

June 2011

DIVERSITY

THE UNEVEN AGING AND "YOUNGING" OF AMERICA: STATE AND METROPOLITAN TRENDS IN THE 2010 CENSUS

Brookings Institution, June 28, 2011

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2011/0628_census_frey/0628_census_aging_frey.pdf

America is beginning to show its age as the baby boom generation advances toward full-fledged senior-hood. But the pace of this aging will vary widely across the national landscape due to noticeable geographic shifts in the younger population, with implications for health care, transportation, and housing, and possible impacts upon our ability to forge societal consensus.

EDUCATION

THE CONDITION OF EDUCATION 2011

National Center for Education Statistics, May 26, 2011

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2011/2011033.pdf>

The Condition of Education 2011 summarizes important developments and trends in education using the latest available data. The report presents 50 indicators on the status and condition of education, in addition to a closer look at postsecondary education by institutional level and control. The indicators represent a consensus of professional judgment on the most significant national measures of the condition and progress of education for which accurate data are available.

CRIME, VIOLENCE, DISCIPLINE, AND SAFETY IN U.S. PUBLIC SCHOOLS: FINDINGS FROM THE SCHOOL SURVEY ON CRIME AND SAFETY: 2009–10

National Center for Education Statistics, May 31, 2011

<http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2011/2011320.pdf>

This report presents findings on crime and violence in U.S. public schools, using data from the 2009–10 School Survey on Crime and Safety (SSOCS:2010). First administered in school year 1999–2000 and repeated in school years 2003–04, 2005–06, 2007–08, and 2009–10, SSOCS provides information on school crime-related topics from the perspective of schools.

ELECTIONS

EVALUATING CANDIDATE PERFORMANCE IN THE NEW HAMPSHIRE REPUBLICAN DEBATE

Brookings Institution, June 14, 2011

http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2011/0614_republican_debate_west.aspx

When 300 reporters show up to cover a political event, you know it is important. This is what happened last night in New Hampshire at the first GOP primary debate. The extraordinary media presence represents a sign of the press interest in the presidential campaign and recognition that the New Hampshire debate signals the informal start of the Republican nominating process.

REPUBLICAN CANDIDATES STIR LITTLE ENTHUSIASM

Pew Research Center for People and the Press, June 2nd, 2011

<http://people-press.org/files/legacy-pdf/06-02-11%202012%20Campaign%20Release.pdf>

The emerging Republican presidential field draws tepid ratings. Just a quarter of voters (25%) have an excellent or good impression of the possible GOP candidates, and a separate survey conducted jointly with The Washington Post finds that negative descriptions of the field far outnumber positive ones. Asked for a single word to describe the GOP field, the top response is “unimpressed.”

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

Congressional Research Service, June 7, 2011

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/166829.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.

IMMIGRATION

THE GEOGRAPHY OF IMMIGRANT SKILLS: EDUCATIONAL PROFILES OF METROPOLITAN AREAS

Brookings Institution, June 9, 2011

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2011/06_immigrants_singer/06_immigrants_singer.pdf

Since Congress last debated comprehensive immigration reform in 2007, the United States has experienced the Great Recession and now faces a slow recovery. Throughout, the highly charged public debate on immigration has focused on illegal immigration and its costs. Often lost in this discussion is the vital role of immigrants in the U.S. labor market.

STATE EFFORTS TO DETER UNAUTHORIZED ALIENS: LEGAL ANALYSIS OF ARIZONA'S S.B. 1070

Congressional Research Service, June 7, 2011

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/166827.pdf>

On April 23, 2010, Arizona enacted S.B. 1070, which is designed to discourage and deter the entry or presence of aliens who lack lawful status under federal immigration law. Potentially sweeping in effect, the measure requires state and local law enforcement officials to facilitate the detection of unauthorized aliens in their daily enforcement activities. The measure also establishes criminal penalties under state law, in addition to those already imposed under federal law, for alien smuggling offenses and failure to carry or complete alien registration documents. Further, it makes it a crime under Arizona law for an unauthorized alien to apply for or perform work in the state, either as an employee or an independent contractor.

JUSTICE

HATE CRIME, 2003-2009

Bureau of Justice Statistics, June 16, 2011

<http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/pdf/hc0309.pdf>

This report examines the victim's suspicions about the type of bias that motivated the crime and the evidence that suggests the crime was motivated by hate. It compares hate crime victimizations to non hate crime victimizations, with detailed information about the type of crime, whether the incident was reported to the police, and characteristics of the incident, offender, and victim. In nearly 90% of hate crime victimizations occurring between 2003 and 2009, the victim suspected the offender was motivated by racial or ethnic prejudice or both.

STRUCK BY LIGHTNING: THE CONTINUING ARBITRARINESS OF THE DEATH PENALTY THIRTY-FIVE YEARS AFTER ITS RE-INSTALEMENT IN 1976

Death Penalty Information Center, July 2011

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

The report shows that despite the changes to sentencing schemes approved by the U.S. Supreme Court on July 2, 1976, race, geography, money and other factors continue to make the implementation of the death penalty arbitrary and unfair. A majority of the nine Justices who served on the Supreme Court in 1976 when the death penalty was approved eventually concluded the experiment had failed. The report concludes, "Thirty-five years of experience have taught the futility of trying to fix this system. Many of those who favored the death penalty in the abstract have come to view its practice very differently. They have reached the conclusion that if society's ultimate punishment cannot be applied fairly, it should not be applied at all."

MEDIA

TEN WAYS SOCIAL MEDIA CAN IMPROVE CAMPAIGN ENGAGEMENT AND REINVIGORATE AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

Brookings Institutions, June 28, 2011

http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2011/0628_social_media_west.aspx

Social media are the ultimate in disruptive technology. They change information delivery, business organization, online content, news coverage, and the manner in which individuals process new developments. As shown during the 2008 campaign, these digital tools represented a textbook example of voter mobilization and electoral impact. Using social networking outreach tools such as Facebook, MySpace, YouTube, and Twitter, a number of Democratic and Republican candidates raised money, identified supporters, built electoral coalitions, and brought people in closer touch with the electoral process.

TWITTER UPDATE 2011

Pew Internet and American Life Project, June 1st, 2011

<http://www.pewinternet.org/Reports/2011/Twitter-Update-2011.aspx>

13% of online adults use the status update service Twitter, which represents a significant increase from the 8% of online adults who identified themselves as Twitter users in November 2010. 95% of Twitter users own a mobile phone.

POLITICS

MEMBERSHIP OF THE 112TH CONGRESS: A PROFILE

Congressional Research Service, June 1st, 2011

<http://fpc.state.gov/documents/organization/166794.pdf>

This report presents a profile of the membership of the 112th Congress (2011-2012). Statistical information is included on selected characteristics of Members, including data on party affiliation, average age, occupation, education, length of congressional service, religious affiliation, gender, ethnicity, foreign births, and military service.

All previous web alerts can be found at:
<http://france.usembassy.gov/web-alert.html>