

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

---

**California -- One Hundred Years Ago**

**November 1908** “Taxicabs are on the increase. Their popularity is such that almost any night a score of the fast little passenger buses can be seen skidding along the streets on their mission of service. Theater parties, belated pedestrians, and the more fastidious who want to be exclusive, get the cabs.... Several of the large firms in Los Angeles are planning to place taxicabs in service in the near future. It is almost certain that this trade will be monopolized by the dealers themselves.... The increased demand for taxicab service in Los Angeles has been such as to cause the Western Motor Car Company to place an order for five more machines. The tourist season is now opening and the majority of people coming to Los Angeles for the winter have been accustomed to taxicab service in the eastern cities, and that is the first thing they call for on reaching Los Angeles.” *Los Angeles Times* (November 1, 1908) pg. VI3

**November 1908** “Creeping over the steel-ribbed body of the new Federal building like so many spiders, the riveters are gradually welding together the webwork of beams that complete the sixth story above the street.... The work of the riveters, operating with compressed-air machinery, attracts much attention from pedestrian on all sides of the building, and spectators line the streets at all hours of the day. The men, hoping about on the steel ribs, tossing red-hot rivets from the portable forges to other men, who catch them in tin cans, are a wonder to the beholder.... They skip over steel beams like so many cats and it is a mystery how they keep at it day after day and month after month and never make a misstep that would land them at death’s door down below.” *Los Angeles Times* (November 1, 1908) pg. V18

Contents This Week

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT**

[County probation camps](#)  
[Sex-offender law unfairly restrictive](#)

**CULTURE AND SOCIETY**

[Time online teaches kids important skills](#)

**ECONOMY**

[Economic crisis in California](#)  
[Origins of the financial mess](#)  
[Immigrant business owners and the economy](#)

[Economic transformation in the states](#)  
[Women still lag in holding top business posts](#)

## **EDUCATION**

[Assessing school engagement](#)  
[No focus on investments in high-schoolers](#)  
[Racial disparities in education finance](#)  
[Federal student aid is too complex](#)

## **EMPLOYMENT**

[Problems at Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board](#)  
[Workforce development and the disadvantaged](#)

## **ENERGY**

[Does daylight saving save money](#)  
[More renewable energy is expensive](#)

## **ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES**

[California climate risk and response](#)  
[Preparing California for climate change](#)  
[Most state native game fish face extinction](#)  
[Link between moth spray and health uncertain](#)

## **GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

[Argument against split-roll property tax](#)  
[Budget outlook for next five years](#)

## **HEALTH**

[Health care payment reform](#)  
[The erosion of employer-sponsored health insurance](#)  
[Actions to reduce hospital infections](#)  
[Law enforcement response to mental health problems](#)  
[Telehealth alters medical ecosystem](#)

## **HOUSING**

[The outlook for housing construction](#)

## **HUMAN SERVICES**

[Child care subsidies and child development](#)  
[Costs of children food insecurity](#)  
[Challenges confronting working families](#)

## **TRANSPORTATION**

[Factors associated with bicycle use](#)  
[Travel behavior and the built environment](#)

## Introduction to Studies in the News

*Studies in the News* is a service provided to the Legislature and the Governor's Office by the California State Library's California Research Bureau. Weekly lists of current articles related to legislative issues will be supplemented by monthly lists focusing on a specific area of public policy. Prior lists can be viewed at the California State Library's Web site at <http://www.library.ca.gov/sitn/crb>.

- You may get copies of these studies by emailing [crb@library.ca.gov](mailto:crb@library.ca.gov) , subject: Studies in the News, by calling 445-3551, or by visiting room 5210 in the Capitol. If you would like to be alerted to new CRB reports as they are issued, please send your email address to Katie Sarber [ksarber@library.ca.gov](mailto:ksarber@library.ca.gov) subject: New CRB report alert request.
- If you would like us to get other studies, please email information about the studies you want to [crb@library.ca.gov](mailto:crb@library.ca.gov) , subject: Studies in the News.
- To be removed from the *Studies in the News* distribution list please email [crb@library.ca.gov](mailto:crb@library.ca.gov) .
- The list which follows shows only current additions to the collection. If you would like a cumulative list, or a cumulative list for only selected topics, please email [crb@library.ca.gov](mailto:crb@library.ca.gov) , subject: Studies in the News.

The following studies are currently on hand:

## CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

### JUVENILE OFFENDERS

**County Probation Camps and Ranches for Juvenile Offenders. By Marcus Nieto, California Research Bureau, California State Library. CRB 08-016. (The Bureau, Sacramento, California) November 2008. 58 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/08/08-016.pdf>

["This report, which was requested by Assembly Member Jose Solorio, Chair of the Public Safety Committee, examines California's county camps and ranches for juvenile offenders in the context of recent reforms of the state's juvenile justice system. There are different models of county probation camps, including conventional camps, wilderness camps, military (boot camps), and small residential treatment facilities (known as the Missouri model). We describe the different models as implemented by California counties, with information about length of stay requirements and treatment options. When possible, we also describe the educational and vocational requirements and programs provided by the camps, and examine the availability of health and mental health services."]

[Request #S08-51-3064]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

## SEX OFFENDERS

**The People v. Steven Lloyd Mosley. California Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District. G038379. November 19, 2008. 28 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/opinions/documents/G038379.PDF>

["A voter-approved law prohibiting sex offenders from living within 2,000 feet of a school or a park amounts to additional punishment for the offenders' original crimes, a state appeals court has ruled in a case that could affect thousands of parolees. The ruling was the first to find that the residency restrictions in Proposition 83, a November 2006 initiative, are not just public safety measures but also would punish ex-offenders by forcing them out of their homes. Prop. 83, called Jessica's Law by its sponsors, imposes 'traditional banishment under another name,' the court said. The ruling leaves the law in effect but could limit its application. The U.S. Constitution forbids laws that retroactively impose criminal penalties or increase punishment for past offenses." San Francisco Chronicle (November 21, 2008) B2.]

[Request #S08-51-3052]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

## CULTURE AND SOCIETY

### YOUTH

**Living and Learning with New Media: Summary of Findings from the Digital Youth Project. By Mizuko Ito, University of California, Irvine. (Digital Youth Project, Berkeley, California ) November 2008.**

["By socializing, tinkering with technology and intensely delving into media, teens and children on the Internet 'are picking up basic social and technical skills they need to fully participate in contemporary society,' according to a three-year national study. Researchers conducted interviews, studied diaries, convened focus groups and collected nearly 10,500 profiles on sites such as Facebook and Neopets. The study found that youths use online networks to extend friendships, acquire technical skills, learn from each other, explore interests and develop expertise. This all takes 'ongoing maintenance and negotiation.' In what researchers call 'hypersocial' behavior, media at the fingertips enable teens to always be connected." San Jose Mercury News (November 20, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-51-3050]

Report. 58 p.

<http://digitalyouth.ischool.berkeley.edu/files/report/digitalyouth-WhitePaper.pdf>

Summary. 2 p.

<http://digitalyouth.ischool.berkeley.edu/files/report/digitalyouth-TwoPageSummary.pdf>

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

## ECONOMY

### CALIFORNIA

**An Economic Backdrop for Fiscal Reform in California. By Christopher Thornberg and Jon Haveman, Beacon Economics. (California Forward, San Francisco, California) November 2008. 14 p.**

Full text at: <http://news.caforward.tv/FiscalReformEconBackdrop11-08.pdf>

["We predict that the state's three major revenue sources -- sales taxes, income taxes, and corporate taxes -- will fall by more than 11 percent over the course of the next two years. It will take an additional two years before revenues climb back above their peak in fiscal year 2007-08. Given that the state is already dealing with a structural gap between its current revenue base and its expenditures, our forecast implies that we are quite literally on the edge of a fiscal cliff.... The system needs to be fixed. This includes mending the budget process, stabilizing revenue sources, lengthening the time horizon the state plans for, and addressing the system under which crises, which inevitably happen, are handled. One theory of long run change is that the best opportunity to overhaul a system is during a time of crisis when bureaucratic forces that might stifle change are reduced."]

[Request #S08-51-3049]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

## ECONOMIC POLICY

**How Did We Get into This Financial Mess? By Lawrence H. White, Cato Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) November 2008. 12p.**

Full text at: <http://www.cato.org/pubs/bp/bp110.pdf>

["As policymakers confront the ongoing U.S. financial crisis, it is important to take a step back and understand its origins. Those who fault 'deregulation,' 'unfettered capitalism,' or 'greed' would do well to look instead at flawed institutions and misguided policies. The expansion in risky mortgages to underqualified borrowers was encouraged by the federal government.... The credit that fueled these risky mortgages was provided by the cheap money policy of the Federal Reserve. The actual causes of our financial troubles were unusual monetary policy moves and novel federal regulatory interventions. These poorly chosen policies distorted interest rates and asset prices, diverted loanable funds into the wrong investments, and twisted normally robust financial institutions into unsustainable positions."]

[Request #S08-51-3047]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

## IMMIGRATION

**Estimating the Contribution of Immigrant Business Owners to the U.S. Economy. By Robert Fairlie, University of California Santa Cruz. Prepared for U.S. Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy. (The Office, Washington, DC) November 14, 2008. 40 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.sba.gov/advo/research/rs334tot.pdf>

["The majority of immigrant-owned businesses are concentrated in a few states, led by California, where immigrants constitute about 34.2 percent of people starting new businesses each month.... Nearly 30 percent of all California businesses are immigrant-owned.... There are nearly 1.5 million immigrant-owned businesses in the nation. Those businesses generate about \$67 billion in taxable net income each year, representing 11.6 percent of all business income in the nation." San Diego Union Tribune (November 15, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-51-3065]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

**The 2008 State New Economy Index: Benchmarking Economic Transformation in the States. By Robert D. Atkinson and Scott Andes, The Information Technology and Innovation Foundation. (The Foundation, Washington, DC) November 2008. 88 p.**

Full text at: [http://www.itif.org/files/2008\\_State\\_New\\_Economy\\_Index.pdf](http://www.itif.org/files/2008_State_New_Economy_Index.pdf)

["In the midst of economic slowdowns, it's often hard to think beyond the near term. But, just as the most effective companies take advantage of slowdowns to better position themselves for subsequent periods of strong economic growth, so, too, should states.... This report uses twenty-nine indicators to assess that capacity and, in particular, to measure the differences in the extent to which state economies are structured and operate according to the tenets of the New Economy. In other words, it examines the degree to which state economies are knowledge-based, globalized, entrepreneurial, IT-driven, and innovation-based."]

[Request #S08-51-3053]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

## WOMEN

**2008 UC Davis Study of California Women Business Leaders: A Census of Women Directors and Executive Officers.** By the UC Davis Graduate School of Management and the Forum for Women Entrepreneurs & Executives. (The School, Davis, California) November 17, 2008. 49 p.

Full text at:

[http://www.gsm.ucdavis.edu/uploadedFiles/Faculty/Latest\\_Research/UCDavisCAWomenBusiness2008.pdf](http://www.gsm.ucdavis.edu/uploadedFiles/Faculty/Latest_Research/UCDavisCAWomenBusiness2008.pdf)

["Fully half of the state's 400 largest public companies have no women in top executive positions.... Among the findings: 1) Just 13 of California's 400 largest public companies have a woman chief executive; 2) Women hold 11 percent of board seats and executive positions; 3) High tech, telecommunications and real estate are largely men-only domains. In the semiconductor industry, nearly 70 percent of firms have men-only boards; two-thirds are piloted by all-male executive teams; and 4) One-third of companies have no women in top executive posts or on governing boards.... The study did show slight improvement in the number of women board members. Women occupied 10 percent of board seats, up from 9.4 percent in 2007 and 8.8 percent in 2006." Sacramento Bee (November 17, 2008) B1.]

[Request #S08-51-3066]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

## EDUCATION

### ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

**Assessing School Engagement: A Guide for Out-of-School Time Program Practitioners.** By Laura Lippman and Andrew Rivers, Child Trends. (Child Trends, Washington, DC) October 8, 2008. 5 p.

Full text at: [http://www.childtrends.org/Files//Child\\_Trends-2008\\_10\\_29\\_RB\\_SchoolEngage.pdf](http://www.childtrends.org/Files//Child_Trends-2008_10_29_RB_SchoolEngage.pdf)

["Students who are disengaged from school are at risk for poor academic achievement, skipping classes, sexual activity, substance use, and dropping out of school. Some evidence shows that levels of school engagement are declining, and these levels are particularly low among boys. One-half of girls and only 25 percent of boys aged 14-15 were engaged in school in 1999. By 2002, only 39 percent of girls and 20 percent of boys were reported by their parents to be engaged in school.... In general, students are more likely to be engaged if they have support from adults at their school, challenging and interesting tasks, adequate structure, support for autonomy, opportunities to learn with peers, and opportunities for active learning."]

[Request #S08-51-3038]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

## ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

**Slipping Through the Cracks: Federal Investments in High-School-Age Youth.**  
By Sara Mead, New America Foundation. (The Foundation, Washington, DC)  
October 2008. 24 p.

Full text at: [http://www.newamerica.net/files/NAF\\_highschool\\_report4%204-1.pdf](http://www.newamerica.net/files/NAF_highschool_report4%204-1.pdf)

["While elementary school students, on whom most of NCLB's funding and accountability requirements focus, have made significant achievement gains in recent years, high school achievement has stagnated. Only 17 percent of high school freshmen graduate within four years. Among those who do make it to graduation, only a third have the skills they need to succeed in college.... There is no dedicated federal funding stream to support high school reform efforts. Federal investments are not aligned with high school reform priorities. Federal funding provides a critical educational safety net for youth and young adults who slip through the cracks in our public education system, but that safety net is frayed."]  
[Request #S08-51-3011]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

## SCHOOL FINANCE

**Racial Disparities in Education Finance: Going Beyond Equal Revenues.** By Sheila Murray and Kim Rueben, Urban Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) November 2008. 21 p.

Full text at: [http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411785\\_equal\\_revenues.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411785_equal_revenues.pdf)

["Education is a key pathway out of poverty, yet schools that primarily serve minority students often fail to provide the educational opportunities available in predominantly white schools. A series of state court cases has addressed one cause of that disparity, the dramatic funding differences that result from reliance on local property taxes to fund schools. This paper examines the success of court-mandated solutions in equalizing spending per pupil across districts serving minority and white students. However, we show that there remains much disparity in other measures related to educational quality and in educational outcomes."].  
[Request #S08-51-3019]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

## STUDENT LOANS

**Complexity and Targeting in Federal Student Aid: A Quantitative Analysis. By Susan Dynarski and Judith E. Scott-Clayton, Harvard University. (National Bureau of Economic Research, Cambridge, Massachusetts) February 2008. 45 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.nber.org/tmp/91971-w13801.pdf>

["The authors write that the complexity and uncertainty in the federal system of financial aid for college students -- primarily Pell Grants and Stafford Loans -- undermine its efficacy, while doing little to improve the targeting of loans and grants to those who need them most. They also suggest that targeting aid to the neediest students can be achieved with a much simpler process. The current system is so complicated that families cannot predict their aid. For students from low-income families, this could mean not applying to college at all."]

[Request #S08-51-2989]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

## EMPLOYMENT

### UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

**California Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board: Its Weak Policies and Practices Could Undermine Employment Opportunity and Lead to the Misuse of State Resources. By the California Bureau of State Audits. (The Bureau, Sacramento, California) November 2008. 63 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.bsa.ca.gov/pdfs/reports/2008-103.pdf>

["This report concludes that the appeals board's hiring managers were not always allowed to consider all applicants for a given position because of a freeze on outside hires and did not consistently document their reasons for hiring a particular candidate. In addition, nearly half of the employees who responded to our survey believed that the appeals board's hiring and promotion practices were compromised by familial relationships or employee favoritism.... Furthermore, over roughly the past five years employees submitted few equal employment opportunity (EEO) complaints or grievances, and 40 percent of employees who responded to our survey indicated that they would have some fear of retaliation from their supervisors or upper management if they were to file either an EEO complaint or grievance."]

[Request #S08-51-3054]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

**Workforce Development and the Disadvantaged: New Directions for 2009 and Beyond.** By Harry J. Holzer, Urban Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) September 2008. 12 p.

Full text at:

[http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411761\\_workforce\\_development.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411761_workforce_development.pdf)

["The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) officially expired in 2003 but has not yet been reauthorized. With a new administration and Congress due in 2009, what should they consider regarding workforce development and the disadvantaged population? This brief reviews the arguments for a workforce development system, examining both the strengths and weaknesses of the current WIA program. Among the proposals are expanded funding, and planning grants which states could use to target industries and sectors with unmet demands for skilled workers. They would then identify potential 'pathways' for different groups of disadvantaged workers to meet those demands."]

[Request #S08-51-3020]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

## ENERGY

### ENERGY CONSERVATION

**Does DayLight Saving Time Really Save Money?.** By Matthew J. Kotchen and Laura E. Grant, Center for the Study of Energy Markets. (The Center, Berkeley, California) November 2008 p. 36.

Full text at: <http://www.ucei.berkeley.edu/PDF/csemwp179.pdf>

["Daylight Saving Time (DST) has been long and controversial. The primary rationale has been to promote energy conservation. There is surprisingly little evidence that DST actually saves energy. This paper takes advantage of a natural experiment in the state of Indiana to provide the first estimates of DST effects on electricity consumption in the United States since the mid - 1970's..... Our main finding is that -- contrary to the policy's intent -- DST increases residential electricity demand..... We estimate a cost of increased electricity bills to Indiana households of \$9 million per year. We also estimate social costs of increased pollution emissions that range from \$1.7 to \$5.5 million per year. Finally, we argue that the effect is likely to be even stronger in other regions of the United States."]

[Request #S08-51-3041]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

## RENEWABLE ENERGY

**Renewables Portfolio Standard: Quarterly Report. By the California Public Utilities Commission. (The Commission, San Francisco, California) October 2008. 13 p.**

Full text at: [http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/NR/rdonlyres/A7691A23-1B7E-4B02-8858-9D964A3B17A3/0/RPS\\_Rpt\\_to\\_Legislature\\_Oct\\_2008.pdf](http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/NR/rdonlyres/A7691A23-1B7E-4B02-8858-9D964A3B17A3/0/RPS_Rpt_to_Legislature_Oct_2008.pdf)

["If California expands its renewable power generation to be a third of electricity delivered in the state by 2020, it may cost \$60 billion.... Renewable power in 2007 accounted for about 12 percent of the electricity delivered in the state, compared with 45 percent for natural gas, 17 percent for coal, 15 percent for nuclear and 12 percent for large hydropower projects. Large hydropower projects are not counted in California's so-called renewable portfolio standard goals.... The Cal PUC said California's legislature should stiffen the requirement for renewable energy to 33 percent of total power generation by 2020. Currently, the state requires a 20 percent target by 2010, but the utilities will not meet that goal until 2013, it said." Reuters (November 10, 2008) 1.] [Request #S08-51-3017]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

## ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

### CLIMATE CHANGE

**California Climate Risk and Response. By David Roland-Holst and Fredrich Kahrl, University of California, Berkeley. (The University, Berkeley, California) November 2008**

["For the first time, the costs of global warming's projected effects in the nation's largest state have been quantified: About \$2.5 trillion of real estate assets in California are at risk from extreme weather events, sea level rise and wildfires, with a projected annual price tag of between \$300 million and \$3.9 billion. The final number will depend on how much the Earth warms under various scenarios and whether the nations commit to slashing greenhouse gas emissions.... 'Our report makes clear the most expensive thing we can do about climate change is nothing,' Roland-Holst said. But he adds, 'This is not a Doomsday report . . . . If we make the right investments, we can avert much of the damage in any scenario.'" Los Angeles Times (November 14, 2008) 1.] [Request #S08-51-3032]

Report. 127 p.

[http://are.berkeley.edu/~dwrh/CERES\\_Web/Docs/California%20Climate%20Risk%20and%20Response.pdf](http://are.berkeley.edu/~dwrh/CERES_Web/Docs/California%20Climate%20Risk%20and%20Response.pdf)

Executive Summary. 16 p.

[http://are.berkeley.edu/~dwrh/CERES\\_Web/Docs/ClimateRiskandResponse\\_ES.pdf](http://are.berkeley.edu/~dwrh/CERES_Web/Docs/ClimateRiskandResponse_ES.pdf)

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

**Preparing California for a Changing Climate. By Louise Bedsworth and Ellen Hanak, Public Policy Institute of California. (The Institute, San Francisco, California) November 2008.**

["Despite its tough goals to reduce greenhouse gases, California is not prepared to deal with the flooding, coastal erosion and loss of wildlife habitat that scientists are predicting in the coming decades as a result of higher global temperatures. Inundation of the coastal shoreline from accelerating sea-level rise and storm surges threaten property, recreational activities and wildlife enclaves, yet agencies are just starting to assess these climate risks and inform local communities. The report examines the state's capability to provide water and electricity to the public as well as protecting coastal resources, air quality, public health and ecosystems in response to climate change and extreme weather events such as wildfires." San Francisco Chronicle (November 18, 2008) B1.] [Request #S08-51-3060]

Report. 28 p.

[http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/report/R\\_1108LBR.pdf](http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/report/R_1108LBR.pdf)

Summary. 2 p.

[http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/rb/RB\\_1108LBRB.pdf](http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/rb/RB_1108LBRB.pdf)

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

## **FISH**

**Salmon, Steelhead, and Trout in California: Status of an Emblematic Fauna. By Peter B. Moyle and others, Center for Watershed Studies, University of California, Davis. (California Trout, San Francisco, California) November 2008.**

["Most of California's native salmon, steelhead and trout species face extinction by the end of the century unless the state acts quickly to provide adequate freshwater and habitat.... Decades of lax controls on farming, logging, grazing, mining and road-building have filled and polluted streams, the study said, while the removal of streamside vegetation on the North Coast, in Sierra creeks and on inland lagoons has warmed the water and harmed fish. For the past 50 years, ocean salmon that spawn in rivers from the Klamath south to the Sacramento have been blocked by dams and other barriers and deprived of water diverted to farms and cities by state and federal water projects." San Francisco Chronicle (November 20, 2008) 1.] [Request #S08-51-3051]

Report. 316 p.

<http://www.caltrout.org/SOS-Californias-Native-Fish-Crisis-Final-Report.pdf>

Presentation. 98 p.

<http://www.caltrout.org/SoS-Californias-Native-Fish-Crisis.pdf>

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

## PESTICIDES

**A Review of Acute Toxicity Studies Results on the Light Brown Apple Moth Pheromone Active Ingredient and Four LBAM Pheromone Products. By the California Department of Pesticide Regulation and others. (The Department, Sacramento, California) November 2008.**

["A long-awaited review of a pesticide that was sprayed on 83,500 acres near Santa Cruz and Monterey last year to fight a pest moth concludes there is not enough information to tell if there is a link between the spray and health problems reported by residents.... But the health officials added that they couldn't dismiss 'the possibility that in sensitive individuals, contact with the particles could cause allergic-type responses.' The six tests on four products essentially evaluated toxicity through exposure via ingestion, skin and inhalation." San Francisco Chronicle (November 7, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-51-3013]

Report. 17 p.

[http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/pressrls/lbam/lbam\\_review\\_1108.pdf](http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/pressrls/lbam/lbam_review_1108.pdf)

Studies reviewed. Various pagings.

<http://www.cdpr.ca.gov/docs/pressrls/lbam/lbam.htm>

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

### PROPERTY TAXES

**The Economic Effects of California Adopting a Split Roll Property Tax. By José Alberro and William G. Hamm, LECG, LLC. (Californians Against Higher Property Taxes, Sacramento, California) September 2008. 52 p.**

Full text at: [http://www.stophigherpropertytaxes.com/split\\_roll\\_final\\_report.pdf](http://www.stophigherpropertytaxes.com/split_roll_final_report.pdf)

["Has Proposition 13 shifted the property tax burden from commercial property to owner-occupied residential property? Many supporters of a split roll claim that it has. The evidence, however, shows that the reverse has happened. We calculated the disparity between assessed value and market value for two classes of property: owner-occupied residential, and commercial/industrial. We found that the assessed-value-to-market-value ratio for owner-occupied residential property in the 2006-2007 roll was 53 percent, while the ratio for commercial and industrial property was nearly 60 percent. In other words, commercial and industrial property is being assessed for tax purposes at values that are closer to market values than is the case for owner-occupied residential property.]

[Request #S08-51-3043]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

## STATE BUDGET

**California's Fiscal Outlook: LAO Projections 2008-09 Through 2013-14. By the California Legislative Analyst's Office. (The Office, Sacramento, California) November 2008. 49 p.**

Full text at: [http://www.lao.ca.gov/2008/fiscal\\_outlook/fiscal\\_outlook\\_112008.pdf](http://www.lao.ca.gov/2008/fiscal_outlook/fiscal_outlook_112008.pdf)

["The state's struggling economy has severely reduced expected revenues. Combined with rising state expenses, we project that the state will need \$27.8 billion in budget solutions over the 2008-09 and 2009-10 fiscal years. The state's revenue collapse is so dramatic and the underlying economic factors are so weak that we forecast huge budget shortfalls through 2013-14 absent corrective action. From 2010-11 through 2013-14, we project annual shortfalls that are consistently in the range of \$22 billion.... We believe the Legislature must take major ongoing actions by both reducing base spending and increasing revenues. If the Legislature has any hope of developing a fiscally responsible 2009-10 budget, it must begin laying the groundwork now."]  
[Request #S08-51-3055]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

## HEALTH

### HEALTH CARE FINANCE

**Health Care Opinion Leaders' Views on Payment System Reform. By Kristof Stremikis and others, The Commonwealth Fund. (The Fund, New York, New York) November 2008. 8 p.**

Full text at:

[http://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/publications\\_show.htm?doc\\_id=716275](http://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/publications_show.htm?doc_id=716275)

["More than two-thirds of respondents to the latest survey believe the way we pay for health care in the United States must be fundamentally reformed. Fee-for-service payment -- the most prevalent system throughout the country -- is not effective in encouraging high-quality, efficient care, they say. In the survey, there was strong support for a move away from fee-for-service payment toward bundled approaches -- that is, making a single payment for all services provided to a patient during the course of an episode or period of time. Under fee-for-service, providers are reimbursed for individual services, like hospital stays and medical procedures, rather than for providing the most appropriate care for the patient over the course of an illness. This creates incentives for providing more technical and more expensive -- but not necessarily more effective -- care."]  
[Request #S08-51-2995]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

## HEALTH INSURANCE

**The Erosion of Employer-Sponsored Health Insurance: Declines Continue for the Seventh Year Running. By Elise Gould, Economic Policy Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) October 2008. 22 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.epi.org/briefingpapers/223/bp223.pdf>

["The share of the U.S. population under 65 years old with health insurance rose from 2006 to 2007. Despite these overall coverage gains, the news was not so good for employment-based health insurance: the share of persons covered through work (either their own or a family member's employer) declined for the seventh year in a row. Over the 2000-07 period, the trends indicate a significant shift from private to public coverage, especially among children. In particular, since 2006, public insurance was the only reason that more Americans did not become uninsured as coverage through work fell. Employment-based coverage remains the most prominent form of health insurance in the United States at 62.9% of the under-65 population"]

[Request #S08-51-2975]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

## HOSPITALS

**Health-Care-Associated Infections in Hospitals: An Overview of State Reporting Programs and Individual Hospital Initiatives to Reduce Certain Infections. By the U.S. Government Accountability Office. GAO-08-808. (The Office, Washington, DC) September 2008. 55 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08808.pdf>

["GAO identified 23 states that had established mandatory HAI [health-care-associated infections] public reporting systems through February 2008; most have used similar approaches to design their programs and address resource and technological challenges that affect their implementation. Most states have designed programs that focus on a few measures that were developed or endorsed by the CDC.... The hospitals GAO reviewed reported needing varying levels of funding and staff resources to implement and operate their initiatives, but all hospitals that tracked MRSA infection rates reported a decline in MRSA infections as a result of their initiatives."]

[Request #S08-51-2928]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

## MENTAL HEALTH

**Improving Responses to People with Mental Illnesses: The Essential Elements of a Specialized Law Enforcement–Based Program. AND: Strategies for Effective Law Enforcement Training. By Matt Schwarzfeld and others, Council of State Governments Justice Center. (The Center, New York, New York) 2008.**

["Law enforcement agencies across the country increasingly have collaborated with community partners to design and implement specialized responses to people with mental illnesses.... While variation exists among agencies with these programs, they share a common feature: officers who respond to incidents involving a person with a mental illness receive extensive training for this role.... Training must do more than inform its participants -- it must also transform them. To perform effectively in their new role, officers need to acquire a greater understanding of issues and systems with which they may have little familiarity; with this base, they must also master new skills that will enable them to make safe and appropriate decisions during difficult and often tense field encounters."]

[Request #S08-51-3058]

The Essential Elements. 26 p.

<http://consensusproject.org/downloads/le-essentialelements.pdf>

Strategies for Effective Law Enforcement Training.

<http://consensusproject.org/downloads/le-trgstrategies.pdf?>

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

## TELEMEDICINE

**Delivering Care Anytime, Anywhere: Telehealth Alters the Medical Ecosystem. By Carlton A. Doty, Forrester Research Inc. Prepared for California HealthCare Foundation. (The Foundation, Oakland , California) November 2008. 19 p.**

Full text at:

<http://www.chcf.org/documents/policy/TelehealthAltersMedicalEcosystem.pdf>

["Telehealth is the use of telecommunication in any area of healthcare, including medical intervention, prevention, care management, education, and even health advocacy. This report focuses on telehealth and their applications to consumers in a direct manner and on demand. The most common of these are: 1.) Live videoconferencing; 2.) Store and forward systems; 3.) Remote patient monitoring; and 4.) E-Visits/e consults. Such 'virtual house calls' are moving toward real time interactions that can combine videoconferencing and store and forward systems."]

[Request #S08-51-3040]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

## HOUSING

### HOUSING CONTRUCTION

**The Outlook for Housing Starts: 2009 to 2012. By the Congressional Budget Office. (The Office, Washington, DC) November 2008. 36 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/98xx/doc9885/11-17-HousingStarts.pdf>

["Over the past two years, starts of new homes have fallen sharply, and the resulting decline in real residential construction over that period subtracted an average of 1.0 percentage point from the growth rate of real gross domestic product. Looking forward, several alternative paths for residential construction are possible, ranging from a fairly quick turnaround to a severe slump that lasts several years. This background paper examines the various factors that have determined the number of housing starts in the United States in the past and will continue to determine it in the future. Those factors include the underlying demand for new housing units, especially the role of demographics; cyclical and financial conditions, such as unemployment rates and lending standards; and the number of excess vacant units."]

[Request #S08-51-3063]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

## HUMAN SERVICES

### CHILD CARE

**Child Care Subsidies and Child Development. By Chris M. Herbst, Arizona State University, and Erdal Tekin, Georgia State University, (National Bureau of Economic Research, Cambridge, Massachusetts) November 2008. 46 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.nber.org/tmp/98193-w14474.pdf>

["Child care subsidies are an important part of federal and state efforts to move welfare recipients into employment. One of the criticisms of the current subsidy system, however, is that it overemphasizes work and does little to encourage parents to purchase high-quality child care. Consequently, there are reasons to be concerned about the implications of child care subsidies for child development. We provide a systematic assessment of the impact of subsidy receipt on a wide range of child outcomes. We document a negative relationship between child care subsidies and child development. Our results suggest that subsidy receipt in the year before kindergarten lowers reading and math test scores and increases a variety of behavior problems at kindergarten entry. Some of these negative effects persist to the end of kindergarten. A tentative explanation for the poorer outcomes is that subsidized children are more likely to receive intense exposure to low-quality child care."]

[Request #S08-51-3070]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

## CHILDREN

**Reading, Writing and Hungry: The Consequences of Food Insecurity on Children, and on Our Nation's Economic Success. By Carolyn Murphy, Children's Sentinel Nutrition Assessment Program, and others. (Partnership for America's Economic Success, Washington, DC) November 2008.**

["When parents cannot afford healthy meals for their babies and toddlers, the consequences are potentially devastating. Failing to systematically and comprehensively address the issue of food insecurity among children – an issue that currently plagues over 12 million U.S. households -- hurts their ability to succeed in school and in life. It also hinders the nation's ability to develop the productive workforce that we need... Instead of letting our economic downturn make a desperate situation worse, we should address this problem now by promoting programs and initiatives that invest in children and build our economy. By acting now, we can provide every child in America with the basic necessities to begin life well, and every American taxpayer with the hope of a brighter socioeconomic future for our country."]

[Request #S08-51-3069]

Report. 51 p.

[http://www.partnershipforsuccess.org/docs/researchproject\\_foodinsecurity\\_200811\\_report.pdf](http://www.partnershipforsuccess.org/docs/researchproject_foodinsecurity_200811_report.pdf)

Brief. 6 p.

[http://www.partnershipforsuccess.org/docs/researchproject\\_foodinsecurity\\_200811\\_brief.pdf](http://www.partnershipforsuccess.org/docs/researchproject_foodinsecurity_200811_brief.pdf)

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

## LOW INCOME

**Still Working Hard, Still Falling Short. By the Working Poor Families Project. (The Project, Washington, DC) October 2008. 8 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.workingpoorfamilies.org/pdfs/NatReport08.pdf>

["The conditions for working families in America have worsened. The number of low-income working families with children has increased by more than 350,000. This increase is alarming as it occurred at a time of solid national economic growth. Income inequality increased among working families by almost 10 percent in recent years as indicted by the widening gap between the share of income received by the highest-earning working families and the share received by the least affluent ones. This growing disparity between poor and wealthy families affects more and more children, with more than 21 million children living in a low-income working family. And more low-income working families find it difficult to secure affordable housing or access to health care."]

[Request #S08-51-3033]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

## TRANSPORTATION

### BICYCLING AND PEDESTRIANS

**Factors Associated with Bicycle Ownership and Use: A Study of 6 Small U.S. Cities.** By Susan L. Handy and others, University of California Davis. (The University, Davis, California) 2008. 17 p.

Full text at: [http://www.des.ucdavis.edu/faculty/handy/Bike\\_Draft\\_11.14.pdf](http://www.des.ucdavis.edu/faculty/handy/Bike_Draft_11.14.pdf)

["Bicycling now accounts for less than 1 percent of all trips for all purposes in the U.S., but evidence from other western countries suggests that under the right conditions, bicycling levels can be significantly higher. The experiences of Davis, Boulder, and Eugene suggest that it is possible to create conditions conducive to higher levels of bicycling in the U.S.. However, the extent to which bicycling policy has contributed to bicycling levels in these communities has not been rigorously assessed. The purpose of this study is to provide a better understanding of the determinants of bicycle ownership as a basis for developing measures and incentives to promote the use of bicycles. A cross-sectional study of six cities was designed to test the importance of bicycle infrastructure and other physical environment factors relative to individual factors and social environment factors."]  
[Request #S08-51-3068]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

**Examining the Impacts of Residential Self-Selection On Travel Behavior: Methodologies and Empirical Findings.** By Xinyu (Jason) Cao and others, University of Minnesota's Center for Transportation Studies. (The Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota) October 2008. 70 p.

Full text at:

[http://www.trb.org/news/blurb\\_detail.asp?id=9671&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=Transportation%20Research%20Board&utm\\_campaign=TRB+E-Newsletter+-November+4%2c+2008&utm\\_content=Customer&utm\\_term=](http://www.trb.org/news/blurb_detail.asp?id=9671&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Transportation%20Research%20Board&utm_campaign=TRB+E-Newsletter+-November+4%2c+2008&utm_content=Customer&utm_term=)

["Numerous studies have found that suburban residents drive more and walk less than residents in traditional neighborhoods. What is less well understood is the extent to which the observed patterns of travel behavior can be attributed to the residential built environment itself, as opposed to the prior self-selection of residents into a built environment that is consistent with their predispositions toward certain travel modes and land use configurations.... Virtually all of the 38 empirical studies reviewed found a statistically significant influence of the built environment remaining after self-selection was accounted for. However, the practical importance of that influence was seldom assessed."]  
[Request #S08-51-3001]

[\[Back to Top\]](#)