

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

California -- One Hundred Years Ago

September 1909 “Internal Revenue Collector Parker, who has been in his newly-created office for only two months, is facing one of the hardest problems ever put up to a man in his position – the gathering of the Federal tax from all corporations. He is operating under the Act of Congress, adopted on August 5, by which all corporations, joint stock companies, associations and insurance companies are called upon to pay into the Treasury of the United States 1 per cent of their annual net profits.... In order to get at the facts, it may be necessary for the collector and his deputies to go through the records of the County Clerk’s office for the last half century or so, and even to draw upon the Secretary of State for information.” Los Angeles Times (September 2, 1909) p. III.

September 1909 “President Taft arrived today and elected to take up the corporation tax passed as a part of the Payne tariff law and to defend it as against the proposition to impose a direct income tax. The President declared that it would be possible to amend the corporation tax to include within its scope every desired feature of income tax except the levy upon incomes derived from actual salary and professional services. The President strongly urged that all the States should adopt the proposed amendment to the Constitution to make an income tax possible in time of need.... The President said he opposed a direct income tax except in cases of emergency and he believed it to be a prime fault in the Federal Constitution that no provision is made for a direct levy to meet wartime or other extraordinary expenses.” Los Angeles Times (September 22, 1909) p. II.

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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

GUNS & GUN CONTROL

Firearms Trafficking: U.S. Efforts to Combat Arms Trafficking to Mexico Face Planning and Coordination Challenges. By the U.S. Government Accountability Office. GAO-09-709. (The Office, Washington, DC) June 2009. 83 p.

Full text at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09709.pdf>

["The United States lacks a coordinated strategy to stem the flow of weapons smuggled across its southern border, a failure that has fueled the rise of powerful criminal cartels and violence in Mexico. The report offered blistering conclusions that will probably influence the debate over the role of U.S.-made weaponry as violence threatens to spill across the Mexico border. The growing number of weapons being smuggled into Mexico comprise more than 90% of the seized firearms that can be traced by authorities there. The document also cited recent U.S. intelligence indicating that most weapons were being smuggled in specifically for the syndicates -- and being used not only against the Mexican government but also to expand their drug trafficking operation in the United States." Los Angeles Times (June 17, 2009) 1.]

[Request #S09-25-3841]

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ECONOMY

CALIFORNIA

California Prosperity: Assessing the State of the Golden State. By Robert Murphy, Institute for Energy Research, and Jason Clemens, Pacific Research Institute. (Pacific Research Institute, San Francisco, California) August 2009. 66 p.

Full text at:

http://liberty.pacificresearch.org/docLib/20090818_CA_Properity_Project_v1_01.pdf

["California's 'labor performance' over the past five years is among the worst in the nation. The institute said it amassed business and labor data from the past five years to conclude that California ranked 48th among the states, besting only Michigan and Mississippi.... California ranked 24th among all states in its ability to expand its economy and incomes; was in the bottom 20 for private-sector employment growth, duration of unemployment and the average rate of joblessness; and had an average increase of just 1.2 percent in small- and medium-size businesses, putting it 16th among the 50 states." Sacramento Bee (August 20, 2009) 8B.]
[Request #S09-25-4043]

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CITIES

Cultural Development and City Neighborhoods. By Carole Rosenstein, George Mason University. (The Urban Institute, Washington, DC) July 2009. 10 p.

Full text at: http://www.urban.org/uploadedpdf/411937_culturaldevelopment.pdf

["Cities around the world are building and branding urban cultural life as a way to develop local economies and revitalize urban centers. Such 'cultural development' plans and programs have led many cities to expand existing cultural agencies and programs, and to establish new ones.... However, cities have done less to recognize and systematically promote the cultural lives of urban neighborhoods and their residents. When cultural agencies do not consciously and actively incorporate communities and their needs into cultural development, their policies and programs can in fact conflict with and threaten the cultural health of urban neighborhoods. Ultimately, this will undermine a city's cultural vitality and undercut its ability to appeal to the developers, tourists, creative-sector businesses, and educated workforce that cultural development means to attract."]
[Request #S09-25-4041]

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IMMIGRATION

As Immigrants Move In, Americans Move Up. By Daniel Griswold, Center for Trade Policy Studies. (The Center, Washington, DC) July 21, 2009. 4 p.

Full text at: <http://www.freetrade.org/pubs/FTBs/FTB-038.pdf>

["One argument raised against expanded legal immigration has been that allowing more low-skilled foreign-born workers to enter the United States will swell the ranks of the underclass. As plausible as the argument sounds, it is not supported by the social and economic trends of the past 15 years. Even though the number of legal and illegal immigrants in the United States has risen strongly since the early 1990s, the size of the economic underclass has not. In fact, by several measures the number of Americans living on the bottom rungs of the economic ladder has been in a long-term decline. Other indicators associated with the underclass, such as the crime rate, have also shown improvement. The inflow of low-skilled immigrants may even be playing a positive role in pushing native-born Americans up the skills and income ladder."]

[Request #S09-25-3979]

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INCOME DISTRIBUTION

Neighborhoods and the Black-White Mobility Gap. By Patrick Sharkey, New York University. (The Economic Mobility Project, Washington, DC) July 2009.

["One of the most powerful findings of the Economic Mobility Project's research to date has been the striking mobility gap between blacks and whites in America. Over a generation, white children are more likely than blacks to experience upward mobility in adulthood, while black children are more likely than whites to experience downward mobility. This report finds that growing up in a high-poverty neighborhood increases the risk of experiencing downward mobility and explains a sizable portion of the black-white downward mobility gap. These data suggest that public policy efforts that focus on investing in disadvantaged neighborhoods and reducing the concentration of poverty could enhance economic mobility for the children in those neighborhoods."]

[Request #S09-25-4042]

Report. 44 p.

http://www.economicmobility.org/assets/pdfs/PEW_NEIGHBORHOODS.pdf

Executive Summary. 2 p.

http://www.economicmobility.org/assets/pdfs/PEW_NEIGHBORHOODS_ES.pdf

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EDUCATION

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Achievement in California 2009: Persistent Challenges and Paths Forward. By the Education Trust -West. (The Trust, Oakland, California) August 2009. 14 p.

Full text at: http://www2.edtrust.org/NR/rdonlyres/C21D1155-54ED-4F8C-9C55-83642495D1BC/0/ETW_AchievementInCA_82409.pdf

["The latest results from California's standardized student tests continue to show incremental improvement in academic achievement, but the state still faces a monumental crisis.... The gaps in achievement separating Latino, African-American, and low-income students from their more advantaged peers are not closing but in some cases, are actually widening.... The report said that 'state leaders must seize the opportunity provided by the federal government's unprecedented investment in education and the governor's call for special legislative session to enact the type of change that will forever close gaps in access and achievement. We simply cannot afford to tinker at the edges of reform while another generation of young people -- particularly our low-income students and students of color -- go underserved by our education system.'" Sacramento Bee (August 25, 2009) 1.]
[Request #S09-25-4047]

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COMMUNITY COLLEGES

More Guidance, Better Results? Three-Year Effects of an Enhanced Student Services Program at Two Community Colleges. By Susan Scrivener and Michael J. Weiss, MDRC. (MDRC, New York, New York) August 2009.

["Today, community colleges enroll more than one in every three postsecondary education students. Unfortunately, among students who enroll in community colleges with the intent to earn a credential or transfer to a four-year institution, only 51 percent achieve their goal within six years. These students may face fewer difficulties and make better academic progress if they had better access to, or more adequate, student services.... The Opening Doors program provided enhanced student services and a modest stipend to low-income students.... After students in the program received their two semesters of enhanced counseling services, the program continued to have a positive effect on registration rates in the semester that followed. The program did not, however, meaningfully affect academic outcomes in subsequent semesters."][Request #S09-25-4049]

Report. 169 p.

<http://www.mdrc.org/publications/524/full.pdf>

Executive Summary. 12 p.

<http://www.mdrc.org/publications/524/execsum.pdf>

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EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

The Poverty of Preschool Promises: Saving Children and Money with the Early Education Tax Credit. By Adam B. Schaeffer, Cato Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) August 3, 2009. 48 p.

Full text at: <http://www.cato.org/pubs/pas/pa641.pdf>

["Preschool can provide small but statistically significant short-term gains for low-income children; however, these gains usually fade quickly in later grades. There is little evidence to support the belief that large-scale government preschool programs are effective, by themselves, in improving long-term student outcomes. Reform of the existing K–12 system should therefore remain the primary focus of those interested in sustainable improvement in student outcomes. Given that many states have already instituted pre-K programs, or are committed to doing so, this paper proposes model early education legislation aimed at maximizing their chances for longterm success. The Early Education Tax Credit aims to sustain any potential preschool benefits and establish a solid academic foundation for later success."]
[Request #S09-25-4003]

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GRADUATION RATES

Listening to Latinas: Barriers to High School Graduation. By the National Women's Law Center and Mexican American Legal Defense & Educational Fund. (The Center, Washington, DC) August 2009.

["Latinas are dropping out of school in alarming numbers. Forty-one percent of Latina students do not graduate with their class in four years -- if they graduate at all. Many Latina students face challenges related to poverty, immigration status, limited English proficiency, and damaging gender and ethnic stereotypes. And the high teen pregnancy rate for Latinas -- the highest of any ethnic group -- reflects and reinforces the barriers they face.... We went straight to the source: Latina students and the adults who work with them every day. Our report, explores the causes of the dropout crisis for Latinas and identifies the actions needed to improve their graduation rates and get them ready for college."]
[Request #S09-25-4046]

Report. 52 p.

<http://www.nwlc.org/details.cfm?id=3631§ion=education>

Executive Summary. 6 p.

<http://www.nwlc.org/pdf/ListeningtoLatinas-ExecSummary.pdf>

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EMPLOYMENT

WOMEN

Women of Color in U.S. Law Firms. By Deepali Bagati, Catalyst. (Catalyst, New York, New York) July 2009. 72 p.

Full text at: http://www.catalyst.org/file/304/woc_law-report.pdf

["The retention, development, and advancement of women and minorities is a pressing issue for law firms today as the talent pool increasingly comprises women and people of color. In the past 20 years, the percentage of women entering U.S. law schools has never been lower than 40 percent. While women of color represented nearly one-quarter of all women associates in 2008, only 1.84 percent were partners. Thus, it appears that many law firms are missing an opportunity to make better use of the existing talent pool.... The purpose of this report is to delve deeply into the experiences and perceptions of women of color working in law firms.... The desired results are twofold: to improve how women of color fare in their legal careers, and to help firms maximize the potential of all their lawyers."]
[Request #S09-25-4044]

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ENERGY

ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY

Renewable Energy Transmission Initiative: Phase 2A Final Report. By the RETI Stakeholder Steering Committee. (The Committee, Sacramento, California) August 12, 2009. 178 p.

Full text at: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/reti/documents/index.html>

["Power lines often generate intense opposition from environmentalists and landowners. But without new lines, the solar power plants and wind farms planned throughout California won't be able to ship their electricity to the towns and cities that need it. So several state agencies, electrical utilities, renewable power developers and environmental groups have joined together to figure out where to put new lines, hoping to prevent public fights.... The report examines where transmission lines are needed most, will cost the least and will cause the least harm to the environment. It doesn't recommend exact routes, nor does it specify how many lines must be built. Instead, it presents options, suggesting broad pathways for lines. Most of the proposed lines are in the Southern California desert, while one stretches to the Oregon border." Sacramento Bee (August 14, 2009) 1.]
[Request #S09-25-4054]

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ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Rebuilding America: A National Policy Framework for Investment in Energy Efficiency Retrofits. By Reid Detchon, Energy Future Coalition, and others. (Center for American Progress, Washington, DC) August 2009. 56 p.

Full text at:

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/08/pdf/rebuilding_america.pdf

["Today, buildings account for 70 percent of all U.S. electricity consumption and 40 percent of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. Yet much of our housing and building stock is old, inefficient, and unnecessarily wasteful.... Deep building retrofits can cut energy use by 20 to 40 percent with proven techniques and off-the-shelf technologies. Best of all, they can pay for themselves from the energy they save.... Without a strong public policy framework, the private sector acting alone will not invest to maximize the clear private and public benefits of encouraging comprehensive energy efficiency. Over time, however, the public-sector role in jump starting these new energy efficiency markets can be reduced as the private sector develops improved business and finance models and once a price is established on global warming pollution. That is the path outlined in this paper."] [Request #S09-25-4055]

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ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

CLIMATE CHANGE

California Climate Change. By Louise Bedsworth and Ellen Hanak, Public Policy Institute of California. (The Institute, San Francisco, California) July 2009 . 6 p.

Full text at: <http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=897>

["Increases in global emissions of greenhouse gases are leading to higher air and water temperatures as well as rising sea levels, with serious consequences for California. Air temperatures are projected to increase throughout the state over the coming century. Sea level is expected to rise 12 to 55 inches by 2100, and the frequency of extreme events such as heat waves, wildfires, floods, and droughts is expected to increase. Higher temperatures will result in more rain and less snow, diminishing the reserves of water held in the Sierra Nevada snowpack. Even if all emissions of greenhouse gases ceased today, some of these developments would be unavoidable because the climate system changes slowly."] [Request #S09-25-4006]

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GREEN HOUSE GASES

Cost of AB 32 on California Small Businesses - Summary Report of Findings. By Sanjay B. Varshney and Dennis H. Tootelian, California State University, Sacramento. (California Small Business Roundtable, Los Angeles, California) June 2009. 51 p.

Full text at: http://www.cmta.net/pdfs/nfib_ab32_study_20090713.pdf

["The study analyzes the potential economic impacts of AB 32 on the state of California, its consumers, and the small businesses. The study finds that the potential loss of output, jobs, indirect business taxes and labor income is substantial and significant. On average, the annual costs resulting from the implementation of AB 32 to small businesses are likely to result in loss of more than \$182.6 billion in gross state output, the equivalent of more than 1.1 million jobs, nearly \$76.8 billion in labor income, and nearly \$5.8 billion in indirect business taxes.... If savings can be conclusively documented, these could serve as offsets to some of the costs included in the study. At this time, however, it was deemed imprudent to speculate on what those would realistically be and how they might impact California's economy, its residents, and small business."]

[Request #S09-25-4058]

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LAKE TAHOE

Tahoe: State of the Lake Report. By the Tahoe Environmental Research Center. (The Center, Incline Village, Nevada) August 2009. 65 p.

Full text at: <http://terc.ucdavis.edu/stateofthelake/StateOfTheLake2009.pdf>

["In a troubling trend, scientists have discovered the rapid spread of the Asian clam, an exotic bivalve roughly the size of a dime, in the mud and sediments around Tahoe's south shore. Although it is too early to know what the clam's impact will be, in a worst-case scenario, its continued spread could litter beaches with sharp shells and consume plankton that fish rely on for food. Worse, the clam appears to be sparking the growth of stringy green algae that feeds on its waste, leading to concerns that some sections of the lake's azure blue waters eventually could turn a murky green.... Scientists are experimenting with ways to eradicate, or at least limit the spread, of Asian clams." San Jose Mercury News (August 19, 2009) 1.]

[Request #S09-25-4060]

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WATER RESOURCES

California Water Solutions Now. By Nick Di Croce, Environmental Water Caucus, and others. (The Caucus, Oakland, California) August 2009. 44 p.

Full text at: <http://www.ewccalifornia.org/reports/cawatersolutions.pdf>

["This report makes the case that California has already developed enough water supplies to satisfy our needs into the foreseeable future by utilizing existing infrastructure and existing cost effective technologies. The report documents numerous analyses of water efficient technologies and approaches that can save or reduce water consumption in urban areas by as much as 5 million acre feet a year by 2030 compared with current trends -- enough water to support a population growth of 29,000,000 people.... There are many competing solutions being put forward by various interest groups to deal with these issues. The environmental community is frequently asked: 'What does the environment really need?' Our responses to that question are the subjects of this report."]

[Request #S09-25-4057]

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GENERAL GOVERNMENT

POLITICS & PUBLIC POLICY

Science for Policy Project: Final Report. By Sherwood Boehlert and others, Science for Policy Project. (Bipartisan Policy Center, Washington, DC) August 2009. 47 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.bipartisanpolicy.org/sites/default/files/science%20for%20policy%20final%20report.pdf>

["The use of science in the formulation of regulatory policy -- by both the Executive Branch and the Congress -- has been a political flashpoint in recent decades.... The question is not whether scientific results should be used in developing regulatory policy, but how they should be used.... This report is structured around three sets of questions that are at the heart of the debate over the use of science in regulatory policy: What kinds of activities or decision-making amount to 'politicizing' science? When and how should Federal agencies empanel advisory committees? What studies should agencies and advisory committees review in formulating regulatory policy?... Each chapter of the report makes an overarching recommendation and then elaborates on how to implement it."]

[Request #S09-25-4062]

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PRIVATIZATION

Trends In Public and Contracted Government Services From 2002 to 2007. By Mildred Warner and Amir Hefetz, Reason Foundation. (The Foundation, Washington, DC) August 2009. 8 p.

Full text at: http://reason.org/files/pb80_privatization_trends.pdf

["Local governments in the U.S. use a variety of mechanisms to deliver public services. The International City County Management Association conducts a survey of alternate service delivery by local governments every five years.... In this article we look at trends from 2002-2007 with a special focus on differences in service delivery patterns by metro status. The levels of contracting go up and down over time and vary across metro status. The 'reinventing government' reforms of the 1990s saw a rise in for-profit contracting among all governments from 1992 to 1997. In fact, in 1997, for-profit contracting peaked nationwide at 19%. Over the last decade suburbs have consistently had the highest rates of contracting. Metro core governments, which had lagged behind suburbs in their level of contracting, appeared to be catching up."]

[Request #S09-25-4061]

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PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

State/Local Employment Up Slightly Since Start of Recession, But Cuts Are Now Underway. By Donald J. Boyd, Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government. (The Institute, Albany, New York) August 20, 2009. 21 p.

Full text at: http://www.rockinst.org/pdf/government_finance/2009-08-20-State_Local_Employment.pdf

["The report found that state and local governments steadily added jobs for eight months after the recession began in December 2007, with their employment peaking last August. State and local governments have since lost 55,000 jobs, but from the beginning of the recession through last month they gained a net of 110,000 jobs, in part because of the federal stimulus program. The report noted that there can be a short lag between an economic downturn and the time it hits states in the form of lower tax collections, and an even longer delay before the problems hit local governments in the form of reduced state aid and lower property tax collections. But it also noted that the demand for many government services rises in a recession, and said that billions of dollars of federal stimulus money sent to states helped them avert layoffs." New York Times (August 19, 2009) 1.]

[Request #S09-25-4050]

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TAX REFORM

Moving Towards a Unified Credit for Low Income Workers. By Kevin A. Hassett and others, American Enterprise Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) August 10, 2009. 64 p.

Full text at: <http://www.aei.org/docLib/Moving-Towards-a-Unified-credit.pdf>

["Currently, the tax code allows low-income individuals and families (at varying income levels) more than seven different tax credits (including the refundable and non-refundable portions of each credit). The credits are either tied to certain expenditures such as child care expenses, education expenses or are provided as incentives to low-income families who work. Each has varying income and other eligibility requirements, different schedules, different maximum credit values and different phase-in and phase-out ranges, adding layers of complexity and high marginal tax rates even at the lower end of the income distribution. Replacing all of these credits together with a simple policy, therefore, holds significant promise, and we discuss several options to do so."]

[Request #S09-25-4025]

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HEALTH

ACCESS TO CARE

Sacramento: Powerful Hospital Systems Dominate a Stable Market. AND: San Diego: Retreat from Capitation Raises Cost Concerns. AND: San Francisco Bay Area: Downturn Stresses Historically Stable Safety Net. AND: Fresno: Poor Economy, Poor Health Stress a Fragmented System. AND: Los Angeles: Haves and Have-Nots Lead to a Divided System. AND: Riverside/San Bernardino: Sprawling Area, Economic Woes Create Access Challenges. By the Center for Studying Health System Change. (California HealthCare Foundation, Oakland, California) July 2009. Various pagings

Full text at: <http://www.chcf.org/topics/almanac/index.cfm?subTopic=CL712>

["California's large size means that health care is organized, delivered, and financed differently throughout the state. CHCF has commissioned studies of the six largest regional markets that provide a detailed picture of local health care systems and identify common themes and emerging issues that influence how Californians receive their health care."]

[Request #S09-25-4033]

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HEALTH INSURANCE

The State of Health Insurance in California: Findings from the 2007 California Health Interview Survey. By E. Richard Brown and others, UCLA Center for Health Policy Research. (The Center, Los Angeles, California) August 2009. 102 p.

Full text at: http://www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu/pubs/files/SHIC_RT_82009.pdf

["More than two-thirds of the 2.2 million Californians who reported being in debt due to medical expenses actually had health insurance when they incurred their debt. Statewide, the study found nearly 1 in 7 -- or 13 percent -- of non-elderly Californians had medical debt. The report, based on data collected in 2007 from about 53,000 households, showed that 19.5 percent of Californians were uninsured for all or part of that year.... People who are insured often find themselves in debt because their insurance has limited benefits and high out-of-pocket costs. A growing number of people are buying policies with high deductibles or those that require them to pay a percentage of the total bill." San Francisco Chronicle (August 31, 2009) 1.]

[Request #S09-25-4067]

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The Impact of San Francisco's Employer Health Spending Requirement: Initial Findings from the Labor and Product Markets. By Arindrajit Dube and others, University of California, Berkeley. (Institute for Research on Labor and Employment, Berkeley, California) August 24, 2009. 6 p.

Full text at: http://irle.berkeley.edu/cwed/wp/sfhealth_09.pdf

["San Francisco's first-of-its-kind universal health care program and its mandate that employers provide health care has not resulted in feared job losses.... This held true in retail, food service, restaurants and hotels, the sectors most strongly impacted by the health care ordinance because they traditionally have a lot of low-income workers and aren't as likely to offer health insurance as higher-paying industries.... Healthy San Francisco started in July 2007 to ensure the city's 60,000 uninsured residents had access to health care without regard for their pre-existing medical conditions, immigration status or employment status. It has now covered about 75 percent of the uninsured at a cost of roughly \$120 million a year including city money, state grants, employer contributions and participants' fees." San Francisco Chronicle (August 21, 2009) 1.]

[Request #S09-25-4066]

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Rite of Passage? Why Young Adults Become Uninsured and How New Policies Can Help, 2009 Update. By Jennifer L. Nicholson, Commonwealth Fund, and others. (The Fund, New York, New York) August 2009. 22 p.

Full text at:

http://www.commonwealthfund.org/~media/Files/Publications/Issue%20Brief/2009/Aug/1310_Nicholson_rite_of_passage_2009.pdf

["Young adults ages 19 to 29 are one of the largest segments of the U.S. population without health insurance: 13.2 million, or 29 percent, lacked coverage in 2007. They often lose coverage at age 19 or upon high school or college graduation: nearly two of five (38%) high school graduates who do not enroll in college and one-third of college graduates are uninsured for a time during the first year after graduation. Twenty-six states have passed laws to expand coverage of dependents to young adults under parents' insurance policies. Congressional proposals to reform the health system could help uninsured young adults gain coverage and prevent others from losing it."]

[Request #S09-25-4068]

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HOUSING

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Evaluation of First Round Awards Under California's Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Housing and Infill Infrastructure Grant (IIG) Programs. By Sharon Sprowls, Housing California. (Housing California, Sacramento, California) August 2009. 46 p.

Full text at: http://www.housingca.org/resources/report_tod-iig_round-one_eval_2009.pdf

["Proposition 1C, passed by California voters in November 2006, authorized the state to sell \$2.85 billion in general obligation bonds to fund 13 housing and development programs.... The report analyzes the affordability levels of the awarded projects, identifies the key factors that differentiated winning applications from those that did not receive funding, and examines how the number and affordability of homes built would change under different scoring criteria. The TOD awards will help finance 3,608 homes within walking distance of transit stations. Of those homes, 1,771 will be affordable to low-income families. The IIG program will support the development of 9,905 new homes in urban infill areas close to jobs and transportation. Of those homes, 4,826 will be affordable to low-income families." Housing California press release (August 5, 2009) 1.]

[Request #S09-25-3995]

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REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

The Uncharted, Uncertain Future of HOPE VI Redevelopments: The Case for Assessing Project Sustainability. By Martin D. Abravanel, the Urban Institute, and others. (The Institute, Washington, DC) July 2009. 38 p.

Full text at: http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411935_uncharteduncertain.pdf

["The HOPE VI program -- administered since 1992 by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development -- has generally been effective in supporting the demolition of many of the largest, most dilapidated, and highly concentrated public housing developments in the nation and replacing them with smaller-scale, visually more appealing, mixed-income properties.... What makes this feasible (mixed financing; private-sector entities; and mixed-income, mixed-tenure complexes) also creates conditions that challenge and can undermine long-term sustainability.... With input from housing practitioners and insight from a trial exploration of two HOPE VI redevelopments, this report demonstrates the need for, and feasibility of, conducting an assessment that can assist both private owners and public agencies in sustaining this valuable resource."]

[Request #S09-25-4063]

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HUMAN SERVICES

HOMELESS

Homes Not Handcuffs: The Criminalization of Homelessness in U.S. Cities. By the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty and the National Coalition for the Homeless. (The Center, Washington, DC) July 2009. 194 p.

Full text at: <http://www.nlchp.org/content/pubs/2009HomesNotHandcuffs1.pdf>

["This joint report tracks a growing trend in U.S. cities -- the criminalization of homelessness. The report focuses on specific city measures from 2007 and 2008 that have targeted homeless persons, such as laws that make it illegal to sleep, eat, or sit in public spaces. The report includes information about 273 cities nationwide. The report also ranks the top 10 U.S. cities with the worst practices in relation to criminalizing homelessness. The national ranking is based on a number of factors, including the number of anti-homeless laws in the city, the enforcement of those laws, the general political climate toward homeless people in the city, and the city's history of criminalization measures. In addition to the 'meanest cities,' the report identifies examples of more constructive approaches to homelessness."]

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Hate, Violence, and Death on Main Street USA: A Report on Hate Crimes and Violence Against People Experiencing Homelessness: 2008. By the National Coalition for the Homeless. (The Coalition, Washington, DC) August 2009. 98 p.

Full text at:

http://www.nationalhomeless.org/publications/hatecrimes/hate_report_2008.pdf

["In a dubious new distinction for the Golden State, the report ranks California second in the nation for violent attacks on the homeless. Last year, 22 homeless men and women were attacked -- 10 of them killed -- in 10 California cities. Since 2005, California has consistently been near the top of the list.... While the number of violent acts against homeless people dropped nationwide from 160 in 2007 to 106 last year, the 'attacks are getting more serious, with more bodily harm.' Last year's 27 deaths nationwide were the highest since 2001. The group's analysis, which dates back to 1999, has renewed calls among advocates to expand the definition of 'hate crime' to include the homeless -- a move that has been resisted in California and other states. The data also reveal a consistency in the attackers: They are young." Sacramento Bee (August 27, 2009) 12A.]

[Request #S09-25-4052]

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TRANSPORTATION

HIGHWAYS

Technology Enabling Near-Term Nationwide Implementation of Distance Based Road User Fees. By Max Donath and others, Intelligent Transportation Systems Institute, University of Minnesota. (The Institute, Minneapolis, Minnesota) June 2009. 76 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.cts.umn.edu/Publications/ResearchReports/reportdetail.html?id=1790>

["This report describes a system meant for near-term deployment that directly determines the distance traveled by a vehicle and uses this as a basis for charging a fee that reflects road use.... Also described are means for providing payment (and receiving credit for motor fuel use taxes paid at the pump) while also ensuring compliance, enforcement, transparency and privacy.... No new wireless infrastructure is needed. The in-vehicle device distinguishes distance traveled by state or by other regions of interest, e.g., rural vs. urban areas, using the same cellular technology that is used for communications. Aggregating distance based on rural vs. urban travel can facilitate different pricing policies for these different road users."]

[Request #S09-25-4065]

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TRANSIT

The Federal Role in Rail Transit Safety. By David Randall Peterman and William J. Mallett, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. (The Service, Washington, DC) July 2009. 16 p.

Full text at: http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R40688_20090706.pdf

["Rail transit operations are an inherently local activity, and the federal government has limited responsibility for the safety of rail transit operations.... The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) sets minimum requirements for the safety programs that the state agencies implement, and oversees the efforts of the state agencies in carrying out the program.... The existence of rail transit systems that operate in more than one state poses a challenge for the program.... The National Transportation Safety Board has recommended that FTA develop a plan to provide additional authority and resources to the state safety oversight agencies. Safety oversight agency representatives have suggested that the program be provided with additional enforcement powers similar to those given to safety programs of other DOT administrations."]

[Request #S09-25-4064]

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