



Studies in the News for



Children and Families Commission

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Introduction to Studies in the News

Studies in the News: Children and Family Supplement is a service provided to the First 5 California Children and Families Commission by the California State Library. The service features weekly lists of current articles focusing on Children and Family policy. Prior lists can be viewed from the California State Library's Web site at www.library.ca.gov/CRB/SITN.cfm.

How to Obtain Materials Listed in SITN:

- When available on the Internet, the URL for the full-text of each item is provided.
- California State Employees may contact the State Information & Reference Center (916-654-0206; csisirc@library.ca.gov).
- All other interested individuals should contact their local library - the items may be available there, or may be borrowed by your local library on your behalf.

The following studies are currently on hand:

IMPROVED CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Teacher Education and PK Outcomes: Are We Asking the Right Questions? By Kimber Bogard and others, Foundation for Child Development. (Foundation for Child Development, New York, New York) [2007] 16 p.

[A “paper from Kimber Bogard, Fasaha Traylor and Ruby Takanishi at the Foundation for Child Development questions why some research shows little or no consistent relationship between teacher education and pre-K children's outcomes and points to reasons why that may be so. Among its points: It takes more to determine the impact of teacher education on children's progress than just comparing degrees with child outcomes. The paper... also contains the authors' recommendations....” NIEER Online Newsletter (September 14, 2007.)]
[Request #S07-109-899]

Full text at: [www.fcd-us.org/usr doc/ECRQ Teacher Prep & Child Outcomes.pdf](http://www.fcd-us.org/usr_doc/ECRQ_Teacher_Prep_&_Child_Outcomes.pdf)

Investing in Children. By C. Eugene Steuerle and others. (The Urban Institute, Washington, DC) [September 2007] 26 p.

[“According to this Urban Institute report, the Federal investment in children is likely to decline markedly within the next decade. The share of the federal budget for programs that enhance kids' future productivity or income is forecast to drop from 1.6 percent of

the gross domestic product in 2006 to 1.3 percent by 2017 under current policies.” CFK Weekly (September 19, 2007.)]
[Request #S07-109-900]

Full text at: www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411539_investing_in_children.pdf

Losing Ground? Federal Investments in Children Will Shrink Over the Next Decade if Present Policies Continue. By C. Eugene Steuerle and others. Issue Brief No. 1. (The Urban Institute, Washington, DC) [September 2007] 6 p.

[“Between 2006 and 2017, the share of the budget pie that the federal government will invest in children is projected to decline by 14 to 29 percent. Forecasts of federal government spending indicate that over the same period annual domestic spending will rise by approximately \$650 billion in real dollar terms, but investments in children will garner nearly none of this increase.”]
[Request #S07-109-901]

Full text at: www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411540_losing_ground.pdf

Tracking Services for Infants, Toddlers and Their Families: A Look at Federal Early Childhood Programs and the Roles of State and Local Governments. By the Zero to Three Policy Center. (Zero to Three, Washington, DC) August 2007. 21 p.

[“The Zero to Three Policy Center... published a chart entitled ‘Tracking Services for Infants, Toddlers and their Families and the Roles of State and Local Governments.’ The chart provides a summary of the primary federal programs currently focused on serving very young children.” Natural Resources (September 26, 2007).]
[Request #S07-109-902]

Full text at: www.zerotothree.org/site/DocServer/FedITProgramsAug07.pdf?docID=4041

Research on Early Childhood Education Outcomes. By Public Policy Forum. (The Forum, Milwaukee, Wisconsin) [July 2007] Interactive chart.

[“The Public Policy Forum in Wisconsin, a nonpartisan ‘government watchdog,’ has created an online chart that summarizes the findings of more than 20 early childhood education studies. Longitudinal studies, reviews and meta-analyses, and cross-sectional analyses were examined for outcomes in cognition, behavior, sociability, education, external benefits to society, and benefit-cost ratio.” Natural Resources (September 19, 2007).]
[Request #S07-109-903]

Full text at: www.publicpolicyforum.org/Matrix.htm

“What Happened to Kindergarten?” By Jen Scott Curwood. IN: Instructor, vol. 117, no. 1 (August 2007) pp. 28-34.

[“Are kids hit with academics too fast, too soon? Experts say the pressure is on. Find out what students lose as a result. Plus, there’s a new grade in town: ‘The Rise of Transitional Kindergarten.’” NOTE: What Happened to Kindergarten... is available for loan.]

[Request #S07-109-904]

IMPROVED FAMILY FUNCTIONING

The Palm Beach County Longitudinal Study: Second Annual Report. By Julie Spielberger and others. (Chapin Hall Center for Children, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois) 2007.

[“Over several years, Chapin Hall researchers will evaluate a system of prevention and early intervention services in Palm Beach County, Florida, that aims to promote and support the healthy development and school readiness of children from birth to 8 years of age. The findings of the second-year evaluation of the system show which family characteristics are related to service use and discuss challenges such as keeping families involved in services over time.” News from Chapin Hall (September 20, 2007.)]

[Request #S07-109-905]

Executive Summary: 17 p.

www.chapinhall.org/content_director.aspx?arid=1462&afid=397&dt=1

Full Report: 188 p.

www.chapinhall.org/content_director.aspx?arid=1462&afid=396&dt=1

Basic Facts About Low-Income Children. By Ayana Douglas-Hall and Michelle Chau. (National Center for Children in Poverty, Columbia University, New York, New York) September 2007. 4 p.

[“We’ve updated NCCP’s most popular fact sheets, ‘Basic Facts About Low-Income Children,’ with the most recent Census data. The fact sheets track U.S. children who live in low-income families by age: birth to age 18, birth to age 6, and birth to age 3.”

National Center for Children in Poverty: Update (September 20, 2007.)]

[Request #S07-109-906]

Birth to Age Eighteen: 4 p. http://www.nccp.org/publications/pub_762.html

Birth to Age Six: 4 p. http://nccp.org/publications/pdf/text_764.pdf

Birth to Age Three: 4 p. http://nccp.org/publications/pdf/text_765.pdf

Low-Income Children in the United States: National and State Trend Data, 1996-2006. By Michelle Chau and Ayana Douglas-Hall. (National Center for Children in Poverty, Columbia University, New York, New York) September 2007. 58 p.

[“After nearly a decade of decline, the number of children living in low-income families has increased significantly since 2000. This data book provides national and 50-state trend data on the characteristics of low-income children over the past decade: parental education, parental employment, marital status, family structure, race and ethnicity, age distribution, parental nativity, home ownership, residential mobility, type of residential area, and region of residence.”]

[Request #S07-109-907]

Full Report: http://nccp.org/publications/pdf/text_761.pdf

Demographics of Low-Income Children: (interactive website)

http://nccp.org/profiles/index_6.html

50-State Demographics Wizard: (interactive website)

<http://nccp.org/tools/demographics/>

Neighborhood Support Index. By Britt Wilkenfeld and others. **Child Trends Fact Sheet. Publication No. 2007-28.** (Child Trends, Washington, DC) September 2007. 3 p.

[“A new Child Trends fact sheet explores the connection between neighborhood quality and child well-being and creates a Neighborhood Support Index based on parent perceptions of support from neighbors. The fact sheet includes a state-by-state listing of the proportion of children living in the most supportive neighborhoods. Among the findings: - Thirteen percent of children in the U.S. reside in neighborhoods perceived by parents as most supportive and 62 percent of children live in neighborhoods with moderately high support from neighbors. - Twenty-six percent of children live in neighborhoods perceived by parents to be the least supportive or those with moderately low support. - States located in the Midwest and Northeast have higher proportions of children living in the most supportive neighborhoods.” Child Trends E-Newsletter (September 19, 2007.)]

[Request #S07-109-908]

Full text at:

www.childtrends.org/Files/Child_Trends-2007_09_18_FS_NeighborhoodIndex.pdf

Next Generation of Antipoverty Policies. [Issue Theme]. IN: Future of Children, vol. 17, no. 2 (Fall 2007) 202 p.

[“The volume focuses on eight policy proposals for reducing poverty in the U.S.... The volume concludes that a combination of work requirements and social welfare policies are the best approach to reducing poverty. According to the eleven leading scholars who contributed to the journal these strategies should be focused on both long term and short term poverty alleviation. The authors stress four short term policies ranging from supplementing the earnings of low-wage workers, strengthening work incentives for fathers, to providing good child care and health insurance to children and families. However, they note that policies aimed at reducing poverty in the long term are equally important. The authors propose four long term initiatives varying from reducing non-marital births, to increasing preschool and public education, to providing support to chronically poor mothers. These long term priorities will boost the development of poor children and fight poverty in the long run.

Reducing poverty is by no means an impossible task. Editors Ron Haskins and Isabel Sawhill argue in the introduction that through a combination of short term and long term policies that focus on both providing government support to families and increasing work incentives, we can address inequality today and produce numerous benefits for the future.”]

[Request #S07-109-909]

Full text at: www.futureofchildren.org/usr_doc/Poverty_07_02.pdf

Executive Summary: 3 p.

www.futureofchildren.org/pubs-info3133/pubs-info.htm?doc_id=522738

Policy Brief – “Fighting Poverty through Incentives and Work Mandates for Young Men”: 8 p.

www.futureofchildren.org/usr_doc/FOC_Brief_Fall07.pdf

IMPROVED HEALTH

Addressing the Needs of Young Children in Child Welfare: Part C - Early Intervention Services. By Child Welfare Information Gateway. (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC) May 2007. 16 p.

[“The Part C referral provisions in the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA) are designed to help children under age 3 involved in substantiated cases of abuse or neglect. The provisions connect child welfare staff to early intervention service providers who can assist in assessment, service delivery and permanency planning. This

Children's Bureau bulletin looks at how states are implementing the new referral provisions and offers lessons learned.” CFK Weekly (September 19, 2007.)
[Request #S07-109-910]

Full text at: www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/partc.pdf

“Healthy Steps for Young Children: Sustained Results at 5.5 Years.” By Cynthia S. Minkovitz and others. IN: Pediatrics, vol. 120, no. 3 (September 2007) pp. e658-e668.

[“A low-cost program designed to enhance the delivery of childhood behavioral and developmental services was found to have lasting benefits on quality of care for young families and other positive parenting behaviors more than two years post intervention, according to a Commonwealth Fund-supported study.... Healthy Steps for Young Children is a universal, practice-based intervention that incorporates developmental specialists and enhanced developmental services into pediatric care in the first three years of life.... The researchers conducted computer-assisted telephone interviews with mothers when participating children turned age 5½.... The responses indicated that the effects of Healthy Steps were sustained in the following areas: parents’ experiences seeking health care for their child, parents’ responses to their child’s misbehavior, encouragement of daily reading, and perceptions of behavior. Parental discipline practices, overall, were more favorable among the families participating in Healthy Steps.” In the Literature, Commonwealth Fund Publication No. 1058. (September 2007).]

[Request #S07-109-911]

Full text at: <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/reprint/120/3/e658>

Childhood Obesity: Harnessing the Power of Public and Private Partnerships. By Sarath Malepati and others. (Association of State and Territorial Health Officials, Arlington, Virginia and National Institute for Health Care Management Foundation, Washington, DC) August 2007. 28 p.

[“In just two decades, the number of children and adolescents in the U.S. who are either overweight or obese has tripled. The recent rise in childhood obesity is due largely to complex changes occurring in the social and physical environments of children. Reversing the trend in childhood obesity requires engaging stakeholders who can improve the quality of these environments in successful collaborations.... The purpose of this report is to describe leading collaborations between state health agencies and private health plans in addressing childhood obesity. The report profiles three distinct cases of such partnerships and briefly discusses a fourth case involving different, but related public and private collaborators.”]

[Request #S07-109-912]

Full text at: www.nihcm.org/pdf/FINAL_report_CDC_CO.pdf

IMPROVED SYSTEMS OF CARE

Keeping Children Safe When Their Parents are Arrested: Local Approaches That Work. By Ginny Puddefoot and Lisa K. Foster. CRB 07-006. (California Research Bureau, California State Library, Sacramento, California) July 2007. 98 p.

[“It is unlikely that anyone would disagree that children need to be kept safe and well cared for when their parents are arrested. Yet research by the California Research Bureau (CRB) and others has confirmed that children are often overlooked at an arrest scene. In extreme cases, children have been left unsupervised and alone to fend for themselves and their siblings. They are traumatized not only by the parental arrest but also by the impact on their immediate circumstances and long-term care.

A coordinated response involving law enforcement and child welfare services is an effective way to ensure that children are kept safe when their parents are arrested. Yet numerous professional, organizational, financial and legal challenges make developing such a coordinated response difficult. Nevertheless, several jurisdictions in California have initiated formal protocols and working agreements that not only benefit children but also make the work of law enforcement easier and may reduce costs to child welfare services.”]

[Request #S07-109-913]

Full text at: www.library.ca.gov/crb/07/07-006.pdf

STUDIES TO COME

[The following studies, reports, and documents have not yet arrived. California State Employees may place requests, and copies will be provided when the material arrives. All other interested individuals should contact their local library - the items may be available there, or may be borrowed by your local library on your behalf.]

IMPROVED HEALTH

“Deaths and Injuries Attributed to Infant Crib Bumper Pads.” By Bradley T. Thach and others. IN: *Journal of Pediatrics*, vol. 151, no. 3 (September 2007) pp. 271-274.

[“Although bumper pads are theoretically designed to prevent injury to a baby while in the crib or bassinet, the risk of accidental death or injury to an infant from using them outweighs their possible benefits, according to a new study by pediatric researchers at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. In the study... the researchers reviewed three U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission databases for deaths related to crib bumpers and crib-related injuries from 1985-2005. They found 27 accidental deaths reported by authorities of children from 1 month old to 2 years old that were attributed to suffocation or strangulation by bumper pads or their ties. They also found 25 non-fatal injuries in infants

attributed to bumper pads. Of the deaths in which there was a formal investigation, 11 infants likely suffocated when their face rested against the bumper pad, 13 infants died from being wedged between the bumper pad and another object and three infants died from strangulation by a bumper tie. 'Many infants lack the motor development needed to free themselves when they become wedged between the bumper pad and another surface,' said Bradley Thach, M.D., professor of pediatrics and staff physician at St. Louis Children's Hospital who researches infant apnea and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. 'They are likely to suffocate because they are rebreathing expired air or their nose and mouth are compressed.' Thach said both soft or firm bumper pads pose risks. 'If the pads are too soft, the baby's nose or face can get pressed up against it, and the baby suffocates,' he said. 'If they are too firm, the baby can climb up on the pads and fall out of the crib.'" Washington University School of Medicine (September 18, 2007). NOTE: Deaths and Injuries Attributed to... will be available for loan.]

[Request #S07-109-914]

CONFERENCES AND FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Pre-K Now 2007 National Satellite Conference, "Raising the Profile of Pre-K." October 17, 2007.

["On October 17th, Pre-K Now will bring the best strategies and biggest names in the pre-k movement to conference sites across the nation - via satellite! Free online registration is now open for local viewing sites participating in Pre-K Now's 2007 national conference broadcast, 'Raising the Profile of Pre-K.' This is your chance to connect with thousands of pre-k advocates and an all-star lineup of federal, state, and local pre-k leaders including: New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn; U.S. Sen. Robert Casey (PA); U.S. Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (NY); U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney (NY); U.S. Rep. Mazie Hirono (HI); and State Rep. Harry Moberly (KY)."]

For more information on the conference and conference viewing sites:

www.preknow.com/advocate/conference2007/index.cfm

Intercultural Harmony Program Grants. Laura Jane Musser Fund, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Application deadline: October 10, 2007.

["The Intercultural Harmony Program of the Laura Jane Musser Fund supports projects that promote understanding and cooperation between groups and citizens. Projects can be carried out in the arts, community service and youth activities." CFK Weekly (September 26, 2007).]

For more information: www.musserfund.org/harmony.php