

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

California -- One Hundred Years Ago

June 1908. "The farmer is our man of men, because he is the real producer. The trouble with this country, right now, is that we do not produce enough. We take a dollar and juggle it around between us until it is worn as smooth as the tongue of a bunco-steerer, the result being that we have to face financial stringencies and hard times periodically. And there cannot be more money unless more wealth is produced to make the money good. In a word, there are not enough farmers." *Los Angeles Times* (June 15, 1908) Pg. I6.

June 1908. "A man is safe on a few acres of good land in California, where money panics are felt less than in any other vocation; where neither tornadoes, cyclones, thunderstorms nor floods come, and where drouth has no terrors; safe from the temptations and hurly-burly of city life; his own master, breathing the pure outdoor air every day in the year, in the finest climate and best State of the greatest country in the world. Does it pay to be a California farmer? Well, rather!" *Los Angeles Times* (June 15, 1908) Page I6.

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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 (916-654-0261; 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

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Arresting Children: Examining Recent Trends in Preteen Crime. By Jeffrey A. Butts and Howard N. Snyder, Chapin Hall Center for Children. (The Center, Chicago, Illinois) June 2008. 22 p.

Full text at: http://www.chapinhall.org/article_abstract.aspx?ar=1469

["Children younger than age 13 are involved in a small and stable proportion of all crimes committed by juveniles. The age profile of juvenile offenders as a whole has not changed substantially in recent decades..... In a few offense categories, however, increases in preteen crime have outpaced increases among older juveniles, particularly sexual offenses, assaults, and weapons possession (not necessarily firearms). The fact that school authorities and family members often report these offenses suggests a possible hypothesis to explain increasing preteen crime: The juvenile justice system today may be dealing with child behavior problems that were once the responsibility of social welfare agencies, schools, and families."]
[Request #S08-37-2570]

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DNA

The DNA Field Experiment: Cost-Effectiveness Analysis of the Use of DNA in the Investigation of High-Volume Crimes. By John Roman, Justice Policy Center, the Urban Intitute, and others. (The Institute, Washington, DC) April 2008. 163 p.

Full text at: http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411697_dna_field_experiment.pdf

["The study compared traditional crime solving to biological evidence techniques in hundreds of cases where biological evidence was available. When conventional investigative techniques were used, a suspect was identified 12 percent of the time, compared to 31 percent of the cases using DNA evidence. In eight percent of cases built on traditional evidence alone a suspect was arrested, compared to the 16 percent arrest rate in DNA cases. The average added cost for processing a single case with DNA evidence was about \$1,397. Each additional arrest -- an arrest that would not have occurred without DNA processing -- cost \$14,169."]
[Request #S08-37-2566]

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GANGS

Community Collaboratives Addressing Youth Gangs: Interim Findings from the Gang Reduction Program. By Meagan Cahill, and others, the Urban Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) 2008 553 p.

Full text at:

http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411692_communitycollaboratives.pdf

["The Gang Reduction Program (GRP) is a \$10 million, multi-year initiative... to reduce crime associated with youth street gangs in four U.S. cities: Los Angeles; Milwaukee; North Miami Beach; and Richmond. The findings were mixed...only one site, Los Angeles, showed a significant reduction in crime levels. In Milwaukee and North Miami Beach, no significant changes in the measures were found after GRP implementation, and Richmond... saw a modest increase in serious violence and gang-related measures."]

[Request #S08-37-2527]

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HATE CRIMES

Hate, Violence, and Death on Main Street USA: A Report on Hate Crimes and Violence Against People Experiencing Homelessness, 2007. By Sean Cononie and others, The National Coalition for the Homeless (The Coalition, Hollywood, Florida) April 2008. 112 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.nationalhomeless.org/getinvolved/projects/hatecrimes/hatecrimes2007.pdf>

["Hate crime and violence against the homeless have increased across the country over the past year... Attacks rose by 13% from 2006 to 2007 -- from 142 attacks to 160 attacks. The perpetrators of these violent attacks against homeless people tend to be younger men or boys. The attacks seem to be perpetrated due to the fact that the victims were ...homeless. With this growing problem becoming more and more apparent in communities around the country, advocacy groups are doing something positive to address the issue. California passed a law in 2004 mandating police officer training on hate crimes against homeless persons, particularly those with disabilities."]

[Request #S08-37-2483]

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ECONOMY

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Eds, Meds and Urban Revival. By Rob Gurwitt. IN: **Governing**, (May 2008) pp. 45-50.

Full text at: <http://www.governing.com/articles/0805universities.htm>

["Plenty of states, cities, academic institutions and medical centers are grappling with a similar challenge. In an era when technological know-how and innovation have become prime economic drivers, 'eds and meds' have become indispensable anchors of urban growth.... Yet until relatively recently, most universities and the cities surrounding them went about their business without taking full stock of what each meant to the other. Many local and state government leaders don't see these institutions as having an economic development function much beyond employment and land development. For their part, hospitals and academic institutions aren't accustomed to thinking of themselves as de facto economic bigwigs or pondering the responsibilities that go along with that status."]

[Request #S08-37-2271]

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INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE

Meeting the Information Needs of the American People: Past Actions and Future Initiatives. By the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science. (The Commission, Washington, DC) March 2008. 114 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.nclis.gov/about/MeetingtheInformationNeedsOftheAmericanPeople-NCLISFinalReport.pdf>

["At this critical point in the history of the Commission, as it completes the complex activities necessary to close down a federal agency, documenting the significant contributions that it has made and identifying important issues that still need to be addressed are essential transition activities. This document, which will be the final publication of the Commission, serves both purposes. It provides a historical overview of the accomplishments of a small and modestly funded Commission with a large and vital responsibility to address the information needs of the American public, and it also summarizes the results of a survey of opinion leaders in the fields of library and information science, who offered their advice on the most important issues that should be addressed in the next twelve to eighteen months."]

[Request #S08-37-2567]

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MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESSES

Minority Self-Employment in the United States and the Impact of Affirmative Action Programs. By David G. Blanchflower, National Bureau of Economic Research. (The Bureau, Cambridge, Massachusetts) April 2008. 38 p.

Full text at: <http://www.nber.org/papers/w13972.pdf>

["There is a good deal of evidence to suggest that the under-representation of women and minorities in construction is due to widespread and pervasive discrimination that has changed little over time. Not only is the proportion of firms owned by African Americans relatively low, so are their representation in the construction workforce in general and in self-employment in particular. Firms owned by minorities and women that do exist in construction are more likely than non-minority males to be in special trades rather than heavy and civil. They are also more likely to be sub-contractors than prime contractors. This does not appear to be a lack of ability but....to a lack of capital, especially working capital."]

[Request #S08-37-2485]

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RETIREMENT

The End of the Golden Years. By Sylvester J. Schieber. IN: **The Milken Institute Review.** (Second Quarter 2008) pp. 54-64

Full text at: http://www.milkeninstitute.org/publications/review/2008_4/54-64mr38.pdf

["The golden age of retirement is over: our retirement system is woefully underfunded to deliver the living standard that most people expect from it. And there is no easy fix. The reality is that economic growth is, in part, tied to growth in the labor force. And unless people choose (or are driven) to work longer or immigration policy is dramatically liberalized, the retirement of the baby boomers will guarantee that net labor force growth drops to near zero in the 2010s. Of course, economic growth is also linked to productivity growth. But bumping up productivity growth -- say by cutting tax rates on work, stimulating technological change or investing more in human capital -- is not an easy task. If it were, we would have already adopted the requisite policies."]

[Request #S08-37-2273]

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EDUCATION

COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Back to Basics: Improving College Readiness of Community College Students.
By Paul Steenhousen, Legislative Analyst's Office. (The Office, Sacramento, California) June 2008. 16 p.

Full text at: http://www.lao.ca.gov/2008/edu/ccc_readiness/ccc_readiness_0608.pdf

[“Many students who are behind in their skills are not overcoming their deficiencies in the state's community colleges.... Assessments are a big problem -- community colleges use different tests and cut-off points for placing students in remedial courses. To address the assessment problem, the report recommends a more standardized approach.... And, to address variances across the system, it recommends using state testing standards and results employed at the high school level to help place freshmen in appropriate courses.” Sacramento Bee (June 17, 2008) A3.]

[Request #S08-37-2562]

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EDUCATION POLICY

Changing the Kindergarten Cutoff Date: Effects on California Students and Schools. By Jill S. Cannon and Stephen Lipscomb, Public Policy Institute of California. (The Institute, San Francisco, California) May 2008. 8 p.

Full text at: http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/op/OP_508JCOP.pdf

["When is the best time for children to enter kindergarten? In California, children who reach their fifth birthday by the cutoff date of December 2 are allowed to enter in that school year. California's is one of the latest kindergarten entry cutoff dates in the nation.... Our review of 14 recent studies on the short- and long-term effects of entering kindergarten at an older age suggests that increasing California's entry age will likely have a number of benefits, including boosting student achievement test scores. But it may also have the potential to increase the achievement gap among certain student subgroups. In this paper, we summarize and synthesize the findings of these 14 studies to provide a baseline of knowledge for further debate in the legislative and educational communities"]

[Request #S08-37-2493]

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SCHOOL CHOICE

Dismal Science: The Shortcomings of U.S. School Choice Research and How to Address Them. By John Merrifield, University of Texas, San Antonio. (The Cato Institute, Washington, DC) April 2008. 20 p.

Full text at: <http://www.cato.org/pubs/pas/pa-616.pdf>

["Pressing questions about the merits of market accountability in K-12 education have spawned a large scholarly literature.... The most intensely studied programs lack most or all of the key elements of market systems, including profit, price change, market entry, and product differentiation -- factors that are normally central to any discussion of market effects. In essence, researchers have drawn conclusions about apples by studying lemons. To address the need for credible evidence on the effects of genuine education markets, economists should look to simulation models, indirect evidence such as outcomes in similar industries, and school systems abroad that enjoy varying degrees of market accountability."]

[Request #S08-37-2573]

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EMPLOYMENT

IMMIGRATION

Latino Labor Report, 2008: Construction Reverses Job Growth for Latinos. By Rakesh Kochhar, Pew Hispanic Center. (The Center, Washington, DC) June 4, 2008. 39 p.

Full text at: <http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/88.pdf>

["The spike in Hispanic unemployment has hit immigrants especially hard. Due mainly to a slump in the construction industry, the unemployment rate for Hispanics in the U.S. rose to 6.5% in the first quarter of 2008, well above the 4.7% rate for all non-Hispanics. Despite the disproportionate impact that the economic slowdown has had on immigrant Latino workers, there are no signs that they are leaving the U.S. labor market. Their labor force participation rate...has remained steady. However, they now play a smaller role in the growth of the Hispanic workforce than in recent years."]

[Request #S08-37-2526]

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LABOR UNIONS

Chamber of Commerce of the United States vs. Brown, Attorney General of California. U.S. Supreme Court. 06-939. June 19, 2008. Various pagings

Full text at: <http://www.supremecourtus.gov/opinions/07pdf/06-939.pdf>

["A labor-backed California law that barred companies from using funds from the state to campaign against union organizing drives violates federal labor law by limiting employers' free expression. The same federal law that protects workers' right to join a union also favors 'uninhibited, robust, and wide-open debate in labor disputes,' the court said in a 7-2 ruling. Employers are entitled to speak against unionization as long as they don't use threats or coercion..... Dissenting justices said the California law left employers free to use their own funds to oppose union organizing. The state law, signed in 2000, was the first of its kind in the nation. It barred state contractors from using any of that money to support or oppose union organizing." San Francisco Chronicle (June 20, 2008) 1.]
[Request #S08-37-2577]

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WORK CONDITIONS

Heat-Related Deaths Among Crop Workers: United States, 1992-2006. By R.C. Luginbuhl, North Carolina Department of Labor, and others. (Centers for Disease Control, Atlanta, Georgia) June 20, 2008.

["Heat kills crop workers at nearly 20 times the rate of other U.S. workers. California has among the nation's highest fatality rates, exceeded only by North Carolina and Florida.... The greatest number of heat-related deaths was in construction but the highest rate of deaths was among crop workers. Their rate was 0.39 per 100,000 workers per year, compared with 0.02 for other U.S. workers.... No specific federal regulations protect workers from heat, and California is the only state that does so." Sacramento Bee (June 20, 2008) 1.]
[Request #S08-37-2576]

Report. 5 p.

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5724a1.htm>

Press conference. Various pagings.

<http://www.cdc.gov/print.do?url=http%3A//www.cdc.gov/media/transcripts/2008/t080619.htm>

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ENERGY

PETROLEUM

Understanding Crude Oil Prices. By James D. Hamilton, University of California, San Diego. (University of California Energy Institute, Berkeley, California) June 2008. 55 p.

Full text at: http://www.ucei.berkeley.edu/PDF/EPE_023.pdf

["This paper examines the factors responsible for changes in crude oil prices. The paper reviews the statistical behavior of oil prices, relates these to the predictions of theory, and looks in detail at key features of petroleum demand and supply. Topics discussed include the role of commodity speculation, OPEC, and resource depletion. The paper concludes that although scarcity rent made a negligible contribution to the price of oil in 1997, it may be an important feature of the most recent data."]

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ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

CLIMATE CHANGE

Global Warming Solutions that Work: Cutting-Edge Efforts to Curb Global Warming Pollution and the Lessons they Hold for America. By Tony Dutzik, Frontier Group, and others. (Environment America Research & Policy Center, Washington, DC) June 2008. 79 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.environmentcalifornia.org/uploads/IN/s1/INs10JhHCtnhb59hcHoUMw/Global-Warming-Solutions-that-Work.pdf>

["This report details more than 20 examples of cutting-edge policies and practices that communities, states and countries are using to reduce global warming pollution. These examples show that while actions to reduce global warming pollution require commitment and creativity, they also bring with them other benefits -- reduced dependence on fossil fuels, cleaner air and healthier communities, economic growth and new jobs."]

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GREEN HOUSE GASES

The European Union's Emissions Trading System in Perspective. By A. Denny Ellerman and Paul L. Joskow, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Prepared for the Pew Center on Global Climate Change. (The Center, Arlington, Virginia) May 2008.

["The European Union has been operating the world's largest emissions trading system and the first system to limit and to trade carbon dioxide emissions. An analysis of this initial 'trial' phase finds that the EU cap-and-trade system has operated well and has had little or no negative impact on the overall EU economy. The results provide both encouragement and guidance to policy makers working to design a carbon dioxide trading scheme.... One lesson to learn is that the process of allocating emissions allowances is going to be contentious -- and yet cap-and-trade is still the most politically feasible approach to controlling carbon emissions. Perhaps the main message for policy makers is that everything does not have to be perfectly in place to start up" Science Daily (June 12, 2008) 1.]
[Request #S08-37-2530]

Report. 64 p.

<http://www.pewclimate.org/docUploads/EU-ETS-In-Perspective-Report.pdf>

MIT press release. 3 p.

<http://web.mit.edu/mitei/research/spotlights/europe-carbon.html>

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GENERAL GOVERNMENT

INITIATIVES & PROPOSITIONS

Democracy by Initiative: Shaping California's Fourth Branch of Government. By the Center for Governmental Studies. (The Center, Los Angeles, California) May 2008.

["Many proposed solutions have been advanced to remedy perceived problems with the initiative process. Initiative opponents -- often those who have been initiative targets -- have called for abolition of the process. Initiative defenders -- often those who regularly circulate initiatives to support a cause or generate funding support -- have strenuously argued for its retention. This report concludes that the initiative process should be retained but improved to transform the electorate into a more responsible branch of government. This report sets forth an innovative, balanced, comprehensive and interrelated set of reforms that will enable the electorate, acting through the initiative process, to function as a more effective and mature partner in state governance."]

[Request #S08-37-2575]

Report. 402 p.

http://www.cgs.org/images/publications/cgs_dbi_full_book_f.pdf

Executive Summary. 29 p.

http://www.cgs.org/images/publications/cgs_dbi_exec_summary.pdf

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REDISTRICTING

Gerrymandering the Vote: How a “Dirty Dozen” States Suppress as Many as 9 Million Voters. By Marc Dunkelman, Democratic Leadership Council. (The Council, Washington, DC) June 2008. 19 p.

Full text at: http://www.dlc.org/specials/Gerrymandering_the_Vote.pdf

["Dunkelman studied only gerrymandering of congressional districts nationwide, but the same principle of voter turnout applies to legislative races. If contests aren't competitive, the news media yawn, the public goes to sleep, and many people don't bother to vote.... In the November 2006 elections, the average margin of victory in California congressional contests was 43%. That ranked ninth-biggest -- or worst, from a competitive standpoint -- in the nation. Figuring the average turnout in competitive races nationwide and applying it to all contests, the researcher calculated that gerrymandering suppressed 3.1 million potential votes in California. The vote total was about 8.9 million, or roughly 35% fewer than what might have been." Los Angeles Times (June 19, 2008) 1.]

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SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY POLICY

State Technology and Science Index: Enduring Lessons for the Intangible Economy. By Ross DeVol and others, Milken Institute. (The Institute, Santa Monica, California) June 2008. 64 p.

Full text at: <http://www.milkeninstitute.org/pdf/StateTechScienceIndex.pdf>

["The first release of the State Technology and Science Index in 2002 spawned a growing recognition of the importance of intangibles in the economy. This updated 2008 edition builds upon the lessons learned and expands on the contributions of human capital formation and commercialization of intellectual property. We have examined a host of indicators to paint a comprehensive picture of how well states are performing in this highly competitive knowledge-based economy.... California places 4th in the nation with an overall score of 74.62, slipping from its 2nd-place finish in 2004. While it remains a national leader, the state shows signs of faltering."]

[Request #S08-37-2569]

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STATE FINANCES

From a Bonanza to a Blue Chip? Gambling Revenue to the States. By Lucy Dadayan and others, Rockefeller Institute of Government. (The Institute, Albany, New York) June 2008. 16 p.

Full text at: <http://www.rockinst.org/WorkArea/showcontent.aspx?id=15006>

["Lotteries, casinos, racinos, and pari-mutuel betting now generate over \$23 billion annually for states. However, revenue growth has slowed considerably in the past three years. State revenue growth from all gambling activities fell by almost half in 2006 and 2007, compared to the previous two years, and was well below the long-term annual growth rate of 5.1 percent.... Gambling revenue is now at an all-time high, but growth is slowing due to objections about social impacts and broader economic trends. From a fiscal perspective, state-sponsored gambling now resembles a blue-chip stock -- reliably generating large amounts of cash, but no longer promising dramatic growth in revenue."]

[Request #S08-37-2571]

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HOUSING

HOME OWNERSHIP

Ownership, Rental Costs, and the Prospects of Building Home Equity: An Analysis of 100 Metropolitan Areas. By Dean Baker, Center for Economic and Policy Research, and others. (The Center, Washington, DC) May 2008. 17 p.

Full text at: http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/100city_2008_05.pdf.

["The bubble that developed in the U.S. housing market from the years 1996 to 2006 pushed prices in many markets far out of line with fundamental values. The correction that began in the middle of 2006 has helped to bring house prices back in line with their long-run trend growth path. House prices in some of the most inflated markets are still hugely out of line with rents and income. This study compares ownership and rental costs in the 100 largest metropolitan areas. It also makes projections for the potential for accumulating home equity in these markets, assuming that a homeowner remains in their home for four years, the median holding period for moderate income households."]

[Request #S08-37-2502]

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REAL ESTATE LOANS

The Subprime Mortgage Market Collapse: A Primer on the Causes and Possible Solutions. By Ronald D. Utt, the Heritage Foundation. (The Foundation, Washington, DC) April 2008. 24 p.

Full text at: http://www.heritage.org/Research/Economy/upload/bg_2127.pdf

["Under the circumstances, government policies should focus on cost-effective ways to facilitate the transition to a sustainable housing market of fewer homeowners and/or lower home prices, as opposed to costly exercises to prop up the inflated and unsustainable market of the sort that existed from 2004 to 2006. Among the many risks confronting the United States is that many of the proposed relief measures would substantially and permanently expand the scope of the federal government while doing little to address the current financial crisis."]
[Request #S08-37-2574]

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Tackling the Mortgage Crisis: 10 Action Steps for State Government. By Alan Mallach, National Housing Institute. (Brookings Institution, Washington, DC) May 2008. 30 p.

Full text at:
http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2008/0529_mortgage_crisis_vey/0529_mortgage_crisis_vey.pdf

["Although state governments are constrained both by fiscal limitations and by potential federal preemption, their resources and powers give them broad scope for coping with the foreclosure crisis. Because a state government can take a particular step does not mean that it should. Actions taken in haste without careful consideration can be wasteful, ineffective, or have unanticipated consequences. It is possible to identify some of those consequences, and suggest more effective directions for state action. These include: 1) mitigating the effect of foreclosure on borrowers at risk of foreclosure; 2) mitigating the impact of foreclosure on neighborhoods and communities at risk; 3) preventing a recurrence of the crisis; and, 4) establishing sound, long-term policies for affordable housing."]
[Request #S08-37-2565]

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HUMAN SERVICES

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

The Economics of Early Childhood Policy: What the Dismal Science Has to Say About Investing in Children. By M. Rebecca Kilburn and Lynn A. Karoly, RAND Corporation. (RAND, Santa Monica, California) 2008. 50 p.

Full text at: http://rand.org/pubs/occasional_papers/2008/RAND_OP227.pdf

["Scientific discoveries over the past two decades have transformed the way in which researchers, policymakers, and the public think about early childhood. For example, recent research in brain science has provided a biological basis for prevailing theories about early child development, and cost-benefit analysis has reoriented some of the discussion about early childhood toward prevention programs.... This paper summarizes the contributions from the field of economics, which has played an increasingly prominent role in recent discussions about early childhood policy. The insights from economics also have broader implications for social programs focused on prevention, especially during childhood, rather than later-in-life remediation."]

[Request #S08-37-2568]

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TEENS

When You Become 18: A Survival Guide for Teenagers. By the State Bar of California (The Bar, San Francisco, California) May 2008. 16p.

Full text at: <http://www.calbar.ca.gov/calbar/pdfs/publications/Becoming-18.pdf>

["When You Become 18 speaks directly to teenagers, offering a wide range of information on topics and laws that impact their lives.... This guide helps demystify the legal system...and offers insights on everything from renting an apartment or maintaining insurance to dealing with domestic abuse or identity fraud.... Other topics include the 'age of majority,' alcohol and drugs, online socializing, contracts, working and taxes, driving laws, voting, registering for military service, serving on a jury, consumer protection laws, lawsuits and crimes and consequences."]

[Request #S08-37-2442]

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WELFARE

The Impact of Earnings Disregards on the Behavior of Low Income Families. By Jordan D. Matsudaira, Cornell University, and Rebecca M. Blank, Brookings Institution. (National Bureau of Economic Research, Cambridge, Massachusetts) May 2008. 62 p.

Full text at: <http://www.nber.org/papers/w14038>

["This paper investigates the impact of changes in earnings disregards for welfare assistance received by single mothers following welfare reform in 1996. Some states adopted much higher earnings disregards (women could work full time and still receive welfare), while other states did not. We explore the effect of these changes on women's labor supply and income using several data sources and multiple estimation strategies. Our results indicate these changes had little effect on labor supply or income. We show this is because few women used these earnings disregards. This is surprising and we discuss why this might occur."]

[Request #S08-37-2496]

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TRANSPORTATION

VEHICLE FEES

Compilation of Public Opinion Data on Tolls and Road Pricing: A Synthesis of Highway Practice. By Johanna Zmud and Carlos Arce, NuStats, LLC. (Transportation Research Board, Washington, DC) 2008. 65 p.

Full text at: http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/nchrp/nchrp_syn_377.pdf

["There has been a significant and widespread interest in the use of flat tolls, variable tolls, and other forms of road pricing, as a source of funding, a means to manage congestion, and a way to provide additional traveler options.... Our study indicates that in the aggregate there is a clear majority support for tolling and road pricing. A number of factors influence public opinion including the type of pricing, the use of tolling revenues, and any clarifying information that is presented when opinions are being solicited.... Popular discourse would have one believe that the public is opposed to tolling and road pricing. This perception often stems from the political nature of given communities and their various interest groups, which can obscure the majority opinion on complex subject matters."]

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