

California Research Bureau

California State Library

Studies in the News

1857 - "Catching Salmon - The Indians on the Lower Trinity are diligently engaged in catching salmon on the Lower Trinity river. One man will catch from 200 to 300 lbs per day with a small dip net. They supply the neighborhood, and dry large quantities for winter use." *Sacramento Daily Union* June 30, 1857, p. 2, col. 5

1907 "There is no limit to woman's enterprise but surely few women can have launched out in such remarkable direction as the management of a modern fish farm. At Haslemere there is a successful farm for the cultivation of trout which is owned by a lady – Miss Andrews.... There is a long chain of pools, each inhabited by trout of different age and weight. In one you can see the tiny fish hardly out of their cradle days. In another you find the sturdy old great grandfather trout, gliding with dignity, conscious of the majesty of his 5-pound avoirdupois." *Los Angeles Times*, January 27, 1907, pg VII2.

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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; csisirc@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

EX-OFFENDERS

Repaying Debts. By Rachel L. McLean and Michael D. Thompson, Council of State Governments Justice Center. (The Center, New York, New York) October 2007.

["States must end the Dickensian practice of saddling ex-offenders with crushing debt that they can never hope to pay off and that drives many of them right back to prison.... Newly released inmates who have been greeted with as much as \$25,000 in debt the moment they step outside the prison gate. It can be insurmountable for ex-offenders who often have no assets and whose poor educations and criminal records prevent them from landing well-paying jobs. Often, the lion's share of the debt is composed of child support obligations that continue to mount while the imprisoned parent is earning no money. The problem does not stop there. The corrections system buries inmates in fines, fees and surcharges that can amount to \$10,000 or more." New York Times (October 6, 2007) 1.] [Request #S07-110-883]

Report. 60 p.

http://justicecenter.csg.org/files/RepayingDebts_Guide_final.pdf

Report Summary. 12 p.

http://justicecenter.csg.org/files/RepayingDebts_Summary_final.pdf

JUVENILE JUSTICE

Changing Systems: Outcomes from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Reclaiming Futures Initiative on Juvenile Justice and Substance Abuse. By Jeffrey A. Butts and John Roman, the Urban Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) September 2007. 44 p.

http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411551_changing_systems.pdf

["Reclaiming Futures (RF) is an initiative that seeks to improve outcomes for drug-involved youth in the juvenile justice system.... Surveys measured the quality of juvenile justice and substance abuse treatment systems as reported by expert informants in each community. The pattern of their responses over six survey administrations suggests that RF is a promising strategy for improving substance abuse interventions for youth. Positive and significant changes were reported in all ten RF communities. In several communities, most

quality indicators measured by the evaluation improved significantly during the course of the RF initiative."]
[Request #S07-110-845]

POLICE

An Examination of May Day 2007: A Report to the Board of Commissioners. By the Los Angeles Police Department. (The Department, Los Angeles, California) October 9, 2007. 124 p.

http://www.lapdonline.org/home/pdf_view/36560

["In a scathing self-critique, the LAPD blamed the May 1 MacArthur Park melee involving officers, immigration protesters and journalists on a series of fateful decisions by police commanders that escalated hostilities and resulted in a widespread breakdown in discipline and behavior by officers.... The report paints a disturbing picture of commanders who failed to adequately plan for the rally, refused to bring in more officers when tensions escalated, issued confusing and sometimes contradictory orders and failed to control officers. It found that officers repeatedly used their weapons in ways that violated LAPD policies and appeared not to follow basic training guidelines. Los Angeles Times (October 10, 2007) 1.]
[Request #S07-110-917]

VIDEO SURVEILLANCE

Under the Watchful Eye: The Proliferation of Surveillance Systems in California. By Mark Schlosberg and Nicole A. Ozer, American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California. (The Union, San Francisco, California) August 2007. 28 p.

http://www.aclunc.org/issues/government_surveillance/asset_upload_file532_5691.pdf

["A study found that increasing numbers of cities are choosing to use cameras without much public debate. In addition to recommending that cities stop deploying the cameras, the report suggests that officials should look at other more cost-effective alternatives and review the success of new or existing programs. They should also have a process in place for public debate. Many problems listed in the report came because the cameras cities had spent money on were not of a high enough quality to see anything." Riverside Press-Enterprise (August 20, 2007) 1.]
[Request #S07-110-718]

CULTURE AND SOCIETY

YOUTH

Preparing Youth to Participate in State Policy Making. By Lisa K. Foster, California Research Bureau, California State Library. CRB-07-009. (The Bureau, Sacramento, California) September 2007. 66 p.

<http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/07/07-009.pdf>

["Adding youth voices to the state policymaking process, and encouraging youth participation in developing the policies that directly affect them, can result in more thoughtful and effective legislation. This report presents information about how youth organizations currently prepare youth for their role in state policymaking. It shares the perspectives of state legislative and administrative policymakers on how youth can most effectively participate in this process, and it also describes how young people feel about both their preparation and participation."] [Request #S07-110-868]

ECONOMY

CALIFORNIA

UCLA Anderson Forecast for the Nation and California. By the UCLA Anderson Forecasting Project, Anderson Graduate School of Management. (The School, Los Angeles, California) September 2007. 101 p.

["The nation's economy will be so sluggish well into next year that any major hiccup could tip it into recession. The end of easy credit and a further decline in home construction are sending the economy into a 'near-recession,' with growth hovering at just above 1% through the first three months of 2008.... But analysts indicated that with economic currents shifting rapidly, there's no guarantee of a clean getaway.... Other examples of the economists' increased pessimism include a prediction of fewer housing starts. The group sees them bottoming out at 1 million units annually, down from the previous forecast of about 1.2 million." Los Angeles Times (September 12, 2007) 1.] [Request #S07-110-760]

CALIFORNIA

The Economic Impacts of CalPERS Investments on the California Economy. By the Applied Research Center, California State University, Sacramento. (CalPERS, Sacramento, California) September 2007. 25 p.

<http://www.calpers.ca.gov/eip-docs/about/press/news/economic-engine/eco-study-calpers-inv.pdf>

["Investments by the California Public Employees' Retirement System, the nation's largest public pension fund, spurred \$15.1 billion in economic activity in California in 2006, creating more than 124,000 jobs. The fund created more economic activity last year than industries including machinery manufacturing, oil and gas extraction, and amusements, gambling and recreation. It also created more jobs than the heavy and civil engineering construction industry, and the motion picture and video production industry.... CalPERS commissioned the study, the fund's first, partially to counter criticism that its defined-benefit pensions, with fixed payments, are becoming a burden on deficit-plagued state and local governments, which participate in the CalPERS system." Los Angeles Times (September 19, 2007) 1.] [Request #S07-110-750]

CITY RANKINGS

Best Performing Cities 2007: Where America's Jobs Are Created and Sustained. By Ross DeVol and others, Milken Institute. (The Institute, Santa Monica, California) September 2007. 60 p.

http://www.milkeninstitute.org/pdf/best_prfrmng_cities.pdf

["A study on job creation and retention rated the Ontario-San Bernardino-Riverside area No. 3 among 200 large U.S. metropolitan areas. The Inland Empire was the only California entity in the top 15.... 'The Inland Empire has consistently been one of the national leaders in job growth,' said DeVol. 'It says a lot that the area has shown the ability to overcome the high costs of doing business in California.' The gap between home prices in coastal counties and inland has been a big advantage for Ontario, Riverside and San Bernardino. 'That gap has narrowed,' he said. 'But the area also has become a real international trade hub. In addition, there have been a lot of high-tech companies moving inland.'" San Bernardino Sun (September 26, 2007) 1.]

[Request #S07-110-781]

DAIRY INDUSTRY

Profits, Costs, and the Changing Structure of U.S. Dairy Farming. By James M. MacDonald and others, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (The Service, Washington, DC) September 2007.

["A federal analysis shows basic economics - the simple balance of profit and loss - are driving small dairies out of business in California and the rest of the nation, leaving fewer, but increasingly larger, dairies. And while environmentalists decry the impact of farms whose herds number in the thousands, ironically it is the large-scale operations that can best bear the costs of more-stringent air and water pollution restrictions now being imposed.... California, where dairies run larger than national averages, still lost many farms, going from 4,473 dairy operations in 1970 to 1,974 last year, according to state figures." Stockton Record (September 24, 2007) 1.]

[Request #S07-110-757]

Report. 41 p.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/err47/err47.pdf>

Report summary. 2 p.

http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/err47/err47_reportsummary.pdf

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Monitor Group Report to the Regents: University of California Organizational Restructuring Effort. By the Monitor Company Group, L.P. (The University, Oakland, California) September 2007. 21 p.

<http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/regents/regmeet/sept07/f4attach.pdf>

["The University of California suffers from a 'crisis of confidence' in its president's office, which lacks credibility with the Board of Regents and the 10 campuses it serves. The stinging report, for which the public university system paid consultants about \$2 million, outlined numerous problems that will take years to fix. It criticized the Office of the President, as being slow, wasteful and ineffective." San Diego Union-Tribune (September 18, 2007) 1.]
[Request #S07-110-744]

EMPLOYMENT

AFRICAN AMERICANS

Job Quality and Black Workers: An Examination of the San Francisco Bay Area, Los Angeles, Chicago, and New York. By Steven C. Pitts, Center for Labor Research and Education, UC Berkeley. (The Center, Berkeley, California) August 2007. 60 p.

http://laborcenter.berkeley.edu/blackworkers/black_workers_2007.pdf

["Selected Findings: 1) Over half (54%) of all African-American full time workers in the US earn low wages; 2) The top 5 sectors that employ African-Americans in LA County include: Health Care/Social Assistance, Educational Services, Professional/Business Services, Transportation and Warehousing and the Retail Industry; 3) 69% of African-American retail workers in LA County are considered low-wage earners; 4) In the 10 years from 2004 to 2014, it is estimated that the health care and social assistance industry will contribute 23% of the job growth during that period; and 5) 65.8% of all African-American workers earning a low wage are full time workers-roughly the same percentage as Whites."]
[Request #S07-110-758]

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Public and Private Roles in Supporting Working Families: An Urban Institute Roundtable. By Karin Martinson and others, the Urban Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) 2007. 22 p.

http://urban.org/UploadedPDF/411538_supporting_working_families.pdf

["The debate about appropriate public and private roles in such areas as provision of health insurance, narrowing the skills gap, and the need for paid parental leave appears to be intensifying in many states and in Washington, D.C. Many researchers, labor experts, and policymakers who in the past have focused primarily on public programs are now considering how both the private and public sectors can support working families and, at the same time, encourage productivity and organizational competitiveness. But questions remain about what supports to provide, the appropriate balance of public and private supports, the role of public policy in encouraging or mandating stronger private-sector involvement, and the level of public investment needed."]
[Request #S07-110-889]

WORKERS COMPENSATION

Workers' Compensation: Benefits, Coverage, and Costs: 2005. By Ishita Sengupta and others, National Academy of Social Insurance. (The Academy, Washington, DC) August 2007.

["Outlays to cover workers' compensation claims fell 12.2 percent in California in 2005 but rose 1.7 percent in the rest of the nation... Experts said this latest finding goes to show how bloated California's system had been before a series of recent reform bills saved employers billions by reducing unnecessary costs to doctors and lawyers. Although for the most part these reductions seem to have occurred without destroying the safety net the program is supposed to provide, California experts say the state's reforms may have gone too far in one regard - by cutting too deeply into disability payments to seriously injured workers." San Francisco Chronicle (August 22, 2007) 1.]

[Request #S07-110-766]

Report. 94 p.

http://www.nasi.org/usr_doc/NASI_Workers_Comp_2005_Full_Report.pdf

Highlight. 12 p.

http://www.nasi.org/usr_doc/NASI_2007_Workers_Comp_Highlights_.pdf

Press release. 2 p.

http://www.nasi.org/usr_doc/Press_Release_New_Study_on_Workers_Comp_8_07.pdf

ENERGY

SOLAR POWER

Space-Based Solar Power: As an Opportunity for Strategic Security. By the National Security Space Office. (National Space Society, Washington, DC) October 10, 2007. 75 p.

<http://www.nss.org/settlement/spp/library/final-sbsp-interim-assessment-release-01.pdf>

["Continued increases in oil prices may finally make the generation of solar power in orbit economically competitive.... The report estimated that in a single year, satellites in a continuously sunlit orbit could generate an amount of energy nearly equivalent to all of the energy available in the world's oil reserves.... Even if implementation started immediately, it would take at least 10 years before energy could be produced in significant quantities, and it would take several generations of satellites to reduce the cost of the technology to a reasonably low level. But our energy dependence and potential global warming problems are long-term problems. . . . So on a time scale, this solution matches up if we start investing now." Los Angeles Times (October 11, 2007) 1.]

[Request #S07-110-920]

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

FISH

Net Loss: Overfishing Off the Pacific Coast. By Michael Gravitz, U.S. PIRG Education Fund. (Environment California, Los Angeles, California) October 2007. 8 p.

<http://www.environmentcalifornia.org/uploads/Jw/ir/JwirbgDncNr8UC1u5kAhzg/Net-Loss.pdf>

["Along the West Coast, populations of 10 species of ocean fish, such as the yellowfin tuna and canary rockfish, have dwindled to historically low levels or are being depleted rapidly by overfishing. Those species represent 20 percent of the 49 marine fisheries managed by the federal government in waters that are three to 200 miles off the coasts of California, Oregon and Washington....While acknowledging some species are in decline, fishing enthusiasts say they worry that an overreaction to the problem could put them on the sidelines." North County Times (October 11, 2007) 1.]

[Request #S07-110-918]

GREEN HOUSE GASES

People of the State of California v. Stephen Johnson, Director, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Environmental Protection Agency. Petition for Rulemaking Seeking the Regulation of Greenhouse Gas Emissions from Ocean-Going Vessels. October 3, 2007.

["State Attorney General Jerry Brown, joining with national environmental groups, will petition the Bush administration to crack down on global warming emissions from ocean-going vessels, which make more than 11,000 calls at California ports each year. The petition opens a new front in the battle by California and other states to force the federal government to regulate greenhouse gases.... Regulating planet-warming pollutants from ships presents a tough challenge because more than 90% of vessels that bring goods to the U.S. fly foreign flags and traditionally fall under international jurisdiction.... Ocean-going vessels account for an estimated 2.7% to 5% of the world's greenhouse gases, roughly equivalent to the carbon dioxide emissions of all U.S. cars and trucks." Los Angeles Times (October 3, 2007) B1.]

[Request #S07-110-921]

Petition. 17 p.

http://ag.ca.gov/cms_pdfs/press/N1474_Petition.pdf

Press Release. 1 p.

<http://www.ag.ca.gov/newsalerts/release.php?id=1474>

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Estimating the Cost to the County of San Diego, California, of Services Delivered to Undocumented Immigrants During FY 2006-07. By John R. Weeks, San Diego State University, and David M. Eisenberg. Prepared for the County of San Diego. (The County, San Diego, California) September, 2007. 31 p.

http://www.sdcountry.ca.gov/cnty/bos/sup5/Media/immigrant_study.pdf

["A study estimated that illegal immigrants directly cost the county of San Diego and taxpayers \$101 million last year, and indirectly cost an additional \$155 million in unpaid medical care.... Supervisors sought the study in the hope of presenting federal officials with a bill for the costs of illegal immigration in the border county of San Diego.... The study itself said that it 'must be viewed with a certain amount of caution' because its estimates were based on anecdotal evidence. Weeks said there aren't many hard numbers about the costs of illegal immigration because most agencies don't track residency status." North County Times (September 8, 2007) 1.]

[Request #S07-110-923]

PRIVATIZATION

Streamlining San Diego: Achieving Taxpayer Savings and Government Reforms Through Managed Competition. By Geoffrey F. Segal, Reason Foundation, and others. (The Foundation, Los Angeles, California) September 2007. 77 p.

http://www.reason.org/san_diego_managed_competition.pdf

["San Diego taxpayers could save \$80 to \$200 million per year by allowing the private sector to compete with government agencies to do things like clean city buildings, perform maintenance on government vehicles, and run golf courses.... With San Diego facing a nearly \$400 million cumulative budget deficit by 2012, the study identifies 11 areas of city government that are ripe for managed competition - where private sector and government service providers compete with one another to earn contracts on the basis of quality and cost effectiveness.... The study includes over 30 examples where other cities have successfully partnered with the private sector to improve services and save money."]

[Request #S07-110-723]

REDISTRICTING

Impact of Undocumented Populations on 2010 Congressional Reapportionment. By Orlando J. Rodriguez, Connecticut State Data Center, University of Connecticut. (The Center, Storrs, Connecticut) September 19, 2007. 13 p.

http://ctsdc.uconn.edu/Reports/CtSDC_2010Reapportionment_Final_2007sept19.pdf

["Illegal immigration is channeling political clout to California and other border states from the Northeast and Midwest, according to a new report that predicts that California's undocumented population will account for two of its 53 seats in Congress following the 2010 census.... While illegal immigrants can't vote, their growing numbers are affecting the nation's political balance because they are counted in the once-a-decade census. That population tally determines how seats in the House of Representatives are split among the states and is also used to distribute more than \$180 billion in federal aid each year.... California would appear to have the most to lose if the apportionment of seats in the House were changed so it was based only on citizens." San Jose Mercury News (October 2, 2007) 1.]
[Request #S07-110-848]

HEALTH

AUTISM

An Opportunity to Achieve Real Change for Californians with Autism Spectrum Disorders, Working Draft. By the California Legislative Blue Ribbon Commission on Autism. (The Commission, Sacramento, California) September 12, 2007. 72 p.

http://senweb03.senate.ca.gov/autism/documents/whatsnew/Consolidated_ASF_DRAFT_9-12.PDF

["Throughout the state, there is an intense need to plan for and address the impending housing, transportation, employment and educational needs of the tsunami of young people with autism who will soon transition into a community setting. The report notes that the state is ill-prepared on many levels to handle the increase in autism cases and that there isn't enough money to pay for what needs to be done." Los Angeles Daily News (September 18, 2007) 1.]

[Request #S07-110-922]

HEALTH CARE

An Unhealthy America: The Economic Burden of Chronic Disease: Charting a New Course to Save Lives and Increase Productivity and Economic Growth. By Ross DeVol and others, the Milken Institute. (The Institute, Santa Monica, California) October 2007.

["The rapid rise in preventable chronic diseases -- such as obesity and heart disease -- over the last 20 years is hurting U.S. economic productivity, escalating treatment costs and causing unnecessary suffering. That's the bad news. The good news is that the trend can be turned around with healthy doses of prevention and early detection.... A reorientation toward prevention could avert 40 million cases of seven chronic diseases -- cancers, diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, stroke, mental disorders and pulmonary conditions -- in the year 2023. That would reduce anticipated treatment expenses associated with the seven diseases and improve productivity by \$1.1 trillion that year. Los Angeles Times (October 3, 2007) 1.]

[Request #S07-110-864]

Report. 252 p.

http://www.milkeninstitute.org/pdf/chronic_disease_report.pdf

Executive Summary. 50 p.

http://www.milkeninstitute.org/pdf/ES_ResearchFindings.pdf

HEALTH CARE REFORM

A Sustainable Health System for All Americans. By Len M. Nichols, New America Foundation. (The Foundation, Washington, DC) July 2007. 28 p.

<http://www.newamerica.net/files/NSC%20Health%20Policy%20Paper%207-12-07.pdf>

["This paper outlines what a health system under the Next Social Contract ought to look like. It would shift the responsibility for providing health insurance from the employer to the individual, freeing American companies to concentrate on growth and competitiveness. It would make health insurance mandatory for all U.S. citizens, but it would also offer generous subsidies and large risk pools to help defray the cost of premiums. It would be guided by a refocused approach to health care delivery that emphasizes prevention, early diagnosis, and evidence-based treatments rather than expensive and often known-to-be ineffective diagnostic and treatment techniques. And it would encourage the widespread adoption of information technology to reduce administrative costs and help all clinicians and patients share best-practice information in real time."]

[Request #S07-110-746]

HEALTH INSURANCE

High-Cost Children in Public Health Insurance Programs: Who, Why, and How Much? By Embry M. Howell the Urban Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) June 2007. 6 p.

http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/311476_child_insurance.pdf

["As states evaluate the feasibility of public health care for all children, it is important to examine the distribution of costs and services within existing programs, which will help in better planning services for the highest cost children. The financing burden for children's public health insurance programs is concentrated in the top tenth of health care users, while the vast majority, 90 percent, of children are inexpensive. This finding suggests that early identification and greater efficiency in care management for high-cost children could free up funding to expand public insurance services to more low-cost children.]

[Request #S07-110-611]

HEALTH INSURANCE

Health Status, Health Care and Inequality: Canada vs. the U.S. By June E. O'Neill and Dave M. O'Neill, Baruch College. (National Bureau of Economic Research, Cambridge, Massachusetts) September 2007. 44 p.

<http://www.nber.org/papers/w13429.pdf>

["We find a somewhat higher incidence of chronic health conditions in the U.S. than in Canada but somewhat greater U.S. access to treatment for these conditions. Moreover, a significantly higher percentage of U.S. women and men are screened for major forms of cancer. Although health status, measured in various ways is similar in both countries, mortality/incidence ratios for various cancers tend to be higher in Canada. The need to ration resources in Canada, where care is delivered 'free', ultimately leads to long waits. In the U.S., costs are more often a source of unmet needs. We also find that Canada has no more abolished the tendency for health status to improve with income than have other countries."] [Request #S07-110-846]

HOUSING

HOME BUYING

How Population Growth Estimates Affect Housing Market Projections: Will Economic Growth Hold Up Under the Weight of the Housing Correction? By Rani Isaac, California Research Bureau, California State Library. CRB-07-008. (The Bureau, Sacramento, California) August 2007. 18 p.

<http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/07/07-008.pdf>

["As foreclosure rates rise, home sales slump, and new building continues to slow, economists are trying to estimate how many potential homebuyers there are in order to estimate the number of years the turnaround in the housing market will take. Projections vary depending upon the population data used -- either the State of California's Department of Finance Demographic Research Unit's or the Census Bureau's. This article explores how differences in the number of people, number of homes, vacancy rates, and household size impact the forecast."] [Request #S07-110-769]

REAL ESTATE LOANS

The 2006 Home Mortgage Disclosure Act Data. By Robert B. Avery and others, Division of Research and Statistics, U.S. Federal Reserve Board. (The Board, Washington, DC) September 12, 2007. 77 p.

<http://www.federalreserve.gov/pubs/bulletin/2007/pdf/hmda06draft.pdf>

["The incidence of higher-priced lending for blacks and Hispanic white borrowers is notably greater than for non-Hispanic whites. Similar patterns are shown in racial and ethnic differences in denial rates.... African Americans received high-cost loans 52.8% of the time when they refinanced home loans last year. Latino borrowers received high-cost refinancing 37.7% of the time. The rate for white borrowers was 25.7% last year.... The study cautioned that credit histories, loan-to-value and debt-to-income ratios could also explain the racial disparities. Their analysis of high-cost loans does not include this information.... The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development created a new division in July to handle what officials called a record number of investigations into discriminatory lending." Los Angeles Times (September 13, 2007) 1.]

[Request #S07-110-761]

HUMAN SERVICES

FOSTER CARE

Hitting the M.A.R.C.: Establishing Foster Care Minimum Adequate Rates for Children. By Diane DePanfilis, Ruth H. Young Center, University of Maryland, and others. (National Foster Parent Association, Gig Harbor, Washington) October 2007. 58 p.

<http://www.nfpainc.org/uploads/MARCTechReport.pdf>

["This is the first-ever nationwide, state-by-state calculation of the real cost of supporting children in foster care. The report reveals widespread deficiencies in reimbursement rates across the nation -- and major disparities among the states -- and proposes a new standard rate for each state to use in fulfilling the federal requirement to provide foster parents with payments to cover the basic needs of children in foster care, including food, shelter, clothing and school supplies."]

[Request #S07-110-865]

FOSTER CARE

California State Foster Parent Association, et al. v. John A. Wagner, Director, California Department of Social Services, et al. U.S. District Court, Northern District of California. C-07-5086. Complaint for Declaratory Judgment and Permanent Injunctive Relief. October 3, 2007. 15 p.

http://www.caichildlaw.org/Misc/FC_Complaint.pdf

["California is paying foster parents far less than they need to care for children, with rates below the average cost of keeping a dog in a kennel, foster families and their advocates charged... California's acceptance of federal funds for foster care requires the state to cover actual child-rearing costs, including food, clothing, shelter, school supplies and 'a child's personal incidentals.' The plaintiffs want a judge to order the state to increase payments to meet those costs.... According to the lawsuit, basic foster family rates in California range from \$425 a month for children up to 4 years old to \$597 for youths 15 to 20. The payments have not risen since 2001 but are due to increase 5 percent in January." San Francisco Chronicle (October 4, 2007) 1.]

[Request #S07-110-866]

HOMELESS

Policing Our Way Out of Homelessness? The First Year of the Safer Cities Initiative on Skid Row. By Gary Blasi and others, UCLA School of Law. (The School, Los Angeles, California) September 24, 2007. 53 p.

[http://www.law.ucla.edu/docs/Skid%20Row%20Safer%20Cities%20One%](http://www.law.ucla.edu/docs/Skid%20Row%20Safer%20Cities%20One%20)

["The city's year-old Safer City Initiative to clean up skid row has reduced crime but few additional social services have been initiated. 'There have been unintended consequences that have negatively impacted the homeless and mentally disabled people, with unpaid citations for jaywalking leading to people going to jail and a focus on small-quantity drug buys ending up with ordinary addicts being sent to state prison,' said Blasi. ... The study notes that Police Chief William J. Bratton warned that policing alone would not end the problem of chronic homelessness on skid row. But Blasi said the city has paid little more than lip service to efforts beyond law enforcement." Los Angeles Times (September 26, 2007) 1.]
[Request #S07-110-844]

2007 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count. By Applied Survey Research. Sponsored by Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority. (The Authority, Los Angeles, California) October 2007.

["There are 73,702 people homeless every night and 152,261 over the course of a year in Los Angeles County. About 83% of the homeless are unsheltered, either living on the streets, or in a vehicle, encampment, abandoned building, garage, or any other place not normally used or meant for human habitation. One-third of the homeless in Los Angeles County are chronically homeless, compared to 23% across the nation. Over 50% of the homeless population is African American, and three quarters of the homeless population have at least one disabling condition such as mental illness, alcohol or drug abuse, a physical disability, or depression. Over 10,000 children are homeless in Los Angeles County every night, and 79% of them are unsheltered."]

Report. 268 p.

http://www.lahsa.org/docs/homelesscount/2007/LA_HSA.pdf

Executive Summary. 14 p.

<http://www.lahsa.org/docs/homelesscount/2007/Executive%20Summary.pdf>

Fact Sheet. 2 p.

<http://www.lahsa.org/docs/homelesscount/2007/Los%20Angeles%20Continuum%20of%20Care.pdf>

TRANSPORTATION

BICYCLING AND PEDESTRIANS

Safe Routes to School: 2007 State of the States. By Deb Hubsmith, Safe Routes to School National Partnership. (The Partnership, Fairfax, California) October 2007. 24 p.

http://www.saferoutespartnership.org/media/file/rpt_SRTSstates2007.pdf

["Very few children walk or bike to school today. But this wasn't always the case.... Over the past 40 years, rates of obesity have soared among children of all ages.... The increasing trend of driving kids to school also has other serious implications for health and safety. As much as 20 to 30 percent of morning traffic can be generated by parents driving their children to schools.... The report on Safe Routes to School provides an update on the implementation of the federal SRTS program. The report includes a description of the health, safety and community concerns that the SRTS program helps address, an outline of the enabling legislation, an overview of the progress made in all the states, early success stories, observations and available resources."]

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