

California Research Bureau

California State Library

Studies in the News

October 1907 “*Great Fleet Bound Hither*: Enormous shipping activity is only a foretaste of what the future has in store. Vessels from far over sea are bringing big cargoes. Merchant ships from many parts of the world are headed this way laden with goods of every conceivable description. In addition to the usual run of coasters with passengers and freight, there will be sailing ships and steamers from European ports, a steamer from the Orient, oil-tank steamers, and various other craft, including more than a score of schooners.” *Los Angeles Times* October 6, 1907, page III.

1907 The big German sailing ship R.C. Rickmers, Capt. Walsen, arrived tonight, 103 days out from Hamburg. Her cargo is 30,000 barrels of cement, consigned to James Maynard, Jr. of Los Angeles. The R.C. Rickmers is the biggest and fastest sailing ship afloat. She is 441 feet long. She weighs 3350 tons and has a carrying capacity of 8000 tons. Her complement, besides the captain, is two mates and fifty-nine seamen. The height from the deck to the truck of the mainmast is 177 feet and her main yard is 100 feet wide. She carries 50,000 square feet of canvas and has steel masts.” *Los Angeles Times*. July 23, 1907, pg. III10

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Introduction to Studies in the News

Studies in the News is a current compilation of items significant to the Legislature and Governor's Office. It is created weekly by the State Library's [California Research Bureau](#) to supplement the public policy debate in California. To help share the latest information with state policymakers, these reading lists are now being made accessible through the State Library's website. This week's list of current articles in various public policy areas is presented below. Prior lists can be viewed from the California State Library's Web site at www.library.ca.gov/sitn/crb

- When available, the URL for the full text of each item is provided.
- California State Employees may contact the State Information & Reference Center (916-654-0206; cslsirc@library.ca.gov) with the SITN issue number and the item number [S#].
- 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:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

CORRECTIONAL HEALTH CARE

Analysis of CDCR Death Reviews 2006. By Kent Imai, Consultant, California Prison Health Care Receivership. (The Receivership, San Jose, California) August 20, 2007.

["As many as one in six deaths of prison inmates last year might have been preventable, according to a study of medical care in 32 state lockups that will be used to help rebuild the troubled system.... The report... revealed a broad pattern of delays in diagnosis, poor inmate access to doctors and tests, botched handling of medical records, and failure of medical staff to recognize and treat dangerous conditions... 'The leading cause of [preventable] death being asthma is unconscionable, and it is evidence of systemic problems and problems with individual clinical judgments," receiver Sillen said in an interview." Los Angeles Times (September 20, 2007) 1.]

[Request #S07-114-762]

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Report. 11 p.

<http://www.cprinc.org/docs/resources/AnalysisOfCDCRDeathReviews2006.pdf>

Receiver Letter. 3 p.

http://www.cprinc.org/docs/resources/LetterFromReceiverVol2No4_091907.pdf

Medical cause of death in state prisons

<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/abstract/mcdsp04.htm>

CRIME RATES

Employment, Wages and Public Safety. By Aliya Maseelall and others, Justice Policy Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) October 1, 2007. 12 p.

http://www.justicepolicy.org/images/upload/07_10_REP_EmploymentAndPublicSafety_AC.pdf

["Research has shown a relationship between employment, wages and crime rates and a relationship between the economic health of a community and incarceration rates. The impact of policies related to employment and wages is concentrated among people of color, who are more likely to experience unemployment, hold lower-paying jobs and be incarcerated.... This research brief will summarize recent findings on what is known about unemployment and wages as both relate to crime trends and public safety."]

[Request #S07-114-931]

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IDENTITY THEFT

SSNs in the Private Sector: Comment, Project No. PO75414. By the Consumer's Union. (The Union, Yonkers, New York) September 5, 2007. 12 p.

<http://www.consumersunion.org/pdf/RestrictSSNs.pdf>

["Americans are concerned about the widespread use of Social Security numbers for identification purposes that potentially exposes them to identity theft. The poll by also found that some 89 percent of respondents would support federal and state action to restrict use of the numbers." Forbes (September 9, 2007) 1.]

[Request #S07-114-770]

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ECONOMY

CORPORATIONS

UC Davis Study of California Women Business Leaders: A Census of Women Directors and Executive Officers. By Katrina Ellis and Donald Palmer, UC Davis Graduate School of Management. (The School, Davis, California) October 16, 2007. 49 p.

http://www.gsm.ucdavis.edu/uploadedFiles/Faculty/Latest_Research/UCDavisWomenStudy2007.pdf

["The results of the study show a marked lack of progress. Consider the findings: women hold only 10 percent of board seats and executive officer positions at the 400 largest companies; only 87 of the 400 firms have two or more women executives; and three percent have a woman serving as chief executive officer." Sacramento Bee (October 16, 2007) 1.]

[Request #S07-114-984]

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COST OF LIVING

Making Ends Meet: How Much Does It Cost to Raise a Family in California? By Michael Snively and others, California Budget Project. (The Project, Sacramento, California) October 2007. 28 p.

http://www.cbp.org/pdfs/2007/0710_mem_003.pdf

["California families must earn far more than the minimum wage and in some cases as much or more than the median hourly income just to keep up with the bare-bones expenses of living. A family of four with two working parents needs a yearly income of \$72,343 just to cover such costs as housing, medical care, transportation and food....That figure doesn't even include putting away savings for retirement or college, or extras such as cable television, an Internet connection or vacations." Sacramento Bee (October 17, 2007) 1.]

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EDUCATION

ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT

The Proficiency Illusion. By John Cronin and others, Thomas B. Fordham Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) October 2007.

["The random and sometimes erratic nature of state proficiency standards makes for an assessment system that is 'slipshod,' obscure, and potentially unreliable, contends an analysis of the testing benchmarks set by 26 states. The range of expectations -- 3rd grade reading proficiency can mean performing at the 6th percentile on one state's test, but at the 62nd on another's -- spells 'big trouble' for standards-based improvement efforts and the No Child Left Behind Act.... The report reinforces growing concerns that, despite the federal mandates and the improved reporting of student-achievement data under the NCLB law, no common yardstick exists for comparing those school improvement gains across states." Education Week (October 10, 2007) 1.]

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Report. 238 p.

http://www.edexcellence.net/doc/The_Proficiency_Illusion.pdf

Executive Summary. 5 p.

http://www.edexcellence.net/doc/Proficiency_Exec.pdf

California Report. 7 p.

http://edexcellence.net/doc/proficiency_states/California.pdf

HIGHER EDUCATION

Trends in College Pricing: 2007. AND: Trends in Student Aid: 2007. By Sandy Baum and Jennifer Ma, College Board. (The Board, Washington, DC) October 2007.

"California's two public university systems raised student fees this year well above the national average for state-supported campuses. The 10-campus University of California system increased the cost for undergraduates by 9.7 percent to about \$7,494 this year, and the 23 campuses of the California State University system raised fees by 10 percent to about \$3,521 annually. The figures do not include expenses such as room, meals and books. The national average increase was 6.6 percent - to an average of \$6,185 this school year. The national inflation rate, meanwhile, was only 1.96 percent." San Francisco Chronicle (October 23, 2007) 1.]

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Trends in College Pricing. 28 p.

http://www.collegeboard.com/prod_downloads/about/news_info/trends/trends_pricing_07.pdf

Trends in Student Aid. 28 p

http://www.collegeboard.com/prod_downloads/about/news_info/trends/trends_aid_07.pdf

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Policies To Promote Adult Education And Postsecondary Alignment. By Julie Strawn, Center for Law and Social Policy. Prepared for the National Commission on Adult Literacy. (The Commission, Owensboro, Kentucky) September 28, 2007. 37 p.

<http://www.nationalcommissiononadulthoodliteracy.org/content/strawnpolicybrief.pdf>

["This brief is focused on 'helping adults with lower skills and/or limited English proficiency earn postsecondary credentials that open doors to family-supporting jobs. It examines the obstacles to moving toward this goal – with major attention to the lack of alignment between federal and state adult education efforts, job training services, and postsecondary education policies. It also draws attention to the financial, personal, and family challenges that prevent adults from seeking and completing programs. Numerous policy and action recommendations are given."]

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EMPLOYMENT

WORKERS COMPENSATION

Medical Care Provided California's Injured Workers: An Overview of the Issues By Barbara O. Wynn and others, RAND Institute for Civil Justice and RAND Health. (RAND, Santa Monica, California) September 2007. 137 p.

http://www.rand.org/pubs/working_papers/2007/RAND_WR394.pdf

["This paper conveys findings from a formative evaluation to identify the major problems affecting the quality and efficiency of medical care provided to California's injured workers. It also discusses a conceptual framework for a monitoring system that could be used to assess system performance on an ongoing basis. The research for this paper was conducted in 2004, as major reform provisions were being implemented. The paper is intended to provide baseline data and information on the anticipated impacts of the new legislation and should be of general interest to stakeholders in California's workers' compensation system."]

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ENERGY

ENERGY POLICY

Effects of Climate Change on Energy Production And Use in the United States: A Report of the U.S. Climate Change Science Program and the Subcommittee on Global Change Research. By Thomas J. Wilbanks, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and others. (The Program, Washington, DC)) October 2007. 160 p.

<http://www.climatechange.gov/Library/sap/sap4-5/final-report/sap4-5-final-all.pdf>

["Because of a natural tendency to focus on the energy sector as a driving force where climate change is concerned, the impacts on the energy sector from climate change have been under-studied. Until this oversight is corrected, the energy sector -- on both the energy use and energy supply sides -- is vulnerable to stresses from climate change that, if identified early enough, can probably be addressed by adaptation strategies that will reduce unnecessary costs to society and to the energy institutions that seek to meet social needs for energy services"]

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ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

MINING

Mining Claims Surge Near California's National Parks; Other Areas at Risk. By the Environmental Working Group. (The Group, Oakland, California) October 2007.

["More than 21,300 mining claims have been staked within 10 miles of California's national parks and monuments and federal wilderness and roadless areas, according to an analysis of U.S. Bureau of Land Management records.... In California and across the West, mining claims have skyrocketed in the last five years, driven by a boom in the global price of gold, copper, uranium and other metals. The rising demand, particularly from China and other developing nations, has spurred interest in reopening abandoned mining sites. With its open pits, acid drainage, and air and water pollution, mining is the dirtiest of all resource developments. Los Angeles Times (October 16, 2007) 1.]

[Request #S07-114-976]

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Report. Various pagings

http://www.ewg.org/sites/mining_google/CA/analysis.php

Press Release. 10 p.

http://www.ewg.org/sites/mining_google/CA/newsrelease.php

PARKS & RECREATION

Improving the Appraisal Function in Resources Land Acquisitions. By Mark C. Newton and Jennifer Giambattista, the California Legislative Analyst's Office. (The Office, Sacramento, California) October 2007. 32 p.

http://www.lao.ca.gov/2007/res_appraisals/res_appraisals_101807.pdf

["California voters have approved spending billions of dollars to buy new parks, wildlife refuges and open space preserves in recent years. Yet taxpayers may be getting fleeced because state agencies do not have a reliable system to figure out the fair market value of the land they are buying.... Among the report's recommendations: 1) A new state law should be passed requiring 'a specified set of appraisal standards' for buying parks, open space and wildlife refuges; 2) All appraisers should be hired, directed and reviewed by one agency, the state Department of General Services; and 3) Reviews of appraisals should be provided to state lawmakers before escrow closes on all land deals. Lawmakers could choose to make them public." San Jose Mercury News (October 24, 2003) 1.]

[Request #S07-114-1002]

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WILDFIRES

Making the Federal Fire Safety Budget Work for Communities. By Amy Mall and Franz Matzner, Natural Resources Defense Council. (The Council, New York, New York) September 2007. 22 p.

<http://www.nrdc.org/land/forests/safe/safe.pdf>

["Every summer, images of wildfires dominate TV screens and newspaper headlines. Yet despite the effort -- and the money -- that goes into emergency response, fires destroy hundreds of homes and whole neighborhoods in the American West during wildfire season. This outlines NRDC's pilot study of fire protection in the Love Creek community in the Sierra Nevada mountains, and describes how Western communities and homeowners can protect themselves against fire threats with proven techniques known as 'firewise' measures. In addition, we recommend changes to federal fire policy to prioritize community and resident safety"]

[Request #S07-114-1001]

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GENERAL GOVERNMENT

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

Grading State Disclosure, 2007: Evaluating State Efforts to Bring Sunlight to Political Money. By the Campaign Disclosure Project. (The Project, Sacramento, California) October 2007.

["Access to state-level candidate campaign disclosure data continued to improve in states across the country, according to a comprehensive evaluation of campaign finance disclosure laws and programs in the 50 states. The study found that Washington State ranks first in the nation in campaign disclosure [and California second], while Oregon ranked as the most improved state in 2007.... A significant area of improvement is in electronic filing; 40 states now permit candidates to file disclosure reports electronically. The number of states requiring electronic filing by legislative and statewide candidates has nearly doubled in the past four years, increasing from twelve in 2003 to 23 today."]

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Report. 102 p.

http://campaigndisclosure.org/gradingstate/GSD_2007.pdf

Executive Summary. Various pagings.

<http://campaigndisclosure.org/gradingstate/execsum.html>

California Report Card. 1 p.

<http://campaigndisclosure.org/gradingstate/ca.html>

GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Governments Working Together: A Citizen's Guide to Joint Powers Agreements.
By Trish Cypher and Colin Grinnell, Senate Local Government Committee,
California State Senate. (The Committee, Sacramento, California) August 2007. 39
p.

<http://sinet2.sen.ca.gov/locgov/GWTFinalversion2.doc>

["This citizen's guide explains JPAs, outlines their advantages and disadvantages, and describes how public officials use this special government arrangement to deliver better services and facilities. In addition to deciphering the world of JPAs, this guide provides a better understanding of how JPAs fit into local and state government operations."]

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REDISTRICTING

November 2008 Redistricting Initiative: Voters FIRST Act. By California Common Cause, American Association of Retired Persons and the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce. (California Common Cause, Los Angeles, California) October 2007.

["If approved by voters, the measure would create a 14-person redistricting commission made up of five Democrats, five Republicans and four others. The commissioners would be chosen through a public application process created by the state auditor. The review panel will narrow the pool of contenders to 60. After that, the four top legislative leaders would cut the pool to 36. Eight commissioners would be selected by random drawing from the 36 candidates, and those eight would select the other six commission members.... The new districts would be required to have equal populations, comply with the Voting Rights Act and respect the geographic integrity of any city, county or community of interest." Los Angeles Times (October 24, 2007) 1.]

[Request #S07-114-1004]

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Initiative. 9 p.

<http://www.commoncause.org/atf/cf/%7BFB3C17E2-CDD1-4DF6-92BE-BD4429893665%7D/VOTERSFIRSTINITIATIVE%20102307%20FINAL-1.PDF>

Summary. 2 p.

<http://www.commoncause.org/atf/cf/%7BFB3C17E2-CDD1-4DF6-92BE-BD4429893665%7D/VOTERS%20FIRST%202008%20REDISTRICTING%20INITIATIVE%20SUMMARY.PDF>

Press release. 1 p.

http://www.commoncause.org/atf/cf/%7BFB3C17E2-CDD1-4DF6-92BE-BD4429893665%7D/CA_VOTERS_FIRST_REDISTRICTING.PDF

STATE FINANCES

Looking Beyond the Horizon: Investment Planning for the 21st Century. By Katie Driscoll and others, California State Treasurer's Office. (The Office, Sacramento, California) October 2007. 60 p.

<http://www.treasurer.ca.gov/publications/2007dar.pdf>

["The report offers a debt affordability planning model unprecedented in two respects: it provides a 20-year planning horizon, and it bifurcates General Fund spending between debt service and operating expenditures. This analysis, we believe, provides a clearer picture of the General Fund's capacity, over the long term, to cover both investment and program needs."]

[Request #S07-114-929]

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VOTERS & VOTING

Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Voting Act: Survey Report Findings. By the U.S. Elections Assistance Commission. (The Commission, Washington, DC) September 2007. 60 p.

http://www.eac.gov/News/docs/uocava-report-final-4-printing.pdf/attachment_download/file

["Too many local election authorities continue to fail to track the precise number of ballots they mailed or transmitted to their domestic military, overseas military, and overseas citizens, as required by Help America Vote Act (HAVA). The quality of information regarding UOCAVA ballots is low, making it impossible to sufficiently monitor compliance with HAVA mandates.... More effort needs to be made to ensure that members of the armed services and citizens living overseas are made fully aware of their voting rights and that any obstacles to voter registration, ballot receipt, and ballot return should be reduced, minimized, or eliminated. However, all legislators should be aware of the unique electoral environments experienced in different states, given the wide variation in the number of domestic and overseas armed services personnel and overseas citizens."]

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HEALTH

HEALTH INSURANCE

Concerns about Parents Dropping Employer Coverage to Enroll in SCHIP Overlook Issues of Affordability. By Stephen Zuckerman and Cynthia Perry, the Urban Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) September 2007. 4 p.

http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411555_schip_overlook.pdf

["One of the more prominent concerns in the SCHIP reauthorization debate is that many children enrolling in the program could have been insured through their parents' employers. However, concern about parents dropping employer coverage to enroll their children in SCHIP typically ignores the affordability of that coverage. We show that families' spending burden is, on average, lower under public insurance than under employer-sponsored insurance (ESI), especially for the lowest-income families. For families in which children are covered by Medicaid or SCHIP, out-of-pocket spending is, on average, 4 to 5 percent of their income. However, for families in which children have ESI for a full year, the out-of-pocket spending burden is higher, ranging from 12.9 percent of income for families below 150 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) to 6.1 percent for families between 250-400 percent of FPL."]

[Request #S07-114-867]

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HOSPITALS

The Corporate Practice of Medicine Doctrine, By Allegra Kim, California Research Bureau, California State Library. CRB-07-011. (The Bureau, Sacramento, California) October, 2007. 46 p.

<http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/07/07-011.pdf>

["The Assembly Committee on Health requested this report to elucidate the ban on hospital employment of physicians in California. The committee wished to learn the history of the Corporate Practice of Medicine (CPM) prohibition, whether California's practice is typical, and the effects of the prohibition. This report describes the corporate practice of medicine doctrine, its evolution and current status in California and other states, and implications for California."]

[Request #S07-114-990]

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MENTAL HEALTH

Transition Aged Youth Focus Groups: Youth Voice and the Mental Health Services Act. By Patricia Johnson and Perry Jones, California Council on Youth Relations. (The Council, San Francisco, California) October 2007. 31 p.

<http://media.youthoutlook.org/video/stills/CCYR-FINALREPORT-DMH-PEI.pdf>

["Transition aged youth need state and local support to have healthy childhoods and to access the recreational, educational, and career opportunities that prevent young people from giving up on school, themselves, and their futures. Conversely, state and local policymakers, program planners, and service providers need to hear youth voices to provide effective, timely support to these youth.... Youth, when convened properly, will share intimate details about their lives and experiences and are capable of converting those experiences into concrete policy recommendations. These recommendations can inform decisions of policy makers and those who design, and implement programs; their ongoing input can assist with continuous quality improvement efforts. Most of the recommendations are not costly, time consuming, or very difficult."]

[Request #S07-114-974]

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HOUSING

HOME OWNERSHIP

Hispanic Homeownership in California. By Alan Nevin, California Building Industry Association. (The Association, Sacramento, California.) October 2007.

["California's homeownership rate ranks 49th in the nation, but things are even more dismal for the state's Latino population. A study and poll reveal that less than 60 percent of Californians own a home of their own, whereas the nationwide rate is nearly 70 percent. The homeownership rate among California Latinos has stalled at an even-lower 44 percent. Eighty-three percent of Latino homeowners and 76 percent of Latino renters say owning a home helps build equity to create long-term wealth." San Gabriel Valley Tribune (October 9, 2007) 1.]

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Hispanic Home Ownership in California, 7 p.

<http://www.cbia.org/documents/public/Hispanic%20Homeownership-Nevin.pdf>

Latino Homeownership Poll, 8 p.

<http://www.cbia.org/documents/public/DBR%20Latino%20Poll.pdf>

REAL ESTATE LOANS

Information on Recent Default and Foreclosure Trends for Home Mortgages and Associated Economic and Market Developments. By the U.S. Government Accountability Office. GAO-08-78R. (The Office, Washington, DC) October 16, 2007. 61 p.

<http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d0878r.pdf>

["More than 1 million mortgages were in default or foreclosure, an increase of 50 percent compared with June 2005.... These developments have raised questions about the extent and causes of problems in the mortgage market. To provide some insights on these issues, we analyzed 1) the scope and magnitude of recent default and foreclosure trends, and how these trends compare with historical values, and 2) developments in economic conditions and the primary and secondary mortgage markets associated with these trends."]

[Request #S07-114-975]

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HUMAN SERVICES

CHILDREN

State Funding for Children: Spending in 2004 and How It Changed From Earlier Years. By Patricia Billen and others, Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government. (The Institute, Albany, New York) October 2007. 43 p.

<http://www.rockinst.org/WorkArea/showcontent.aspx?id=12716>

["No comprehensive source of information describes how much each state spends for children. This study helps fill that gap by developing and analyzing spending data for most major programs that benefit children... States vary widely in their demand and need for spending on children, and their capacity to fund this spending.... Between 1992 and 2004, indicators of need for and capacity to fund children's services suggest that the climate for providing such services became somewhat less strained: the child population generally declined as a share of the overall population, child poverty rates fell, and gross state product increased even after adjusting for inflation and population growth."]

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FOSTER CARE

Child Protection and Child Outcomes: Measuring the Effects of Foster Care. By Joseph J. Doyle, Jr., Massachusetts Institute of Technology. (The Institute, Cambridge, Massachusetts) March 2007. 67 p.

http://www.mit.edu/~jjdoyle/doyle_fosterlt_march07_aer.pdf

["Little is known about the effects of removing children from home and placing them in foster care. Long-term outcomes are rarely observed, and children placed in foster care likely differ from those not placed, making comparisons difficult.... Large marginal treatment effect estimates suggest caution in the interpretation, but the results suggest that children on the margin of placement tend to have better outcomes when they remain at home, especially for older children."]

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TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES

TANF Caseload Composition and Leavers Synthesis Report, By Gregory Acs and Pamela Loprest, The Urban Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) 2007. 185 p.

http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411553_tanf_caseload.pdf

["Since the passage of federal welfare reform in 1996, policy makers have been concerned about the well-being of families that have left welfare as well as those who have remained on the caseload. This report synthesizes the most up-to-date research about what is known about the composition of the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families caseload and the status of TANF leavers, and how this has changed over time. This synthesis is supplemented by tabulations of data from the NSAF, SIPP and CPS on the demographics, economic situation, and barriers to work of current and former TANF recipients over time."]

[Request #S07-114-987]

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TRANSPORTATION

TRAFFIC CONGESTION

National Traffic Signal Report Card: 2007. By the National Transportation Operations Coalition. (Institute of Transportation Engineers, Washington, DC) October 2007.

["One in five traffic complaints to the city of San Jose is about red lights. And that also jibes with a recent national review of traffic lights. That study, when considering the timing of our nation's lights, handed out a big, bad D. Yet most local traffic engineers beg to differ. Palo Alto, for example, gave itself an A, San Francisco a B and San Jose a (somewhat more reasonable) C. And, many noted, Santa Clara County received a top national award last year for improvements to the timing of expressway lights. You get the picture. The gap between drivers and engineers is wider than the Grand Canyon." San Jose Mercury News (October 15, 2007) 1.]

[Request #S07-114-983]

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Executive Summary. 12 p.

<http://www.ite.org/reportcard/NTSRC%20Exec%20Summary%20final.pdf>

Technical Report. 61 p.

http://www.ite.org/reportcard/technical_report%20final.pdf