

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

California -- One Hundred Years Ago

January 1908: “The year closed in San Diego with a total of \$2,297,915 for new building permits. This was \$463,370 less than the valuation of permits issued in 1906, the list in that year having been given a substantial boost by the \$500,000 permit for the U.S. Grant Hotel, taken on the first day of January.... Plans now in preparation include... a biological station at La Jolla for the University of California, which will cost \$16,000.” Los Angeles Times (January 5, 1908) pg. VI.

1908: “Hulett C. Merritt of Pasadena is in San Diego, accompanied by his family. Meetings are being held at the office of U.S. Grant, Jr. between Mr. Merritt, Mr. Grant and others interested in the Grant Hotel project, which will eventually result in plans being completed for actual construction work to be resumed within the next few days. It is stated that the hotel cannot be finished for opening before another six months.” Los Angeles Times (September 29, 1908) pg. II9.

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Introduction to Studies in the News

Studies in the News is a current compilation of items significant to the Legislature and Governor's Office. It is created weekly by the State Library's [California Research Bureau](#) to supplement the public policy debate in California. To help share the latest information with state policymakers, these reading lists are now being made accessible through the State Library's website. This week's list of current articles in various public policy areas is presented below. Prior lists can be viewed from the California State Library's Web site at www.library.ca.gov/sitn

- When available, the URL for the full text of each item is provided.
- California State Employees may contact the State Information & Reference Center (916-654-0206; cslsirc@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

DRUG PROSECUTION

The Vortex: The Concentrated Racial Impact of Drug Imprisonment and the Characteristics of Punitive Counties. By Phillip Beatty, Justice Policy Institute, and others. (The Institute, Washington, DC) December 2007. 36 p.

Full text at: http://www.justicepolicy.org/images/upload/07-12_REP_Vortex_AC-DP.pdf

[“A study of nearly 200 counties nationwide found that 97 percent of large-population counties have racial disparities between the number of black people and white people sent to prison on drug convictions. Whites and African Americans use illicit drugs at similar rate. But black people account for more than 50 percent of sentenced drug offenders, though they make up only 13 percent of the nation's population. San Francisco locks up a higher percentage of members of the African American community in drug cases than any other county in the study. Alameda and San Mateo counties also have disproportionately high rates of incarcerating African Americans for drug offenses” San Francisco Chronicle (December 4, 2007)1.]
[Request #S08-1-1499]

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DRUG PROSECUTION

Kimbrough v. United States. 06–6330. AND: Watson v. United States. 06–571. AND: Gall v. United States. 06–7949. U.S. Supreme Court. Decmber 10, 2007.

[“The Court called for a retreat from the strict national sentencing guidelines set during the 'war on drugs' of the 1980s, ruling that federal judges may set prison terms well below those recommendations. Judges should be freer to

impose a punishment that fits the criminal and the crime, the justices said in a [set] of decisions. Three years ago, the Supreme Court made clear that the federal sentencing guidelines were merely 'advisory.' In [the new] rulings, the justices went a step further and said that judges sometimes were free to ignore the sentencing range and to set a much lower prison term when the facts called for it. The term, however, must still meet any established mandatory minimum sentencing law." Los Angeles Times (December 11, 2007) 1.]

[Request #S08-1-1568]

Kimbrough v. United States

<http://www.supremecourtus.gov/opinions/07pdf/06-6330.pdf>

Watson v. United States

<http://www.supremecourtus.gov/opinions/07pdf/06-571.pdf>

Gall v. United States

<http://www.supremecourtus.gov/opinions/07pdf/06-7949.pdf>

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GANGS

“Understanding the Black Box of Gang Organization: Implications for Involvement in Violent Crime, Drug Sales, and Violent Victimization.” By Scott H. Decker. IN: *Crime & Delinquency*, vol. 54, no. 1 (January 2008) pp. 153-172.

Full text at: <http://cad.sagepub.com/cgi/reprint/54/1/153.pdf>

[“This article examines the influence of gang organization on several behavioral measures. Using interview data from juvenile detention facilities in three Arizona sites, this article examines the relationship between gang organizational structure and involvement in violent crime, drug sales, victimization, and arrest. The gang literature suggests that gangs are not very well organized. However, the findings from the current research suggest that even low levels of gang organization are important for their influence on behavior. Indeed, even incremental increases in gang organization are related to increased involvement in offending and victimization.”]

[Request #S08-1-1546]

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VICTIMS

Human Trafficking in California: Final Report of the California Alliance to Combat Trafficking and Slavery Task Force. By the Task Force. (California Attorney General's Crime and Violence Prevention Center, Sacramento, California) October 2007. 130 p.

Full text at: http://safestate.org/documents/HT_Final_Report_ADA.pdf

[“California is a top destination for human traffickers who coerce people into the sex trade or hard labor through force or fraud. California is particularly vulnerable to human trafficking because of its international border, ports and airports; its booming immigrant population; and a large economy that includes industries that attract forced labor. Researchers say 80% of the victims are female and half are children. The problem goes far beyond the sex trade, with migrant farm and construction workers, household employees and workers in motels, restaurants and clothing factories frequently vulnerable to abuse. “ Los Angeles Times (December 5, 2007) B4.]

[Request #S08-1-1376]

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CULTURE AND SOCIETY

LATINOS

English Usage Among Hispanics in the United States. By Shirin Hakimzadeh and D’Vera Cohn, Pew Hispanic Center. (The Center, Washington, DC) November 29, 2007. 27p.

Full text at: <http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/82.pdf>

[“A study found that in families for whom Spanish is the dominant language among immigrant parents, English fluency increases across generations. By the third generation, Spanish has essentially faded into the background. According to the report, which analyzed surveys with more than 14,000 Latino immigrants, only 23% of adult first-generation Latinos say they can carry on a conversation very well in English, compared to 88% in the second generation and 94% in the third. Mexicans are the least likely to say they speak English well, which the study's authors attribute in part to a lower educational level.” Los Angeles Times (November 30, 2007) 1.]

[Request #S08-1-1422]

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DEMOGRAPHY

FERTILITY

Birthrates in California. By Hans P. Johnson, Public Policy Institute of California. **California Counts: Population Trends and Profiles, vol. 9, no. 2.** (The Institute, San Francisco, California) November 2007. 24 p.

Full text at: http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/cacounts/CC_1107HJCC.pdf

[“California women are increasingly delaying having children, with the trend tripling among women from 40 to 44. The delay in having kids has not had a major impact on the state's population or economy because the women waiting to have children represent just 5 percent of overall births, and immigrants continue to have larger families. The trend in childbearing among women over 40 is highest among whites and Asians. That's enough to push the average childbearing age among whites and Asians to the early 30s from the late 20s. Because they have more children, the foreign-born population is boosting California's economy and future work force.” Daily News of Los Angeles (November 16, 2007) 1.]

[Request #S08-1-1369]

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RACE & ETHNICITY

Deep Divisions, Shared Destiny: A Poll of Black, Hispanic, and Asian Americans on Race Relations. By Bendixen and Associates. Sponsored by New America Media. (New America Media, San Francisco, California) December 12, 2007. 29 p.

Full text at:

http://media.newamericamedia.org/images/polls/race/exec_summary.pdf

[“The nation's three largest minority groups view one another with deep suspicion, though there's evidence that the divide could be bridged. All three groups held negative stereotypes of one another -- though in some cases, a majority or nearly as many respondents rejected such beliefs.... For example, the poll found that 44 percent of Latinos and 47 percent of Asians said they're 'generally afraid of African Americans because they are responsible for most of the crime.' But 50 percent of Latinos rejected the statement, along with 45 percent of Asian Americans. The poll also found just over half of African Americans feel threatened by Latino immigrants, agreeing with the statement that 'they are taking jobs, housing and political power away from the black community.' But 45 percent disagreed, and only 34 percent of Asians believe Latinos are displacing blacks.” Sacramento Bee (December 13, 2007) A1.]

[Request #S08-1-1544]

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ECONOMY

CALIFORNIA

UCLA Anderson Forecast for the Nation and California: 4th Quarter 2007 - 4th Quarter 2009. By the UCLA Anderson Forecasting Project, Anderson Graduate School of Management. (The School, Los Angeles, California) December 2007. 115 p.

["California's economy will turn ugly in the year ahead as the housing crunch takes a big bite out of jobs and widens the state budget deficit. The state will barely avoid recession. The unemployment rate will rise to 6.1 percent by the second half of next year and remain at that elevated level for most of 2009.... The slowdown will be longer and more severe than it previously projected, in part because the housing slump is destroying more financial jobs than expected. The state's economy will grow next year because it takes weakness in two major sectors to cause a recession and no other area seems likely to turn down sharply enough to do that."]

[Request #S08-1-1543]

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FOOD INDUSTRY

Analysis of Potential Causes of Consumer Food Price Inflation. By Informa Economics. Prepared for the Renewable Fuels Foundation. (Informa Economics, Memphis, Tennessee) November 2007. 55 p.

Full text at: http://www.informaecon.com/Renew_Fuels_Study_Dec_2007.pdf

["US food inflation is rising but don't blame the ethanol-based boom in corn prices, the head of a global agriculture and food-industry research firm said. 'We're not saying that corn prices are cheap or that ethanol hasn't helped underpin the growth in the corn economy. What we are saying is that to blame corn and corn-based ethanol for all of the inflation associated with food and food prices ... is to grossly under-consider all the other forces at work.'... The study said greater impacts on food inflation than the price of corn have been soaring non-farm costs, including record oil prices and soaring consumer demand from the world economy, notably the emerging middle class in Asia." Reuters (December 11, 2007) 1.]

[Request #S08-1-1385]

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IMMIGRATION

Immigrant Integration in Low-income Urban Neighborhoods: Improving Economic Prospects and Strengthening Connections for Vulnerable Families. By Lynette A. Rawlings and others, The Urban Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) November 2007. 68 p.

http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411574_immigrant_integration.pdf

["The paper explores the extent to which the economic well-being of immigrant groups is influenced by specific factors related to their immigrant status, compared with members of native-born minority groups and native-born whites. We find that immigrants and native minorities in the neighborhoods we examine face similar types of economic difficulties -- although to varying degrees. However, after controlling for citizenship, English proficiency, education and having a driver's license and a reliable car, many of the economic disadvantages disappear for immigrant groups, but not for native-born minorities. These findings suggest that even in these tough neighborhoods, the potential for economic integration of immigrants is strong."]

[Request #S08-1-1576]

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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

The State of the Region 2007: Measuring Regional Progress. By the Southern California Association of Governments. (The Association, Los Angeles, California) December 2007.

["Southern California made progress in numerous areas in 2006 including a record low unemployment rate, and increases in real per capita income and median household income. This was partly due to the continuing rise in international trade, the recovery of the Los Angeles County economy and stabilization of the manufacturing sector. The region also made progress in increasing the share of alternative modes for commuting and reducing violent crimes. However, all these achievements were tempered by the stagnation of real average wage per job, record high housing cost burdens for owners and renters, continuing rise in high school dropout rate, and the severe health impacts from air pollution confirmed by recent studies."]

[Request #S08-1-1578]

Report. 166 p.

http://www.scag.ca.gov/publications/pdf/2007/SOTR07/SOTR07_FullReport_lores.pdf

Executive Summary. 10 p.

http://www.scag.ca.gov/publications/pdf/2007/SOTR07/SOTR07_ExecSum.pdf

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EDUCATION

GRADUATION RATES

School or the Streets: Crime and California's Dropout Crisis. By Brian Lee, Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, and others. (Fight Crime, Oakland, California) 2007.

[“Increasing the graduation rate by 10 percentage points statewide would lower the homicide tally by an estimated 500 a year and prevent more than 20,000 aggravated assaults. The report lays out a number of school reforms, including raising teacher compensation and expanding access to preschool. As one of the best remedies, it touts small learning communities of as many as 350 students. Proponents say this increasingly common reform -- sometimes called a school within a school -- personalizes huge high schools by breaking them down into smaller clusters. The group also recommends developing more career and technical education programs. Lastly, the report touts high-quality preschool as the foundation to graduating from high school.” Contra Costa Times (December 13, 2007) A1.]

[Request #S08-1-1547]

Report. 16 p.

http://www.fightcrime.org/ca/dropout/CA_Dropout_Report.pdf

Press Release. 2 p.

<http://www.fightcrime.org/ca/dropout/index.php>

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TEACHING CREDENTIALS

Teaching And California's Future: The Status of the Teaching Profession 2007. By Marjorie Wechsler and others, Center for the Future of Teaching and Learning. (The Center, Santa Cruz, California) December 2007. 122 p

Full text at: <http://www.cftl.org/documents/2007/tcf07/TCFReport2007.pdf>

[“The number of teachers who lack a credential in the subject they teach has plunged dramatically -- from 13 percent in 1997 to 5 percent this year. Even schools with the neediest students -- traditionally the repository for inexperienced teachers without proper credentials -- have seen a vast improvement in credentialed instructors. The study credits California's university system with significantly expanding teacher-preparation programs earlier this decade in response to alarming reports that underqualified teachers were flooding classrooms in record numbers.” San Francisco Chronicle (December 3, 2007) 1.]

[Request #S08-1-1374]

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EMPLOYMENT

LABOR UNIONS

The Economic Footprint of Unions in LA. By Daniel Flaming, Economic Roundtable. (The Roundtable, Los Angeles, California) December 2007. 24 p.

Full text at:

[http://www.economicrt.org/pub/econ_footprint_la_unions/The Economic Footprint of Unions in Los Angeles.pdf](http://www.economicrt.org/pub/econ_footprint_la_unions/The_Economic_Footprint_of_Unions_in_Los_Angeles.pdf)

[“The Los Angeles County Federation of Labor represents 818,633 workers; 337,798 of these workers are covered by contracts that end in 2008. Union members make up roughly 15 percent of LA’s labor force. The economic context for unions in Los Angeles is a formal labor market that has been stagnant since 1990, with all net job growth occurring in the informal economy. More than a quarter of the labor force is impoverished. Per capita income in Los Angeles County is below the state average and growing more slowly than in either the state or the nation.”]

[Request #S08-1-1497]

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ENERGY

ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY

Sunrise Powerlink Project: Draft Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Land Use Amendment. By Aspen Environmental Group. Prepared for the California Public Utilities Commission and the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management. (The Commission, San Francisco, California) January 2008.

["New power plants in metro San Diego or a new power line in western Riverside County could meet San Diego County's growing demand for electricity with far less damage to the environment than the Sunrise Powerlink transmission line. The long-awaited report for San Diego Gas & Electric Co.'s proposed \$1.3 billion power line said that it would also be better for the environment if an alternative route was selected to the south along Interstate 8. That is because such a route would avoid the relatively pristine Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. ... Opponents seized on the conclusions in the

report suggesting the findings were particularly damaging for the project and ultimately could lead to its rejection by the commission later this year....San Diego Gas & Electric officials offered an entirely different interpretation." North County Times (January 7, 2008) 1.]
[Request #S08-1-1582]

Report. Various pagings

<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/aspen/sunrise/toc-deir.htm>

Executive Summary. 69 p.

<http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/Environment/info/aspen/sunrise/deir/02%20Exec%20Summary.pdf>

Press Release. 3 p.

http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/word_pdf/NEWS_RELEASE/77349.pdf

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ENERGY EFFICIENCY

2007 Integrated Energy Policy Report. By the California Energy Commission. (The Commission, Sacramento, California) December 2007.

["California should make all new homes so energy-efficient by 2020 that they won't need to draw power from the state's electrical grid, according to a plan for meeting the state's future energy needs. The plan contains dozens of recommendations that touch on almost every way California generates and uses energy. They are designed both to lower the state's energy use and to cut the greenhouse gas emissions that come from burning fossil fuels. None of the recommendations is binding, but several spell out future actions that state regulators or the legislature may take." San Francisco Chronicle (December 6, 2007) 1.]
[Request #S08-1-1579]

Report. 309 p.

<http://www.energy.ca.gov/2007publications/CEC-100-2007-008/CEC-100-2007-008-CMF.PDF>

Executive Summary. Various pagings

http://www.energy.ca.gov/2007_energypolicy/index.html

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NUCLEAR POWER

Nuclear Power in a Warming World: Assessing the Risks, Addressing the Challenges. By Lisbeth Gronlund and others, Union of Concerned Scientists. (The Union, Cambridge, Massachusetts) December 2007.

["Minimizing the risks of nuclear power is simply pragmatic. Nothing would undermine public acceptance of a new generation of nuclear power plants as much as a serious accident, a terrorist strike on a reactor or spent fuel pool, or the detonation of a nuclear weapon made from stolen reactor materials. The report assesses nuclear power's key problems and offers recommendations to strengthen nuclear plant safety, better protect facilities against sabotage and attack, ensure the safe disposal of nuclear waste, and minimize the risk that nuclear power will help more nations and terrorists acquire nuclear weapons."]

[Request #S08-1-1535]

Report. 82 p.

http://www.ucsusa.org/assets/documents/global_warming/Nuclear-Power-in-a-Warming-World.pdf

Executive Summary. 8 p.

http://www.ucsusa.org/assets/documents/global_warming/NPWW-Exec-Summary.pdf

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ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

AIR POLLUTION

On the Causal Link between Carbon Dioxide and Air Pollution Mortality. By Mark Z. Jacobson, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Stanford University. (The Author, Stanford, California) December 14, 2007. 17 p.

Full text at: <http://www.stanford.edu/group/efmh/jacobson/CO2PapGRL1207.pdf>

["Global warming is making breathing more hazardous for Californians than other Americans. The research is the first to estimate the health effects of air pollution attributed solely to climate change.... The findings contradict a Bush administration rationale for denying California the power to enforce its first-in-the-nation limits. ... Carbon dioxide-induced warming causes an estimated 1,000 additional deaths and many more cases of respiratory disease every year in the United States for each 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit

temperature rise in the Earth's atmosphere. Warmer temperatures are known to speed formation of smog – mainly ozone, a colorless gas that inflames airways and triggers asthma attacks." Sacramento Bee (January 3, 2008) A4.]

[Request #S08-1-1574]

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GREEN HOUSE GASES

Reducing U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions: How Much at What Cost? By Jon Creyts and others, McKinsey & Company. (The Company, Washington, DC) December 2007.

["The United States could reduce greenhouse gas emissions in 2030 by 3.0 to 4.5 gigatons of CO₂ using tested approaches and high-potential emerging technologies. These reductions would involve pursuing a wide array of abatement options available at marginal costs less than \$50 per ton, with the average net cost to the economy being far lower if the nation can capture sizable gains from energy efficiency. Achieving these reductions at the lowest cost to the economy, however, will require strong, coordinated, economy-wide action that begins in the near future."]

[Request #S08-1-1575]

Report. 107 p.

http://www.mckinsey.com/clientservice/ccsi/pdf/US_ghg_final_report.pdf

Executive Summary. 10 p.

[http://www.mckinsey.com/clientservice/ccsi/pdf/Greenhouse Gas Emissions Executive Summary.pdf](http://www.mckinsey.com/clientservice/ccsi/pdf/Greenhouse_Gas_Emissions_Executive_Summary.pdf)

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TOXICS

Nurses' Health and Workplace Exposures to Hazardous Substances. By Environmental Working Group and Health Care Without Harm. (The Group, Washington, DC) December 2007. Various pagings.

Full text at: http://www.ewg.org/sites/nurse_survey/analysis/summary.php

["Nurses are exposed to a wide range of chemicals on the job -- from heavy-duty cleaners and latex to chemotherapy drugs -- that could have long-term effects on their health and the health of their children. But few regulations limit nurses' exposure to chemicals, and, in fact, most nurses have no idea that their work environment could be harmful.... According to the survey results, nurses who were exposed regularly -- at least once a week -- to the chemicals had increased rates of cancer, asthma and miscarriages. Nurses

who were pregnant when they were exposed to certain chemicals were more likely to have children with birth defects than nurses not exposed to the chemicals." San Francisco Chronicle (December 12, 2007) 1.]
[Request #S08-1-1541]

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GENERAL GOVERNMENT

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Ex Parte Communications: The Law and Practices at Six California Boards and Commissions. By Charlene Wear Simmons, California Research Bureau, California State Library. CRB-08-001. (The Bureau, Sacramento, California) January 2008. 29 p.

Full text at: <http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/08/08-001.pdf>

["This report.... examines the legal limitations on ex parte communications between board commissioners and interested outsiders on state boards and commissions.... Ex parte communications are made in private between an interested party in a decision-making process and an official in a decision-making position. Because they can introduce an element of bias in a decision-making process and violate basic due process requirements, state law generally requires that the involved officials publicly disclose ex parte communications in an open meeting. However the legal requirements and practices for the six boards and commissions analyzed for this report vary, and the public disclosure process evidenced in their meeting minutes is uneven."]

[Request #S08-1-1588]

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE

Revenues and Responsibilities: An Inventory of Local Tax Powers. By Brian Weinberger, California Senate Local Government Committee. (The Committee, Sacramento, California) December 2007. 10 p.

Full text at:

http://www.senate.ca.gov/ftp/SEN/COMMITTEE/STANDING/LOC_GOV/_home/REVENUESANDRESPONSIBILITIES.doc

["What taxes can local governments levy? Which taxes fit which purposes? How do city taxes differ from county taxes? What are the constitutional and statutory citations for local taxes?... Each table lists the tax authorities by the purpose for which a tax may be used. A written introduction precedes each table, providing background on county, city, and special district taxes.... These tables are reference tools to help identify the constitutional and

statutory authorizations to impose local taxes. At the end of this inventory, a resource list identifies other sources where more detailed and comprehensive information about local taxation can be found."].

[Request #S08-1-1580]

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PUBLIC EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Funding Pension and Retiree Health Care for Public Employees. By the Public Employee Post-Employment Benefits Commission. (The Commission, Sacramento, California) January 2008.

["California needs to immediately set aside \$1.2 billion to pay for lifetime healthcare promised to state employees. The panel said the commitments made to retirees were so large they would overwhelm the budget if money to cover them was not set aside now. Local governments should do likewise, said the panel, which estimated the costs of retiree healthcare benefits for both state and local governments at about \$118 billion over the next 30 years.... Some experts say that number was low because it assumed that healthcare costs will stop spiraling upward within a few years.... The panel's refusal to call for a reining in of benefits irked some fiscal conservatives." Los Angeles Times (January 8, 2007) 1.]

[Request #S08-1-1587]

Report. 332 p.

http://www.pebc.ca.gov/images/files/final/080107_PEBCReport2007.pdf

Press Release. 2 p.

http://www.pebc.ca.gov/images/files/final/080107_PressRelease.pdf

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STATE RETIREMENT PROGRAMS

Promises with a Price: Public Sector Retirement Benefits. By Katherine Barrett and Richard Greene, Pew Center on the States. (The Center, Washington, DC) December 2007.

["The state of California is not funding a mountainous \$48 billion tab for medical benefits promised to future government retirees, a bill that ranked as the second largest in the nation last year. The escalating liability, which accounting rules now require listing on the balance sheet, would hurt the state's debt rating and consequently raise the cost of borrowing if it goes unaddressed. Equally as important, since tax revenues are not expected to cover it, taxpayers will be forced to sacrifice services or sell bonds at ever-higher interest rates to accommodate the obligation." Sacramento Bee (December 19, 2007) A17,]

[Request #S08-1-1539]

Report. 73 p.

http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/State_policy/pension_report.pdf

California Fact Sheet.. 1 p.

http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Fact_Sheets/State_policy/FINAL_California.pdf

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STATE TAXES

"Growth & Taxes: Why Outdated State Tax Systems Undercut Economic Vitality, and What States Can Do About It." By Katherine Barrett and Richard Greene. IN: Governing, January 2008. Various pagings

Full text at: <http://www.governing.com/articles/1taxmain.htm>

["It's been known for a long time that obsolete state tax systems are not producing the revenue states need. But what's becoming clear today is that those tax systems are not only failing to keep up with the dramatic shifts in the U.S. economy, they are a drag on economic growth. The new economy is more than a swing from manufacturing to services.... Small businesses are increasingly vital -- they now account for about a third of the value of U.S. exports. Moreover, the service economy is moving toward a further evolution: It's becoming increasingly knowledge-based. And yet, state tax structures, developed at a time when computers were the stuff of science fiction, and the American economy flourished with the automobile industry, have failed to evolve."]

[Request #S08-1-1589]

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HEALTH

HEALTH CARE REFORM

Bending the Curve: Options for Achieving Savings and Improving Value in U.S. Health Spending. By Cathy Schoen and others, The Commonwealth Fund. (The Fund, New York, New York) December 2007.

["Americans could save \$1.5 trillion in healthcare costs over the next decade while covering the uninsured and improving overall quality. But it would take widespread reforms to root out inefficiency, not to mention higher tobacco taxes and other levies.... Intended to provide a menu of options for

the next president, the report blends ideas put forward by leading political candidates with other proposals. Many of the ideas are likely to stir controversy.... Such a combination of different approaches -- there are a total of 15 major proposals in the report -- could work together to produce hundreds of billions in savings, the authors say." Los Angeles Times (December 18, 2007) 1.]
[Request #S08-1-1542]

Report. 114 p.

http://www.commonwealthfund.org/usr_doc/Schoen_bendingthecurve_1080.pdf?section=4039

Executive summary. 24 p.

http://www.commonwealthfund.org/usr_doc/CWF-Bending_v8.pdf?section=4039

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HEALTH INSURANCE

Golden Gate Restaurant Association v. City and County of San Francisco. U.S. District Court, Northern District of California. 06-06997. December 26, 2007. AND: Golden Gate Restaurant Association v. City and County of San Francisco. U.S. Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit. 07-17370. January 9, 2008.

["A court allowed San Francisco to enforce its law and extend coverage to all uninsured adults while the city appeals a federal judge's decision striking down a key funding provision. That provision requires large and medium-size companies to offer insurance to their employees or pay a fee to the city for the cost of their coverage.... That the ruling allows the law to take effect during the city's appeal is unusual. Generally, appellate courts refuse to allow enforcement if a lower court has found part of a law invalid. In this case, however, the appeals court said it was granting San Francisco's request for an emergency stay of the ruling because the city had a strong argument and because of consequences for people who cannot get health coverage." San Francisco Chronicle (January 10, 2008) A1.]
[Request #S08-1-1591]

District Court. 16 p.

<http://www.ggra.org/upload/images/pdf%20files/2008%20pdf%20files/Order%2020Grantin%2020MSJ.pdf>

Court of Appeals. 35 p.

[http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/ca9/newopinions.nsf/ED92E2E8B6D7D450882573CB006EFF95/\\$file/0717370o.pdf?openelement](http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/ca9/newopinions.nsf/ED92E2E8B6D7D450882573CB006EFF95/$file/0717370o.pdf?openelement)

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HOSPITALS

Nonprofit Hospitals: Inconsistent Data Obscure the Economic Value of Their Benefit to Communities, and the Franchise Tax Board Could More Closely Monitor Their Tax-Exempt Status. Report 2007-107. By the California Bureau of State Audits. (The Bureau, Sacramento, California) December 2007. 66 p.

Full text at: <http://www.bsa.ca.gov/pdfs/reports/2007-107.pdf>

[“For-profit hospitals in California provide free care to indigent patients at rates equal to nonprofit hospitals that receive income and property tax exemptions. But nonprofits provide other community benefits such as medical research, physician training and wellness promotion valued at \$656 million, nearly three times the \$242 million they would have paid in corporate income and property taxes in 2005. The report concluded with a call to the state legislature to give nonprofit hospitals more specific instructions on reporting costs for uncompensated care and evaluating community benefits.” Los Angeles Times (December 14, 2007) 1.]
[Request #S08-1-1571]

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IMMIGRATION & IMMIGRANTS

“Health Care Access, Use of Services, and Experiences Among Undocumented Mexicans and Other Latinos.” By Alexander N. Ortega and others. IN: Archives of Internal Medicine, vol. 167, no. 21 (November 26, 2007) pp. 2354-2360.

Full text at: <http://archinte.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/abstract/167/21/2354>

[“Illegal immigrants from Mexico and other Latin American countries are 50% less likely than U.S.-born Latinos to use hospital emergency rooms in California. The study found that while illegal immigrants are indeed less likely to be insured, they are also less likely to visit a doctor, clinic or emergency room. While other studies have attributed lower usage to immigrants simply being younger and healthier than the overall population, [this] study took into account age, health status, insurance status and poverty level. All such factors being equal, it found, immigrants still made fewer visits to physicians and were 30% less likely than U.S.-born Latinos to have a regular source of healthcare.” Los Angeles Times (November 27, 2007) 1.]
[Request #S08-1-1355]

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HOUSING

LOW-INCOME HOUSING

Rental Housing: Information on Low-Income Veterans' Housing Conditions and Participation in HUD's Programs. Statement by David G. Wood, Financial Markets and Community Investment, U.S. Government Accountability Office. GAO-08-324T. (The Office, Washington, DC) December 2007. 27 p

Full text at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08324t.pdf>

["Veterans returning from service in Iraq and Afghanistan could increase demand for affordable rental housing. Households with low incomes generally are eligible to receive rental assistance from the Department of Housing and Urban Development's housing choice voucher, public housing, and project-based programs. However, because rental assistance is not an entitlement, not all who are eligible receive assistance. This testimony, based on a 2007 report, discusses, 1) the income status and demographic and housing characteristics of veteran renter households, 2) how HUD's rental assistance programs treat veteran status and whether they use a veteran's preference, and 3) the extent to which HUD's rental assistance programs served veterans in fiscal year 2005."]

[Request #S08-1-1498]

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HUMAN SERVICES

CHILD CARE

California Childcare Portfolio 2007. By the California Child Care Resource and Referral Network. (The Network, San Francisco, California) 2007. 26 p.

Full text at: <http://www.rnetwork.org/publications/2007/revised-portfolio-2007.pdf>

["There is one licensed child care slot for about every four children with working parents in California. San Francisco fares better than any other Bay Area county in terms of child care. Statewide, only 5 percent of the total number of slots in licensed child care centers are for infants and toddlers, and that is of concern to the network that analyzed the numbers. But even if there are spots for children, the high cost means some parents can't afford it. The annual average price tag for full-time care for an infant in a licensed center is \$10,745. For a single parent earning minimum wage, that would take up 69 percent of their salary." San Francisco Chronicle (December 12, 2007) 1.]

[Request #S08-1-1530]

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CHILDREN

2008 California Report Card: The State of the State's Children. By Children Now. (Children Now, Oakland, California) January 2008. 52 p.

Full text at: <http://publications.childrennow.org/assets/pdf/policy/rc08/ca-rc-2008.pdf>

["California received its annual State of the State's Children report card, bringing home grades few parents would view with pride. The state posted a C average on the health and education of California's 9.5 million children....The annual assessment judged the state's performance on a range of issues, including health insurance, asthma, child care, public education, infant and adolescent health and obesity. The highest mark was for after school programs, which earned a B+. Obesity received the lowest mark, of D+. Overall, the grades changed little this year from the past two report cards." San Francisco Chronicle (January 3, 2008) 1.]
[Request #S08-1-1590]

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HOMELESS

Dying without Dignity: Homeless Deaths in Los Angeles County: 2000 – 2007. By Whitney Hawke, Los Angeles Coalition to End Hunger & Homelessness, and others. (The Coalition, Los Angeles, California) December 21, 2007. 44 p.

Full text at: <http://www.lacehh.org/reports/LA-Homeless-Deaths-Report.pdf>

[" The average age among those found dead was 48, about 36 percent younger than the average lifespan. The cause of nearly half the deaths was cardiovascular disease coupled with substance abuse. Nearly one in five were killed violently as victims of homicide, suicide or other trauma.... The report notes Los Angeles County is the 'homeless capital of the nation,' with an estimated 73,000 homeless. Yet only 17 percent of the county's homeless are able to find shelter, the lowest percentage of any major metropolitan area in the nation. The report contains seven major recommendations for the city and county to improve services to the homeless, but its major recommendation is to make permanent housing options for the homeless a regional priority." Los Angeles Daily News (December 21, 2007) 1.]
[Request #S08-1-1536]

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