

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

California -- One Hundred Years Ago

September 1909. “Admission Day’s principal celebration in Los Angeles county yesterday, centered on Santa Monica, where representative citizens gathered in thousands to join with the old city by the sea in dedication of its municipal pier, which is declared to be the best of its kind ever committed to public use, and unique in many respects.... The new concrete pier seems destined to be the focus of attention for a long time to come.... Through the heavy fog that hung low over sea and shore alike early in the morning, there loomed into the view of thousands gathered along the beach the dim outlines of the cruisers St. Louis and Albany, and of the three torpedo boats that had been ordered by the Navy Department to Santa Monica for the occasion.” Los Angeles Times (September 10, 1909) p. III.

<http://www.santamonicapier.org/history.html>

October 1909. “With the completion of its magnificent concrete pier at Colorado avenue -- boasted as the finest of its class in the world -- the old town of Santa Monica has awakened with a jump from a restful slumber and now has so many improvements under way that citizens and visitors are compelled to dodge on many streets and at nearly every corner the engines of progress. Wider streets, boulevards for short and quick connection with Los Angeles, new hotels on the ocean front, broad cement walks along the beach, a new railway line, a breakwater and many other improvements are in progress or in contemplation and the next few months will see a wonderful change in conditions.” Los Angeles Times (October 3, 1909) p. V20.

Contents This Week

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

[Prison system fails to track rising costs](#)

[Firearms control at gun shows](#)

[Jails and the mentally ill](#)

[Law enforcement issues for the mentally ill.](#)

ECONOMY

[Racial disparities in lending](#)

[Metropolitan conditions and trends](#)

[Recession in the 100 largest cities](#)

[Building assets in low-income communities](#)

EDUCATION

[Demand at community colleges will grow](#)
[Need to overhaul transfer process](#)
[Dropouts cost California \\$1.1 billion](#)
[Special education funding still needs reform](#)

EMPLOYMENT

[The state of working California](#)
[Low-wage workers often cheated](#)
[The state of union membership](#)
[The ill-prepared workforce](#)

ENERGY

[A biofuels update](#)
[Effect of energy development on habitat](#)
[Natural gas as a bridge fuel](#)
[Substituting gas for gasoline](#)

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

[Economic effects of cap-and-trade](#)
[Recommendations for Copenhagen forum](#)
[Half the world's fish meals are farmed fish](#)
[Mercury found in all tested fish](#)

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

[The internet and civic engagement](#)
[States face drop in gambling revenues](#)
[Access to government information](#)
[The cost of state regulations](#)

HEALTH

[Identifying HIV-positive individuals](#)
[Reforming physician payments](#)
[Soda and obesity](#)
[Local preparations for flu](#)

HOUSING

[Foreclosure-mediation laws not much help](#)

HUMAN SERVICES

[State profiles of child well-being](#)
[Policies to support early childhood development](#)
[Ending homelessness for the mentally ill](#)
[The dynamics of poverty](#)

TRANSPORTATION

[Benefits of bicycle infrastructure](#)
[Usage-based charges for transportation](#)
[Driving and the built environment](#)
[Enhancing transportation planning](#)

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 California 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 California 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); csinfo@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

CORRECTIONS

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation: It Fails to Track and Use Data That Would Allow It to More Effectively Monitor and Manage Its Operations. By the California Bureau of State Audits. (The Bureau, Sacramento, California) September 2009.

["A scathing new audit faults the Corrections Department for its skyrocketing costs and for not doing enough to track the money it spends. Spending by the Department

jumped by nearly 32 percent from 2005 through 2008 -- to almost \$10 billion, a tenth of the state's operating fund -- even though the inmate population actually decreased by several hundred inmates during that span.... The report blasts the department for failing to employ a computer system that collects and tracks how factors like overtime and health care costs individually contribute to rising costs. Aside from the questions of inefficiency and fattened paychecks, the auditor noted that California's 'three strikes' sentencing law adds billions to the state's corrections costs." San Jose Mercury News (September 9, 2009) 1.]
[Request #S09-27-4098]

Report. 112 p.
<http://www.bsa.ca.gov/pdfs/reports/2009-107.1.pdf>

Brief. 1 p.
<http://www.bsa.ca.gov/reports/summary/2009-107.1>

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

GUNS & GUN CONTROL

Inside Gun Shows: What Goes on When Everybody Thinks Nobody's Watching.
By Garen Wintemute, Violence Prevention Research Program, Univesity of California, Davis. (The Program, Sacramento, California) September 2009.
Various pagings.

Full text at: <http://www.ucdmc.ucdavis.edu/vprp/>

["California does an excellent job with firearms control at gun shows but some other states do not. Wintemute stressed that the report was not quantitative, because it is solely based on personal observations. Additionally, the report's findings cannot be applied to all gun sales because the proportion of gun sales nationwide that occur at gun shows is very small -- between 5 and 10 percent. The report concludes that all states should require private transactions to be subject to the requirements of a licensed dealer, similar to California laws. However, Wintemute said that California's strict regulations are not enough: Californians looking to buy guns privately only have to drive a few hours to out of state. In Arizona and Nevada gun shows, around 30 percent of license plates were from California." Sacramento Bee (September 2, 2009) 1.]
[Request #S09-27-4080]

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

MENTAL ILLNESS

Jails and the Mentally Ill: Issues and Analysis. By the California Corrections Standards Authority. (The Authority, Sacramento, California) September 17, 2009. 62 p.

http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Divisions_Boards/CSA/FSO/Docs/MENTALLY_ILL_IN_JAILS.pdf

["The major finding of this paper is that it is essential for there to be a unified approach incorporating the many disciplines and agencies that share -- or should share -- responsibility for working with mentally ill people and people with co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders (COD) in local custody. Multi-agency problems, like those surrounding the treatment of mentally ill people, people with COD and other special needs people in jails, demand multi-agency solutions.... It is essential for jails to screen incoming inmates for mental health issues and to do more comprehensive mental health assessments of those whose screening identifies serious mental health problems.... Treatment and programming should seek to keep the mentally ill inmate from behaving in ways that are harmful to the individual, staff or other inmates."][Request #S09-27-4161]

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

From Words to Deeds: Criminal Justice and Mental Health: Changing the Paradigm. By the California State Sheriffs' Education Foundation. (Eli Lilly and Company, Sacramento, California) 2005-2008.

["Experts from the worlds of criminal justice and mental health gathered for a workshop to challenge themselves, others like them and policy makers to define solutions to a shared problem: too many individuals who have a mental illness are becoming involved with law enforcement and the courts, and too many repeatedly become involved. While much is known and has been said about this issue, too little has been done to address it.... The workshop revealed that while the problems are deep and unyielding, solutions to the problems of individuals with mental illness in the criminal justice system do exist and can be replicated. These papers summarize the proceedings of the workshops and reflect the proposals for solutions developed by the experts."][Request #S09-27-4154]

2005 workshop. 8 p.

<http://www.library.ca.gov/SITNdocs/09Q3/W2D-II-Recap-2005.pdf>

2006 workshop. 4 p.

<http://www.library.ca.gov/SITNdocs/09Q3/W2D-III-Recap-2006.pdf>

2007 workshop. 8 p.

<http://www.library.ca.gov/SITNdocs/09Q3/W2D-IV-Recap-2007.pdf>

2008 workshop. 4 p.

<http://www.library.ca.gov/SITNdocs/09Q3/W2D-V-Recap-2008.pdf> [\[Back to Top\]](#)

ECONOMY

BANKING

Unequal Opportunity Lenders? Analyzing Racial Disparities in Big Banks' Higher-Priced Lending. By Andrew Jakobovics and Jeff Chapman, Center for American Progress. (The Center, Washington, DC) September 2009. 20 p.

Full text at: http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/09/pdf/tarp_report.pdf

["There's a common perception that subprime loans originated solely from mortgage firms, but many of the nation's largest banks were quite active in doling out these higher-priced mortgages.... In 2006, 14.1 percent of households earning more than twice their area's median income, nearly all of whom reported six-figure incomes, were given higher-priced mortgages. Among high-income borrowers, African Americans were three times as likely as whites to pay higher prices for mortgages -- 32.1 percent compared to 10.5 percent. Hispanics were nearly as likely as African Americans to pay higher prices for their mortgages at 29.1 percent. Some portion of the racial gap is likely the result of differing household incomes, credit scores, loan-to-value ratios, and other underwriting criteria. Nevertheless, we are skeptical that these factors fully explain gaps of these magnitudes."]

[Request #S09-27-4111]

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

CITIES

Metropolitan Conditions and Trends: Changing Contexts for a Community Initiative. By Leah Hendey and G. Thomas Kingsley, Urban Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) July 2009. 40 p.

Full text at:

http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411918_metro_conditions_trends.pdf

["This brief reviews recent social and economic trends in the ten metropolitan areas that form the context for the neighborhood programs being operated as a part of the Making Connections initiative. It finds that these areas are strikingly different along a number dimensions and are in many ways representative of the diversity in conditions and trends across America's metropolitan areas. Since 2002, for example, two of these areas attained among the nation's highest rates of employment growth (Denver and Seattle) while two others experienced serious declines (Oakland and Milwaukee). Although there were important differences in magnitudes, all sites did share in a number of trends: minority groups growing as a share of total population, improvements in several social indicators (e.g., in crime and teen pregnancy) but, disturbingly, notable increases in child poverty."]

[Request #S09-27-3976]

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

MetroMonitor: Tracking Economic Recession and Recovery in America's 100 Largest Metropolitan Areas. By Alan Berube and others, Metropolitan Policy Program at the Brookings Institution. (The Institution, Washington, DC) September 2009. 21 p.

Full text at:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/Programs/Metro/metro_monitor/09_metro_monitor/09_metro_monitor.pdf

["While national trends provide an important look at the country's overall economic health, they mask the continued variable performance of America's individual metropolitan economies. MetroMonitor exposes that diversity. The second report in what will continue to be a quarterly series, it provides an interactive picture of the extent to which the current economic downturn has affected America's metropolitan economies, looking 'beneath the hood' of national economic statistics to portray the varied metropolitan landscape of recession and recovery across the country. In doing so, it aims to enhance understanding of national economic trends and to promote public- and private-sector responses to the downturn that take into account metro areas' unique starting points, weaknesses, and strengths for eventual recovery."]

[Request #S09-27-4102]

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

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Asset Building in Low-Income Communities of Color, Part 2. By Wilhelmina A. Leigh and Anna L. Wheatley, Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies. (The Center, Washington, DC) July 2009. 44 p.

Full text at:

http://jointcenter.org/publications_recent_publications/economics_business/asset_building_in_low_income_communities_of_color_part_2

["The longstanding racial/ethnic wealth gap in this country is reflected in the nearly 7:1 ratio between the median net worth of white households and African American households and in the nearly 5:1 ratio between the median net worth of white households and Hispanic households. Identifying and expanding the knowledge about policies and programs that are effective at fostering asset building in communities of color could narrow or close this gap.... What factors generally viewed as supportive of asset accumulation among low-income people are found in states that are not highly ranked on asset outcomes for this population? Can promising practices, policies or programs be identified in states consistently ranked as less effective at building assets for low-income people?"]

[Request #S09-27-4101]

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

EDUCATION

COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Ready or Not, Here They Come. By Stacy Wilson and others, California Postsecondary Education Commission. (The Commission, Sacramento, California) September 2009. 20 p.

Full text at: http://www.cpec.ca.gov/Agendas/Agenda0909/Item_07.pdf

["Enrollment demand at community colleges will continue to grow in coming years, even though many community colleges are already operating beyond their capacities.... The state should prepare for 222,345 additional community college students by 2019, according to projections in the report. To catch up with growing enrollment demand, community colleges will need an annual increase in funding of at least 3 percent.... State funding for community colleges was reduced due to the budget crisis, and the recession together with the UC system's increased fees and reduction in admissions has caused more students to enroll at community colleges." The Press Enterprise (September 7, 2009) 1.]
[Request #S09-27-4107]

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

Crafting a Student-Centered Transfer Process in California: Lessons from Other States. By Colleen Moore and others, Institute for Higher Education Leadership & Policy. (The Institute, Sacramento, California) August 2009. 28 p.

Full text at: http://www.csus.edu/ihelp/PDFs/R_Transfer_Report_08-09.pdf

["A new study finds that the obstacles California community college students face in transferring are endemic and require an overhaul of the transfer process. Fixing the pipeline to baccalaureate degrees is vital to the state's economic future. The issue is not new, but the problem is taking on increasingly large dimensions. The problem is exacerbated by the fact that community colleges often serve students who are unprepared, including those who are the first in a family to attend college, and lack enough counselors to meet their needs. The report also found that the state's higher education system, which includes 110 community colleges, suffers from a hodgepodge of transfer policies that result in students taking too many courses or the wrong courses -- a frustrating waste of time and money that leads some to drop out." Los Angeles Times (August 27, 2009) 1.]
[Request #S09-27-4105]

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

GRADUATION RATES

High School Dropouts and The Economic Losses from Juvenile Crime in California. By Clive R. Belfield, Queens College, City University of New York, and Henry M. Levin, Teachers College, Columbia University. (California Dropout Research Project, Santa Barbara, California) September 2009. 57 p.

Full text at: http://cdrp.ucsb.edu/dropouts/pubs_reports.htm

["High school dropouts, who are more likely to commit crimes than their peers with diplomas, cost the state \$1.1 billion annually in law enforcement and victim costs while still minors. Cutting the dropout rate in half would prevent 30,000 juvenile crimes and save \$550 million every year.... Drop-out statistics are notoriously difficult to pinpoint, but according to the state Department of Education, nearly 19% of students don't graduate from high school.... The savings from reduced crime could be used to fund drop-out prevention efforts. 'Interventions pay for themselves,' said project Director Russell W. Rumberger, noting that the state will see \$2 in savings for every \$1 invested." Los Angeles Times (September 24, 2009) 1.]

[Request #S09-27-4146]

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

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Special Education Finance in California: A Decade After Reform. By Stephen Lipscomb, Public Policy Institute of California. (The Institute, San Francisco, California) August 2009. 30 p.

Full text at: <http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=790>

["Special education accounted for more than 16 percent -- \$9.3 billion -- of K-12 spending in 2006-07. An extensive reform of special education financing in California about a decade ago sought to improve the way the state funds education for the disabled, who make up about 10 percent of public school students. Did reform achieve its goals? In large part, yes -- but more can be done. The author suggests that to realize reform's equity goals, policymakers could equalize base funding rates and make adjustments for local conditions such as numbers of low-income students and regional labor market wage levels."]

[Request #S09-27-4108]

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

EMPLOYMENT

CALIFORNIA

In the Midst of the Great Recession: The State of Working California 2009. By Alissa Anderson and others, California Budget Project. (The Project, Sacramento, California) September 2009. 19 p.

Full text at: http://www.cbp.org/pdfs/2009/090906_labor_day.pdf

["The report finds that the current recession stands apart from prior downturns for both the depth and breadth of weakness in the job market.... In just two years, the recession has wiped out all of the jobs Californians gained during the previous four-year economic expansion. The state's unemployment rate more than doubled in two years, reaching an all-time high in July 2009 of 11.9 percent, the highest rate since record-keeping began in 1976. A smaller share of Californians is working today than at any point since the late 1970s. Recovery in the job market is likely to be long and slow.... Forecasters are predicting a double-digit unemployment rate in California at least through 2011, which means that many Californians are likely to run out of unemployment insurance benefits before they find work."]

[Request #S09-27-4113]

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

EMPLOYMENT LAW

Broken Laws, Unprotected Workers: Violations of Employment and Labor Laws in America's Cities. By Annette Bernhardt, National Employment Law Project, and others. (The Project, New York, New York) September 2009. 72 p.

Full text at: http://nelp.3cdn.net/319982941a5496c741_9qm6b92kg.pdf

["Low-wage workers are routinely denied proper overtime pay and are often paid less than the minimum wage. The study also found that 68 percent of the workers interviewed had experienced at least one pay-related violation in the previous work week.... The researchers said one of the most surprising findings was how successful low-wage employers were in pressuring workers not to file for workers' compensation. Only 8 percent of those who suffered serious injuries on the job filed for compensation to pay for medical care and missed days at work stemming from those injuries.... Women were far more likely to suffer minimum wage violations than men, with the highest prevalence among women who were illegal immigrants. Among American-born workers, African-Americans had a violation rate nearly triple that for whites." New York Times (September 1, 2009) 1.]

[Request #S09-27-4114]

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

LABOR UNIONS

The State of the Unions in 2009: A Profile of Union Membership in Los Angeles, California and the Nation. By Lauren D. Appelbaum, UCLA Institute for Research on Labor and Employment, and Ben Zipperer, University of Massachusetts, Amherst. (The Institute, Los Angeles, California) September 2009. 15 p.

Full text at: <http://irle.ucla.edu/research/pdf/stateoftheunions2009.pdf>

["Despite the recession, union membership in Southern California is on the rise.... Between July 2008 and June 2009 unions gained almost 25,000 new members in Southern California and more than 131,000 statewide. The gains follow decades of decline in union membership. Union members still represent a minority all workers -- about 18.3% of all employees in California and 17.5% in the Southern California region that includes Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, Ventura and San Bernardino counties. However, the percentage of union membership has been rising the last two years, both in California and throughout the country. Nationwide, union members represent about 12.4% of all workers. Across the country, average hourly earnings are about \$4 more for union workers than for non-union workers." Los Angeles Times (September, 7, 2009) 1.]

[Request #S09-27-4117]

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

WORKFORCE PREPARATION

The Ill-Prepared U.S. Workforce: Exploring the Challenges of Employer-Provided Workforce Readiness Training. By Elyse Rosenblum, the Conference Board, and others. (The Board, New York, New York) August 2009. 24 p.

Full text at: <http://www.conference-board.org/publications/describe.cfm?id=1676>

["U.S. employers continue to struggle with an ill-prepared workforce, finding new hires lack crucial basic and applied skills. For the most part, employer-sponsored readiness training is not successfully correcting these deficiencies.... The results of this study demonstrate how critical it is for companies to be more strategic and focused on efforts such as providing internships and working in partnership with community colleges on workforce readiness initiatives to prepare new entrants before they enter the workplace..... It is a losing strategy for employers to try to fill the workforce readiness gap on the job. They need to be involved much sooner to prepare new employees to succeed."]

[Request #S09-27-4116]

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

ENERGY

ALTERNATIVE FUELS

Transportation Biofuels in the United States: An Update. By Ryan Stockwell and others, the Minnesota Project. (The Project, St. Paul, Minnesota) August 2009. 24 p.

Full text at: http://www.mnproject.org/pdf/TMP_Transportation-Biofuels-Update_Aug09.pdf

["We intend for this report to provide an overview of the current status of major developments in the biofuels industry. We will highlight recent changes in biofuels production processes, biomass development, and federal level policies such as the Biomass Crop Assistance Program. We will also review unavoidable issues including the food versus fuel debate and the difficult indirect land use change debate. Our intention is not to criticize, cheerlead, or otherwise deny or approve particular results or arguments. Instead, our purpose will be to provide information, pose questions, and seek objective analysis of the information that is currently available. Only through an open discussion may we most effectively find root problems and appropriate solutions."]

[Request #S09-27-4123]

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

ENERGY POLICY

"Energy Sprawl or Energy Efficiency: Climate Policy Impacts on Natural Habitat for the United States of America." By Robert I. McDonald and others. IN: PLoS, vol. 4, no. 8 (August 2009) 11 p.

Full text at: <http://www.plosone.org/article/info:doi/10.1371/journal.pone.0006802>

["Concern over climate change has led the U.S. to consider a cap-and-trade system to regulate emissions. Here we illustrate the land-use impact to U.S. habitat types of new energy development resulting from different U.S. energy policies. We estimate the total new land area needed by 2030 to produce energy, under current law and under various cap-and-trade policies, and then partition the area impacted among habitat types with geospatial data on the feasibility of production. The land-use intensity of different energy production techniques varies over three orders of magnitude.... The possibility of widespread energy sprawl increases the need for energy conservation, appropriate siting, sustainable production practices, and compensatory mitigation offsets."]

[Request #S09-27-4130]

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

PETROLEUM

Natural Gas: A Bridge Fuel for the 21st Century. By John D. Podesta, Center for American Progress, and Timothy E. Wirth, Energy Future Coalition. (The Center, Washington, DC) August 10, 2009. 11 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/08/pdf/naturalgasmemo.pdf>

["Natural gas is the cleanest fossil fuel -- it produces less than half as much carbon pollution as coal. Recent technology advancements make affordable the development of unconventional natural gas resources. This creates an unprecedented opportunity to use gas as a bridge fuel to a 21st-century energy economy that relies on efficiency, renewable sources, and low-carbon fossil fuels such as natural gas. Despite the potential energy, economic, and security benefits of natural gas, the recently House-passed American Clean Energy and Security Act, H.R. 2454, does not include enough opportunities to expand its use. We therefore propose a number of policies that would increase the use of natural gas and low-carbon energy sources while providing additional protection for our climate and communities."]

[Request #S09-27-4053]

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

Kill Oil with Natural Gas and Electricity: A Carbon Strategy the World Can Afford. By Peter W. Huber, Manhattan Institute. (The Institute, New York, New York) September 2009. 20 p.

Full text at: http://www.manhattan-institute.org/pdf/eper_4.pdf

["Oil can be beaten. Its share of the U.S. energy market peaked just shy of 50 percent in 1977; today, it's under 40 percent. Gas and coal grabbed half of what oil lost. Uranium took the rest. Oil now depends on transportation for over 70 percent of U.S. demand. A similar blend of coal-gas-uranium electricity and straight gas can squeeze oil off the highway, too.... At current levels of production, gas could power all our U.S. wheels, and we could almost certainly increase production enough to cover all the wheels and all current uses too. Electric cars are certainly coming as well, and the poor will embrace them too when the hardware gets cheap enough. But no foreseeable battery pack is going to move forty-ton trucks cross-country, batteries will remain impractical for most heavy-duty vehicles of any size, and the cheapest way to light the grid is to burn coal."]

[Request #S09-27-4122]

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

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

CLIMATE CHANGE

The Economic Effects of Legislation to Reduce Greenhouse-Gas Emissions. By the Congressional Budget Office. (The Office, Washington, DC) September 2009. 32 p.

Full text at: <http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/105xx/doc10573/09-17-Greenhouse-Gas.pdf>

["The economic impact of a policy to ameliorate that risk would depend importantly on the design of the policy.... Reducing the risk of climate change would come at some cost to the economy.... Climate legislation would cause permanent shifts in production and employment away from industries focused on the production of carbon-based energy and energy-intensive goods and services and toward the production of alternative energy sources and less-energy-intensive goods and services.... CBO has estimated the loss in purchasing power that would result from the primary cap-and-trade program.... The expected distribution of the loss in purchasing power across households depends importantly on policymakers' decisions about how to allocate the allowances."]

[Request #S09-27-4127]

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

Climate Change Policy: Recommendations to Reach Consensus. By Kemal Derviş, Brookings Institution, and others. (The Institution, Washington, DC) September 2009. 68 p.

Full text at:

http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2009/~//media/Files/rc/papers/2009/09_climate_change_poverty/09_climate_change_poverty.pdf

["In advance of the 15th annual Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Copenhagen this December, world leaders will convene at a number of high-level forums in the hopes of building consensus around key elements of a post-2012 climate change agreement.... With the need to get policies right in short order, Brookings experts and colleagues from the public and private sectors offer a range of recommendations for policymakers to forge sustainable climate change solutions that revitalize the global economy and alleviate the adverse effects of a changing climate on the world's poor."].

[Request #S09-27-4129]

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

FISHERIES

"Feeding Aquaculture in an Era of Finite Resources." By Rosamond L. Naylor and others. IN: Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, vol. 106, no. 36 (September 8, 2009) pp. 15103-15110.

Full text at: <http://www.pnas.org/content/106/36/15103.abstract>

["Half of all the fish eaten in the world now is raised on fish farms rather than caught in the wild. Between 1995 and 2007, global production of farmed fish nearly tripled in volume.... But aquaculture is putting a strain on marine resources by consuming large amounts of feed made from wild fish harvested from the sea.... It can take up to five pounds of wild fish to produce one pound of salmon, and we eat a lot of salmon.... Vegetarian species, such as Chinese carp and tilapia, can be raised on feed made from plants instead of wild-caught fish, so these farmed species have been considered environmentally friendly. But our assumption about farmed tilapia and carp being environmentally friendly turns out to be wrong in the aggregate, because the sheer volume is driving up the demand." Environment News Service (September 9, 2009) 1.]

[Request #S09-27-4132]

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

TOXICS

Mercury in Fish, Bed Sediment, and Water from Streams Across the United States, 1998–2005. By Barbara C. Scudder and others, U.S. Geological Survey. (The Survey, Middleton, Wisconsin) August 2009. 86 p.

Full text at: <http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2009/5109/pdf/sir20095109.pdf>

["Researchers found mercury in every fish tested in a nationwide stream survey, with some of the higher concentrations showing up in mining areas of the West. In about a quarter of the fish, levels of the toxic metal exceeded federal standards for people who eat an average amount of fish. Overall, high mercury levels were detected in fish from streams in the Southeast, along the East Coast and in western areas -- including Northern California -- where gold or mercury has been mined. Coal-fired power plants are the largest source of mercury emissions in the United States. For most of the sampled streams, atmospheric mercury is the primary source of the pollutant. Wetlands and forests aid the conversion of mercury into its toxic form, methylmercury, which enters the aquatic food chain." Los Angeles Times (August 21, 2009) A11.]

[Request #S09-27-4070]

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

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

CITIZENSHIP

The Internet and Civic Engagement. By Aaron Smith, Pew Internet & American Life Project, and others. (The Project, Washington, DC) September 2009. 66 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.pewinternet.org/~media/Files/Reports/2009/The%20Internet%20and%20Civic%20Engagement.pdf>

["Just as in offline civic life, the well-to-do and well-educated are more likely than those less well off to participate in online political activities such as emailing a government official, signing an online petition or making a political contribution.... There are hints that forms of civic engagement anchored in blogs and social networking sites could alter long-standing patterns that are based on socioeconomic status.... In part, this circumstance results from the very high levels of online engagement by young adults.... The impact of these new tools on the future of online political involvement depends in large part upon what happens as this younger cohort of 'digital natives' gets older. Are we witnessing a generational change or a life-cycle phenomenon that will change as these younger users age?"]
[Request #S09-27-4141]

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

GAMBLING

For the First Time, a Smaller Jackpot: Trends in State Revenues from Gambling. By Lucy Dadayan and Robert B. Ward, Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government. (The Institute, Albany, New York) September 2009. 20 p.

Full text at: http://www.rockinst.org/pdf/government_finance/2009-09-21-No_More_Jackpot.pdf

["Casinos and lotteries in most states are reporting a downturn in revenue for the first time, resulting in a drop in the money collected by state and local governments.... The drop has led some gambling experts to wonder whether the industry is reaching market saturation, whereby a limited number of gamblers with a fixed amount of money to bet is being split across a growing number of gambling options.... Others, however, argue that the current decline is temporary, and that the industry has plenty of room to expand. Some experts expect revenues to bounce back, but doubt they will be as robust as they were before the recession." New York Times (September 9, 2009) 1.]
[Request #S09-27-4144]

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

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

Access to Government Information In the United States. By Wendy R. Ginsberg, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. (The Service, Washington, DC) August 31, 2009. 11 p.

Full text at: http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/97-71_20090831.pdf

["Congress has legislated various public access laws. Among these laws are two records access statutes; the Freedom of Information Act and the Privacy Act, and two meetings access statutes; the Federal Advisory Committee Act and the Government in the Sunshine Act. The American separation of powers model of government may inherently prompt interbranch conflicts over the accessibility of information. These conflicts are neither unexpected nor necessarily destructive. Although there is considerable interbranch cooperation in the sharing of information and records, such conflicts over access may continue on occasion. This report offers an overview of the four information access laws noted above, and provides citations to additional resources related to these tools."]
[Request #S09-27-4142]

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

REGULATIONS

Cost of State Regulations on California Small Business Study. By Sanjay B. Varshney and Dennis H. Tootelian, California State University, Sacramento. (California Small Business Advocate, Sacramento, California) September 2009. 85 p.

Full text at: <http://www.sba.ca.gov/Cost%20of%20Regulation%20Study%20-%20Final.pdf>

["The total cost of state regulations on businesses is \$493 billion and 3.8 million jobs according to the first-of-its kind study. That's an average of \$134,122 per California business, \$13,801 per household and \$4,685 per resident each year.... This state report is based on data used by Forbes magazine's annual ranking of state for business friendliness. It does not single out specific regulations that drive up costs.... The total cost breakdown is \$266.5 billion in direct costs of various regulations, \$210.5 billion lost labor income and \$16 billion in business taxes the state would get without the regulations." Orange County Register (September 23, 2009) 1.]
[Request #S09-27-4135]

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

HEALTH

HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS: Federal and State Efforts to Identify Infected Individuals and Connect Them to Care. By the U.S. Government Accountability Office. GAO-09-985. (The Office, Washington, DC) September 2009. 50 p.

Full text at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09985.pdf>

["The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimated that 232,700 individuals with HIV were undiagnosed -- that is, unaware that they were HIV positive -- in 2006, and were therefore not receiving care for HIV. CDC has estimated that 32.4 percent, or approximately 12,000, of HIV-positive individuals diagnosed in 2003 did not receive care for HIV within a year of diagnosis. State-level estimates of the number of undiagnosed and diagnosed HIV-positive individuals not receiving care for HIV are not available from CDC. The Health Resources and Services Administration collects states' estimates of the number of diagnosed individuals not receiving care, but data are not consistently collected or reported by states, and therefore estimates are not available for comparison across all states."][Request #S09-27-4166]

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

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Reforming Physician Payments: Lessons from California. By Eric Hammelman and others, Avalere Health, LLC. (California HealthCare Foundation, Oakland, California) September 2009. 5 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.chcf.org/documents/insurance/ReformingPhysicianPaymentsLessonsFromCA.pdf>

["In the national debate over how best to overhaul health care, one consistent theme is that insurance programs must replace fee-for-service payments with a system that encourages providers to make better use of resources, rather than rewarding the volume of care supplied. Many Californians already get their health care services via one such alternative: an approach known as capitation, under which physician groups receive comprehensive global payments to provide care for enrolled patients. This issue brief reviews California's experience with capitation and explores the implications for policymakers seeking to ensure affordability and quality as they pursue a reform agenda. The authors conclude that California's broad-based use of capitation demonstrates that it could be employed on a large scale. However, its successful adoption hinges on certain conditions."]

[Request #S09-27-4165]

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

OBESITY

Bubbling Over: Soda Consumption and Its Link to Obesity in California. By Susan H. Babey and others, UCLA Center for Health Policy Research. (The Center, Los Angeles, California) September 2009. 8 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu/pubs/files/Soda%20PB%20FINAL%203-23-09.pdf>

["Soda and other sugar-sweetened beverages are one of the main reasons why we are fat. For the first time, we have strong scientific evidence that soda is one of the - if not the largest -- contributors to the obesity epidemic.... Suspicion of a link between soda and obesity isn't fresh news, but authors said the study is unprecedented in its scope.... The study found that 24 percent of adults drink one or more non-diet sodas a day, and these adults are 27 percent more likely to be overweight. The results for children were worse. Sixty-two percent of adolescents ages 12 to 17 and 41 percent of children ages 2 to 11 imbibe at least one sugar-sweetened drink a day.... American soda consumption has been steadily rising: Compared with 30 years ago, we consume an average 278 more calories per day, almost half of it from soda." Sacramento Bee (September 21, 2009) 1.]
[Request #S09-27-4162]

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

PUBLIC HEALTH

State and Local Pandemic Influenza Preparedness: Medical Surge. By Judy Kellis and others, Office of the Inspector General, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (The Office, New York, New York) September 2009. 37 p.

Full text at: <http://oig.hhs.gov/oei/reports/oei-02-08-00210.pdf>

["If a severe pandemic occurs, it will affect much of the country at the same time, so medical resources -- such as hospital beds, medical equipment, and personnel -- will likely be scarce. The ability to rapidly respond to an increased demand for medical resources is often referred to as a medical surge. This study focuses on the following five key components of medical surge: (1) coordination among stakeholders; (2) recruitment and management of medical volunteers; (3) acquisition and management of medical equipment; (4) development of alternate care sites; and (5) identification of guidelines for altering triage, admission, and patient care."]
[Request #S09-27-4163]

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

HOUSING

REAL ESTATE LOANS

State and Local Foreclosure Mediation Programs: Can They Save Homes? By Geoffrey Walsh, National Consumer Law Center. (The Center, Boston, Massachusetts) September 2009. 50 p.

Full text at:

http://www.consumerlaw.org/issues/foreclosure_mediation/content/ReportS-Sept09.pdf

["Laws in California and other states requiring mortgage companies to talk to troubled homeowners before foreclosing on them are toothless. They have failed to help homeowners stave off foreclosure because they lack sanctions or accountability for banks.... Some changes would make state programs more effective. These include: requiring banks to show the cost of a foreclosure versus the cost of a loan modification; requiring proof of who actually owns the loan; imposing sanctions on banks that don't negotiate in good faith; and requiring banks to prove they considered alternatives to foreclosure such as loan modifications, short sales and government-assistance programs." San Francisco Chronicle (September 24, 2009) 1.]

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

HUMAN SERVICES

CHILDREN

2009 Kids Count Data Book: State Profiles of Child Well-being. By Laura Beavers and others, Annie E. Casey Foundation. (The Foundation, Baltimore, Maryland) August 2009.

["The data present a rich but complex picture of American children. Some dimensions of well-being improved, some worsened, and some showed little change. The overriding picture that these 10 indicators present is one of little change since 2000. The portrait of change in child well-being since 2000 stands in stark contrast to the period just prior to 2000. Between 1996 and 2000, 8 of the 10 key indicators used in KIDS COUNT improved, and several improved dramatically.... The importance of reporting state-level data is underscored by the fact that most measures in most states are statistically significantly different from the national value for each measure. In other words, the national value for a measure does not tell you much about most states."][Request #S09-27-4078]

Data Book. 148 p.

<http://www.aecf.org/KnowledgeCenter/Publications.aspx?pubguid={B6A6BA6E-086D-4B48-990A-10549E23B6B9}>

Data Brief. 8 p.

<http://www.aecf.org/KnowledgeCenter/Publications.aspx?pubguid={15470866-F721-45D3-BFC6-723BC0A9AD47}>

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

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Social and Emotional Development in Early Childhood: What Every Policymaker Should Know. By Janice L. Cooper and others, National Center for Children in Poverty. (The Center, New York, New York) August 2009. 16 p.

Full text at: http://www.nccp.org/publications/pdf/text_882.pdf

["The early years of a child's life present a unique opportunity to foster healthy development, and research has underscored the importance of the first five years of life -- both positive and negative experiences -- in shaping children's cognitive, behavioral, social, and emotional development. This brief outlines the risks faced by young children with social, emotional, and behavioral problems, as well as barriers to eligibility, access to services, and service utilization.... The principles of strong effective public policies must support: a public health framework; a developmentally appropriate focus; family-based strategies; and services and supports in multiple settings including the home and early care and learning settings."]

[Request #S09-27-4147]

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

HOMELESS

Strategies of State Mental Health Agencies to Prevent and End Homelessness. By Peggy Bailey, National Alliance to End Homelessness, and others. (The Alliance, Washington, DC) August 2009. 24 p.

Full text at: <http://www.endhomelessness.org/content/general/detail/2483>

["Over the last 30 years, mental health services for people with serious mental illness have shifted from institutional settings to care in the community. This shift has been due to deinstitutionalization, the effectiveness of new treatments, and federal financial incentives for community-based care through federal programs such as Medicaid. This transformation has been beneficial for millions of people. Unfortunately, there is still a gap that leads to homelessness for far too many people.... This paper provides examples of how states: engaged governors and mayors, created housing positions within the mental health agency, partnered with other state agencies and organizations, participated in plans to end homelessness, provided housing technical assistance throughout the state, leveraged state resources and used data to promote programs."]

[Request #S09-27-4148]

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

POVERTY

The Dynamics of Poverty in the United States: A Review of Data, Methods, and Findings. By Stephanie Riegg Cellini, George Washington University, and others. (The Urban Institute, Washington, DC) July 2009. 58 p.

Full text at: <http://www.urban.org/publications/411960.html>

["This paper reviews the literature on poverty dynamics in the United States. It surveys the most prevalent data, theories, and methods used to answer three key questions: How likely are people to enter, exit, and reenter poverty? How long do people remain in poverty? And what events are associated with entering and exiting poverty? The paper then analyzes the combined findings of the literature, discussing overarching patterns of poverty dynamics, differences among demographic groups, and how poverty probabilities, duration, and events have changed over time. We conclude with a discussion of the policy implications of these findings and avenues for future research."]

[Request #S09-27-4149]

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

TRANSPORTATION

BICYCLING AND PEDESTRIANS

The Economic Benefits of Bicycle Infrastructure Investments. By Darren Flusche, League of American Bicyclists. (The League, Washington, DC) June 2009. 10 p.

Full text at:

http://www.bikeleague.org/resources/reports/pdfs/economic_benefits_bicycle_infrastructure_report.pdf

["The national bicycling industry contributes an estimated \$133 billion a year to the U.S. economy. It supports nearly 1.1 million jobs and generates \$17.7 billion in federal, state, and local taxes. Another \$46.9 billion is spent on meals, transportation, lodging, gifts and entertainment during bike trips and tours. This article highlights the impact the bicycle industry and bicycle tourism can have on state and local economies, describes the need for bicycle facilities, discusses the cost effectiveness of investments, points out the benefits of bike facilities for business districts and neighborhoods, and identifies the cost savings associated with a mode shift from car to bicycle. The evidence demonstrates that investments in bicycle infrastructure make good economic sense as a cost effective way to enhance shopping districts and communities, generate tourism and support business."]

[Request #S09-27-4081]

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

FINANCING

Implementable Strategies for Shifting to Direct Usage-Based Charges for Transportation Funding. By Paul Sorensen, RAND Corporation, and others. (Transportation Research Board, Washington, DC) June 2009. 150 p.

Full text at: http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/nchrp/nchrp_w143.pdf

["This report presents an analysis of ways that direct charges to road users, based on vehicle-miles of travel (VMT), could be implemented within approximately the next 5 years. VMT fees are possibly an alternative or supplement to fuel taxes that for many decades have been a principal mechanism for funding the transportation system. This document describes trends in fuel-tax revenue and VMT growth that suggest the motivation for considering such fees, and then describes how currently available technology and administrative structures might be used to implement direct usage-based charges. The analysis is informed by recent trials conducted by several states. The information will be useful to national- and state-level policy makers and to government officials and others who may be engaged in evaluating, designing, and implementing such direct usage-based charges."]

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

LAND USE

Driving and the Built Environment: The Effects of Compact Development on Motorized Travel, Energy Use, and CO2 Emissions. By the Committee for the Study on the Relationships Among Development Patterns, Vehicle Miles Traveled, and Energy Consumption, Transportation Research Board. (The Board, Washington, DC) August 2009.

["The most reliable research studies estimate that doubling residential density in a metropolitan area might lower household driving between 5 percent and 12 percent. If higher density were paired with more concentrated employment and commercial locations, and combined with improvements to public transit and other strategies to reduce automobile travel, household driving could be lowered by as much as 25 percent.... A number of obstacles stand in the way of widespread compact development in the U.S. States and regional entities would need to take a major role in managing local growth, which is now controlled by local governments. Local zoning regulations would be a large obstacle, and compact-development initiatives could meet resistance from existing homeowners and politicians."]

Report. 180 p.

<http://onlinepubs.trb.org/Onlinepubs/sr/sr298prepub.pdf>

Report in Brief. 4 p.

<http://onlinepubs.trb.org/Onlinepubs/sr/sr298summary.pdf>

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

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Metropolitan Planning Organizations: Options Exist to Enhance Transportation Planning Capacity and Federal Oversight. By the U.S. Government Accountability Office. GAO-09-868. (The Office, Washington, DC) September 2009. 40 p.

Full text at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09868.pdf>

["Metropolitan planning organizations (MPO) are responsible for transportation planning in metropolitan areas; however, little is known about what has been achieved by the planning efforts. This report describes (1) the characteristics and responsibilities of MPOs, (2) the challenges that MPOs face in carrying out their responsibilities, (3) how the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) provides oversight for MPOs and the extent to which this improves transportation planning, and (4) the options that have been proposed to enhance transportation planning.... GAO suggests that Congress consider making MPO transportation planning more performance based by, for example, identifying specific transportation outcomes for transportation planning and charging DOT with assessing MPOs' progress in achieving these outcomes in the certification review process."]
[Request #S09-27-4158]

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