Studies in the News 10-113
June 29, 2010

CALIFORNIA RESEARCH BUREAU
CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY

Studies in the News

California -- One Hundred Years Ago

June 1910 “In the annals of oil-development history there is no record of any well equaling the Lakeview gusher located in the Sunset-Midway field of Kern county California. Baku, Russia has had its oil gushers and Beaumont Texas cut some figures in that line a few years ago, but it remained for the California field to set a pace that has distanced all competition. It was on March 15 that this oil gusher came in with a roar that was destined to reverberate throughout the world. Now California oil is an everyday topic in London business circles, and the fame of the recesses of civilization.” Los Angeles Times (June 12, 1910) p. VI1.

June 1910 “Two great gushers have been opened up in the West Side oil fields…. No accurate line on the flow of the producer brought in by the Pacific Midway Oil Company could be obtained, the well breaking loose after dark last night. It was shooting a big stream, several hundred feet above the derrick, and the flow seemed to increase steadily. The company had made little or no preparation to handle so much oil and it is feared the well will get beyond control.” Los Angeles Times (June 24, 1910) p. I4.

July 1910 “The nightmare of another uncontrollable gusher similar to the Lakeview hovered over the Sunset oil field for a few hours Tuesday, while workmen were struggling to place a gate on a new oil well brought in by the American Oilfields Company. The well, until the efforts of the men were finally successful, shot over the crown block at the rate of 25,000 to 30,000 barrels per day.” Los Angeles Times (July 31, 1910) p. VI5.

November 1910 “What gives every indication of being the biggest gusher in the North Midway field was brought in last night. The well is making 40,000 to 50,000 barrels per day which is considerably greater flow than the Lakeview during the first days of its history…. The Midway Premier started with a rush of rocks and sand that knocked the crown block out of the derrick and the rocks still coming are beating the remainder of the derrick to pieces. The well is wholly out of control and there is no possibility of stopping it unless it chokes with sand and the prospect for its doing this is hourly growing less. The company did not expect to strike the gusher at that depth and was wholly unprepared to handle the oil.” Los Angeles Times (November 15, 1910) p. I4.

Contents This Week

HEALTH

HOUSING

HUMAN SERVICES

TRANSPORTATION

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); cslinfo@library.ca.gov) with the SITN issue number and the item number [S#].
- All other interested individuals should contact their local library - the items may be available there, or may be borrowed by your local library on your behalf.

.

The following studies are currently on hand:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

CRIME CONTROL

The Globalization of Crime: A Transnational Organized Crime Threat Assessment. By the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (The Office, Vienna, Austria) June 2010. 314 p.

Full text at: http://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/tocta/TOCTA_Report_2010_low_res.pdf

["The report shows how organized crime has globalized and turned into one of the world's foremost economic and armed powers. It looks at major trafficking flows of drugs (cocaine and heroin), firearms, counterfeit products, stolen natural resources and people (for sex and forced labour), as well as smuggled migrants. It also covers maritime piracy and cybercrime.... The two most prominent flows for smuggling migrants are from Africa to Europe and from Latin America to the United States. Between 2.5 million and 3 million migrants are smuggled from Latin America to the United States every year, generating US$ 6.6 billion for smugglers."]
[Request #S10-13-4989]

[Back to Top]

Trafficking in Persons Report: 10th Edition. By the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons, U.S. Department of State. (The Department, Washington, DC) June 2010. 373 p.

Full text at: http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/142979.pdf

["The U.S. stands with the world's top nations in its efforts to stop human trafficking but still could do a better job. The finding came after a yearlong examination and was the first time U.S. officials had ranked their efforts to fight human trafficking on the same scale they use to judge other countries. The U.S. finds only a tiny fraction of the nation's human-trafficking victims, and poorly trained law enforcement authorities are sometimes unwilling to help the victims they do find.... The report acknowledged that the U.S. was 'a source, transit, and destination country for men, women, and children subjected to trafficking in persons, specifically forced labor, debt bondage, and forced prostitution.'" Kansas City Star (June 15, 2010) A1.]
[Request #S10-13-4990]

[Back to Top]

PRISONER REENTRY

Incarceration and Prisoner Reentry in the United States. By Steven Raphael, University of California, Berkeley. (Institute for Research on Poverty, Madison, Wisconsin) April 2010. 42 p.

Full text at: http://www.irp.wisc.edu/publications/dps/pdfs/dp137510.pdf

["This chapter addresses the reentry challenges faced by low-skilled men released from U.S. prisons. I empirically characterize the increases in incarceration occurring since 1970 and assess the degree to which these changes result from changes in policy as opposed to changes in criminal behavior. I discuss what is known about the children of inmates and the likelihood that a child has an incarcerated parent. The chapter then addresses the employment barriers faced by former prison inmates with a particular emphasis on how employers view criminal history records in screening job applicants. Finally, I discuss a number of alternative models for aiding the reentry of former inmates. Transitional cash assistance, the use of reentry plans, traditional workforce development efforts, and transitional jobs for former inmates are all among the tools used across the United States."]
[Request #S10-13-4988]

[Back to Top]

PRISONS

The High Budgetary Cost of Incarceration. By John Schmitt and others, Center for Economic and Policy Research. (The Center, Washington, DC) June 2010. 19 p.

Full text at: http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/incarceration-2010-06.pdf

["The United States currently incarcerates a higher share of its population than any other country in the world. The U.S. incarceration rate -- 753 per 100,000 people in 2008 -- is now about 240 percent higher than it was in 1980. A reduction by one-half in the incarceration rate for non-violent offenders (who now make up over 60 percent of the prison and jail population) would lower the overall incarceration rate to the level reached in 1993. This would also lower correctional expenditures by $16.9 billion per year, with the large majority of these savings accruing to state and local governments. These projected savings would amount to almost one-fourth of total corrections budgets. The extensive research on incarceration and crime suggests that these budgetary savings could be achieved without any appreciable deterioration in public safety."]
[Request #S10-13-4982]

[Back to Top]

DEMOGRAPHY

MARRIAGE

Marrying Out: One-in-Seven New U.S. Marriages is Interracial or Interethnic. By Paul Taylor and others, Pew Research Center. (The Center, Washington, DC) June 4, 2010. 41 p.

Full text at: http://pewsocialtrends.org/assets/pdf/755-marrying-out.pdf

[“A record 14.6% of all new marriages in the United States in 2008 were between spouses of a different race or ethnicity from each other. That figure is an estimated six times the intermarriage rate among newlyweds in 1960 and more than double the rate in 1980. This dramatic increase has been driven in part by the weakening of longstanding cultural taboos against intermarriage and in part by a large, multi-decade wave of immigrants from Latin America and Asia…. While blacks remain the most accepting of interracial marriage, approval is on the rise among whites. The proportion of whites who now say they 'would be fine' with a relative’s marriage to a member of a different racial or ethnic group is up 8 percentage points since 2001.”]
[Request #S10-13-4983]

[Back to Top]

ECONOMY

CONSUMER PROTECTION

Federal Financial and Economic Literacy Education Programs, 2009. By Angela A. Hung and others, RAND Corporation. (RAND, Santa Monica, California) 2010. 120 p.

Full text at: http://rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/2010/RAND_TR857.pdf

["To assist the Departments of Education and the Treasury, RAND was asked to review and summarize survey data on federal financial and economic literacy education programs collected by the Departments of Education and the Treasury.... Many federal agencies and departments have long-standing financial education programs that vary in depth, focus, and form depending on the agency’s overall mandate. Twenty of the 21 surveyed agencies itself reported conducting a total of 56 financial and economic literacy education programs.... The scope and goals of the programs reported also varied widely: While a majority of programs had a goal related to raising awareness about specific agency mandates or initiatives, almost three-quarters of the programs also aimed to change attitudes and behavior related to financial issues."]
[Request #S10-13-4927]

[Back to Top]

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Recovery Act: States' and Localities' Uses of Funds and Actions Needed to Address Implementation Challenges and Bolster Accountability. By the U.S. Government Accountability Office. GAO-10-604. (The Office, Washington, DC) May 2010. 344 p.

Full text at: http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d10604.pdf

["As of May 7, 2010, approximately $114.8 billion, or 41 percent of the approximately $282 billion of total Recovery Act funds for programs administered by states and localities, had been paid out by the federal government. Most outlays to date have been for health and education and training, but, increasingly, investments in transportation, community development, energy, and the environment will characterize new spending.... GAO updates the status of agencies' efforts to implement previous GAO recommendations and makes 24 new recommendations to improve management and strengthen accountability to the Departments of Education, Transportation, Energy, Housing and Urban Development, Treasury, Labor, and Health and Human Services, and to the Environmental Protection Agency, and to the Office of Management and Budget."]
[Request #S10-13-4992]

[Back to Top]

ECONOMIC STATISTICS

The State of Society: Measuring Economic Success and Human Well-Being. By Erwin de Leon and Elizabeth T. Boris, Urban Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) May 2010. 94 p.

Full text at: http://www.urban.org/publications/412101.html

["This study provides an overview of a broad range of existing measures that go beyond gross domestic product to offer a more complete and accurate picture of how a society and its economy are faring.... After examining existing indicators, we propose that new measures must assess more adequately the well-being of all segments of society -- women, children, the elderly, and racial and other minorities. We recommend that particular attention be paid to the economic contributions of women, especially to their caring work in both the market and nonmarket economic sectors, as the degree to which a society invests in caring work is a prime indicator of the degree to which it invests in human capacity development."]
[Request #S10-13-4993]

[Back to Top]

SMALL BUSINESS

The Future of Small Business Entrepreneurship: Jobs Generator for the U.S. Economy. By Martin Neil Baily and others, The Brookings Institution. (The Institution, Washington, DC) June 2010. 8 p.

Full text at:
http://www.brookings.edu/~/media/Files/rc/papers/2010/0604_innovation_small_business/pb_175.pdf

["We have identified the following more targeted ideas for fostering the health and growth of small businesses (and, in many cases, larger businesses) over the longer run: 1) Improve access to public and private capital; 2) Reexamine corporate tax policy with an eye toward whether provisions of our tax code are discouraging small business development; 3) Promote education to help businesses struggling with shortages of workers with particular skills, and promote research to spur innovation; 4) Rethink immigration policy, as current policy may be contributing to shortages of key workers and deterring entrepreneurs who wish to start promising businesses in our country; 5) Explore ways to foster 'innovation-friendly' environments, such as regional cluster initiatives; and 6) Strengthen government counseling programs."]
[Request #S10-13-4991]

[Back to Top]

EDUCATION

CHARTER SCHOOLS

Charter School Autonomy: A Half-Broken Promise. By Dana Brinson, and Jacob L. Rosch, Public Impact. (The Thomas B. Fordham Institute, Washington, DC) May 2010. 47 p.

Full text at: http://edexcellence.net/index.cfm/news_charter-school-autonomy-a-half-broken-promise

["Our policy makers and school authorizers, by and large, have not fulfilled their part of the grand 'bargain' that undergirds the charter school concept: that these new and independent schools will deliver solid academic results for needy kids in return for the freedom to do it their own way.... That represents a major policy failure in American education reform, one that needs to be understood by those who are closely inspecting charter school results, and by policy makers who want this bold experiment to have a fair chance to show what it can do.... Though the average state earns an encouraging B+, state grades for charter autonomy range from A to F. Arizona, California, Texas, and the District of Columbia, for example, provide much-needed autonomy."][Request #S10-13-5019]

[Back to Top]

ENGLISH LEARNERS

Reparable Harm: Fulfilling the Unkept Promise of Educational Opportunity for California's Long Term English Learners. By Laurie Olsen, Californians Together. (Californians Together, Long Beach, California) May 2010. 64 p.

Full text at: http://www.californianstogether.org/

["Nearly 60% of English-language learners in California's high schools have failed to become proficient in English despite more than six years of a U.S. education. In a survey of 40 school districts, the study found that the majority of long-term English-language learners are U.S. natives who prefer English and are orally bilingual. But they develop major deficits in reading and writing, fail to achieve the academic English needed for educational success and disproportionately drop out of high school.... California schools educate 1.6 million English learners, a quarter of all students; they make up the largest concentration of English learners in the nation. But most schools are failing to adequately monitor their progress, train teachers or develop appropriate curriculum." Los Angeles Times (May 28, 2010) 1.] [Request #S10-13-5021]

[Back to Top]

GRADUATION RATES

Hispanics, High School Dropouts and the GED. By Richard Fry, Pew Hispanic Center. (The Center, Washington, DC) May 2010. 24 p.

Full text at: http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/122.pdf

["Just one-in-ten Hispanic high school drop-outs has a General Educational Development (GED) credential, widely regarded as the best 'second chance' pathway to college, vocational training and military service for adults who do not graduate high school. By contrast, two-in-ten black high school drop-outs and three-in-ten white high school drop-outs has a GED. The relatively low level of GED credentialing among Hispanic high school drop-outs is especially notable because Hispanics have a much higher high school drop-out rate than do blacks or whites.... Hispanic adults with a GED had a higher unemployment rate than Hispanic adults with a high school diploma -- 9% versus 7%. However, Hispanic full-time, full-year workers with a GED had about the same mean annual earnings as Hispanic full-time, full-year workers with a high school diploma."]
[Request #S10-13-5020]

[Back to Top]

HIGHER EDUCATION

Advancing by Degrees: A Framework for Increasing College Completion. By Jeremy Offenstein and others, Institute for Higher Education Leadership & Policy. (The Institute, Sacramento, California) April 2010. 25 p.

Full text at: http://www.csus.edu/ihelp/PDFs/R_AdvbyDegrees_0510.pdf

["The purpose of this report is to give institutional leaders a new set of tools for diagnosing institutional barriers to degree completion and targeting institutional changes to remove those barriers.... Higher education leaders need to understand what really drives student success. Tracking six-year graduation and annual retention rates isn't enough. By monitoring a set of milestones and on-track indicators -- measurable educational achievements and academic and enrollment patterns -- institutional leaders can learn which groups of students are making progress and which are not -- and why. Data college officials gather in this process can inform changes in policies or practices and help struggling students get the help they need."]
[Request #S10-13-5018]

[Back to Top]

EMPLOYMENT

EMPLOYMENT LAW

The Effect of Labor Market Regulations on Educational Attainment. By Aparna Mathur, American Enterprise Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) May 2010. 44 p.

Full text at: http://www.aei.org/docLib/EducationandLaborMarketRigidity.pdf

["In a frictionless and costless world, all individuals should aim to attain the highest level of education possible in order to maximize the return from schooling. However, patterns of educational attainment across countries show widely differing levels of enrollment in higher education (though enrollments in primary education are fairly uniform). In this paper, I argue that labor market frictions in the form of employment protection laws are responsible to a degree for these observed differences. Theoretical models of labor markets with employment protection legislation conclude that the effect of such legislation is to reduce job turnover, reduce productivity, increase the duration of unemployment and under certain circumstances, increase unemployment."]
[Request #S10-13-4994]

[Back to Top]

LOW-WAGE WORKERS

Low-Skill Workers' Access to Quality Green Jobs. By Karin Martinson and others, Urban Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) May 2010. 10 p.

Full text at: http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412096-low-skilled-worker.pdf

["Green jobs are typically considered positions in industries that improve energy efficiency, promote the use of alternative energy sources, and reduce the effect of production on the environment. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 made the continued growth of green jobs a priority. While the number of jobs that will actually be created through this public investment is uncertain, green jobs will clearly continue to be an important economic and policy focus into the foreseeable future…. It is critical to consider how low-skill, and often low-income, workers can reap some of the gains from the emerging green economy. This brief discusses strategies for improving access to green jobs among those with low skill levels, particularly jobs that can help improve workers' economic standing and better support their families."]
[Request #S10-13-4984]

[Back to Top]

YOUTH

Not-So-Equal Protection: Reforming the Regulation of Student Internships. By Kathryn Anne Edwards and Alexander Hertel-Fernandez, Economic Policy Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) April 2010. 8 p.

Full text at: http://epi.3cdn.net/f7d635c82f7380fff0_8sm6bxrzk.pdf

["Internships have become a vital component of the labor market for post-secondary school students. Yet the laws governing the rights of student interns have not kept pace with the rise in the prevalence and importance of the internship. The federal government thus has an essential role to ensure that everyone who engages in substantive work is compensated accordingly, that employers do not have an incentive to replace regular workers with unpaid college students or unpaid interns, and that all workers, student or not, have access to equal protection from harassment and discrimination. The reforms outlined in this proposal would take important steps to reach these goals."]
[Request #S10-13-4834]

[Back to Top]

A Drought of Summer Jobs: Immigration and the Long-Term Decline in Employment Among U.S.-Born Teenagers. By Steven A. Camarota and Karen Jensenius, Center for Immigration Studies. (The Center, Washington, DC) May 2010. 32 p.

Full text at: http://www.cis.org/articles/2010/teen-study.pdf

[“The share of U.S.-born teenagers (16 to 19) in the labor force -- working or looking for work -- during the summer has been declining for more than a decade, long before the current recession. In 1994, nearly two-thirds of U.S.-born teenagers were in the summer labor force; by 2007 it was less than half. At the same time, the overall number of immigrants (legal and illegal) holding a job doubled. The evidence indicates that immigration accounts for a significant share of the decline in teen labor force participation. The decline in teen work is worrisome because research shows that those who do not hold jobs as teenagers often fail to develop the work habits necessary to function in the labor market, creating significant negative consequences for them later in life.”]
[Request #S10-13-4919]

[Back to Top]

ENERGY

ALTERNATIVE FUELS

State of the States: Fuel Cells in America. By Sandra Curtin and others, Fuel Cells 2000. (Fuel Cells 2000, Washington, DC) 2010. 89 p.

Full text at: http://www.fuelcells.org/StateoftheStates.pdf

["The United States is home to major fuel cell manufacturers, small start-ups, fuel providers, as well as hundreds of component suppliers, end users and companies involved at one point or another on the development and manufacturing spectrum. Fuel Cells 2000 estimates that there are more than 630 active companies and laboratories in 47 states involved in the fuel cell and related fuels industry, investing an estimated $1 billion a year. Other estimates put the total supply chain in the thousands of companies. We have analyzed the seven regions of the United States, compiling state activities supporting fuel cell and hydrogen policy, as well as installations and demonstrations in each state, so that readers can see how their state performs and compare efforts with their neighboring states."]
[Request #S10-13-4945]

[Back to Top]

ENERGY CONSERVATION

Evaluating the Slow Adoption of Energy Efficient Investments: Are Renters Less Likely to Have Energy Efficient Appliances? By Lucas W. Davis, University of California, Berkeley. (Energy Institute at Haas, Berkeley, California) June 2010. 18 p.

Full text at: http://ei.haas.berkeley.edu/pdf/working_papers/WP205.pdf

["Many studies have pointed out that landlords may buy cheap inefficient appliances when their tenants pay the utility bill. Although this landlord-tenant problem has been widely discussed in the literature, there is little empirical evidence on the magnitude of the distortion. This paper compares appliance ownership patterns between homeowners and renters using household-level data from the Residential Energy Consumption Survey. The results show that, controlling for household income and other household characteristics, renters are significantly less likely to have energy efficient refrigerators, clothes washers and dishwashers."]
[Request #S10-13-4995]

[Back to Top]

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

FISHERIES

2009 Report to Congress: The Status of U.S. Fisheries. By the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service. (The Service, Silver Springs, Maryland) May 2010. 28 p.

Full text at: http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/statusoffisheries/SOSmain.htm

["Four fisheries stocks, including Atlantic swordfish, have now been rebuilt to healthy levels. Three stocks were removed from the overfishing list -- those fished at a level that would threaten the stocks. For the first time since the report was issued in 1997, no stocks were added to the overfishing list.... The report shows a continuing trend of year-over-year national improvements.... Canary rockfish, two stocks of coho salmon, and petrale sole populations, all found in the Pacific, declined in 2009 and are now considered overfished. Fish stocks defined as overfished may be struggling due to causes other than fishing pressure, such as habitat loss or predator-prey interactions." Science Daily (May 17, 2010) 1.]
[Request #S10-13-4948]

[Back to Top]

OCEAN RESOURCES

Evaluating Alternatives for Decommissioning California's Offshore Oil and Gas Platforms: A Technical Analysis to Inform State Policy. By Brock Bernstein and others, Project Team for the Oil and Gas Platform Decommissioning Study. (California Ocean Science Trust, Oakland, California) June 2010. 230 p., Appendicies.

Full text at: http://calost.org/reports/Decommissioning_Report.pdf

["The report identifies decommissioning options for the 27 state and federal oil and gas platforms off California's coast. The report is a compilation of existing relevant information that was thoroughly reviewed by a committee of experts. It will provide policy makers and stakeholders with a central source of information from which informed decommissioning decisions can be made. It is important to note that the report is not about offshore oil drilling or oil exploration. Rather, it identifies and analyzes the impacts of a variety of decommissioning options that could be implemented once an oil and gas platform reaches the end of its design life. While the report does not provide any policy recommendations, by addressing a broad range of issues -- from air quality to liability concerns to ecological impacts -- the report identifies tradeoffs among decommissioning options."]
[Request #S10-13-5008]

[Back to Top]

WATER POLLUTION

Contaminants in Fish from California Lakes and Reservoirs, 2007-2008: Summary Report on a Two-Year Screening Survey. By J.A. Davis, San Francisco Estuary Institute, and others. (State Water Resources Control Board, Sacramento, California) May 2010. 127 p.

Full text at:
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/swamp/lakes_study.shtml

["Almaden Lake, a popular San Jose city park, has fish with the highest concentrations of mercury contamination in California. The findings come as part of a survey by the State Water Resources Control Board. The agency tested 4,905 fish in 272 lakes and reservoirs during 2007 and 2008 for methyl mercury, PCBs, DDT and other contaminants, the most extensive such survey ever completed in the state.... Fish tested at Almaden Lake averaged 2.15 parts per million of mercury. That's nearly five times the 0.44 parts per million level above which consumption is not recommended for children and women of childbearing age. Statewide, 21 percent of the 272 lakes tested in the study had fish averaging above the 0.44 parts per million level." San Jose Mercury News (June 4, 2010) 1.]
[Request #S10-13-5010]

[Back to Top]

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

CAMPAIGN FINANCE

Campaign Finance Reform: Experiences of Two States That Offered Full Public Funding for Political Candidates. By the U.S. Government Accountability Office. GAO-10-390. (The Office, Washington, DC) May 2010. 141 p.

Full text at: http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d10390.pdf

["The 2000 elections in Maine and Arizona were the first in the nation's history where candidates seeking state legislative seats had the option to fully fund their campaigns with public moneys. In 2003, GAO reviewed the programs and found the programs' goals were to (1) increase electoral competition; (2) increase voter choice; (3) curb increases in campaign costs; (4) reduce interest group influence; and (5) increase voter participation.... While there was some evidence of statistically significant changes in one of the five goals, we could not directly attribute these changes to the programs, nor did we find significant changes in the remaining four goals after program implementation.... There is no indication the programs decreased perceived interest group influence, although some candidates and interest group officials GAO interviewed said campaign tactics changed"]
[Request #S10-13-4974]

[Back to Top]

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE

Not Out of the Woods: The Recession's Continuing Impact on Big City Taxes, Services and Pensions. By Thomas Ginsberg, Philadelphia Research Initiative, Pew Charitable Trusts. (The Trusts, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) May 26, 2010. 10 p.

Full text at: Not Out of the Woods

["For residents of many major U.S. cities, the recession will mean higher local taxes and new fees in the year ahead, continuing a trend that began this past year. And for some local government workers who retain their jobs, it will mean fewer and costlier employee benefits. Most of the cities have been dealing with another year of significant budget gaps, although their shortfalls, for the most part, were slightly smaller than a year ago. To offset drops in existing revenues, four of the cities are weighing or have approved higher local taxes or fees for fiscal 2011 that would impact a broad swath of residents or businesses. Six of them already had imposed increases for fiscal 2010. Among the 13 cities, as of late May, Philadelphia was the only one enacting a broad tax hike a second year in a row -- a property-tax increase for fiscal 2011 after a sales-tax increase for fiscal 2010."]
[Request #S10-13-5014]

[Back to Top]

PUBLIC EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

The Funding of State and Local Pensions: 2009–2013. By Alicia H. Munnell and others, Boston College. (The Center for State and Local Government Excellence, Washington, DC) April 2010. 20 p.

Full text at: [The Funding of State and Local Pensions]

["This brief reports state and local pension funding levels for fiscal 2009, a year for which stock market performance is known and for which actuarial valuations are available for roughly half of the 126 plans in our sample.... The first section briefly describes the evolution of funding in the public sector, concluding that since the early 1980s, public plans made significant progress in terms of funding. The financial crisis, however, has thrown public plans seriously off course. As discussed in the second section, the aggregate funding ratio declined from 84 percent in 2008 to 78 percent in 2009. The third section describes three alternative scenarios for the stock market for the period 2010–2013 and reports that, under the most likely scenario, funding levels will decline to 72 percent by 2013. The final section notes the limited policy options available to states and localities."]
[Request #S10-13-4976]

[Back to Top]

STATE TAXES

State Business Taxes and Investment: State-by-State Simulations. By Robert S. Chirinko and Daniel J. Wilson, Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco. (The Bank, San Francisco, California) April 2010. 16 p.

Full text at: http://www.frbsf.org/publications/economics/review/2010/er13-28.pdf

["This article develops a framework for simulating the effects of state business taxes on state investment and output. Our simulations provide the predicted increase in investment -- both in equipment and structures (E&S) and in research and development (R&D) -- and the predicted increase in output for a given state resulting from a specified change in one of its three tax policies -- the E&S investment tax credit, the R&D tax credit, or the corporate income tax.... We report results for each of the 48 contiguous states. We also discuss alternative parameter values and explore the resulting sensitivity of predicted changes in state investment and output. Finally, we describe a simple web tool that we have made available online that allows users to insert their own preferred parameter values and simulate the economic effects for the state and tax policy of their choosing."]
[Request #S10-13-5015]

[Back to Top]

HEALTH

CANCER

"Indoor Tanning and Risk of Melanoma: A Case-Control Study in a Highly Exposed Population." By DeAnn Lazovich and others. IN: Cancer Epidemiology, Biomarkers & Prevention, vol. 19, no. 6 (June 2010) pp. 1557-1568.

Full text at: http://cebp.aacrjournals.org/content/early/2010/05/21/1055-9965.EPI-09-1249.full.pdf

["In a highly exposed population, frequent indoor tanning increased melanoma risk … First, we found that melanoma occurred more frequently among indoor tanners compared with persons that never engaged in this activity. Second, we found a strong dose-response relationship between melanoma risk measured by total hours, sessions, or years. Furthermore, this dose-response was also seen for melanomas arising on the trunk, not only in men but also in women, that would not ordinarily expose this site to UV radiation except when tanning or sunbathing. Third, we found an increased risk of melanoma with use of each type of tanning device as well as with each period of tanning use, suggesting that no device could be considered 'safe.' In addition, burns from indoor tanning seemed to be fairly common and conferred a similar risk of melanoma to sunburns."]
[Request #S10-13-4964]

[Back to Top]

CHILDREN

Promoting Young Children's Health and Development: Taking Stock of State Policies. By William Schneider and others, National Center for Children in Poverty. (The Center, New York, New York) May 2010. 12 p.

Full text at: http://nccp.org/publications/pdf/text_941.pdf

["At a historic moment when the passage of federal health care reform promises significant improvements in health care access for many Americans, it is important to take stock of how well states are currently meeting the health needs of young children in low-income families. This brief presents information about state policy choices in the following areas that affect the health and well-being of children, ages birth to 5: 1) access to health care and continuity of care; 2) maternal health care; and 3) preventive screening and assessment. Relevant components of health care reform legislation are considered in a set of recommendations for meeting the short and long-term health care needs of young, low-income children."]
[Request #S10-13-5003]

[Back to Top]

MEDICAID

Medicaid Coverage and Spending in Health Reform: National and State-by-State Results for Adults at or Below 133% FPL. By John Holahan and Irene Headen, Urban Institute. (The Kaiser Family Foundation, Menlo Park, California) May 2010. 50 p.

Full text at: Medicaid Coverage and Spending

["A new report estimates that the national heath care law will allow California and other states to significantly pare the ranks of the uninsured at a relatively small cost, as the federal government picks up the lion's share of additional costs of expanding coverage. The law will expand the federal health care program for the poor (known as Medi-Cal in California), to those earning up to 133 percent of the federal poverty line, or $14,400 for an individual. Medi-Cal rules vary, but generally they cover families who make up to 106 percent of the poverty level. The report did not offer a comparable annual figure. But it estimates that from 2014 to 2019, as the reform law is ramping up, California could bear additional costs from $3 billion to $6.5 billion over that six-year period." San Jose Mercury News (May 26, 2010) 1.]
[Request #S10-13-4931]

[Back to Top]

MENTAL HEALTH

More Mentally Ill Persons Are in Jails and Prisons Than Hospitals: A Survey of the States. By E. Fuller Torrey, Stanley Medical Research Institute, and others. (Treatment Advocacy Center, Arlington, Virginia) May 2010. 22 p.

Full text at:
http://www.treatmentadvocacycenter.org/storage/tac/documents/final_jails_v_hospitals_study.pdf

["On average, a seriously mentally ill person in the USA is three times more likely to be incarcerated than hospitalized. In no state was a seriously mentally ill person -- someone with schizophrenia or bipolar disorder, for example -- less likely to be incarcerated than hospitalized. But there were wide variations among states. In North Dakota, a seriously mentally ill person was equally likely to be hospitalized as incarcerated. But in Nevada and Arizona, such a person was nearly 10 times more likely to be jailed than hospitalized…. As a result of the deinstitutionalization movement that began in the 1960s, it is now extremely difficult to find a bed for a seriously mentally ill person who needs to be hospitalized. In 1955, there was one psychiatric bed for every 300 Americans. In 2005, there was one for every 3,000 Americans." USA Today (March 13, 2010) 1.]
[Request #S10-13-4907]

[Back to Top]

PUBLIC HEALTH

Addressing the Intersection: Preventing Violence and Promoting Healthy Eating and Active Living. By Larry Cohen and others, Prevention Institute. (The Institute, Oakland, California) May 2010. 33 p.

Full text at: http://preventioninstitute.org/component/jlibrary/article/id-267/127.html

["Reducing violence in neighborhoods enhances the community environment and allows people to thrive…. Violence and fear undermine attempts to improve healthy eating and active living, thereby exacerbating existing illnesses. They affect young people, low-income communities, and communities of color disproportionately. Violence and food- and activity-related chronic diseases are most pervasive in disenfranchised communities, where they occur more frequently and with greater severity, making them fundamental equity issues…. Chronic disease prevention strategies -- designing neighborhoods that encourage walking and bicycling to public transit, parks, and healthy food retail, or attracting grocery stores in communities that lack access to affordable fresh fruits and vegetables -- are less effective when fear and violence pervade the environment."]
[Request #S10-13-4967]

[Back to Top]

HOUSING

HOME OWNERSHIP

Reforming the Mortgage Interest Deduction. By Eric Toder and others, Urban Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) April 2010. 41 p.

Full text at: http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/412099-mortgage-deduction-reform.pdf

["The mortgage interest deduction (MID) is the largest single federal subsidy for owner-occupied housing, but the benefits are not evenly distributed among taxpayers. Only individuals who itemize deductions can benefit from the MID, and the value of the deduction increases with the marginal tax rate. If the government wishes to promote homeownership, a refundable tax credit available to all taxpayers would be more effective. This report presents new distributional estimates both of the current deduction's benefits by income group, family type, and race/ethnicity and of proposals to eliminate, scale back, or replace the MID with more broad-based tax incentives."]
[Request #S10-13-4969]

[Back to Top]

"The Homeownership Gap." By Andrew Haughwout and others. IN: Current Issues in Economics and Finance, vol. 16, no. 5 (May 2010) pp. 1-11.

Full text at: http://www.newyorkfed.org/research/current_issues/ci16-5.pdf

[“The severe decline in house prices in the last few years, combined with the large number of borrowers who had little or no equity at the origination of their mortgages, has led to a dramatic rise in homeowners with negative equity. This rise in turn has opened a large gap between the Census Bureau’s official homeownership rate and a measure that we term the effective rate. The effective rate recognizes that negative equity homeowners are likely to convert to renters over time and thus excludes them from the count of owner-occupied housing. The effective homeownership rate for the nation is currently 5.6 percentage points below the Census Bureau rate, and in some of the metropolitan areas hurt most by the housing crisis, the effective homeownership rate falls short of the official rate by a striking 20 to 39 percentage points.”]
[Request #S10-13-4981]

[Back to Top]

HUMAN SERVICES

CHILD CARE

Do Effects of Early Child Care Extend to Age 15 Years? Results From the NICHD Study of Early Child Care and Youth Development. By Deborah Lowe Vandell, University of California, Irvine, and others. (National Institute for Early Education Research, New Brunswick, New Jersey) May 2010. 59 p.

Full text at: http://nieer.org/docs/?DocID=293

["This report from the NICHD child care study found that, although the effects were small, teenagers who had the higher quality care did better academically than those given low-quality care or no care outside the home. The study also found that the more time children spent in child care outside the home, the more they were likely to engage in risky or impulsive behaviors at age 15 regardless of the quality of early care they had received. Those effects were also relatively small, and benefits did not differ between advantaged and disadvantaged children. The study's finding of persistent effects is consistent with the results of NIEER's meta-analysis of the entire literature, but also reinforces the notion that intensive educational programs are required if preschool is to make a substantive difference in the poor achievement of disadvantaged children."]
[Request #S10-13-4939]

[Back to Top]

CHILDREN

Expenditures on Children by Families, 2009. By Mark Lino, Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (The Center, Alexandria, Virginia) June 2010. 39 p.

Full text at: http://www.cnpp.usda.gov/Publications/CRC/crc2009.pdf

["Since 1960, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has provided estimates of expenditures on children from birth through age 17. This technical report presents the most recent estimates for husband-wife and single-parent families. Data and methods used in calculating annual child-rearing expenses are described. Estimates are provided for major components of the budget by age of child, family income, and region of residence. For the overall United States, annual child-rearing expense estimates ranged between $11,650 and $13,530 for a child in a two-child, married-couple family in the middle-income group. Adjustment factors for number of children in the household are also provided. Results of this study should be of use in developing State child support and foster care guidelines, as well as in family educational programs."]
[Request #S10-13-5005]

[Back to Top]

FATHERHOOD

Policies That Strengthen Fatherhood and Family Relationships: What Do We Know and What Do We Need to Know? By Virginia Knox, MDRC, and others. (MDRC, New York, New York) April 2010. 45 p.

Full text at: http://www.mdrc.org/publications/556/full.pdf

[“Children whose parents have higher income and education levels are more likely to grow up in stable two-parent households than their economically disadvantaged counterparts. These widening gaps in fathers’ involvement in parenting and in the quality and stability of parents’ relationships may reinforce disparities in outcomes for the next generation. This paper reviews evidence about the effectiveness of two strategies to strengthen fathers’ involvement and family relationships -- fatherhood programs aimed at disadvantaged noncustodial fathers and relationship skills programs for parents who are together. Fatherhood programs have shown some efficacy at increasing child support payments, while relationship skills approaches have shown benefits for the couples’ relationship quality, coparenting skills, fathers’ engagement in parenting, and children’s well-being.”]
[Request #S10-13-4971]

[Back to Top]

FOSTER CARE

The Academy: A Program for Older Youth Transitioning Out of Foster Care. By Allon Yaroni and others, Vera Institute of Justice. (The Institute, New York, New York) May 2010. 39 p.

Full text at: http://www.vera.org/content/the-academy

[“Children who ‘age out’ of foster care -- who reach adulthood without returning to their birth families or being adopted -- often approach the transition to independence with few skills and a limited support network. Many end up homeless, unemployed, or incarcerated. This report summarizes an implementation study of the Academy, a New York City program for older youth transitioning out of the foster care system that launched in 2007. The report describes the Academy’s innovative program model for improving clients’ post-foster-care outcomes and the challenges of implementation with two program providers. Given the increase in the proportion of older youth in foster care, the report also provides recommendations for program expansion.”]
[Request #S10-13-4930]

[Back to Top]

HOMELESS

Tools for Identifying High-Cost, High-Need Homeless Persons. By Daniel Flaming and others, Economic Roundtable. (The Roundtable, Los Angeles, California) June 2010. 29 p.

Full text at: http://www.economicrt.org/download/tenth_decile_study.html

["This paper provides tools for identifying homeless individuals with acute needs, the highest public costs when homeless, and the greatest reduction in public costs when housed.... When we rank the overall population of homeless single adults by their public costs and break them into ten groups of equal size, we find that most have comparatively low public costs. However, the most expensive ten percent: 1) Have average public costs of $8,083 per month, compared to $710 for the other 90 percent, because of extensive use of hospitals and medical and mental health jails; 2) Account for 56 percent of all public costs for homeless single adults; and 3) Have average cost reductions of $5,731 per month, or 71 percent, when in supportive housing."]
[Request #S10-13-4997]

[Back to Top]

TRANSPORTATION

BICYCLING AND PEDESTRIANS

Getting Students Active through Safe Routes to School: Policies and Action Steps for Education Policymakers and Professionals. By Margo Pedroso, Safe Routes to School National Partnership, and others. AND: Implementing Safe Routes to School in Low-Income Schools and Communities: A Resource Guide for Volunteers and Professionals. By Kristin Gavin, Safe Routes to School National Partnership. (The Partnership, Fairfax, California) June 2010.

["This resource guide is intended for education policymakers, administrators and personnel at the state, school district and individual school levels. It provides a detailed examination of the most up-to-date and relevant research linking physical activity and academic achievement, as well as the current rates of activity among school-aged youth. Safe Routes to School is presented as a viable option to not only help increase students' physical activity levels, but also as a strategy to build community support for schools, help make the school a safer and more pleasant environment, address rising transportation costs and respond to national school health initiatives. Common challenges and obstacles faced by schools -- such as transportation costs, safety and liability issues -- are discussed, as well as ways Safe Routes to School programs can help to mitigate these issues."]
[Request #S10-13-5006]

Getting Students Active. 82 p.
http://www.saferoutespartnership.org/media/file/EducatorsGuide.pdf

Implementing Safe Routes to School. 66 p.
http://www.saferoutespartnership.org/media/file/LowIncomeGuide.pdf

[Back to Top]

FINANCING

Gasoline Taxes: An Examination of News Media Discourse Related to Gas Tax Funding Debates in Six States. By Richard A. Watts, University of Vermont Transportation Research Center. (The University, Burlington, Vermont) May 2010. 21 p.

Full text at: http://www.uvm.edu/~transctr/pdf/Gas-Taxes-News-Media-Discourse.pdf

["Combined state and federal gasoline taxes in the United States average 40.4 cents per gallon, far lower than most industrialized nations.... Yet raising gas taxes in the U.S. is extremely difficult for political leaders.... Why is it that some state

legislatures approved gasoline tax increases while others did not? In this analysis we examine gasoline tax issue frames in the print news media to see if these frames provide clues to the eventual policy outcomes.... There is evidence suggesting a relationship between pro-gas tax frames in the news media discourse and the corresponding success of policy-makers proposing gas tax increases. The data suggests that in the states where the news discourse emphasized either crumbling infrastructure or economic progress there was a corresponding success in the policy domain for pro-gas tax policy-makers."]
[Request #S10-13-4975]

[Back to Top]