the executions this year, 8 were carried out using the drug sodium thiopental, while 17 involved a new drug, pentobarbital. Earlier in 2011, Hospira Inc., the sole U.S. manufacturer of sodium thiopental, announced that it would no longer manufacture the drug, forcing states to search for foreign sources or alternative drugs for their lethal injections. Alabama, Arizona, Mississippi, Ohio, Oklahoma, Texas, and South Carolina have used pentobarbital instead of sodium thiopental in their executions in 2011. Ohio is the only one of those 7 states to use pentobarbital as the sole drug in its lethal-injection process. In the first half of 2011, 18 clemencies have been granted, commuting the defendant's death sentence to life without parole. Fifteen of the commutations were in Illinois, where Governor Pat Quinn signed a bill repealing the state's death penalty. The repeal goes into effect, July 1. Seventy-six percent (76%) of the cases resulting in executions so far this

year involved the murder of at least 1 white victim, even though generally whites are victims of murder less than 50% of the time.

## **LABOR**

### **JOB CREATION IN THE MANUFACTURING REVIVAL**

Congressional Research Service, July 1, 2011

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/167854.pdf>

After a prolonged slump, the U.S. manufacturing sector is showing notable signs of revival. The strengthening of U.S. manufacturing is a subject of intense interest in Congress. Most notably, proponents of support for the manufacturing sector often associate increased manufacturing activity with the creation of jobs for workers without higher education. Evidence suggests, however, that even strong growth in manufacturing output could well have only modest impact on job creation, and is unlikely to reverse the declining demand for workers with low levels of education.

### **LABOR MARKET IN FULL RETREAT**

Economic Policy Institute, July 8, 2011

<http://www.epi.org/publications/entry/7272/>

The June 2011 Employment Situation report by the Bureau of Labor Statistics showed a labor market in retreat. Virtually every single measure was weak: only 18,000 payroll jobs were added, nominal wages fell, unemployment was up in almost all age groups, more than 250,000 workers dropped out of the labor force altogether, and the public sector continued to bleed jobs. Furthermore, a downward revision to last month's data means that this is the second month in a row with job growth at 25,000 or less. This is a remarkable, across-the-board backslide.

### **STEM: GOOD JOBS NOW AND FOR THE FUTURE**

Economics & Statistics Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, July 2011

[http://www.esa.doc.gov/sites/default/files/reports/documents/stemfinalyuly14\\_1.pdf](http://www.esa.doc.gov/sites/default/files/reports/documents/stemfinalyuly14_1.pdf)

U.S. businesses frequently voice concerns over the supply and availability of STEM workers. Over the past 10 years, growth in STEM jobs was three times as fast as growth in non-STEM jobs. STEM workers are also less likely to experience joblessness than their non-STEM counterparts. Science, technology, engineering and mathematics workers play a key role in the sustained growth and stability of the U.S. economy, and are a critical component to helping the U.S. win the future.

### **TWO YEARS OF ECONOMIC RECOVERY: WOMEN LOSE JOBS, MEN FIND THEM**

Pew Social & Demographic Trends, July 6, 2011

[http://pewsocialtrends.org/files/2011/07/Employment-by-Gender\\_FINAL\\_7-6-11.pdf](http://pewsocialtrends.org/files/2011/07/Employment-by-Gender_FINAL_7-6-11.pdf)

The sluggish recovery from the Great Recession has been better for men than for women. From the end of the recession in June 2009 through May 2011, men gained 768,000 jobs and lowered their unemployment rate by 1.1 percentage points to 9.5%. Women, by contrast, lost 218,000 jobs during the same period, and their unemployment rate

increased by 0.2 percentage points to 8.5%, according to the Pew Research Center analysis of Bureau of Labor Statistics data.

### **WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE NEW UNEMPLOYMENT**

Urban Institute, July 19, 2011

<http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412363-what-to-do.pdf>

The unemployment rate has hovered stubbornly around 9 percent since 2009, and the share of the unemployed that had been out of work for more than six months hit an all-time high of 45.5 percent in March 2011. While the gross domestic product has returned to pre-recession levels, jobs have not — and with federal stimulus benefits expiring, many more Americans may fall into poverty.

### **MEDIA**

#### **ASSESSING A NEW LANDSCAPE IN JOURNALISM**

Project for Excellence in Journalism, July 18, 2011

[http://www.journalism.org/analysis\\_report/non\\_profit\\_news\\_1](http://www.journalism.org/analysis_report/non_profit_news_1)

As traditional newsrooms have shrunk, a group of institutions and funders motivated by something other than profit are entering the journalism arena. This distinguishes them from the commercial news institutions that dominated the 20th century, whose primary sources of revenue -- advertising and circulation -- were self-evident.

Who are these new players in journalism? Are these sites delivering, as they generally purport to be, independent and disinterested news reporting? Or are some of them more political and ideological in their reporting? How can audiences assess this for themselves? In short, what role are these operations playing in the changing ecosystem of news?

### **POLITICS**

#### **WAR POWERS RESOLUTION: PRESIDENTIAL COMPLIANCE**

Congressional Research Service, June 24, 2011

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/natsec/RL33532.pdf>

Two separate but closely related issues confront Congress each time the President introduces armed forces into a situation abroad that conceivably could lead to their involvement in hostilities. One issue concerns the division of war powers between the President and Congress, whether the use of armed forces falls within the purview of the congressional power to declare war and the War Powers Resolution (WPR). The other issue is whether or not Congress concurs in the wisdom of the action.

### **POVERTY**

#### **BUILDING A STRONGER REGIONAL SAFETY NET: PHILANTHROPY'S ROLE**

Brookings Institution, July 21, 2011

[http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2011/0721\\_philanthropy\\_reckhow\\_weir.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2011/0721_philanthropy_reckhow_weir.pdf)

The growth of suburban poverty over the past two decades raises questions about the ability of nonprofit organizations to adapt to this relatively new geography of metropolitan poverty. These organizations play multiple roles, including providing basic safety net services, connecting residents to new opportunities, and serving as advocates (and sometimes as organizers) for low-income communities.

## **URBAN ISSUES**

### **THE STATE OF METROPOLITAN AMERICA: SUBURBS AND THE 2010 CENSUS**

Brookings Institution, July 14, 2011

[http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/speeches/2011/0714\\_census\\_suburbs\\_berube/0714\\_census\\_suburbs\\_presentation.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/speeches/2011/0714_census_suburbs_berube/0714_census_suburbs_presentation.pdf)

During a conference exploring the 2010 Census and the country's suburbs, Alan Berube delivered a presentation on the demographic convergence between cities and suburbs within metropolitan areas.

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<http://france.usembassy.gov/web-alert.html>