

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

California -- One Hundred Years Ago

August 1909 “Irrigation is now assured in the Imperial Valley by two opinions handed down yesterday in the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. They dealt with the appeals of the California Development Company against the Liverpool Salt Company. It was held that the Salton Sea was flooded by the waters of the Colorado River owing to the negligently constructed intakes of the Development Company and the fact that it provided no headgates to control the waters. It was on this account that the salt company recovered a judgment of \$456,746.23 because of the destruction and submergence of its works.... It also held that the property irrigated in the Imperial Valley was valued at \$10,000,000 and that as the salt company had been paid for its buildings and business, there was nothing left for it to claim except the freehold by which it held the submerged land. As it is estimated that it would be fifteen years before the water now covering it completely subsides, the court suggested that the land could not be worth much, as against the interests in Imperial Valley.” Los Angeles Times (August 3, 1909) p. I12.

1909 “That President Roosevelt’s recommendation for appropriation to reimburse E.H. Harriman for the expenditure of about \$2,000,000 by the Southern Pacific Railway Company to control the overflow of the Colorado River into the Salton Sea a few years ago, will be disregarded by Congress, now appears probable. Senator Smoot opposed the appropriation on the ground that the Southern Pacific spent most of the amount claimed in protecting its own property and the property of the California Development Company which is said to be controlled by the Harriman interests.” Los Angeles Times (January 24, 1909) p. I1.

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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](http://www.library.ca.gov/crb) 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

- 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

GANGS

Highlights of the 2007 National Youth Gang Survey. By Arlen Egley, Jr. and Christina E. O'Donnell, National Youth Gang Center. AND: Juvenile Arrests 2007. By Charles Puzanchera, National Center for Juvenile Justice. (Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC) April 2009.

["The gang survey findings suggest that gang problems have started to increase in recent years, after a former decline in youth gang activity seen from the mid-1990s to the early 2000s. One in five larger cities reported an increase in gang homicides in 2007 compared with 2006, and approximately two in five reported an increase in other violent offenses by gang members. Findings from Juvenile Arrests 2007 suggested more positive trends in juvenile behavior, with the number of juvenile arrests overall declining by 2% and the number of juvenile arrests for violent crimes declining by 3% from 2006 to 2007. These positive findings are also reflected in the data for males and females, for white and minority youth, and for most offense categories as well."][Request #S09-22-3960]

National Youth Gang Survey. 2 p.
<http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/225185.pdf>

Juvenile Arrests 2007. 12 p.
<http://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/ojjdp/225344.pdf>

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

2008 High Technology Crime In California: Annual Report to the Governor & Legislature. By the High Technology Crime Advisory Committee, Governor's Office of Emergency Services. (The Office, Mather, California) 2009. 51 p.

Full text at: [High Technology Crime](#)

["High technology is the wave of the future and is becoming inextricably bound to nearly every aspect of crime. It is the hallmark of terrorist who use satellite communication, web-based messaging, electronic intrusion, remote controlled botnets and other means to steal money to fund violent attacks, to recruit supporters, and wreak havoc on civilization. These are also the tool of low level miscreants to commit everyday crime. Every entity that measures computer related crime and identity theft produces data that demonstrates that California is at the forefront in terms of victimization and perpetration of crime via high technology."]

[Request #S09-22-3839]

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RAPE

National Prison Rape Commission: Final Report. By the National Prison Rape Commission. (The Commission, Washington, DC) June 2009.

["Protecting prisoners from sexual abuse remains a challenge in correctional facilities across the country. Too often, in what should be secure environments, men, women, and children are raped or abused by other incarcerated individuals and corrections staff.... Many victims cannot safely and easily report sexual abuse, and those who speak out often do so to no avail.... Victims are unlikely to receive the treatment and support known to minimize the trauma of abuse.... Juveniles in confinement are much more likely than incarcerated adults to be sexually abused, and they are particularly at risk when confined with adults.... A large and growing number of detained immigrants are at risk of sexual abuse."]

[Request #S09-22-3842]

Report. 276 p.

http://nprec.us/files/pdfs/NPREC_FinalReport.PDF

Executive Summary. Various pagings.

http://nprec.us/publication/report/executive_summary.php

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DEMOGRAPHY

IMMIGRANTS

New Patterns of Immigrant Settlement in California. By Sarah Bohn, Public Policy Institute of California. (The Institute, San Francisco, California) July 2009. 40 p.

Full text at: <http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=812>

["California is still home to more immigrants than any other state, but its popularity as an immigrant destination is dropping: From 1990 to 2007 immigrant growth rates in some other states topped 20 percent per year, more than five times the rate of growth here. Similarly, growth rates in new destinations within the state, such as Riverside and Kern Counties, have soared. This report examines the reasons for this shift, one being the decline in the preferences of new immigrants, particularly Latinos, to live in cities with large populations of other immigrants.

Simultaneously, widening economic opportunities in new areas have attracted many new immigrants."]

[Request #S09-22-3956]

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Mexican Immigrants: How Many Come? How Many Leave? By Jeffrey S. Passel and D'Vera Cohn, Pew Hispanic Center. (The Center, Washington, DC) July 22, 2009. 27 p.

Full text at: <http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/112.pdf>

["A new report estimates that for the 12 months ending in February 2009, the net migration between Mexico and the U.S. -- the number of people coming to the U.S. minus those returning to Mexico -- was about 203,000, less than half of the 547,000 two years earlier. 'There is no real way to separate what part is enforcement and what part is economic,' said Jeffrey Passel. 'They may work together.' ... While some have theorized that the recession has prompted more Mexicans to go home, Pew found no such evidence from an analysis of data from the Mexican government and the U.S. Census." San Jose Mercury News (July 21, 2009) 1.]

[Request #S09-22-3955]

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The New Geography of United States Immigration. By Audrey Singer, Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program. (Brookings Institution, Washington, DC) July 2009. 8 p.

Full text at:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2009/07_immigration_geography_singer/07_immigration_geography_singer.pdf

["New trends in immigration are changing communities across the United States. The movement of immigrants from abroad to the heart of America's largest cities is no longer the dominant pattern as it was in the past. The restructuring of the U.S. economy and the accompanying decentralization of cities and growth of suburbs as major employment centers have shifted immigrant settlement to a new class of metropolitan areas. Emerging destinations tend to be metropolitan areas with more recent development histories, largely suburban in form. Many of the newest destination areas have little history or identity with immigration. In some new destination areas, the pace of immigration has aroused social conflict and anxiety over immigrants' legal status and the costs of providing services such as healthcare and education to the children of immigrants."]

[Request #S09-22-3961]

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ECONOMY

CALIFORNIA

Ebbing Tides in the Golden State: Impacts of the 2008 Recession on California and Los Angeles County. By Daniel Flaming and others, Economic Roundtable. (The Roundtable, Los Angeles, California) June 2009. 110 pages.

Full text at:

http://www.economicrt.org/pub/ebbing_tides_in_the_golden_state/ebbing_tides_in_the_golden_state.pdf

["California has immense human and financial resources. If these resources are used wisely, irreversible long-term damage to the well being of California residents will be prevented and the state will continue to grow and thrive after the recession ends.... Los Angeles and California are challenged to step up to this mark by sensibly assessing priorities and using the state's resources strategically to prevent irreversible long-term harm to residents. Short-sighted arbitrary budget reductions are likely to create a wide swath of social damage that will cause far more lasting harm to the economy and the human capital of the state than intelligently designed tax increases. California must increase its revenue to pay for essential services."]

[Request #S09-22-3846]

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ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

The Economic Crisis and the Fiscal Crisis: 2009 and Beyond: An Update. By Alan J. Auerbach, University of California, Berkeley, and William G. Gale, Brookings Institution. (The Institution, Washington, DC) June 2009. 49 p.

Full text at:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2009/06_fiscal_crisis_gale/06_fiscal_crisis_gale.pdf

["The budget outlook at every horizon is troubling: the fiscal-year 2009 budget is enormous; the ten-year projection is clearly unsustainable; and the long-term outlook is dire and increasingly urgent.... This paper reviews recent economic events and their impact on U.S. fiscal performance and prospects. We highlight the historic nature of the 2009 budget outcomes, the unsustainability of plausible ten-year budget projections, and the increasingly dire long-term fiscal problem. Over the next several years, as the recession ends and the economy recovers, policy makers will face a delicate balancing act between encouraging economic recovery and establishing fiscal sustainability. Even if a successful recovery ensues, however, medium-term and long-term fiscal problems have become increasingly urgent."]

[Request #S09-22-3856]

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INCOME DISTRIBUTION

Thinking Clearly about Economic Inequality. By Will Wilkinson, Cato Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) July 14, 2009. 28 p.

Full text at: <http://www.cato.org/pubs/pas/pa640.pdf>

["Several strands of evidence about real standards of living suggest a very different picture of the trends in economic inequality. In any case, the dispersion of incomes at any given time has, at best, a tenuous connection to human welfare or social justice.... Many thinkers mistake national populations for 'society' and thereby obscure the real story about the effects of trade and immigration on welfare, equality, and justice. There is little evidence that high levels of income inequality lead down a slippery slope to the destruction of democracy and rule by the rich. The unequal political voice of the poor can be addressed only through policies that actually work to fight poverty and improve education. Income inequality is a dangerous distraction from the real problems: poverty, lack of economic opportunity, and systemic injustice."]

[Request #S09-22-3954]

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EDUCATION

COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Promoting Partnerships for Student Success: Lessons from the SSPIRE Initiative. By Evan Weissman and others, MDRC. (MDRC, Oakland, California) July 2009.

[“California’s 110 community colleges are an essential part of the state’s higher education and workforce development structure, serving over 2.6 million students annually. But a growing number of students face major obstacles to success, including inadequate preparation for college-level courses, and many end up dropping out. New scholarship suggests that student support services, such as academic and personal advising, counseling, tutoring, and financial aid, are critically important for promoting better academic outcomes for students. The challenge is to integrate these support services with academic instruction. Unfortunately, the very way most community colleges are organized -- with student services housed in one division and academic functions in another, each functioning in parallel but with little coordination -- creates obstacles to successful integration.”][Request #S09-22-3962]

Report. 125 p.

<http://www.mdrc.org/publications/521/full.pdf>

Executive Summary. 9 p.

<http://www.mdrc.org/publications/521/execsum.pdf>

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EDUCATIONAL REFORM

\$100 Billion: For Reform or to Subsidize the Status Quo? By Andy Smarick, American Enterprise Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) June 2009. 8 p.

Full text at: <http://www.aei.org/docLib/ESWJune2009.pdf>

["Though some congressional leaders may have thought they were writing a blueprint for reform, what resulted was quite different. And while Secretary Duncan, to his credit, has spoken passionately and often about the need for improvement, the tools he was handed were cracked and dull. In short, at this point the enthusiastic predictions about the ARRA's contributions to K-12 education reform should be approached with skepticism. The law's provisions and their interpretation by the Department of Education erect significant barriers to reform. Moreover, additional conditions on the ground make those obstacles even higher. At this early date, it appears that we must adjust our expectations about the ARRA's ability to generate the types of improvements our schools so urgently need."]

[Request #S09-22-3951]

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SCHOOL GOVERNANCE

School Accountability and Administrator Incentives in California. By S. Eric Larsen, Public Policy Institute of California. (The Institute, San Francisco, California) July 2009. 34 p.

Full text at: <http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=789>

["School accountability programs aim to improve student achievement by improving educator incentives. Have they done so? This report examines how state and federal accountability programs have affected the incentives of principals, superintendents, and school board members -- finding some evidence that the federal No Child Left Behind Act (2001) may have made principals and school board members more accountable for student achievement. However, the report finds no effect on the incentives of school superintendents. This report also recommends a number of specific changes to the NCLB, should it be reauthorized."]

[Request #S09-22-3949]

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EMPLOYMENT

IMMIGRATION

The Next Generation of E-Verify: Getting Employment Verification Right. By Doris Meissner and Marc R. Rosenblum, Migration Policy Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) July 2009. 40 p.

Full text at: http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/Verification_paper-071709.pdf

["A reliable system to ensure that employers don't hire illegal immigrants must be the centerpiece of any overhaul of immigration laws. E-Verify, the government's voluntary electronic verification program in effect since 1997, has been greatly improved, and error rates have fallen sharply in recent years. But the system still has database and user errors, leading to legal immigrants and U.S. citizens being rejected for jobs. Nearly 97 percent of potential hires are automatically cleared to work, and 99 percent are eventually cleared through the system. But even a 1 percent error rate would affect about 600,000 workers per year if the program became mandatory. The core weakness of E-Verify is that it is not designed for, or capable of, authenticating identity that would prevent false confirmations based on stolen identities." The San Bernardino Sun (July 20, 2009) 1.]

[Request #S09-22-3948]

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WORKFORCE PREPARATION

The Ill-Prepared U.S. Workforce: Exploring the Challenges of Employer-Provided Workforce Readiness Training. By Jill Casner-Lotto, The Conference Board, and others. (The Board, New York, New York) July 2009. 24 p.

Full text at: <http://www.conference-board.org/publications/describe.cfm?id=1676>

["Much has been written about the 'school-business disconnect': the gap between what schools teach versus what business needs to be competitive in a global knowledge-based economy. Employers do not view themselves as primarily responsible for new entrants' readiness; and instead look to the educational community. But several disconnects within the business community itself are apparent and make it more difficult to increase workforce readiness preparation.... Do workforce readiness training programs represent the best use of business resources, particularly during these tough economic times? Is the workplace the most efficient place to be spending remedial dollars? And what are the true total costs of a deficiently prepared workforce, considering the lost productivity and time it takes to bring new entrants up to company expectations?"]
[Request #S09-22-3947]

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ENERGY

ALTERNATIVE FUELS

Liquid Transportation Fuels from Coal and Biomass: Technological Status, Costs, and Environmental Impacts. By America's Energy Future Panel on Alternative Liquid Transportation Fuels, National Academy of Sciences. (National Academies Press. Washington, DC) May 2009.

["The nation can reduce its dependence on imported oil, increase its energy security, and potentially reduce greenhouse-gas emissions by producing alternative liquid transportation fuels from domestically available resources to replace gasoline and diesel. Two abundant domestic resources with potential for producing liquid fuels are biomass and coal. Although abundant supplies of biomass and coal can be produced, each resource has its own set of limitations and challenges. Unlike liquid fuels from biomass, liquid fuels from coal cannot, even with the use of carbon capture and storage, offer any greenhouse-gas benefit relative to gasoline. However, liquid fuels from coal are probably less expensive than those from biomass."].
Book. 300 p.

http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12620

Executive Summary. 21 p.

http://www.nap.edu/nap-cgi/report.cgi?record_id=12620&type=pdfxsum

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RENEWABLE ENERGY

Breaking Through on Technology: Overcoming the Barriers to the Development and Wide Deployment of Low-Carbon Technology. By the Center for American Progress and Global Climate Network. (The Center, Washington, DC) July 2009. 41 p.

Full text at: http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/07/pdf/gcn_report.pdf

["Technologies, of all types, developed in one jurisdiction are regularly transferred to another but there is a long and largely unhappy history to the debate concerning technology transfer from developed to developing countries.... It is perhaps through the financing agenda that the negotiations can make the most difference to the development and transfer of low-carbon technology by helping to support developing countries to meet the cost of low-carbon technology policies and minimise the potential trade-offs, such as increased taxation, changes in energy tariffs and regulation, all of which will increase costs ultimately levied on the taxpayer or consumer. Intellectual property (IP) law can also act as a barrier and measures to encourage companies to use or relinquish IP may be necessary. Yet IP is central to innovation and important to vertical transfer as it provides competitive advantage to technology developers."]

[Request #S09-22-3905]

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SOLAR POWER

California's Solar Cities: Leading the Way to a Clean Energy Future. By Bernadette Del Chiaro, Environment California Research & Policy Center. (Environment California, Los Angeles, California) Summer 2009. 47 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.environmentcalifornia.org/uploads/YM/3W/YM3W81JComzW53sx1fgAiw/Californias-Solar-Cities.pdf>

["The number of rooftop solar installations in California has grown from an estimated 500 a decade ago to nearly 50,000 today. San Diego, with 2,262 solar roofs, beat Los Angeles and San Francisco, both of which claim to be the greenest city in America. But when it comes to per capita installations, little Nevada City, Calif., topped the list, with nearly 1 in 5 households hosting a solar system. City of Industry, outside Los Angeles, had the most capacity per capita, with 1.5 kilowatts installed per person. The bad news: Solar power still accounts for less than 1% of energy nationwide. California is hampered by the lack of a robust feed-in tariff, such as the one in Germany, which would allow homeowners who install extra capacity to sell their electricity back to utilities at a favorable rate." Los Angeles Times (July 16, 2009) 1.][Request #S09-22-3907]

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ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

AGRICULTURE

"Climatic Changes Lead to Declining Winter Chill for Fruit and Nut Trees in California during 1950–2099." By Eike Luedeling and others. IN: Public Library of Science One, vol. 4, no. 7 (July 2009) 9 p.

Full text at: [Declining Winter Chill](#)

["If San Joaquin Valley farmers are fearful, so are the agricultural scientists who support California's \$10-billion annual fruit and nut crop, the largest in the nation. A new study found that the number of winter chilling hours, essential to the flowering of orchards, has declined as much as 30% since 1950 in large swaths of the Central Valley, where most of the tree crops are grown. Only 4% of the Central Valley is now suitable for apples, cherries and pears, all high-chill fruits that could once be grown in half the valley. By the end of the century, 'areas where safe winter chill exists for growing walnuts, pistachios, peaches, apricots, plums and cherries are likely to almost completely disappear.' Scientists caution that adaptation could be expensive and difficult." Los Angeles Times (July 22, 2009) 1.]
[Request #S09-22-3945]

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Sustaining California Agriculture in an Uncertain Future. By Heather Cooley and others, Pacific Institute. (The Institute, Oakland, California) July 2009.

["Competition over limited water resources continues and climate change is increasing climate variability. With existing technologies, management practices, and educational and institutional resources, we can reduce agriculture's vulnerability to water supply constraints and improve its long-term sustainability.... One of the many challenges to studying water issues in California is the lack of a consistent, comprehensive, and accurate estimate of actual water use.... While investments in on-farm efficiency improvements can be offset by a reduction in operation costs and/or increased crop revenue, the initial investment required can be a significant barrier -- policies are needed to overcome this economic barrier.... A more sound and integrated water management system is needed given changing social, economic, hydrologic, and environmental conditions."]
[Request #S09-22-3943]

Report. 81 p.

http://www.pacinst.org/reports/california_agriculture/index.htm

Executive Summary. 11 p.

http://www.pacinst.org/reports/california_agriculture/exec_sum.pdf

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Climate Change: The Role of the U.S. Agriculture Sector and Congressional Action. By Renée Johnson, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. (The Service, Washington, DC) June 19, 2009. 40 p.

Full text at: http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/RL33898_20090619.pdf

["Emissions from agricultural activities account for 6%-8% of all GHG emissions in the United States. Carbon captured and stored in U.S. agricultural soils partially offsets these emissions, sequestering about one-tenth of the emissions generated by the agriculture sector, but less than 1% of all U.S. emissions annually.... The potential to reduce emissions and sequester carbon on agricultural lands is reportedly much greater than current rates. Congress is currently considering a range of climate change policy options. In general, the current legislative proposals would not require emission reductions in the agriculture and forestry sectors. However, several GHG proposals would allow farmers and landowners to receive emissions allowances (or credits) and/or generate carbon offsets, which could be sold to facilities covered by a cap-and-trade program."]
[Request #S09-22-3910]

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GENERAL GOVERNMENT

FEDERAL / STATE RELATIONS

Recovery Act: States' and Localities' Current and Planned Uses of Funds While Facing Fiscal Stresses. By the U.S. Government Accountability Office. GAO-09-829. (The Office, Washington, DC) July 2009. 167 p.

Full text at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09829.pdf>

["Across the United States, as of June 19, 2009, Treasury had outlaid about \$29 billion of the estimated \$49 billion in Recovery Act funds projected for use in states and localities in fiscal year 2009. More than 90 percent of the \$29 billion in federal outlays has been provided through the increased Medicaid Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) and the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF) administered by the Department of Education.... Across the nation, almost half of the obligations have been for pavement improvement projects because they did not require extensive environmental clearances, were quick to design, obligate and bid on, could employ people quickly, and could be completed within 3 years."]
[Request #S09-22-3934]

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PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

At a Crossroads: The Financing and Future of Health Benefits for State and Local Government Retirees. By Richard C. Kearney and others, North Carolina State University. (The Center for State and Local Government Excellence, Washington, DC) July 2009. 80 p.

Full text at: [At a Crossroads](#)

["Key findings of the report include: States have unfunded liabilities for retiree health care of about \$558 billion. Unfunded actuarial accrued liabilities for many governments are large in absolute value and relative to total state expenditures, debt, and per capita income of the state. For others they are not. Actuarial statements reveal substantial differences in total unfunded retiree health care liabilities. This is a function of work force size, plan generosity, and the portion of health care costs paid by the employer. Most state and local governments, however, have adopted various cost containment, cost shedding, and cost sharing policies, including retiree premium contributions, higher deductibles, and higher co-payments. Some have curtailed benefits for future retirees."]
[Request #S09-22-3938]

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STATE BONDS

Bond Spending: Expanding and Enhancing Oversight. By the Little Hoover Commission. (The Commission, Sacramento, California) June 2009. 97 p.

Full text at: <http://www.lhc.ca.gov/studies/197/report197.pdf>

["This study assesses whether these efforts to bolster accountability and transparency in bond spending -- particularly for the five bond measures enacted in 2006 -- are adequate or if more is required to ensure bond money is spent efficiently and effectively. This study also looks at additional opportunities to improve oversight through the Legislature or by government entities outside the administration. It also assesses existing models for allocating bond money in transportation and education and whether these models should be replicated for natural resources bonds.... Should bonds only be used for long-term capital projects? Should debt service be capped as a percentage of the state budget? Should the governor and the Legislature be able to place general obligation bond measures on the ballot in any year when there is a budget deficit?"]
[Request #S09-22-3933]

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STATE BUDGETS

State Budget Update: July 2009. AND: State Tax Update: July 2009. By the National Conference of State Legislatures. (The Conference, Denver, Colorado) July 2009.

["2009 will mark one of the most difficult years in history for state budgets. Lawmakers in virtually every state scrambled to keep their fiscal year (FY) 2009 budgets balanced while at the same time struggling to enact new ones for FY 2010. Hemorrhaging revenues drove the massive difficulties they faced. No matter how pessimistic revenue forecasts were, actual collections seemed to come in lower. This happened over and over and over again. Ultimately, states were not just faced with lower revenue growth rates, they confronted year-over-year declines in actual collections. The worsening revenue situation produced gaping budget holes. Lawmakers closed a cumulative shortfall that reached \$113.2 billion for FY 2009. But as bad as that situation was, the circumstances for FY 2010 already are worse. As lawmakers assembled their FY 2010 budgets, they faced a staggering gap of more than \$142.6 billion."][Request #S09-22-3937]

Budget Update. 24 p.

<http://www.ncsl.org/documents/fiscal/StateBudgetUpdateJulyFinal.pdf>

Tax Update. 8 p.

<http://www.ncsl.org/documents/fiscal/StateTaxUpdateJuly2009.pdf>

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STATE TAXES

New York's "Amazon Law": An Important Tool for Collecting Taxes Owed on Internet Purchases. By Michael Mazerov, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. (The Center, Washington, DC) July 23, 2009. 9 p.

Full text at: <http://www.cbpp.org/files/7-23-09sfp.pdf>

["The inability to collect all sales taxes that are legally due on purchases made over the Internet costs states billions of dollars a year in lost revenue. In 2008, New York State enacted an innovative law that helps to address this problem. Rhode Island adopted a similar measure this year. All states with sales taxes should give serious consideration to doing so as well. New York and Rhode Island's new laws are directed toward online retailers that are located outside the state and do not collect the sales tax that is due on sales to in-state customers. The laws rely on the fact that many such out-of-state retailers enlist independent in-state websites known as 'affiliates' to promote sales.... Legislators in at least seven other states introduced similar bills this year. The California and Hawaii legislatures approved them but did not override their governors' vetoes."][Request #S09-22-3935]

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HEALTH

ASTHMA

The Long-Term Economic Costs of Asthma. By Phaedra Corso and Angela Fertig, University of Georgia. (The Partnership for America's Economic Success, Washington, DC) June 2009. 12 p.

Full text at:

http://www.partnershipforsuccess.org/uploads/20090708_asthmafinalformatted.pdf

["Asthma is the most common chronic disease in childhood, affecting 8.5 percent of children in the United States. It is one of the most common causes of school absenteeism, a major cause of disability and/or restricted activity among children, and is one of the leading causes of hospitalizations among children. In addition, children with asthma continue to suffer as adults, affecting not only their quality of life but their lifetime productivity as well. Children with asthma miss 2.48 more days of school than their peers (which means their parents are likely to miss work to care for them), and adults miss 5.7 days of work because of their own illness. This report calculates the lifetime economic costs of asthma for all people born in the year 2000 who develop this diagnosis (approximately 380,000 people): \$7.2 billion, including \$3.2 billion in medical costs and \$4 billion in work/productivity loss."]
[Request #S09-22-3914]

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HEALTH CARE

From Patients to Partners: A Consensus Framework for Engaging Californians in Their Health and Health Care. By Shoshanna Sofaer, City University of New York, and others. (California Program on Access to Care, Berkeley, California) July 2009. 39 p.

Full text at: http://www.ucop.edu/cpac/documents/opa_fnlrprt.pdf

["If health care reform is to meet the needs of consumers, then consumers need to become actively involved in their own care.... Consumers who can effectively navigate access to their care and benefits are far less likely to use expensive health care settings such as emergency rooms, because they will have learned how to work with a regular physician or 'medical home.' By choosing high value health plans and providers, consumers can help drive improvements in quality and efficiency. By self-managing chronic conditions, consumers can improve their own outcomes, reduce expensive complications, and live full, productive lives. By engaging in healthy behaviors, consumers can prevent or delay the onset of diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, and many types of cancers, which are largely triggered by unhealthy behaviors."][Request #S09-22-3919]

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HEALTH CARE REFORM

Cutting Red Tape in Health Care: How Streamlining Billing Can Reduce California's Health Care Costs. By Sarah Payne, Frontier Group, and Michael Russo, CALPIRG Education Fund. (The Fund, Sacramento, California) July 2009. 24 p.

Full text at: <http://www.calpirg.org/uploads/61/tE/6ltEWPwKiVg7jv3NE-L7AA/Cutting-Red-Tape-in-Health-Care.pdf>

["Paperwork is driving up health care costs by as much as \$9 billion annually in California. Physicians typically spend about 45 minutes a day on insurance paperwork.... 'When costs are skyrocketing, it's best to go for the low-hanging fruit' said Michael Russo. 'This is an area where we spend a lot of money.'... CalPIRG suggests creating a nonprofit health information network similar to those in Utah and New England, which use standardized procedures to reduce time-consuming paperwork.... Legislative efforts to streamline the administrative process for filing insurance claims in California have stalled. Some federal lawmakers are pushing for national standards as part of the proposed overhaul of the country's health care system." Sacramento Bee (July 17, 2009) 9B.]
[Request #S09-22-3922]

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MEDICAID

Managing California's Medicaid Dental Program: Lessons from Other States. By Health Management Associates. (California HealthCare Foundation, Oakland, California) July 2009. 26 p.

Full text at: <http://www.chcf.org/documents/policy/MedicaidDentalLessonsStates.pdf>

["There are significant disparities in oral health care between low-income and other Americans. In recent years, a number of states have examined their Medicaid dental programs and implemented reforms to improve oral health care for beneficiaries. In some cases, these reforms have included changes in the administration of the Medicaid dental program, with the goal of improving both access to and use of services. Several common themes emerged, including: 1) Active stakeholder involvement is important for program reform; 2) Payment issues as well as administrative issues are critical for dental providers; 3) Pent-up demand delays cost savings associated with program changes; and 4) The integration of services for physical health and oral health is still in its infancy."]
[Request #S09-22-3918]

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HUMAN SERVICES

HOMELESS

2008 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress. By the Office of Community Planning and Development, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. (The Department, Washington, DC) July 2009. 168 p.

Full text at: <http://www.hudhre.info/documents/4thHomelessAssessmentReport.pdf>

["HUD's assessment concludes that while overall homelessness in America held fairly steady from 2007 to 2008, the number of homeless families, particularly those living in suburban and rural areas, increased.... The changing patterns of homelessness between 2007 and 2008 also provide potential indicators of how the economic crisis may be affecting homelessness in America. For example, many more sheltered homeless persons are coming from housed living arrangements just prior to entering the shelter system and most of these persons appear to be wearing out their welcome with family and friends. The report also demonstrates that many more people are coming from stable living arrangements, or places where they lived for one year or more."]

[Request #S09-22-3895]

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POVERTY

Safety Net Effective at Fighting Poverty but has Weakened for the Very Poorest. By Arloc Sherman, Center for Budget and Policy Priorities. (The Center, Washington, DC) July 6, 2009. 15 p.

Full text at: <http://www.cbpp.org/files/7-6-09pov.pdf>

["As mounting job losses threaten to push more Americans into poverty and make poor families still poorer, a new examination of the public benefits system finds that it is more effective in reducing poverty than previously known but has become less effective over the past decade in protecting Americans from deep poverty.... In 1995, the safety net lifted 88 percent of deeply poor children above half of the poverty line. By 2005 this figure was 76 percent. If the safety net had been as effective at keeping children out of deep poverty in 2005 as it was in 1995, there would have been 1.1 million very poor children in 2005; instead, there were 2.4 million."]

[Request #S09-22-3942]

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WELFARE

Finding the Return on Investment: A Framework for Monitoring Local Child Welfare Agencies. By Fred Wulczyn and others, Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago. (The Hall, Chicago, Illinois) July 2009. 60 p.

Full text at:

http://www.chapinhall.org/sites/default/files/Finding_Return_On_Investment_07_20_09.pdf

["Recently, with the help of the federal government, states have invested significant resources in the sort of information technology needed to run a smarter, more accountable child welfare system. In addition, science has made real progress when it comes to measuring change in complex systems. In this paper, we present a framework that state and local child welfare agencies might use to monitor their return on investments in child welfare services. The focus is on outcomes within the traditional child welfare system, which covers child maltreatment and foster care. The goal is to burrow through the complexity that goes along with trying to understand whether system performance is improving and whether the improvements are connected to changes in how resources are invested."]

[Request #S09-22-3941]

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TRANSPORTATION

HIGHWAY SAFETY

On a Crash Course: The Dangers and Health Costs of Deficient Roadways. By Ted R. Miller and Eduard Zaloshnja, Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation. (The Institute, Calverton, Maryland) April 2009. 36 p.

Full text at: <http://www.pire.org/documents/PireStudyLowRes.pdf>

["While considerable research has been conducted over the past 50 years quantifying the significant roles motor vehicle design, drunk and drugged driving, speeding and non-use of seatbelts play as factors in the number, severity and economic costs of motor vehicle crashes in the United States, this is the first national study in many years to examine the role and consequences of another major factor in these tragic incidences -- the physical condition of U.S. roadways. The study finds that the cost and severity of crashes where roadway conditions are a factor greatly exceeds the cost and severity of crashes where alcohol or speeding was involved, or the cost of non-use of seatbelts. Roadway condition is a contributing factor in more than half -- 52.7 percent -- of the nearly 42,000 American deaths resulting from motor vehicle crashes each year and 38 percent of the non-fatal injuries."][Request #S09-22-3931]

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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION

The Transportation Prescription: Bold New Ideas for Healthy, Equitable Transportation Reform in America. By Judith Bell, PolicyLink, and Larry Cohen, Prevention Institute. (The Convergence Partnership, Oakland, California) July 2009. 36 p.

Full text at: [Transportation Prescription](#)

["This report demonstrates that transportation policy is, in effect, health policy -- and environmental policy, food policy, employment policy, and metropolitan development policy, each of which bears on health independently and in concert with the others. Longstanding transportation and land use policies are at odds with serious health, environmental, and economic needs of the country, and they have harmed low-income communities and communities of color especially. Forward-thinking transportation policies must promote healthy, green, safe, accessible, and affordable ways of getting where we need to go. They also must go hand in hand with equitable, sustainable land use planning and community economic development."]

[Request #S09-22-3932]

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TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

The States and the Stimulus: Are They Using It to Create Jobs and 21st Century Transportation? By Smart Growth America. (Smart Growth America, Washington, DC) June 2009. 43 p.

Full text at: <http://www.smartgrowthamerica.org/documents/120days.pdf>

["Given the opportunity to use ARRA funds to make progress and invest in projects that would produce the highest returns, states and regions made a wide range of choices.... Despite a multitrillion dollar backlog of road and bridge repairs, states committed almost a third of the ARRA Surface Transportation Program money -- \$6.6 billion -- to new capacity road and bridge projects rather than to repair and other preservation projects.... Most states did not use ARRA funding to fill the giant backlog in public transportation investment. Given the growing demand for, the need for upgrading, and the many benefits of public transportation, the \$185 million allocated so far is grossly inadequate.... Most states failed to educate, engage, and seek input from the public before making decisions."]

[Request #S09-22-3944]

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