

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

California -- One Hundred Years Ago

June 1909 “Adelardo Aguirre, living in a small settlement court at No.185 North Rio Street was arrested yesterday afternoon by Dr. A.B. Tebbetts of the health department on suspicion of being afflicted with leprosy. Aguirre is a quiet dignified man, 35 years of age, and a lover of children. He told the doctors that he has kept away from the little ones as much as possible, not knowing the nature of his disease, but fearing that it might be dangerous to them. He was told the nature of his disease. He said that he had heard of the leprosy, but had no idea he was suffering from it. He was sent to the County Hospital and locked up in the contagion ward. Another Mexican is in the same ward suffering from leprosy. A close watch is kept on the men to prevent escape.” *Los Angeles Times* (June 9, 1909) pg. 17

1909 “Samuel Bernick, a Russian candy peddler, who was locked up in the County Hospital a week ago, after it was discovered that he was a victim of leprosy, escaped from that institution early yesterday morning. He lowered himself to the ground from the second story of the contagious ward. The ward attendants knew nothing of his disappearance and the night watchman did not see any one leave the grounds. Bernick simply followed the example set by those who have gone before him into that ward, for by some unusual trick of fate almost every leper manages to get away from the hospital. Men and women afflicted with other contagious diseases are always held at the County Hospital with little or no trouble. But a leper always manages to get away.” *Los Angeles Times* (February 12, 1909) pg. III.

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

- When available, the URL for the full text of each item is provided.
- California State Employees may contact the State Information & Reference Center (916-654-0261); csinfo@library.ca.gov) with the SITN issue number and the item number [S#].
- All other interested individuals should contact their local library - the items may be available there, or may be borrowed by your local library on your behalf.

The following studies are currently on hand:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

JUVENILE JUSTICE

Closing California's Division of Juvenile Facilities: An Analysis of County Institutional Capacity. By Daniel Macallair and others, Center on Juvenile and Criminal Justice. (The Center, San Francisco, California) May 2009. 25 p.

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

["Few areas of California state government warrant greater scrutiny than the \$383,105,473 budget of the California Department of Corrections, Division of Juvenile Facilities (DJF)... The demonstrated inability of DJF to institute mandated reforms despite unprecedented expenditures calls into question the wisdom of continuing the current course.... The changes called for are predicated on returning responsibility for the remaining DJF wards to county probation departments with a supplemental funding stream to subsidize the added responsibilities.... The primary arguments against this proposal center on whether counties have sufficient institutional capacity to absorb the current DJF population and how such a policy will impact crime rates."]

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MENTAL ILLNESS

Improving Outcomes for People with Mental Illnesses under Community Corrections Supervision: A Guide to Research-Informed Policy and Practice.
By Seth Jacob Prins and Laura Draper, Council of State Governments Justice Center. (The Center, New York, New York) March 2009. 60 p.

Full text at:

<http://consensusproject.org/downloads/community.corrections.research.guide.pdf>

["Community corrections officials and their counterparts in the mental health system understand that their target populations are increasingly overlapping and that the need for new approaches has never been greater.... Corrections and mental health professionals need to design and implement interventions that are informed by the latest evidence about what works, for whom, and under what circumstances.... A variety of program models integrate community corrections supervision with mental health treatment, and preliminary evidence suggests that these programs may reduce the risk of arrest and revocation and improve linkages to treatment and other services. One of these models, specialized mental health probation caseloads, is a promising practice for improving clinical and legal outcomes for people with mental illnesses under probation supervision."]

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"Prevalence of Serious Mental Illness Among Jail Inmates." By Henry J. Steadman and others. IN: Psychiatric Services, vol. 60, no. 6 (June 2009) pp. 761-765.

Full text at: <http://consensusproject.org/downloads/PsySJailMHStudy.pdf>

["A new study of more than 20,000 men and women entering jail offers the most accurate accounting in more than two decades of the number of adults with serious mental illnesses in these facilities. Using screening instruments to identify individuals entering jails with the most serious mental illnesses, a team of researchers found that 14.5 percent of males and 31 percent of females -- or 16.9 percent overall -- met that criteria. The percentage of women with serious mental illnesses in jail is double that of men, a particularly troubling finding given the overall growth in the female jail population. These estimates are three to six times higher than the general population, and indicate that as many as 2 million bookings of people with serious mental illnesses may occur each year." CSG press release (June 1, 2009) 1.]

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POLICE

The Role of Local Police: Striking a Balance Between Immigration Enforcement and Civil Liberties. By Anita Khashu, Center on Immigration and Justice. (The Police Foundation, Washington, DC) April 2009.

["This report presents findings and recommendations from a year-long national effort that examined the implications of immigration enforcement at the local level.... The report includes research on the rights of undocumented immigrants and the legal framework for enforcement of immigration laws, demographics, immigration and criminality, evaluation of federal efforts to collaborate with local police on immigration enforcement (287(g) program), a national survey of law enforcement executives on immigration issues and local policing, the experience of undocumented youth, and a survey of law enforcement executives about their views on local immigration enforcement issues."]

[Request #S09-17-3745]

Report. 256 p.

<http://www.policefoundation.org/strikingabalance/strikingabalance.html>

Executive Summary. 8 p.

<http://www.policefoundation.org/pdf/strikingabalance/Executive%20Summary.pdf>

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CULTURE AND SOCIETY

WOMEN

The Paradox of Declining Female Happiness. By Betsey Stevenson and Justin Wolfers, The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania. (Federal Reserve Bank, San Francisco, California) May 2009. 47 p.

Full text at: <http://www.frbsf.org/publications/economics/papers/2009/wp09-11bk.pdf>

["By many objective measures the lives of women in the United States have improved over the past 35 years, yet we show that measures of subjective well-being indicate that women's happiness has declined both absolutely and relative to men. The paradox of women's declining relative well-being is found across various datasets, measures of subjective well-being, and is pervasive across demographic groups and industrialized countries. Relative declines in female happiness have eroded a gender gap in happiness in which women in the 1970s typically reported higher subjective well-being than did men. These declines have continued and a new gender gap is emerging -- one with higher subjective well-being for men."]

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DEMOGRAPHY

LATINOS

Latino Children: A Majority Are U.S.-Born Offspring of Immigrants. By Richard Fry and Jeffrey S. Passel, Pew Hispanic Center. (The Center, Washington, DC) May 28, 2009. 17 p.

Full text at: <http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/110.pdf>

["Latinos now account for about one in five American children -- up from one in 10 three decades ago -- thanks largely to a huge influx of Mexican and Central American immigrants that began in 1980. The American-born children of parents who arrived since the 1980s now make up a majority of Latino youngsters in the United States.... The shift in the generational status of Latino children is important because analysis of the most recent U.S. census data indicates that many social, economic and demographic characteristics of Latino children vary sharply by their generational status. Various indicators of the socioeconomic status of Latino children of U.S.-born parents are higher than for Latino children of immigrant parents." Torrance Daily Breeze (May 28, 2009) 1.]
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ECONOMY

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Business Boost from Marriage Equality: Evidence from the Health and Marriage Equality in Massachusetts Survey. By Naomi G. Goldberg, the Williams Institute, University of California, Los Angeles, and others. (The Institute, Los Angeles, California) May 2009. 9 p.

Full text at: <http://www.law.ucla.edu/williamsinstitute/pdf/BusinessBoost.pdf>

["May 2009 marks the five year anniversary of marriage equality for same-sex couples in Massachusetts, generating new questions about the impact of this policy shift on couples and the state. Several studies predict that marriage equality will have a positive economic impact on the state, including increasing sales tax and tourism revenue as a result of more wedding spending. This brief draws on two sources of data, a survey and state-collected tax revenue data, and finds that marriages have had a positive economic effect on Massachusetts -- likely providing a boost of over \$100 million to the state economy. Same-sex couples' weddings injected significant spending into the Massachusetts economy and brought out-of-state guests to the state, whose spending also added to the economic boost."]
[Request #S09-17-3749]

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GREEN ECONOMY

Los Angeles Greenprint: Economic Recovery through Environmental Leadership. By Erica Fick and others, Environmental Defense Fund. (The Fund, New York, New York) May 2009. 40 p.

Full text at: http://www.edf.org/documents/9743_lagreenprint_05_online.pdf

["California has always been on America's leading edge of environmental creativity, innovation and policy, and Los Angeles is poised to become a leader in the state's efforts to curb global climate change.... Los Angeles has a tremendous opportunity to become the nation's green-collar capitol. In May 2007, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa released 'Green LA,' setting out a goal to reduce the city's greenhouse gases to 35% below 1990 levels by 2030. And in November 2008, the Mayor announced 'Solar LA,' which envisions bringing 1.3 gigawatts of solar to Los Angeles by 2020.... The positive effect of L.A.'s plans to reduce greenhouse gases and generate renewable energy will ripple through the broader Southern California economy, creating a lasting upswing in the manufacturing, construction, technology, and 'green' service sectors."][Request #S09-17-3744]

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HIGH TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY

North America's High-Tech Economy: The Geography of Knowledge-Based Industries. By Ross DeVol and others, the Milken Institute. (The Institute, Santa Monica, California) June 2009.

["In this study, we examine the locations and patterns of growth in nineteen individual high-tech industry categories. We then aggregate those results to determine overall high-tech performance. In each category, individual metro areas are then ranked according to their performance as 'tech poles.' This benchmarking metric is based on employment and wages; it also looks at the concentration of technology in the local economy and each metro's relative share of aggregate North American activity.... Silicon Valley (the San Jose, California, metro area) remains the preeminent high-tech cluster in North America and the world. Its extensive network of collaborating agents is unparalleled, resulting in a high-tech employment concentration that is four-and-a-half times the average for all metros."][Request #S09-17-3757]

Report. 62 p.

<http://www.milkeninstitute.org/publications/publications.taf?function=detail&ID=38801198&cat=resrep>

Executive Summary. 8 p.

http://www.milkeninstitute.org/pdf/NamericaHiTechExecSmmry_Final.pdf

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INCOME

Risk and Recovery: Documenting the Changing Risks to Family Incomes. By Gregory Acs and others, the Urban Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) May 2009. 10 p.

Full text at: http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411890_risk_and_recovery.pdf

["Policymakers and the public are increasingly sensing that families are on their own, at the mercy of uncontrollable events such as illness or downsizing and at ever-increasing risk of suffering financial losses. A focus on volatility captures the uncertainty families face in knowing what their income will be from one year to the next; however, more volatile incomes do not necessarily mean families or individuals are worse off.... In contrast, a focus on substantial income losses captures the downside of volatility.... Steep income drops are common, with 13.6 percent of families seeing their incomes fall by half at some point over the course of a year. The lowest and highest-income families the most likely to experience a substantial income loss. Further, only two in five individuals recover to at least 100 percent of their pre-drop income in the year after the drop."]

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EDUCATION

HIGHER EDUCATION

Diplomas and Dropouts: Which Colleges Actually Graduate Their Students (and Which Don't). By Mark Schneider and others, American Enterprise Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) June 2009. 80 p.

Full text at: <http://www.aei.org/docLib/Diplomas%20and%20Dropouts%20final.pdf>

["This report documents the dramatic variation in graduation rates across more than 1,300 of the nation's colleges and universities, even between those with similar admissions criteria and students.... The institutions covered in this report run the gamut from large, public research universities to small, private liberal arts colleges; from highly selective, world-famous institutions to regional, open admissions ones.... We do not argue that high graduation rates are invariably a good sign or low graduation rates necessarily a bad one. And we do not want to suggest that modest differences in graduation rates should be overemphasized. However, graduation rates as calculated here do convey important information -- to students selecting a school, parents investing in their child's education, and policymakers and taxpayers who finance student aid and public institutions."]

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Educating California: Choices for the Future. By Hans Johnson, Public Policy Institute of California. (The Institute, San Francisco, California) June 2009. 24 p.

Full text at: http://www.ppic.org/content/pubs/report/R_609HJR.pdf

["Proposed state higher-education cuts will exacerbate a projected shortage of college graduates and imperil California's long-term economic future.... The report predicts that the state will face a shortage of 1 million college graduates by 2025 unless current trends are reversed. Forty-one percent of jobs will demand at least a bachelor's degree by 2025, but only 35 percent of California adults will have one.... The shortage of college graduates will worsen California's budget problems, because they on average make more money than those without degrees, and pay more taxes.... More academic support, counseling and financial aid is needed to boost graduation rates, Johnson said. Yet the state budget cuts will likely lead to reductions in all three areas, he said." Riverside Press Enterprise (June 9, 2009) 1.]
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EMPLOYMENT

LABOR UNIONS

No Holds Barred: The Intensification of Employer Opposition to Organizing. By Kate Bronfenbrenner, Cornell School of Industrial and Labor Relations. (Economic Policy Institute, Washington, DC) May 23, 2009. 33 p.

Full text at: http://epi.3cdn.net/edc3b3dc172dd1094f_0ym6ii96d.pdf

["Private sector employer opposition to workers' efforts to form unions has intensified and become more punitive than in the past. Employers are more than twice as likely to use 10 or more tactics -- including threats of and actual firings -- in their campaigns to thwart workers' organizing efforts. Today's anti-union activities include a greater focus than in the past on more coercive and punitive tactics designed to intensely monitor and punish union activity.... The report also compares employer behavior data in the study's time period (1999-2003) to previous studies conducted by Bronfenbrenner's research teams over the last 20 years." EPI Press Release (May 20, 2009) 1.]
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OLDER WORKERS

More Californians Are Working Later in Life. By Alissa Anderson, The California Budget Project. (The Project, Sacramento, California) April 2009. 7 p.

Full text at: http://www.cbp.org/pdfs/2009/090406_pp_WorkingLaterInLife.pdf

["Californians are working later in life than they once did. The employment rate for Californians approaching retirement age increased between 1995 and 2008, after a decade and a half of little change. The share of Californians age 55 to 69 who were employed continued to rise during the current downturn, reversing the pattern of declining employment rates for older Californians during the downturns of the 1980s and 1990s. Increased employment levels for Californians in their late 50s and 60s reflect a number of factors, including improved health and longer life expectancy, as well as diminished retirement security."]

[Request #S09-17-3541]

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ENERGY

ENERGY CONSERVATION

"Greater Transportation Energy and GHG Offsets from Bioelectricity Than Ethanol." By D. B. Lobell and others. IN: Science, DOI:10.1126/science.1168885. (May 7, 2009) online.

Full text at: <http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/abstract/1168885v1>

["Ethanol from plants can fill up drivers' gas tanks, but people could drive 80 percent farther if we converted those crops into electricity. The study compares two of the leading fossil fuel alternatives. As state and federal agencies decide how to dole out billions of dollars in subsidies and design new environmental regulations, the study could play a key role in helping determine what the next generation of cars will look like. Because the enormous energy demands of America's vehicle fleet -- and the fact that farmland is limited -- scientists have wondered how to most efficiently produce energy from the acreage.... 'The key point is we need to evaluate transportation efficiency and not believe we live in a world where we only use liquid fuels,' Lobell said." San Jose Mercury News (May 8, 2009) 1.]

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ENERGY CONSERVATION

Energy Efficiency Program Options for Local Governments under the 2009 Stimulus Package. By the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy. (The Council, Washington, DC) 2009. 24 p.

Full text at: http://www.aceee.org/energy/national/EEPrograms_Municipal.pdf

["The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act included several key funding opportunities for energy efficiency projects at the local level, including monies for energy efficiency and conservation block grants for the first time. Also, funding was provided for state energy programs, weatherization assistance and efficient transportation efficiency among other initiatives. In this paper we give a sampling of existing programs and practices that municipalities have implemented to save energy and create jobs. We have listed them alongside the DOE-issued guidance where appropriate as examples of eligible activities that might be more quickly ramped up and executed as ARRA program demands."]

[Request #S09-17-3769]

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ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

AIR POLLUTION

State of the Air 2009. By Janice E. Nolen and others, American Lung Association. (The Association, Washington, DC) April 2009. 182 p.

Full text at: <http://www.lungusa2.org/sota/2009/SOTA-2009-Full-Print.pdf>

["Altogether, 38 counties, mostly grouped in Southern California and the Central Valley, were given failing grades for their levels of the two air pollutants. Another 16 -- including San Mateo, Santa Cruz, San Francisco, Marin and Monterey -- received an 'A.'... Lung Association officials said California should expand programs to retrofit old diesel buses and trucks, better regulate smog from large oceangoing ships and require motorcycles to undergo smog inspections, similar to cars, to help improve air quality. Critics said the report exaggerates risk to build public support for ever-tougher regulations." San Jose Mercury News (April 29, 2009) 1.]

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BEACHES

Beach Report Card: 2009. By Heal the Bay. (Heal the Bay, Santa Monica, California) May 2009. 88 p.

Full text at:

http://www.healthebay.org/assets/pdfdocs/brc/annual/2009/report_web.pdf

["Seventy-five beaches in California made an 'honor roll' because they met water-quality standards in 2008-2009.... 'If you go to Bay Area beaches, you were generally swimming in the best water quality in recent years,' said James Alamillo, a Heal the Bay spokesman. Both bayside and oceanside beaches can be used regularly 'because water quality is very good to excellent at these sites,' he said. The caveat was to avoid beaches during rainstorms -- and at least three days afterward -- because of filthy runoff from creeks and sometimes sewage plants." San Francisco Chronicle (May 21, 2009) 1.]

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CLIMATE CHANGE

Potential Impacts of Climate Change in the United States. By Robert Shackleton, Congressional Budget Office. (The Office, Washington, DC) May 2009. 33 p.

Full text at: http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/101xx/doc10107/05-04-ClimateChange_forWeb.pdf

["The uncertainties in the link between emissions and climate change, coupled with the potential for improvements in future understanding of the climate problem, imply that policies that gradually raise the price of emissions with the expectation of meeting a cumulative target for emissions are likely to yield greater long-term net economic benefits than policies that impose increasingly stringent quantitative limits on emissions with the same cumulative target. Neither type of policy is likely to achieve a specific warming target, and policies of either type, if adopted, would be very likely to require adjustments and refinements as better information became available. Uncertainties may thus justify flexible mechanisms even though they may simultaneously justify relatively stringent policies."]

[Request #S09-17-3704]

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FISH

Biological and Conference Opinion on the Long-Term Operations of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project. By the National Marine Fisheries Service, Southwest Region. (The Service, Long Beach, California) June 4, 2009. 844 p.

Full text at: <http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/ocap.htm>

["Warning that salmon and other fish species are in danger of extinction, a federal agency issued directives that will guide the way dams, pumps, canals and other waterworks in California operate to help ease pressure on the Pacific coast's collapsing salmon fishery.... The biological opinion will reduce water deliveries to farmers and urban users by about 5% to 7% annually. Complying with the court-ordered prescriptions could cost 'hundreds of millions' and would be passed on to water users, according to a federal water manager.... The new document replaces a 2004 biological opinion that found that increased pumping of water posed no harm to threatened and endangered populations of California salmon, steelhead and green sturgeon. A federal judge last year ruled that the agency had erred and ordered it to redraft the opinion." Los Angeles Times (June 5, 2009) 1.]

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GENERAL GOVERNMENT

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Who's in Charge? Who Should Be? The Role of the Federal Government in Megadisasters: Based on Lessons from Hurricane Katrina. By Richard P. Nathan and Marc Landy, Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government. (The Institute, Albany, New York) June 2, 2009. 10 p.

Full text at:

http://www.rockinst.org/pdf/disaster_recovery/gulfgov/gulfgov_reports/2009-06-02-Whos_in_Charge.PDF

["We recommend stand-by federal legislation to enable the president to appoint an officer-in-charge, not to take over state and local responsibilities, but to do two essential things. First, to provide the authority and resources to mobilize the federal establishment (and, by virtue of being able to do this, being in a stronger position to influence major institutions on the scene to get their act together). Second, to enable the national government to adopt extraordinary measures. A major charge to the person assigned as this 'presidentially designated driver' would be to report to the president and the Congress within a prescribed period of time on whether extraordinary national action is needed, and if so what it should be."]

[Request #S09-17-3759]

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INITIATIVES & PROPOSITIONS

The Faithful Divide Over Wedding Vows: A Profile of Michigan's 2004 Battle Over Marriage Equality. By Jonathan Duffy and Sally Steenland, Center for American Progress. (The Center, Washington, DC) June 2009. 20 p.

Full text at: http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/06/pdf/michigan_glbt.pdf

["On November 2, 2004, voters in Michigan approved a state constitutional amendment that prohibited same-sex marriage. The amendment, known as Proposal 2, passed with nearly 60-percent support and came after vigorous efforts by advocacy groups and faith communities on both sides of the issue.... A review of the battle over Proposal 2, the alliances it shaped, and the efforts and tactics involved not only provides insights into the ballot-initiative process, but, more importantly, may help illuminate similar campaigns in the future. The arguments, organizing strategies, and communications messages that worked, or didn't work, for Proposal 2 in Michigan can serve as lessons in future struggles. This paper will explore those strategies so that progressives in Michigan and other states can learn from the experiences in this battleground over marriage equality."]

[Request #S09-17-3758]

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STATE TAXES

The Catastrophe of What Passes for Alcohol Policy Analysis. By Edward Stringham, Reason Foundation. (The Foundation, Los Angeles, California) May 2009. **AND: The Annual Catastrophe of Alcohol in California.** By Simon Rosen and others, The Marin Institute. (The Institute, San Rafael, California) July 2008.

["Is alcohol a good like other economic goods, or is alcohol a 'catastrophe' that should be heavily taxed?... As a policy conclusion, Rosen, Miller and Simon claim that increasing taxes on alcohol would be equivalent to charging drinkers the costs they impose on society. They argue that California should increase taxes on every drink.... Such policies are worse than ineffective; they're actually harmful. They punish responsible drinkers for the limited, mostly internalized problems caused by the small subset of problem drinkers. They distract policymakers from the real underlying problems more directly associated with problem drinking."]

[Request #S09-17-3724]

The Catastrophe of Alcohol Policy. 6 p.

<http://reason.org/files/ff926f265106f06e8ead75bbb830c380.pdf>

The Catastrophe of Alcohol. 7 p.

http://www.marininstitute.org/site/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=98&Itemid=38

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Tax Measures Help Balance State Budgets: A Common and Reasonable Response to Shortfalls. By Nicholas Johnson and others, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. (The Center, Washington, DC) May 13, 2009. 10 p.

Full text at: <http://www.cbpp.org/files/5-13-09sfp.pdf>

["Instead of a cuts-only approach, states increasingly are employing a combination of budget solutions that also involves drawing down reserve funds, maximizing the use of federal dollars, and raising taxes. A number of prominent economists have pointed out that budget cuts are more harmful to state economies during a recession than properly structured tax increases, so it is good policy to use tax increases to fill a substantial portion of deficits that exceed the amount that can be closed with reserves or federal funds. So far, in 2009, 16 states have raised new revenue through tax measures. Another 17 are giving serious consideration to doing so."]

[Request #S09-17-3658]

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HEALTH

EXERCISE

Physical Inactivity in U.S. Adolescents: Family, Neighborhood, and Individual Factors. By Mary Terzian and Kristin Anderson Moore, Child Trends. (Child Trends, Washington, DC) May 2009. 6 p.

Full text at: http://www.childtrends.org/Files/Child_Trends-2009_05_01_RB_PhysicalInactivity.pdf

["One key finding was that, compared with moderately and highly active teens, low-active teens (i.e., those who do not exercise or participate in sports at all) were more likely to have parents who do not exercise. Another finding, not surprisingly, was that low-active teens were more likely than were active teens to be overweight and to spend a lot of time engaged in electronic media such as televisions and computers. Among other findings was that living in a non-supportive neighborhood -- one lacking close ties between neighbors as well as overall safety -- was associated with whether teens participated in sports but not whether they engaged in exercise. This finding suggests that participation in sports may be more influenced by social or cultural factors than is engaging in exercise."]

[Request #S09-17-3763]

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HEALTH INSURANCE

Forging a New Plan For Health Care: Principles and Priorities for Sustainable Reform. By Douglas Holtz-Eakin, DHE Consulting, LLC. (Manhattan Institute for Policy Research, New York, New York) May 2009. 16 p.

Full text at: http://www.manhattan-institute.org/pdf/mpr_09.pdf

["The U.S. stands poised to enact dramatic and far-reaching changes to health-insurance markets. Early signals from Congress and the administration indicate that many of these changes will involve expansions of existing government programs like Medicare and Medicaid, massive new regulation of private insurance providers, and trillions of dollars in new federal spending. This paper makes the fiscal and political case for bipartisan health-care reform that: addresses dysfunctions in the existing health-care-delivery system; expands access to affordable private health insurance in an incremental and fiscally responsible manner; and improves market-based options for consumer access to information on health-care quality."]

[Request #S09-17-3709]

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LONG TERM CARE

Closing the Long-Term Care Funding Gap: The Challenge of Private Long-Term Care Insurance. By Molly O'Malley Watts, Kaiser Family Foundation, and others. (The Foundation, Menlo Park, California) June 2009. 23 p.

Full text at: [Closing the gap](#)

["American families today are struggling to pay for long-term care, caught in the crosshairs of an economic meltdown -- reducing personal resources that have fueled over 25 percent of the nation's long-term care spending until now. The decline in personal financial resources comes at a time when states are facing negative growth in revenue collections and unprecedented budgetary shortfalls, forcing them to reduce spending growth in Medicaid, the nation's long-term care safety net and major financing engine.... In grappling with multiple priorities and scarce public dollars, policymakers may be interested in exploring whether private long-term care insurance could play a larger role in financing America's long-term care needs. The brief explores key challenges policymakers face in enlarging the role of private long-term care insurance in financing long-term care."]

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WOMEN

Women at Risk: Why Many Women Are Forgoing Needed Health Care. By Sheila D. Rustgi and others, The Commonwealth Fund. (The Fund, New York, New York) May 2009. 12 p.

Full text at: [Women at risk](#)

["Rising health care costs coupled with eroding health care benefits are having a substantial effect on Americans' ability to get needed health care, with women particularly affected. Women experience cost-related access problems and medical bill problems more often than men. In 2007, more than half (52%) of women reported problems accessing needed care because of cost and 45 percent of women accrued medical debt or reported problems with medical bills. Since women use more health care services than men, they are more exposed to the fragmentation and failings of the current health care system -- underscoring the need for affordable and high-quality health insurance coverage that is available to all."]

[Request #S09-17-3707]

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HUMAN SERVICES

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

An International Comparison of Early Childhood Initiatives: From Services to Systems. By Neal Halfon, University of California, Los Angeles, and others. (The Commonwealth Fund, New York, New York) May 2009. 48 p.

Full text at: [An international comparison](#)

["The U.S. is not the only country to struggle with early childhood policy directions. England, Canada, and Australia all started with similarly fragmented early childhood services, a penchant for market-based solutions, and a desire to limit reliance on the welfare state. Families in each of these countries are facing similar pressures resulting from long hours at work, irregular work schedules, and limited child care options. This report describes components of each country's efforts to respond to the importance of the early years and to develop policies that they hope will produce lasting gains for their youngest citizens. It also considers the implications of their experiences for the development of early childhood policy in the U.S..... The U.S. and Canada currently have the least well-developed early childhood policies at the national level."]

[Request #S09-17-3762]

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POVERTY

Turning Point: The Long Term Effects of Recession-Induced Child Poverty. By First Focus. (First Focus, Washington, DC) May 2009. 15 p.

Full text at: <http://www.firstfocus.net/Download/TurningPoint.pdf>

["Children who fall into poverty during a recession fare worse far into adulthood than their peers who avoided it altogether. Specifically, children who are forced into poverty earn less, achieve lower levels of education, and are less likely to be gainfully employed over their lifetimes than those who avoided poverty. In addition, these children are more likely to be in poor health as adults. The report follows children who lived through post-war recessions for up to 30 years, analyzing individuals' income, employment, education, and health into adulthood.... It is estimated that approximately three million children will fall into poverty as a result of the current recession."]

[Request #S09-17-3766]

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TRANSPORTATION

FINANCING

Public-Private Partnerships for Highway Infrastructure: Capitalizing on International Experience. By Janice Weingart Brown and others, American Trade Initiatives. (Federal Highway Administration, Washington, DC) March 2009. 92 p.

Full text at: <http://international.fhwa.dot.gov/pubs/pl09010/pl09010.pdf>

["Public-private partnership (PPP) programs for highway infrastructure are not widely used in the United States. The FHA sponsored a scanning study to collect information about PPP programs for highway infrastructure in Australia, Portugal, Spain, and the United Kingdom, where PPP experience is more extensive. The scan team learned that PPPs are an effective strategy for delivering highway projects, and they are service arrangements as much as financial ones. Potential PPP projects must be analyzed and structured thoughtfully to preserve public interests and managing the partnership over the life of the contract is critical to providing the services expected. Team recommendations include convening workshops, developing training guidelines, establishing an expert task group, developing a research strategy, and publishing principles and guideline documents."].

[Request #S09-17-3772]

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RAILROADS

Achieving the Vision: Intercity Passenger Rail. By the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. (The Association, Washington, DC) May 2009. 32 p.

Full text at: <http://downloads.transportation.org/IPRT-2.pdf>

["Over the past 10 years, the states have spearheaded the effort to develop and fund a national intercity passenger rail system.... It is time for the United States to provide a robust intercity passenger network that provides competitive, reliable, and frequent passenger service, comparable to world-class systems in other countries. The next two essential steps are passing a national rail policy and funding an intercity rail capital improvement program.... Congress should create an Intercity Passenger Rail Account, funded from a diversified portfolio of new revenue, to provide dedicated, guaranteed funding (with budgetary treatment identical to the highway account, including firewalls, guaranteed spending, and contract authority) to states to meet their needs for capital improvements. Over the next six years investment should total \$35 billion."]

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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION

Making Transportation Sustainable: Insights from Germany. By Ralph Buehler, Virginia Tech, and others. (Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program, Washington, DC) April 2009. 38 p.

Full text at:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2009/0416_germany_transportation_buehler/0416_germany_transportation_report.pdf

["Increasing transportation sustainability in the United States requires policies that foster changes in travel behavior. Germany's case may provide a helpful example. Germany has been far more successful than the United States in creating a more balanced transportation system.... Differences in car reliance between the United States and Germany are not solely due to income or residential density. German governments at all levels have influenced travel behavior through a series of policies enacted over decades. Pricing, restrictions, and mandated technological improvements help mitigate the harmful impacts of car use. Integration of public transportation at the metropolitan and national levels provide a viable alternative to the car. Targeted regional land planning policies encourage compact, mixed-use development, and thus keep trip distances short and feasible for walking or cycling."]

[Request #S09-17-3774]

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TRANSIT

Reinventing Transit: American Communities Finding Smarter, Cleaner, Faster Transportation Solutions. By Edward Burgess and Ashley Rood, Environmental Defense Fund. (The Fund, New York, New York) April 2009. 44 p.

Full text at: http://www.edf.org/documents/9522_Reinventing_Transit_FINAL.pdf

["This report showcases the new generation of innovative public transit already operating in a variety of communities across America. Our goal is to shatter the preconceived notion that transit is exclusive to more traditional urban centers and that it is slow and unreliable. Through 11 case studies, we demonstrate how cutting edge transit has been implemented quickly and cost-effectively in a variety of settings from urban to rural.... The United States is now poised for a large-scale investment in its transportation infrastructure.... Transit projects have been shown time and again to provide greater and more cost-effective job creation than highway projects. Not only will transit investments create short-term construction jobs, but they will support long-term operating jobs long after construction is over."]
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