

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

California -- One Hundred Years Ago

January 1910. “Terrible, indeed is the Halpine torpedo, and it is sent on its errand in a way quite distinct from that of similar torpedoes. It is towed out to sea by a sailor in a small rowing boat. On board the boat is a controlling board worked by electricity, and when a crank is turned, the Halpine torpedo, which is attached to the boat by a cable, careers along at high speed, pulling the craft after it. When the torpedo and boat are within a couple of miles or so of the vessel which is to be attacked, the sailor in charge brings them to a dead stop. Anchoring his boat, he climbs aboard the torpedo, sits astride and releases the cable or twine. His next proceeding is to restart the mechanism of the torpedo under him. As the torpedo cuts along, he guides it toward the vessel, and when well within a mile, he drops into the sea – he wears a cork jacket – and takes hold of a controlling wire which issues from the back of the torpedo. So that the operator may see where to guide the torpedo by means of the wire, it has two short masts with round disks at the end. Red and green lamps are made to flare at the back of the disks. If he keeps the two lights in line, one above the other, he can be sure that his weapon is heading straight for the big battleship.” Los Angeles Times (January 14, 1910) p. I7.

January 1910. “As many members of the California delegation as could find time went today with president McGregor of the Union Iron Works to call upon the Secretary of the Navy Meyer and urge that the four submarines for which bids are to be opened February 15, be built on the Pacific Coast if there is not too great a difference in price and that they be stationed on the Pacific Coast.” Los Angeles Times (January 14, 1910) p. I4.

Contents This Week

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

[Problems with tracking criminal data](#)

[Fixing the identity theft statute](#)

[Juvenile sex offenders](#)

[Parole supervision practices](#)

CULTURE AND SOCIETY

[Promise and peril in massive data](#)

ECONOMY

[Economic benefits of immigration reform](#)
[Illegal immigrants have small impact on economy](#)
[Immigration reform would help economy](#)
[More difficult to achieve middle class](#)

EDUCATION

[Negative reaction to NCLB](#)
[Evaluating Head Start](#)
[Top public universities faulted on financial aid](#)
[Making the most from lunch program](#)

EMPLOYMENT

[Work supports for low-wage workers](#)
[Workplace violations in Los Angeles](#)
[Measuring green economy employment](#)

ENERGY

[The cost of cash for clunkers](#)

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

[Some improvements in Santa Monica Bay](#)
[Independent experts support smelt opinion](#)
[Mixed water portfolio reduces cost](#)
[Evaluating water supply shortages](#)

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

[City budget shortfalls and responses](#)
[County budget strategies](#)
[Funding retiree health costs](#)
[A fiscal survey of states](#)

HEALTH

[Supportive communities for elders](#)
[Reducing in-home supportive services](#)
[Mental health parity law](#)
[Secondhand smoke and cardiovascular disease](#)

HOUSING

[Local action to mitigate foreclosures](#)
[New state foreclosure laws](#)

HUMAN SERVICES

[The Adoption and Safe Families Act](#)
[How many children are poor?](#)
[Recession and child poverty](#)

[Increasing food stamp participation](#)

TRANSPORTATION

[Transit oriented development and property values](#)

[State highways as main streets](#)

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

CRIME STATISTICS

“Public but Opaque: The Problems of Tracking Homicide Charging in a California County.” By Paul Kaplan and others. IN: *Justice Policy Journal*, vol. 6, no. 2 (Fall 2009) 29 p.

Full text at: http://www.cjcj.org/files/public_but.pdf

["This article reports on a project to collect and analyze publicly available demographic data related to not yet adjudicated ('active') homicide cases charged in one large and diverse California County. Much of the desired data, although legally publicly available, turned out to be impossible or practically impossible to obtain. The obstacles we encountered seemed mostly related to bureaucratic overload, indifference, and most importantly, the absence of a systematic data collection and analysis infrastructure in the criminal justice system for tracking active cases. We were only able to state the race of 25% of the defendants and 36% of the victims in these 121 cases. We propose legislation to facilitate data collection on homicide cases."][Request #S10-3-4511]

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

IDENTITY THEFT

Fixing Flores: Assuring Adequate Penalties for Identity Theft and Fraud. By Janice Kephart, Center for Immigration Studies. (The Center, Washington, DC) January 2010. 20 p.

Full text at: <http://www.cis.org/articles/2010/Flores-Figueroa.pdf>

["This Backgrounder proposes statutory language fixes to federal identity theft and aggravated felony language to reverse the practical implications of the May 2009 Supreme Court ruling in *Flores-Figueroa v. United States*. Flores crippled prosecutors' longstanding practice of using the aggravated identity theft statute by requiring that prosecutors now also prove that a defendant knew he was using a real person's identity information, as opposed to counterfeit information not connected to an actual person. The statute is an important tool for immigration enforcement. Proving a defendant's knowledge about his crime is always difficult, and impossible in some cases, even where there is substantial harm and clear victims. This is especially the situation with illegal aliens who buy identity information from third parties."]

[Request #S10-3-4508]

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

JUVENILE OFFENDERS

Juveniles Who Commit Sex Offenses Against Minors. By David Finkelhor and others, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice. (The Office, Washington, DC) December 2009. 12 p.

Full text at: <http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/227763.pdf>

["Although those who commit sex offenses against minors are often described as 'pedophiles' or 'predators' and thought of as adults, it is important to understand that a substantial portion of these offenses are committed by other minors who do not fit the image of such terms.... Juveniles account for more than one-third (35.6 percent) of those known to police to have committed sex offenses against minors. Juveniles who commit sex offenses against other children are more likely than adult sex offenders to offend in groups and at schools and to have more male victims and younger victims. The number of youth coming to the attention of police for sex offenses increases sharply at age 12 and plateaus after age 14. Females constitute 7 percent of juveniles who commit sex offenses. Females are found more frequently among younger youth than older youth who commit sex offenses."]

[Request #S10-3-4507]

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

PAROLE

An Evolving Field: Findings from the 2008 Parole Practices Survey. By Jesse Jannetta, Urban Institute Justice Policy Center, and others. (The Institute, Washington, DC) December 2009. 72 p.

Full text at: http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411999_parole_practices.pdf

["Parole supervision matters. Much has been written about prisoner reentry and the cost of failing to reintegrate the hundreds of thousands of people who are released from prison each year. The role of parole supervision, which is intimately connected to prisoner reentry and the maintenance of public safety, has often been lost in that discussion.... Most states have not invested sufficiently in parole supervision or in the agencies that are responsible for protecting the general public and supervising individuals released from prison. Incarceration costs nearly 10 times as much as community supervision, and the vast majority of corrections spending is devoted to prisons.... There is broad agreement that the field should move toward models of behavioral change, including the adoption of evidence-based practices and other best practices."]

[Request #S10-3-4509]

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

CULTURE AND SOCIETY

PRIVACY

The Promise and Peril of Big Data. By David Bollier. (The Aspen Institute, Washington, DC) January 2010. 66 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.aspeninstitute.org/sites/default/files/content/docs/pubs/InfoTech09.pdf>

["The explosion of mobile networks, cloud computing and new technologies has given rise to incomprehensibly large worlds of information, often described as 'Big Data.' Using advanced correlation techniques, data analysts (both human and machine) can sift through massive swaths of data to predict conditions, behaviors and events in ways unimagined only years earlier.... But this analytical ability poses new questions and challenges. For example, what are the ethical considerations of governments or businesses using Big Data to target people without their knowledge?... The Roundtable became most animated, however, and found the greatest promise in the application of Big Data to the analysis of systemic risk in financial markets. A system of streamlined financial reporting and massive transparency would serve better than past regulatory approaches."]

[Request #S10-3-4512]

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

ECONOMY

IMMIGRATION

Raising the Floor for American Workers: The Economic Benefits of Comprehensive Immigration Reform. By Raúl Hinojosa-Ojeda, University of California, Los Angeles. (Center for American Progress, Washington, DC) January 7, 2010. 28 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/01/pdf/immigratoneconreport.pdf>

["Providing a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants would provide a \$1.5 trillion boost to the economy over the next decade.... The study finds that comprehensive immigration reform would raise wages, increase consumption, create jobs and generate additional tax revenue. Higher wages would translate into more tax revenue and increased consumer purchasing power, which benefits the public treasury and the U.S. economy as a whole.... Hinojosa-Ojeda analyzed the historical experience of legalization under the 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act, which he said raised wages, created jobs and generated additional tax revenue. He also estimated the economic benefits of two other possible scenarios for immigration reform: a program for temporary workers and mass deportation." San Bernardino Sun (January 8, 2010) 1.]
[Request #S10-3-4451]

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

The Economics and Policy of Illegal Immigration in the United States. By Gordon H. Hanson, University of California, San Diego. (Migration Policy Institute, Washington, DC) December 2009. 19 p.

Full text at: <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/Hanson-Dec09.pdf>

["Illegal immigrants drive down wages of low-skilled American workers, but they aren't a drain on the overall economy. Businesses and undocumented workers are the clear beneficiaries of the nation's immigration system. The losers are people at the bottom rung of the labor ladder who compete with illegal immigrants for low-wage jobs. When the pros and cons are tallied up, illegal immigration's overall impact on the economy is small.... The country would benefit by having an immigration system that responds to economic conditions, Hanson said." San Bernardino Sun (December 2, 2009) 1.]
[Request #S10-3-4389]

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

The Economic Benefits of Immigrant Authorization in California. By Manuel Pastor and others, University of Southern California. (Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration, Los Angeles, California) January 2010. 18 p.

Full text at:

http://csii.usc.edu/documents/economic_benefits_immigrant_authorization.pdf

["Legalizing undocumented immigrants would provide a powerful jolt to the economy. California, home to about one-quarter of the country's estimated 12 million illegal immigrants, stands to gain about \$16 billion over time from an amnesty program. Amnesty would help fix Sacramento's budget crisis by increasing the state and local tax base by about \$350 million in the short run.... The report looks specifically at Latino illegal immigrant adults, who make up the vast majority of the state's undocumented population. If they had legal status, Latino workers would make more money and increase spending, investment and contributions to the state, local and national economy. They would bolster the Social Security and Medicare systems and earn higher wages as a result of increased education and English skills." San Bernardino Sun (January 12, 2010) 1.]
[Request #S10-3-4468]

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

INCOME

Middle Class in America. By the Economics and Statistics Administration, U.S. Department Of Commerce. (The Department, Washington, DC) January 2010. 43 p.

Full text at:

http://www.commerce.gov/s/groups/public/@doc/@os/@opa/documents/content/prod01_008833.pdf

["It is more difficult today to both attain and maintain a middle-class lifestyle than it was two decades ago.... Middle-class families are defined by their aspirations more than their incomes. Middle-class families and those who aspire to be middle class want economic stability, and that means the ability to own a home and a car for each adult, the ability to afford needed medical care, the ability to save for college for their children and for retirement, and the ability to take an occasional family vacation. Unfortunately, for many, these middle class goals remain out of reach. As the report documents, while family incomes rose during the 1990s, they were stagnant or falling in the 2000s. At the same time, the prices of some of the key elements of a middle-class lifestyle -- housing, college education, and health care -- rose much faster than the overall rate of inflation."]
[Request #S10-3-4526]

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

EDUCATION

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Does the No Child Left Behind Act Help or Hinder K-12 Education? By Patrick Guggino and Steven Brint, University of California, Riverside. (The University, Riverside, California) January 2010. 8 p.

Full text at: <http://www.policymatters.ucr.edu/pmatters-vol3-3-NCLB.pdf>

["More testing and shortened instructional time is what some teachers are facing as a result of the approval of the No Child Left Behind Act. The legislation fundamentally changed teaching and education in U.S. schools by requiring annual testing of school children and 'adequate yearly progress' for every subgroup of students.... In a study, the authors surveyed 740 national board certified teachers in California to assess the effectiveness and unintended consequences of NCLB. They found that 84 percent reported overall unfavorable attitudes about the act; 46 percent felt it diminished creativity; 59 percent said it had unintended consequences, primarily less creativity in the classroom and increased influence of textbook companies to determine the content and pace of instruction." San Bernardino Sun (January 26, 2010) 1.][Request #S10-3-4524]

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

HEAD START

Head Start Impact Study: Final Report. By Westat and others. Prepared for the Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. (The Administration, Washington, DC) January 2010. 420 p.

Full text at:

http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/hs/impact_study/reports/impact_study/hs_impact_study_final.pdf

["Providing access to Head Start has a positive impact on children's preschool experiences. There are statistically significant differences between the Head Start group and the control group on every measure of children's preschool experiences measured in this study.... However, the advantages children gained during their Head Start and age 4 years yielded only a few statistically significant differences in outcomes at the end of 1st grade for the sample as a whole. Impacts at the end of kindergarten were scattered and are mentioned only when they appear to be related to the 1st grade impacts.... Selected subgroups of children showed patterns of favorable impacts, including favorable impacts through 1st grade in the cognitive, social-emotional, or health domains.... There were also a few subgroups of children that showed patterns of unfavorable impacts."][Request #S10-3-4539]

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

HIGHER EDUCATION

Opportunity Adrift: Our Flagship Universities Are Straying From Their Public Mission. By Kati Haycock and others, Education Trust. (Education Trust, Washington, DC) January 2010. 27 p.

Full text at:

[http://www.edtrust.org/sites/edtrust.org/files/publications/files/Opportunity%20Adrift\(\).pdf](http://www.edtrust.org/sites/edtrust.org/files/publications/files/Opportunity%20Adrift().pdf)

["Many of the nation's top public universities are giving millions of dollars in financial aid to students from relatively wealthy families instead of to those who urgently need it, resulting in campuses that are often less diverse than those at elite private schools. From 2003 to 2007, public research universities increased the amount of aid to students whose parents make at least \$115,000 a year by 28 percent, to \$361.4 million.... The report suggests that the universities have neglected their mission to educate their states' diverse populations in favor of recruiting high-achieving students from relatively wealthy families who can help the schools climb in national rankings." The Washington Post (January 14, 2010) 1.]
[Request #S10-3-4541]

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

SCHOOL MEALS

State Strategies to Help Schools Make the Most of Their National School Lunch Program. By the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices. (The Association, Washington, DC) January 11, 2010. 14 p.

Full text at: <http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/1001SCHOOLLUNCH.PDF>

["This Issue Brief highlights the ways states can positively influence the diets of children at greatest risk for poor health by working with local schools to provide not just a reliable source of nourishment but the best nutrition possible for every dollar spent on the NSLP. In particular, it explores three key challenges schools face with respect to the NSLP and the strategies states can use to help them make the most of this important program: 1) Improving the nutritional quality of meal offerings; 2) Increasing NSLP enrollment rates; and 3) Making the most of limited NSLP funds."]
[Request #S10-3-4542]

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

EMPLOYMENT

LOW-WAGE WORKERS

Making Work Supports Work: A Picture of Low-Wage Workers in America. By Jessica Purmort, National Center for Children in Poverty. (The Center, New York, New York) January 2010. 20 p.

Full text at: http://www.nccp.org/publications/pdf/text_914.pdf

["Government 'work support' policies -- benefit programs such as earned income tax credits, public health insurance, child care assistance, and SNAP/food stamps -- can help some families close the gap between low earnings and the high cost of basic expenses. While federal government guidelines provide a framework for work support policies in the United States, there is wide variation in how these policies are implemented across states. This report analyzes the effectiveness of these policies. Findings from this report show that the current patchwork of state policies fails to ensure that workers are able to afford their families' basic living expenses, leaving a number of low-wage workers and their families without adequate support."]

[Request #S10-3-4517]

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

WORK CONDITIONS

Workplace Theft and Workplace Violations in Los Angeles: The Failure of Employment and Labor Law for Low-Wage Workers. By Ruth Milkman and others, Institute for Research on Labor and Employment, University of California, Los Angeles. (The Institute, Los Angeles, California) January 2010. 73 p.

Full text at: <http://www.irle.ucla.edu/events/2010/pdf/LAwagetheft.pdf>

["Low-wage workers in Los Angeles regularly experience violations of basic laws that mandate a minimum wage and overtime pay and are frequently forced to work off the clock or during their breaks.... Other violations documented in the survey include lack of required payroll documentation, being paid late, tip stealing, and employer retaliation. In nearly every case, the violation rates are higher in Los Angeles than in New York and Chicago." Sacramento Bee (January 7, 2010) 1.]

[Request #S10-3-4516]

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

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Measurement and Analysis of Employment in the Green Economy: Final Report. By the Workforce Information Council Green Jobs Study Group. (The Council, Washington, DC) October 2009. 64 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.workforceinfocouncil.org/Documents/WICGreenJobsStudyGroupReport-2009-10-01t.pdf>

["This report provides information... on working definitions and methods to estimate and analyze green job employment. While many studies were reviewed for this report, the principal resources reviewed -- including four state surveys of green jobs in Washington, Michigan, Oregon, and California and two analytical reviews from Connecticut and New York -- come from state Labor Market Information (LMI) units. Having developed and used measurable definitions of green jobs and green economic activities, these states provide a learning laboratory. Based on their work, we believe that a combination of a measurable definition of green jobs, survey-based green job data, and existing LMI provides the strongest base on which to develop and provide information on green jobs."]

[Request #S10-3-4339]

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

ENERGY

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

“The Uneasy Case for Subsidizing Energy Efficiency.” By Burton A. Abrams and George R. Parsons. IN: The Milken Institute Review. (First Quarter 2010) pp. 62-70.

Full text at: http://www.milkeninstitute.org/publications/review/2010_1/62-70mr45.pdf

["'Cash for Clunkers,' formally, the Car Allowance Rebate System (CARS), proved to be an idea politicians couldn't refuse.... But a closer look -- one in which the costs to taxpayers (present and future) are weighed against the benefits to auto buyers, industry stakeholders and the environment -- casts serious doubt on that conclusion. Indeed, by conventional measures, CARS yielded net societal losses averaging more than \$1,000 per clunker traded in. Why rehash the program now? Because it illustrates the problematic consequences of making economic and environmental policy without first making a best effort to weigh the costs and benefits -- an error now being repeated in the current incentive program to induce consumers to buy energy-efficient home appliances."]

[Request #S10-3-4518]

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

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

COASTAL AREAS

State of the Bay Report 2010. By the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission. (The Commission, Los Angeles, California) January 2010. Various pagings.

Full text at:

<http://www.santamonicabay.org/smbay/NewsEvents/StateoftheBay/StateoftheBayReport/tabid/176/Default.aspx>

["The Santa Monica Bay's dry-weather water quality record has improved and some habitats have rebounded since the release of a report five years ago on the bay's environmental health. But the latest analysis of the waters off the South Bay coastline points to some lingering problems, including contaminated seafood, threatened fish populations and pollution caused by wet weather discharges.... Improved water quality conditions can be attributed in part to the installation of low-flow diversion devices that are designed to keep contaminated runoff from entering storm drains.... The report points out that certain Santa Monica Bay fish populations remain at risk, including kelp bass, California halibut and barred sand bass." Torrance Daily Breeze (January 11, 2010) 1.]
[Request #S10-3-4482]

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

ENDANGERED SPECIES

Independent Expert Panel Review of the Family Farm Alliance's Information Quality Act Correction Requests. By PBS&J. (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Lakewood, Colorado) October 21, 2009. 149 p.

Full text at:

http://www.fws.gov/informationquality/topics/FY2009/Family_Farm_Alliance/OCA-P-IQA-APPEAL-response-expert-review.pdf

["This independent review of the USFWS Biological Opinion (BO) for Delta smelt is worth a read. The study seems largely to have been released under the radar, and we only just became aware of it. In general, the panel concluded that the science underpinning the BO is sound and credible. The review, requested by the Family Farm Alliance through the Information Quality Act, was completed by a panel of five independent scientists. It presents the panel's responses to questions posed by FFA on the validity of the science of the BO's Effects Analysis." Environmental Defense Fund posting (December 15, 2009) 1.]
[Request #S10-3-4433]

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

WATER RESOURCES

"Managing Population and Drought Risks Using Many-Objective Water Portfolio Planning Under Uncertainty." By Patrick Reed and others. IN: Water Resources Research, vol. 45, doi:10.1029/2009WR008121. (December 2009)
Various pagings.

Full text at:

<http://europa.agu.org/?view=article&uri=/journals/wr/wr0912/2009WR008121/2009WR008121.xml&t=wr,2009,reed>

["Computer simulations for drought-prone areas reveal that when urban water planners combine three approaches of buying water -- permanent rights, options and leases -- the city avoids surplus water and high costs, and reduces shortages.... A major focus of the research is to provide decision-makers with water planning models that graphically illustrate how options, leases and permanent rights affect cost, surplus water and probability of water shortages.... The researchers found that when cities in the region rely solely on permanent rights, they could incur high costs -- \$13 million a year -- and require lots of surplus water yet still face significant supply failures in drought years. Most cities that buy water rely on permanent rights to ensure reliable water supply." Science Daily (January 21, 2010) 1.]

[Request #S10-3-4527]

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

WATER SUPPLY

California Drought: Hydrological and Regulatory Water Supply Issues. By Betsy A. Cody and others, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. (The Service, Washington, DC) December 7, 2009. 31 p.

Full text at: <http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R40979.pdf>

["This report discusses California's current hydrological situation and provides background on regulatory restrictions affecting California water deliveries, as well as on the long-established state water rights system, which also results in uneven water deliveries in times of shortages.... The short-term issue for Congress is how to evaluate demands for increasing water supplies that may help some users but may jeopardize the continued existence of several fish species. A longer-term issue for Congress is how to evaluate management alternatives that will protect species, but also help water users and economies that depend on reliable water supplies and healthy ecosystems."]

[Request #S10-3-4445]

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

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

BUDGETING

City Budget Shortfalls and Responses: Projections for 2010-2012. By Christopher W. Hoene, National League of Cities. (The League, Washington, DC) December 2009. 4 p.

Full text at:

http://www.nlc.org/ASSETS/5A4EFB8CF1FE43AB88177C808815B63F/BudgetShortFalls_10.pdf

["This report provides projections about municipal budget shortfalls over the next three years and reviews city leaders' responses to those conditions. Among the findings: The municipal sector will likely face a fiscal shortfall of between \$56 billion and \$83 billion from 2010-2012, driven by declining tax revenues, ongoing service demands and cuts in state revenues. The low point for city fiscal conditions typically follows the low point of an economic downturn by at least two years, indicating that the low point for cities will come sometime in 2011; and City leaders are responding with layoffs, furloughs and payroll reductions; delaying and canceling capital infrastructure projects; and cutting city services."]

[Request #S10-3-4529]

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

"Budget Strategy: A Survey of California County Governments." By Jinping Sun. IN: California Journal of Politics and Policy, vol. 1, no. 1 (December 2009) pp. 1-17.

Full text at: <http://www.bepress.com/cjpp/vol2/iss1/3/?sending=10879>

["This paper intends to investigate what factors have caused their budget shortfalls and what strategies they have adopted to cope with the fiscal crisis. Survey findings show there are three basic reasons for California county budget shortfalls: shrinking revenues, reductions in state aid, and rising costs for labor, goods and services. Confronted with pressing fiscal challenges, California county governments have adopted a wide range of traditional budget control measures to close their revenue and spending gaps, such as personnel control and service cuts. They have also become creative and used this opportunity to reexamine their spending, find savings, and improve government operations. In addition, this fiscal crisis provides an opportunity for federal, state, and local governments to work together to address the problems of federalism, health care and pension systems."]

[Request #S10-3-4528]

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

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Health and OPEB Funding Strategies: 2009 National Survey of Local Governments. By Cobalt Community Research. (Cobalt Community Research, Lansing, Michigan) 2009. 79 p.

Full text at:

http://www.cobaltcommunityresearch.org/images/stories/2009_OPEB/Health%20and%20OPEB%20Funding%20Strategies%202009%20FINAL.pdf

["In 2004, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) issued Statement No. 45, 'Accounting and Financial Reporting by Employers for Postemployment Benefits Other than Pensions (OPEB).' This second year annual study provides detailed insight into the awareness of and response to GASB 45 and maps the strategies local governments have implemented and plan to implement to address health care costs. Here are major questions this study seeks to answer: What strategies are local governments using to address their health costs? What do governments plan to do in the next two years? Who is aware of the GASB 45 requirements and has done the valuation? Which strategies are local governments using to reduce or fund their liabilities?"]

[Request #S10-3-4531]

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

STATE BUDGETS

The Fiscal Survey of States. By Ben Husch, National Association of State Budget Officers. (National Governors Association, Washington, DC) December 2009. 86 p.

Full text at: <http://www.nga.org/FILES/PDF/FSS0912.PDF>

["State finances worsened in 2009 and are forecast to decline further during fiscal 2010 and likely into 2011 and possibly 2012. Nearly every state faced tightening fiscal conditions compared to fiscal 2008, when such fiscal difficulties were seen in about half the states. In fiscal 2009, 43 states reduced enacted budgets by \$31.3 billion, while 36 states have reduced fiscal 2010 expenditures by \$55.7 billion.... Enacted budgets for fiscal 2010 show a 5.4 percent decrease in general fund expenditures. These decreases in general fund expenditures would be the largest declines in the history of the Fiscal Survey of States. Prior to 2009, actual state general fund spending had only declined one other time, in 1983, by 0.7 percent."]

[Request #S10-3-4426]

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

HEALTH

ELDERLY

There's No Place Like Home: Models of Supportive Communities for Elders. By Candace Baldwin, NCB Capital Impact, and Susan Poor, Susan Poor Consulting. (California HealthCare Foundation, Oakland, California) December 2009. 26 p.

Full text at: <http://www.chcf.org/documents/chronicdisease/NoPlaceLikeHome-ModelsCommunitiesElders.pdf>

["California's seniors want to remain in their homes and communities as they age, a healthier -- and less expensive -- solution than institutionalization. Successful aging within the community requires economic security, adequate and affordable housing, and access to health care. This issue brief looks at a number of innovative models for aging in community, including: Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs); Living At Home/Block Nurse Programs; Villages; Senior Cohousing; and Senior Cooperative Housing. Examples of programs using these models are described in terms of governance and structure, target population, annual fees, entry age, staffing, and funding. The report also discusses national and state policy issues. As the population ages, it will be increasingly important to find healthy and affordable solutions for community living for seniors."]

[Request #S10-3-4503]

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

HEALTH CARE

In-Home Supportive Services Program: Considering the State Costs and Benefits. By Ginni Bella Navarre, California Legislative Analyst's Office. (The Office, Sacramento, California) January 21, 2010. 28 p.

Full text at: http://lao.ca.gov/reports/2010/ssrv/ihss/ihss_012110.pdf

["The In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program provides care for over 430,000 recipients, at an annual total cost of about \$5.5 billion. The program, which is available to low-income elderly and disabled persons, provides various services to recipients in their own homes. Assistance is provided with tasks such as cleaning, meal preparation, bathing, grooming, and helping with medications.... From a fiscal perspective, our findings indicate that the state maximizes its net fiscal impact by targeting IHSS services to those recipients who are most likely to enter a nursing home in the absence of the program. Given the state's continuing fiscal problems, we offer additional options for the Legislature to consider that can achieve state savings through increased targeting."]

[Request #S10-3-4534]

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

MENTAL HEALTH

"Implementation of Mental Health Parity: Lessons From California." By Margo L. Rosenbach and others. IN: Psychiatric Services, vol. 60, no. 12 (December 2009) pp. 1589-1594.

Full text at: http://samhsa.gov/pubs/Parity_CAlessons.pdf

["This article reports the experiences of health plans, providers, and consumers with California's mental health parity law and discusses implications for implementation of the 2008 federal parity law.... Health plans eliminated differential benefit limits and cost-sharing requirements for certain mental disorders to comply with the law, and they used managed care to control costs.... Providers indicated that the diagnosis list had unintended consequences, including incentives to assign a more severe diagnosis that would be covered at parity levels, rather than a less severe diagnosis that would not be covered at such levels.... Experiences in California suggest that implementation of the 2008 federal parity law should include monitoring health plan performance related to access and quality; and examining the breadth of diagnoses covered by health plans."]

[Request #S10-3-4489]

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

SMOKING

Secondhand Smoke Exposure and Cardiovascular Effects: Making Sense of the Evidence. By the Committee on Secondhand Smoke Exposure and Acute Coronary Events, Institute of Medicine. (National Academies Press, Washington, DC) January 2010.

["The book reviews available scientific literature to assess the relationship between secondhand smoke exposure and acute coronary events. The authors, experts in secondhand smoke exposure and toxicology, clinical cardiology, epidemiology, and statistics, find that there is about a 25 to 30 percent increase in the risk of coronary heart disease from exposure to secondhand smoke. Their findings agree with the 2006 Surgeon General's Report conclusion that there are increased risks of coronary heart disease morbidity and mortality among men and women exposed to secondhand smoke. However, the authors note that the evidence for determining the magnitude of the relationship between chronic secondhand smoke exposure and coronary heart disease is not very strong."][Request #S10-3-4525]

Book. 240 p.

[book](#)

Executive Summary. 27 p.

[executive summary](#)

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

HOUSING

REAL ESTATE LOANS

Addressing the Foreclosure Crisis: Action Oriented Research in Three Cities. By G. Thomas Kingsley and others, the Urban Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) December 2009. 46 p.

Full text at: http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412001_addressingforeclosure.pdf

["The National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership is a network of local civic groups and university institutes in 32 cities that operate neighborhood-level data systems. This report documents the results of a project that challenged three of these groups to apply their data creatively to enhance local responses to the foreclosure crisis in a one year time frame. All had an impact. The Atlanta group developed neighborhood data on foreclosure trends region-wide and presented it at several major convenings that motivated stakeholders for the first time to work toward a coordinated regional approach to response planning. In Chicago, the group linked the client database of a major housing counseling organization to records on foreclosure outcomes and helped the agency examine outcomes for the households they counseled."]

[Request #S10-3-4521]

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

2009 State Residential Mortgage Foreclosure Laws. By the National Governors Association Center for Best Practices. (The Center, Washington, DC) January 13, 2010. 19 p.

Full text at: <http://www.nga.org/Files/pdf/1001FORECLOSURELAWS2009.PDF>

["In 2009, 33 states and Puerto Rico enacted at least 99 new laws addressing foreclosure and mortgage issues. The new laws address three basic areas: mitigation, neighborhood stabilization, and prevention of bad loans. However, because foreclosures remained at historically high levels in 2009, states concentrated on strategies to mitigate foreclosures. In fact, of the 99 laws examined, 67 address foreclosure mitigation strategies. Beyond those, 15 laws address neighborhood stabilization and 12 address preventing bad loans.... Together, the new responses reflect the continued leadership role of states in addressing foreclosures and the ability of states to act as laboratories as new programs are tested."]

[Request #S10-3-4520]

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

HUMAN SERVICES

ADOPTION

Intentions and Results: A Look Back at the Adoption and Safe Families Act. By Olivia Golden, the Urban Institute, and others. (The Institute, Washington, DC) December 2009. 138 p.

Full text at: http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/1001351_safe_families_act.pdf

["The Adoption and Safe Families Act (ASFA), signed into law on November 19, 1997, was the most significant piece of legislation dealing with child welfare in almost twenty years. The ambitious new law aimed to reaffirm the focus on child safety in case decision making and to ensure that children did not grow up in foster care but instead were connected with permanent families.... This series is not intended to deliver a uniform message or arrive at a master list of findings. In fact, the authors often disagree with one another or draw different conclusions about both successes and continuing challenges within the child welfare system twelve years after the passage of ASFA. This lively give-and-take is to be expected when considering issues as important, sensitive, and difficult to analyze and regulate as state intervention into families' lives."]

[Request #S10-3-4522]

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

CHILDREN

Who Are America's Poor Children? The Official Story. By Vanessa R. Wight and others, the National Center for Children in Poverty. (The Center, New York, New York) January 2010. 8 p.

Full text at: http://www.nccp.org/publications/pdf/text_912.pdf

["More than 13 million American children live in families with incomes below the federal poverty level, which is \$22,050 a year for a family of four. The number of children living in poverty increased by 21 percent between 2000 and 2008. There are 2.5 million more children living in poverty today than in 2000. Not only are these numbers troubling, the official poverty measure tells only part of the story. Research consistently shows that, on average, families need an income of about twice the federal poverty level to make ends meet."]

[Request #S10-3-4523]

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

The Effects of the Recession on Child Poverty. By Julia B. Isaacs, First Focus. (First Focus, Washington, DC) December 2009. 12 p.

Full text at: http://www.firstfocus.net/Download/Isaacs_1.10.pdf

["Statistics released last fall by the U.S. Census Bureau indicate that in 2008, nearly one in five children under the age of 18 lived in poverty. Experts acknowledge that this statistic does not capture the full impact of the economic downturn, which will drive 2009 poverty numbers even higher. The study finds that that between August 2008 and August 2009, the number of people receiving SNAP benefits increased by 7 million, or 24 percent. This drastic increase means that roughly 3.4 million more children were receiving SNAP benefits in August 2009, as compared to a year earlier. The report also provides an initial glance at what parts of the nation are experiencing the most dramatic growth in economic need among families with children, and where the largest increases in child poverty have occurred during 2009."]

[Request #S10-3-4532]

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

FOOD STAMPS

Food Within Reach: Strategies for Increasing Participation in the Food Stamp Program in California. By Scott Graves and Jennifer Tucker, California Budget Project. (The Project, Sacramento, California) December 2009. 22 p.

Full text at: http://cbp.org/pdfs/2009/091221_Food_Stamps.pdf

["Fewer than half of eligible Californians received food stamp benefits in federal fiscal year 2007, nearly the lowest participation rate in the nation. This report recommends strategies that state and county policymakers can implement to reach more eligible Californians and boost participation in the FSP: 1) Eliminate the fingerprint-imaging requirement, 2) Reduce paperwork requirements, 3) Eliminate the asset test for all households, 4) Modify the FSP application to make it easier for Californians to choose the 'opt-out' alternative, 5) Increase state funding for county FSP outreach and administration, 6) Eliminate in-person interviews, 7) Implement convenient ways to apply for food stamp benefits and evaluate the effectiveness of those strategies, 8) Promote the opt-out alternative, and 9) Increase and improve outreach efforts."]

[Request #S10-3-4506]

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

TRANSPORTATION

LAND USE

Effect of Suburban Transit Oriented Developments on Residential Property Values. By Shishir Mathur and Christopher E. Ferrell, San José State University. (Mineta Transportation Institute, San Jose, California) June 2009. 102 p.

Full text at:

[http://www.transweb.sjsu.edu/MTIportal/research/publications/documents/Effects%20of%20SubUrban%20Transit%20\(with%20Cover\).pdf](http://www.transweb.sjsu.edu/MTIportal/research/publications/documents/Effects%20of%20SubUrban%20Transit%20(with%20Cover).pdf)

["While community opposition to TODs has been pronounced, very little empirical research exists that indicates whether this opposition is well-founded. Economic theory suggests that if a TOD has a negative effect on the surrounding residential neighborhoods, then that effect should lower land prices and in turn, the housing prices in these neighborhoods. Similarly, an increase in the housing prices would mean a positive effect of TODs on the surrounding neighborhoods. This study empirically estimates the impact of four San Francisco Bay Area suburban TODs on single-family home sale prices. The study finds that the case study suburban TODs either had no impact or had a positive impact on the surrounding single-family home sale prices."][Request #S10-3-4537]

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

TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

State Highways as Main Streets: A Study of Community Design and Visioning. By Jim Nicholls and others, University of Washington Department of Architecture. (Washington State Department of Transportation, Olympia, Washington) October 2009. 35 p.

Full text at: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/research/reports/fullreports/733.1.pdf>

["The objectives for this project were to explore community transportation design policy to improve collaboration when state highways serve as local main streets, determine successful approaches to meet the federal requirements for visioning, find ways to assist local agencies in improving their grant applications to WSDOT, identify new ways to translate context sensitive design guidance into practice, and support staff and organizational development by connecting the architecture profession and transportation engineering. For projects on state highways that were identified as main streets (inside cities), some scope and schedule adjustments may be avoided by applying a greater degree of community design consideration in systems analysis and project development, resulting in a potential overall savings for the agency."][Request #S10-3-4435]

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