

**CALIFORNIA RESEARCH BUREAU
CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY
Studies in the News**

California -- One Hundred Years Ago

April 1908. Surgeon-General Wyman of the Marine Hospital Service predicted that officers and men of the big pacific fleet would be safe from dangers of plague when they go to San Francisco. There has not been a case of plague in the big city since February, and the officials of the Marine Hospital Service are heartily cooperating to improve sanitary conditions. 'The warfare on rats is going right on,' said Dr. Wyman, 'and as the pests carry the disease, the importance of this work is evident.'" *Los Angeles Times* (April 23, 2008) pg. II8.

1908. The discovery of two cases of bubonic plague in Contra Costa county has caused the Board of Health of Stockton to consider that advisability of taking some action to exterminate the rats and squirrels, especially along the county lines to the South and West. It is claimed they carry plague many miles. The fact that the river steamers and barges tie up to the San Francisco wharves and rats can go aboard even over the mooring lines, has also been discussed and it is possible the dreaded disease can be brought to Stockton on any landings between here and the bay. The strict fumigation of steamers and barges will follow. *Los Angeles Times* (August 28, 1908) pg. I3.

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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

- When available, the URL for the full text of each item is provided.
- California State Employees may contact the State Information & Reference Center (916-654-0261; cslinfo@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

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

The Hidden Death Tax: The Secret Costs of Seeking Execution in California. By Natasha Minsker, American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California.
AND: Death by Geography: A County by County Analysis of the Road to Execution in California. By Romy Ganschow, American Civil Liberties Union of Northern California. (The Union, San Francisco, California) March 2008.

[“Capital punishment in California is both expensive and arbitrary, with the chances of a murder defendant being sentenced to death far higher in some counties - including Alameda and Contra Costa - than in others, say a pair of studies. Citing state and local government records, the ACLU said a death penalty trial costs counties at least \$1.1 million more than a conventional murder trial and can be much more expensive than that.... The state spends an additional \$117 million a year on capital punishment, about half of it on prison expenses that exceed the usual costs of housing inmates and the rest on arguing and judging death penalty appeals.” San Francisco Chronicle (March 29, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-20-2095]

Death Tax report. 45 p.

http://www.aclunc.org/docs/criminal_justice/death_penalty/The_Hidden_Death_Tax.pdf

Death Tax summary. 2 p.

http://www.aclunc.org/docs/criminal_justice/death_penalty/Hidden_Death_Tax_Executive_Summary.pdf

Death by Geography report. 28 p.

http://www.aclunc.org/docs/criminal_justice/death_penalty/Death_by_Geography/Death_By_Geography.pdf

Death by Geography summary. 2 p.

http://www.aclunc.org/docs/criminal_justice/death_penalty/Death_by_Geography/Death_By_Geography_Executive_Summary.pdf

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DRUG TREATMENT

To Treat or Not to Treat: Evidence on the Prospects of Expanding Treatment to Drug-Involved Offenders. By Avinash Singh Bhati and others, Justice Policy Center, the Urban Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) April 2008. 112p.

Full text at: http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411645_treatment_offenders.pdf

["Despite a growing consensus among scholars that substance abuse treatment is effective in reducing recidivism, strict eligibility rules have limited the impact of current models of therapeutic jurisprudence on public safety. This research effort was aimed at providing policy makers some guidance on whether expanding this model to more drug-involved offenders is cost-beneficial. We find that roughly 1.5 million arrestees who are probably guilty (the population most likely to participate in court monitored substance abuse treatment) are currently at risk of drug dependence or abuse and that several million crimes could be averted if current eligibility limitations were suspended and all at-risk arrestees were treated."]

[Request #S08-20-2103]

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PRISONS

Achieving Constitutional Levels of Medical Care in California's Prisons. By J. Clark Kelso, Federal Receiver. AND: California Prison Health Care Receivership New Facilities Capital Program. By the California Prison Health Care Receivership. AND: Options Report: The Framework for the Development of the New California Health Care Facilities. By the Core Planning Team and the URS/BLL Facility Programming Team. (The Receivership, Sacramento, California) April 2008.

["In a proposal that would nearly double the state's prison construction program, the Governor asked lawmakers to approve \$7 billion in new spending to bring medical and mental healthcare up to constitutional standards. The plan would result in the construction of seven facilities by the middle of 2013 to house 10,000 chronically sick or mentally ill inmates. The spending would require borrowing to be authorized by state lawmakers -- although not voters. The new receiver has surveyed the system of care in the prisons and formulated a three- to five-year plan to fix the problems, including medical facilities that he wrote were 'in an abysmal state of disrepair.' The system would then return to the control of state officials."]

Los Angeles Times (April 12, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-20-2144]

Achieving Constitutional Levels. 14 p.

<http://www.cprinc.org/docs/court/ReceiverStrategicPlanGoal5041408.pdf>

New Facilities Capital Program. 19 p.

<http://www.cprinc.org/docs/court/PresentationLegislature041408.pdf>

Options Report. 13 p.

<http://www.cprinc.org/docs/court/OptionsReportAppendices041408.pdf>

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DEMOGRAPHY

IMMIGRANTS

LA Speaks: Language Diversity and English Proficiency by LA County Service Planning Area. By Daniel Kikuo Ichinose and others, Asian Pacific American Legal Center. (The Center, Los Angeles, California) March 2008. 28 p.

Full text at: <http://demographics.apalc.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/03/la-speaks-final-031908.pdf>

["Los Angeles County is the largest county in the nation, with one of the most diverse populations in the world. Nearly one in three residents, or nearly 3.5 million persons, were born outside the United States and a majority of Los Angeles County residents speak a language other than English at home... Contrary to popular belief, recent immigrants and refugees want to improve their English and many do over time.... Some adults are not even literate in their native language. In addition, resources to aid newcomers in learning English are often limited or non-existent. Language barriers have emerged as a major public policy issue for Los Angeles County, especially in the health and social service sectors."] [Request #S08-20-2102]

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POPULATION

The Inland Empire in 2015. By Hans P. Johnson and others, Public Policy Institute of California. (The Institute, San Francisco, California) April 2008.

["Despite skyrocketing foreclosure rates and a sluggish economy, the Inland Empire will remain the fastest-growing region of the state in the years ahead... By 2015 the population of Riverside and San Bernardino counties is projected to increase by a million people, bringing it to 5 million. By then, the demographics of the region are also expected to change, with Latinos making up the majority at 51%, up from 43% now. The number of Asians is expected to grow from 5% to about 7% of the population overall.... The Inland Empire is one of the least educated regions of the state, and that's not likely to change soon... The result will be many people working at the lower end of the economy, as well-paying jobs increasingly demand college degrees." Los Angeles Times (April 10, 2008) 1.] [Request #S08-20-2108]

Report. 141 p.

http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/report/R_408HJR.pdf

Summary. 2 p.

http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/rb/RB_408HJRB.pdf

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ECONOMY

AEROSPACE INDUSTRY

Report of the Interagency Aerospace Revitalization Taskforce. By the Interagency Aerospace Revitalization Taskforce. (U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, DC) February 2008. 34 p.

Full text at: http://www.doleta.gov/pdf/REPORT_Aerospace_2008.pdf

["The report offers strategies for meeting the aerospace industry's growing talent demands in an environment where young people are neither prepared nor inclined to enter it.... The taskforce recognizes that establishing clear lines of communication with all parties is a critical step in building the aerospace talent pipeline. It plans to create a cyber community designed to allow users to share information on promising practices in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education and training; outreach to and mentoring of students and prospective hires; and industry recruiting successes." Department of Labor Press Release (March 19, 2008) 1.]
[Request #S08-20-2100]

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INCOME DISTRIBUTION

Economic (In)Security: The Experience of the African-American and Latino Middle Classes. By Thomas M. Shapiro, Institute on Assets and Social Policy, and others. (Demos, New York, New York) 2008. 24 p.

Full text at: http://www.demos.org/pubs/byathread_AA&Latino.pdf

["African-American and Latino families have more difficulty moving into the middle class, and families that do enter the middle class are less secure and at higher risk than the middle class as a whole.... In sharp contrast to the middle class as a whole, where 31 percent are secure and 21 percent are at risk, only 26 percent of African-American middle-class families have the combination of assets, education, sufficient income, and health insurance to ensure middle-class financial security. One in three (33 percent) are at high risk of falling out of the middle class. Less than one in five Latino families (18 percent) are securely in the middle class. More than twice as many (41 percent) of Latino families are in danger of slipping out of the middle class."]
[Request #S08-20-2092]

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Pulling Apart: A State-by-State Analysis of Income Trends. By Jared Bernstein, Economic Policy Institute, and others. (The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Washington, DC) April 2008.

["In California, the poorest 20 percent of families saw their incomes rise 1.4 percent in the 2004-06 period compared with 1998-2000, after adjusting for inflation. The income of the middle 20 percent of families rose 3.8 percent. By contrast, the top 20 percent gained 13 percent after inflation, while the income of the top 5 percent jumped 20.8 percent. Nationwide, families at the bottom and middle of the income scale fared even more poorly than their counterparts in California. Across the country, average incomes fell 2.5 percent from 1998-2000 with 2004-06 for the bottom fifth of families, while edging up 1.3 percent for those in the middle. The top fifth registered a 9.1 percent gain." San Francisco Chronicle (April 9, 2008) 1.]
[Request #S08-20-2121]

Report. 74 p.

<http://www.cbpp.org/4-9-08sfp.pdf>

Executive Summary. Various pagings.

<http://www.cbpp.org/4-9-08sfp.htm>

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EDUCATION

ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT

The Nation's Report Card: Writing 2007. By D. Salah-Din, and others, National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education. (The Department, Washington, DC) April 2008. 72 p.

Full text at: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/pdf/main2007/2008468.pdf>

["Eighth- and 12th-graders in the nation's public schools are doing better on writing tests than they have over the last several years. [The results] show that eighth-grade writing scores are up 3 points from 2002 and up 6 points from 1998. Twelfth-grade scores are up 5 points from 2002 and 3 points from 1998. But the increases seen nationwide were not mirrored in California. Here, performance in 2007 was no different than in 2002, the last time the state's students took the test." Sacramento Bee (April 3, 2008)1.]
[Request #S08-20-2105]

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EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY

Technology Counts 2008 - California: The Push to Improve Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. By Editorial Projects in Education Research Center. (The Center, Bethesda, Maryland) April 2008. 7 p.

Full text at: http://www.edweek.org/media/ew/tc/2008/30CA_STR2008.h27.pdf

["California's dearth of classroom computers is a key reason why the home state of Silicon Valley gets a D+ grade for technology instruction. California did relatively well in 'capacity,' meaning that the state is one of only 19 to require that teachers have some knowledge of technology to earn a credential, and is one of 44 where written expectations for teachers include technology. But the state lost that advantage in the areas of 'use' and 'access.' The state was a failure - earning an F grade - for having too few classroom computers. In all, 93 percent of California fourth-graders have some access to a computer, compared with 95 percent nationwide. But access shrinks to 72 percent in eighth grade, compared with 83 percent nationwide." San Francisco Chronicle (March 27, 2008) 1.]
[Request #S08-20-2107]

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ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

EARTHQUAKES

The Uniform California Earthquake Rupture Forecast, Version 2. By Edward H. Field and others, 2007 Working Group on California Earthquake Probabilities. (U.S. Geological Survey, Reston, Virginia) 2008.

["A strong and deadly earthquake is virtually certain to strike on one of California's major seismic faults within the next 30 years, scientists said in the first official forecast of statewide earthquake probabilities. They calculated the probability at more than 99 percent that one or more of the major faults in the state will rupture and trigger a quake with a magnitude of at least 6.7. An even more damaging quake with a magnitude of 7.5 or larger is at least 46 percent likely to hit on one of California's active fault systems within the next three decades. It probably would strike in the southern part of the state, the scientists warned." San Francisco Chronicle (April 15, 2008) 1.][Request #S08-20-2125]

Report. 104 p.

http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2007/1437/of2007-1437_text.pdf

Executive Summary. 9 p.

http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2007/1437/of2007-1437_summary.pdf

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ENDANGERED SPECIES

Scientific Review of the Draft Northern Spotted Owl Recovery Plan and Reviewer Comments. By Steven P. Courtney and others, Sustainable Ecosystems Institute. Prepared for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. (The Service, Portland, Oregon) April 2008. 157 p.

Full text at:

http://www.fws.gov/pacific/ecoservices/endangered/recovery/documents/NSODPR_Final_Report_April-2.pdf

["A panel of experts found that the Bush administration's plan for assuring the survival of the northern spotted owl was 'deeply flawed' in its approach to protecting old-growth forest habitat from logging and was not entirely based on the best available science. The draft spotted owl recovery plan underestimates the importance of protecting old-growth forest habitat, compared with the threat from a competing species, the barred owl.... The new owl recovery plan was initiated to satisfy a timber industry lawsuit over owl habitat and is an essential element in plans to scrap the Northwest Forest Plan and increase logging.... The review was commissioned after the draft owl recovery plan was flunked by two organizations contracted to do a peer review." San Diego Union-Tribune (April 22, 2008) 1.]
[Request #S08-20-2151]

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NATIONAL PARKS

America's Heritage For Sale: A Lack of Federal Funds Causes National Parks to Lose Significant Lands within their Borders. AND: Southern California's Mediterranean Biome Parks: A Resource Assesment. By the National Parks Conservation Association.. (The Association, Washington, DC) April 2008.

["Millions of privately owned acres in park boundaries could be developed into luxury homes or commercial enterprises because the federal government has not allocated funds to buy out these lands.... As a result, in the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area, the country's largest urban park and the most visited recreation area, about 1,300 acres of private land are developed each year.... The report recommends that Congress appropriate at least \$100 million in 2009 for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. Congress can allocate as much as \$900 million a year to the fund, which is paid for by royalties from oil and gas leases. But as the lease revenue has increased, more money has been diverted to support other federal budget priorities." Los Angeles Times (April 9, 2008) 1.]
[Request #S08-20-2104]

American Heritage. 32 p.

http://www.npca.org/landforsale/pdf/npca-land_water-report.pdf

Mediterranean Biome Parks. Various pagings

http://www.npca.org/stateoftheparks/mediterranean_biome/

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GENERAL GOVERNMENT

CITIZENSHIP

Inland Gaps: Civic Inequalities in a High Growth Region. By Karthick Ramakrishnan and others, University of California, Riverside. (The University, Riverside, California) Winter 2008. 20 p.

Full text at: <http://policymatters.ucr.edu/pmatters-vol2-1-civicinland.pdf>

["Latinos and Asian Americans lag in participation behind African Americans and whites on a host of activities, ranging from voting to writing elected officials and attending public hearings. They also have lower levels of civic volunteerism, which in turn may perpetuate their disadvantages in local politics.... While public officials pay attention to a handful of Latino and African American organizations, they are largely unaware of the larger array of community organizations serving nonwhite residents. We conclude our analysis with some suggestions for local governments, foundations, and mainstream community organizations to reduce civic inequalities along racial and ethnic lines."]

[Request #S08-20-2155]

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EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Ready or Not: Protecting the Public's Health From Diseases, Disaster and Bioterrorism: 2007. By Jeffrey Levi, Trust for America's Health, and others. (The Trust, Washington, DC) December 2007. 124 p.

Full text at:

<http://healthyamericans.org/reports/bioterror07/BioTerrorReport2007.pdf>

["States are getting better at preparing for health emergencies, but their efforts are uneven. Seven states were rated as best-prepared, based on their performance in 10 areas: Illinois, Kentucky, Nebraska, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Virginia. At the bottom were Arkansas, Iowa, Mississippi, Nevada, Wisconsin and Wyoming. Even the lower rung of states achieved six of the group's goals, which include having lab capacity to analyze biological and chemical samples, extending legal protections for

medical volunteers in emergencies and boosting funding for public health services.” Stateline.org (December 19, 2007) 1.]
[Request #S08-20-1630]

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STATE TAXES

Who Pays Taxes in California? By MacKenzie Smith and Jean Ross, California Budget Project. (The Project, Sacramento, California) April 2008. 5 p.

Full text at: http://www.cbp.org/pdfs/2008/0804_pp_taxes.pdf

["California income taxpayers are now financing more than half of state government operations. For the poor and lower middle class, the government's heavier reliance on personal income taxes may be largely a good development. Personal income taxes are among the fairest, with people on lower incomes paying in proportion to their wages. But with shrinking corporate taxation due to cuts and breaks, and the state's heavy reliance on regressive sales and excise taxes, the poorest families still end up paying the most proportionally in taxes.... The bottom line is that California is a moderate tax state, ranking 13th among the 50 states, relative to state taxes as a percentage of personal income." Oakland Tribune (April 20, 2008) 1.]
[Request #S08-20-2152]

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HEALTH

EMERGENCY CARE

“Are the Uninsured Responsible for the Increase in Emergency Department Visits in the United States?” By Ellen J. Weber and others. IN: Annals of Emergency Medicine, doi:10.1016/j.annemergmed.2008.01.327. (2008) 9 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.annemergmed.com/webfiles/images/journals/ymem/ejweber.pdf>

["Contrary to popular perception, the uninsured aren't to blame for emergency room overcrowding... Between 1995 and 2005, the number of annual visits to ERs rose from 97 million to 115 million -- a 20% increase. Yet between those years, the number of U.S. hospitals offering emergency care declined by 9 percent. During roughly the same time frame the number of visits to ERs by the uninsured actually declined by 1 percent, from 15.5 percent to 14.5 percent. And the number of patients inappropriately visiting emergency departments for nonurgent needs also held steady at about 15 percent in those years....The primary cause of emergency department

overcrowding, the new study noted, is a lack of capacity to admit ER patients into the hospital." Oakland Tribune (April 12, 2008) 1.]
[Request #S08-20-2123]

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MENTAL HEALTH

The Shortage of Public Hospital Beds for Mentally Ill Persons. By E. Fuller Torrey and others, the Treatment Advocacy Center. (The Center, Arlington, Virginia) March 2008. 17 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.treatmentadvocacycenter.org/documents/TheShortageofPublicHospitalBeds.pdf>

["The number of psychiatric beds in public hospitals has fallen dramatically across California and the nation - with the Golden State now dedicating just 17 beds for mentally ill patients for every 100,000 residents. While the ratio in California mirrors the national average, it represents a sharp drop over the past five decades -- from 340 beds per 100,000 people nationwide in 1955.... While attitudes and treatment toward the mentally ill have improved, the bed shortage means hospitals are slashing the amount of time for treatment.... The Los Angeles Police Department and the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department say they've become a de facto safety net for mental health services because there is no room at the hospitals." Los Angeles Daily News (April 14, 2008) 1.]
[Request #S08-20-2122]

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TOXICOLOGY

The National Toxicology Program (NTP) Draft Brief On Bisphenol A (BPA). By the National Toxicology Program, National Institutes of Health. (The Program, Triangle Park, North Carolina) April 2008.

["A controversial, estrogen-like chemical in plastic could be harming the development of children's brains and reproductive organs. The agency concluded that there was 'some concern' that fetuses, babies and children were in danger because bisphenol A, or BPA, harmed animals at low levels found in nearly all human bodies.... The federal institute is the first government agency in the U.S. to conclude that low levels of BPA could be harming humans. Its findings will be used to help regulators at federal and state environmental agencies to develop policies governing its use.... The National Toxicology Program will accept public comments on its draft report until May 23, and it will be reviewed by a new scientific panel in June." Los Angeles Times (April 16, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-20-2143]

Report. 69 p.

http://cerhr.niehs.nih.gov/chemicals/bisphenol/BPADraftBriefVF_04_14_08.pdf

Questions and Answers. Various pagings.

<http://www.niehs.nih.gov/news/media/questions/sya-bpa.cfm>

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HOUSING

HOME OWNERSHIP

The Cost of Maintaining Ownership in the Current Crisis: Comparisons in 20 Cities. By Dean Baker, Center for Economic and Policy Research, and others. (The Center, Washington, DC) April 2008. 11 p.

Full text at: http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/ownrent_2008_04.pdf

["Although owning a home is the middle-class dream, it's probably cheaper to rent than to own a home even with the recent decline in the housing market. A new study on differentials between ownership and rental costs in 20 American cities -- including Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Diego and San Francisco -- found ownership to be comparable to renting in just one, Houston. And that's true, even when the equity gains from home ownership are placed into the equation. For families in middle- and lower-income brackets, trying to remain homeowners 'is likely to lead to situations in which they pay far more of their income in housing costs than necessary,' resulting in families foregoing 'health care insurance for their kids or quality child care.'" Sacramento Bee (April 3, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-20-2112]

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REAL ESTATE LOANS

The Consequences of Mortgage Credit Expansion: Evidence from the 2007 Mortgage Default Crisis. By Atif Mian and Amir Sufi, University of Chicago. (Social Science Research Network, New York, New York) January 2008. 53 p.

Full text at:

http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1072304PaperDownload

["Alan Greenspan is getting heat for fueling the housing bubble by keeping interest rates too low for too long. But there is a lot of blame to go around. Wall Street's eagerness to buy, bundle and resell home mortgages into

securities created a tantalizing incentive for lenders to disregard the credit-worthiness of borrowers because the lenders dumped the risk after making the loans. The paper studied mortgage origination in 2,920 ZIP Codes from 1996 through 2007. In places where lending rose sharply during the boom, they found mortgages were likely to be quickly sold by the originators. These places also were more likely to see home prices jump and, later, defaults." Wall Street Journal (April 9, 2008) C1.]
[Request #S08-20-2099]

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HUMAN SERVICES

CHILD CARE

Charting Progress for Babies in Child Care: Policy Framework Summary. By Rachel Schumacher, Center for Law and Social Policy, and others. (The Center, Washington, DC) 2008. 4 p.

Full text at: http://www.clasp.org/publications/cp_framework_sum.pdf

["This policy framework sets forth four key principles that establish the foundation of supports that all babies and toddlers in child care need, as well as 15 recommendations that state child care licensing, quality, and subsidy policies should address. The policy framework draws on the expertise of more than a hundred policymakers, researchers, and advocates at the state and national level. Next steps for the project include an online resource that builds on the framework to provide research-based rationales for each recommendation and a set of policies that may help states move toward that goal." Press Release, Center for Law and Policy (January 9, 2008) 1.]
[Request #S08-20-1880]

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CHILDREN

Geography Matters: Child Well-Being in the States. By the Every Child Matters Education Fund. (The Fund, Washington, DC) April 2008. 13 p.

Full text at: <http://www.everychildmatters.org/homelandinsecurity/geomatters.pdf>

["While all states provide a basic network of social programs to assist vulnerable children and families, children do much better in some states than in others. As the sorry numbers in this report show, a huge gap exists among states on a wide variety of child well-being indicators. The state they live in should not adversely influence the life and death of children -- but it does. Such inequalities affect all Americans, rich and poor alike, and weaken both our economy and our democracy."]
[Request #S08-20-2126]

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ELDERLY

Federal Poverty Guideline Underestimates Costs of Living for Older Persons in California. By Steven P. Wallace and L. Cricel Molina, UCLA Center for Health Policy Research. (The Center, Los Angeles, California) February 2008. 4 p.

Full text at:

http://www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu/pubs/files/Elder_Index_PB_022608.pdf

["Knowing the true cost of living for older adults is vital if we are to ensure that elder Californians can meet basic needs and maintain independence. The Elder Index provides a calculation of a basic cost of living for retired adults age 65 and older for every county, and separately for Los Angeles City and County. The Elder Index for single older adults by county demonstrates that within California there is significant variation in the basic cost of living for older adults. The Elder Index for a retired personage 65 or older who rents is over \$25,000 per year in eight urban coastal counties, while it is in the \$17,500-\$18,500 range in eight rural inland counties."]
[Request #S08-20-1924]

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Older Americans 2008: Key Indicators of Well-Being. By the Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics. (The Forum, Washington, DC) March 2008. Various pagings

Full text at:

http://www.agingstats.gov/agingstatsdotnet/Main_Site/Data/Data_2008.aspx

["Average life expectancy continues to increase, and today's older Americans enjoy better health and financial security than any previous generation. However, rates of gain are inconsistent between the genders and across age brackets, income levels and racial and ethnic groups. These and other trends are reported in a unique, comprehensive look at aging in the United States... that provides an updated, accessible compendium of indicators, drawn from the most reliable official statistics about the well-being of Americans primarily age 65 and over. The indicators are categorized into five broad areas -- population, economics, health status, health risks and behaviors and health care"]
[Request #S08-20-2127]

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Elders Living on the Edge: The Impact of California Support Programs When Income Falls Short in Retirement. By Wider Opportunities for Women. Prepared for the California Elder Economic Security Initiative. (Wider Opportunities for Women, Washington, DC) February 2008. 10 p.

Full text at: http://www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu/eess0208_pdf/wow_supp.pdf

["It is increasingly difficult for older Americans to live with dignity and economic well-being in their own homes. This is particularly true in California. Californian low-income elders face financial challenges that threaten their already fragile economic stability and the health of their communities. On one side, they are pressured by ever-increasing expenses -- housing, health care, fuel and utilities. On the other, they see their fixed incomes eroded by Social Security payments and Supplemental Security Income that do not keep pace with the rapidly rising costs of basic needs, underfunding of public support programs, and asset limits that prevent those receiving public supports from saving for their retirement. California elders are between the proverbial rock and a hard place."]

[Request #S08-20-2119]

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