

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

California -- One Hundred Years Ago

October 1909. “Students of ethnology might have been put through the paces of their knowledge as to the origin of man and the various races that populate the globe, by attending Judge Hutton’s court yesterday afternoon. The question to be decided was whether George Shishim, a Syrian, should be admitted to citizenship. Is George a ‘free white person,’ as contemplated by the fathers of the republic, or does he belong to the Mongol race and is therefore barred by the constitution?... The United States District Attorney said it was the desire of the authorities at Washington to make a test case, although he admitted that Syrians had been naturalized in Los Angeles for the past nine years without objection, and more than 17,000 had been given citizenship in the United States. He did not believe that a Syrian was a free white person within the meaning of the law. Hindoos belonged to the Semitic branch of the Caucasian race, but no one suggested that they should be admitted.” Los Angeles Times (October 21, 1909) p. II2.

November 1909. “Federal officials of the Department of Commerce and Labor are awaiting with interest for today’s decision of Judge Hutton of the Superior court on the naturalization case of George Shishim, a Syrian.... The Division of Naturalization at Washington is engaged in a determined legal battle with many of the State courts, where certain Asiatics have been granted first papers. While there is no controversy over the non-admission of Chinese, Japanese, East Indians and certain Malay races, there is wide divergence of opinion regarding Turks, Syrians, Armenians, Palestine Jews, and other persons who have been coming to this country from that portion of Asia.... According to Richard Campbell of the Naturalization Department, ‘there are similar cases all the way from Boston to Seattle and Los Angeles.’... It is believed that a final opinion will have to be obtained from the United States Supreme Court before the State and the Federal courts become in accord on this proposition.” Los Angeles Times (November 4, 1909) p. II8.

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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

DRUG PROSECUTION

America's Problem-Solving Courts: Criminal Cost of Treatment and the Case for Reform. By Rick Jones and others, National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. (The Association, Washington, DC) September 2009. 78 p.

Full text at: [America's Problem-Solving Courts](#)

["National standards must be developed to deal with drug offenders, and the role of drug courts should be reduced in favor of more treatment programs.... The association's study on problem-solving courts found there are 2,100 drug courts in virtually every state in the country, but no two are alike.... The group supports decriminalizing minor drug possession crimes and instead having drug users and their recovery fall under the auspices of the nation's public health system.... 'The association held hearings in several parts of the country and heard from lawyers, judges, social-service workers and drug court participants about the programs,' said Rick Jones. He added that 'largely our findings were anecdotal.'" Atlantic City Press (September 30, 2009) 1.]
[Request #S09-29-4171]

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GUNS & GUN CONTROL

Protect Children, Not Guns 2009. By the Children's Defense Fund. (The Fund, Washington, DC) September 2009. 24 p.

Full text at: <http://www.childrensdefense.org/child-research-data-publications/data/protect-children-not-guns-report-2009.pdf>

["The latest data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show that 3,184 children and teens died from gunfire in the United States in 2006 -- a 6 percent increase from 2005. This means one young life lost every two hours and 45 minutes, almost nine every day, 61 every week. Of these deaths, 2,225 were homicides, 763 were suicides and 196 were due to an accident or undetermined circumstances. Boys accounted for 2,815 of the deaths; girls for 369 deaths. More than five times as many children and teens -- 17,451 -- suffered non-fatal gun injuries.... The United States remains one of the few industrialized countries that place so few restrictions on gun sales. There are more than 270 million privately owned firearms in our country -- the equivalent of nine firearms for every 10 men, women and children."]
[Request #S09-29-4212]

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IMMIGRATION

Loving Thy Neighbor: Immigration Reform and Communities of Faith. By Sam Fulwood III, Center for American Progress. (The Center, Washington, DC) September 2009. 27 p.

Full text at:

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/09/loving_thy_neighbor.html

["A wide range of faith groups are showing a new, unexpected, and grassroots-led social activism that's rooted in theological and moral ground. These groups have worked for many years and across the country on immigration issues and as strong advocates for undocumented workers and their families. Their efforts include creating citizenship projects, offering educational and support services, fighting discrimination and exploitation, bridging gaps between immigrant and nonimmigrant communities, providing sanctuary for immigrant families, supporting comprehensive legislative reform, and more.... But lately, these efforts are gaining new energy and spreading around the country as people of faith are championing the cause of immigration reform."]

[Request #S09-29-4172]

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VICTIMS

Criminal Victimization, 2008. By Michael R. Rand, Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice. (The Bureau, Washington, DC) September 2009. 8 p.

Full text at: <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/cv08.pdf>

["Violent and property crime rates in 2008 were at or near their lowest levels in over three decades, according to findings from the National Crime Victimization Survey. The violent crime rate in 2008 -- 19.3 victimizations per 1,000 persons age 12 or over -- was statistically unchanged from the previous year's estimate of 20.7 per 1,000 persons. The property crime rate of 135 victimizations per 1,000 households was lower than the rate of 147 per 1,000 households in 2007. Overall in 2008, U.S. residents experienced 4.9 million violent crimes (rape/sexual assault, robbery, and aggravated and simple assault) and 16.3 million property crimes (household burglary, theft, and motor vehicle theft). Declines in both motor vehicle theft (-20%) and theft (-9%) contributed to the overall decline in the property crime rate between 2007 and 2008."]

[Request #S09-29-4099]

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CULTURE AND SOCIETY

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Creative Vitality Index Study: The State of California and Ten CVI Regions for 2006 and 2007. By Ryan Stubbs and others, Western States Arts Federation. (California Arts Council, Sacramento, California) September 2009. 64 p.

Full text at: <http://www.cac.ca.gov/artsinfo/files/CreativeVitalityCAFullReport.pdf>

["California has the third highest Creative Vitality Index score in the nation for both 2006 and 2007, according to a study that measures the annual changes in the economic health of an area's creative sector and includes both for-profit and nonprofit activities.... Arts-related nonprofits earned over \$3.5 billion in revenues from programming, investments, special events, contributions and membership dues. There are over 680,000 full and part-time creative occupations within California, Workers such as actors, producers, directors, camera operators and film and video editors are all represented within California at twice the level of the nation on a per capita basis. Job categories with the highest percentages of growth statewide included multimedia artists and animators, fine artists, sound engineering technicians, and agents." Arts Council press release (September 17, 2009) 1.]
[Request #S09-29-4167]

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DEMOGRAPHY

LATINOS

Hispanics of Mexican Origin in the United States, 2007. AND: Hispanics of Puerto Rican Origin in the United States, 2007. AND: Hispanics of Cuban Origin in the United States, 2007. AND: Hispanics of Salvadoran Origin in the United States, 2007. AND: Hispanics of Dominican Origin in the United States, 2007. By the Pew Hispanic Center. (The Center, Washington, DC) September 2009. Various pagings.

Full text at: <http://pewhispanic.org/data/origins/>

["This statistical profile describes the demographic, employment and income characteristics of the Hispanic population of [Mexican] origin in the United States. The characteristics of [Mexicans] are contrasted with the characteristics of all Hispanics and the U.S. population overall. The profile uses data from the Census Bureau's 2007 American Community Survey."]
[Request #S09-29-4173]

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ECONOMY

INTERNET

Broadband Internet's Value for Rural America. By Peter Stenberg and others, Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. (The Service, Washington, DC) August 2009.

["As broadband Internet use has spread, Internet applications requiring high transmission speeds have become an integral part of the 'Information Economy,' raising concerns about those who lack broadband access. This report analyzes (1) rural broadband use by consumers, the community-at-large, and businesses; (2) rural broadband availability; and (3) broadband's social and economic effects on rural areas.... In general, rural communities have less broadband Internet use than metro communities, with differing degrees of broadband availability across rural communities. Rural communities that had greater broadband Internet access had greater economic growth, which conforms to supplemental research on the benefits that rural businesses, consumers, and communities ascribe to broadband Internet use."][Request #S09-29-4040]

Report. 70 p.

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/err78/>

Report Summary. 2 p.

http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/ERR78/ERR78_ReportSummary.pdf

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100 Megabits or Bust!: An Overview of Successful National Broadband Goals from Around the Globe. By Chiehyu Li and James Losey, New America Foundation. (The Foundation, Washington, DC) September 17, 2009. 5 p.

Full text at: <http://www.newamerica.net/files/100%20Megabits%20or%20Bust.pdf>

["When the FTC delivers a National Broadband Plan to Congress in February 2010 the U.S. will not be among the first countries to implement a national broadband strategy. Taiwan, Japan, and Korea all introduced national broadband strategies in the beginning of this decade and fifteen European Union Member states proposed National Broadband Strategies in 2003. This report reviews successful strategies and goals from six of these countries. These countries share similar goals reflecting the societal need for universal access to the Internet, the importance of providing baseline broadband speeds, and the longerterm benefits of providing broadband up to 100 Mbps. The success of these goals demonstrates the importance of requiring baseline speeds up to or exceeding 2 Mbps, as well as the viability of increasing penetration rates for 100 Mbps broadband."][Request #S09-29-4175]

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MEDIA INDUSTRY

The U.S. Newspaper Industry in Transition. By Suzanne M. Kirchhoff, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. (The Service, Washington, DC) July 8, 2009. 26 p.

Full text at: http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R40700_20090708.pdf

["Congress has begun debating whether the financial problems in the newspaper industry pose a public policy issue that warrants federal action. Whether a response to the current turmoil is justified may depend on the current causes of the crisis. If the causes are related to significant technological shifts or societal changes that are disruptive to established business models and means of news dissemination, the policy options may be quite limited.... If, on the other hand, the current crisis is related to the struggle of some major newspapers to survive the current recession, possible policy options to ensure the continuing availability of in-depth local and national news coverage by newspapers might include providing tax breaks, relaxing antitrust policy, tightening copyright law, and providing general support for the practice of journalism."]

[Request #S09-29-3978]

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TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY

Teens and Mobile Phones Over the Past Five Years: Pew Internet Looks Back. By Amanda Lenhart, Pew Internet & American Life Project. (The Project, Washington, DC) August 2009. 17 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.pewinternet.org/~media/Files/Reports/2009/PIP%20Teens%20and%20Mobile%20Phones%20Data%20Memo.pdf>

["Teenagers have previously lagged behind adults in their ownership of cell phones, but several years of survey data show that those ages 12-17 are closing the gap in cell phone ownership. The Project first began surveying teenagers about their mobile phones in 2004 when a survey showed that 45% of teens had a cell phone. Since that time, mobile phone use has climbed steadily among teens ages 12 to 17 -- to 63% in fall of 2006 and then to 71% in early 2008. In comparison, 77% of all adults (and 88% of parents) had a cell phone or other mobile device at a similar point in 2008. Cell phone ownership among adults has since risen to 85%."]

[Request #S09-29-4100]

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EDUCATION

COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Building Student Success From the Ground Up: A Case Study of an Achieving the Dream College. By Elizabeth Zachry and Genevieve Orr, MDRC. (MDRC, New York, New York) September 2009.

["Now encompassing 102 institutions in 22 states, Achieving the Dream: Community Colleges Count supports colleges through an institution-wide improvement process focused on the use of evidence to inform decisions about programming and practice. The goal for colleges is to develop a 'culture of evidence' in which a broad spectrum of faculty, staff, and administrators review data on student outcomes to identify priority areas for reform, develop strategies for improvement, implement and evaluate those strategies, and institutionalize those that yield evidence of increasing student success. The initiative provides both funding and expert consultation to help colleges through this process.... This case study highlights what colleges may achieve and the challenges they may face in undertaking a similar process of institutional reform."][Request #S09-29-4182]

Report. 81 p.

<http://www.mdrc.org/publications/526/full.pdf>

Executive Summary. 10 p.

<http://www.mdrc.org/publications/526/execsum.pdf>

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HIGHER EDUCATION

The Degree Gap: Are University Graduates Making Full Use of Their Degrees? By Mallory Angeli and Ryan Fuller, California Postsecondary Education Commission. (The Commission, Sacramento, California) September 2009. 4 p.

Full text at: http://www.cpec.ca.gov/agendas/agenda0909/item_06.pdf

["Comparing the number of degrees awarded with the jobs expected in the coming decade, California will not have enough university graduates to meet the needs of the labor market.... The solution is not as simple as increasing production of degrees. Many people with university degrees are in jobs where they may not be making full use of their education.... Breaking down the data for different age groups shows that this problem affects mid-career workers, not just recent graduates who may be establishing themselves in careers. Data for earlier years shows that these patterns of employment have existed for at least a decade.... Some might have personal reasons for choosing work that does not make full use of their education, but this pattern of employment raises many questions about a possible lack of alignment of degrees to workforce needs."][Request #S09-29-4110]

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LATINOS

Latinos and Education: Explaining the Attainment Gap. By Mark Hugo Lopez, Pew Hispanic Center. (The Center, Washington, DC) October 7, 2009. 35 p.

Full text at: <http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/115.pdf>

["The biggest reason for the gap between the high value Latinos place on education and their more modest aspirations to finish college appears to come from financial pressure to support a family.... There actually are two different gaps in the educational aspirations of the young. One is between Hispanic young adults ages 18 to 25 and the general U.S. population of that age group. Some 48% of the former group expects to get a college degree or more, compared with 60% of the latter group. But a second gap is even bigger, and it largely explains the first gap. It is between young Latinos who are immigrants and those who are native born. Less than one-in-three (29%) immigrant Latinos ages 18 to 25 say they plan to get a bachelor's degree or more, half the share (60%) of native-born young Latinos who say the same."]

[Request #S09-29-4200]

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STUDENT TESTING

Effects of the California High School Exit Exam on Student Persistence, Achievement, and Graduation. By Sean F. Reardon, Stanford University, and Michal Kurlaender, University of California, Davis. (Policy Analysis for California Education, Berkeley, California) August 2009. 8 p.

Full text at: <http://gse.berkeley.edu/research/pace/reports/PB.09-3.pdf>

["This policy brief investigates the impact of the California High School Exit Exam (CAHSEE) on California's lowest performing students.... It finds that the CAHSEE requirement have had no positive effects on students' academic skills. Students subject to the CAHSEE requirement -- particularly low-achieving students whom the CAHSEE might have motivated to work harder in school -- learned no more between 10th and 11th grade than similar students in the previous cohort who were not subject to the requirement. It also finds that the introduction of the CAHSEE requirement had a large negative impact on graduation rates for students in the bottom quartile of achievement, and that this impact was especially large for minority students and for girls."]

[Request #S09-29-4106]

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EMPLOYMENT

INCOME

Changes in the Distribution of Workers' Annual Earnings Between 1979 and 2007. By Molly Dahl and Jonathan A. Schwabish, Congressional Budget Office. (The Office, Washington, DC) October 2009. 44 p.

Full text at: <http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/105xx/doc10527/10-02-Workers.pdf>

["This paper documents changes in the annual earnings of workers ages 25 to 54 between 1979 and 2007. CBO's analysis compares the distribution of earnings for male and female workers and documents changes in the annual earnings of workers with very high earnings. The analysis also examines changes in earnings mobility (the rate at which workers move from one position in the distribution to another) and earnings variability (the extent to which a worker's earnings change from one year to the next)... CBO found that men with earnings at the top of their earnings distribution (those at the 95th and 99th percentiles) earned more than women at the top of their distribution in each year, although that difference declined over time.... The share of earnings held by workers in the top 5 percent of the distribution increased between 1989 and 2005."]

[Request #S09-29-4185]

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LABOR UNIONS

Vallejo Con Dios: Why Public Sector Unionism Is a Bad Deal for Taxpayers and Representative Government. By Don Bellante, University of South Florida, and others. (Cato Institute, Washington, DC) September 28, 2009. 24 p.

Full text at: <http://www.cato.org/pubs/pas/pa645.pdf>

["State and local governments are under increasing financial pressure, as a worsening national economy has led to decreased revenues for states and municipalities -- many of which remain locked into the generous contracts negotiated in more flush times. Thus, as businesses retrench, governments find themselves in a financial straitjacket. In addition, as government unions grow stronger relative to private-sector unions, their prevalence erodes the moderating influence of the market on the demands that unions make of employers.... This paper shows how the unionization of government employees creates a powerful, permanent constituency for bigger government -- one that is motivated, well-funded, and organized. It also makes some recommendations as to how to check this constituency's growing power -- an effort that promises to be an uphill struggle."][Request #S09-29-4184]

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LOW-WAGE WORKERS

Strategies to Help Low-Wage Workers Advance: Implementation and Early Impacts of the Work Advancement and Support Center (WASC) Demonstration. By Cynthia Miller and others, MDRC. (MDRC, New York, New York) June 2009. 203 p.

["The Work Advancement and Support Center demonstration is testing an innovative strategy to help low-wage workers, who make up a large segment of the U.S. workforce, increase their incomes. WASC offers services to help workers stabilize their employment, improve their skills, and increase their earnings by working more hours or finding higher-paying jobs. The program also provides easier access to a range of financial work supports for which workers may be eligible, such as child care subsidies, food stamps, and the Earned Income Tax Credit. A unique feature of WASC is that all these services are offered in a single location -- the One-Stop Career Centers created by the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 to provide job search assistance services -- and are provided by workforce development and welfare staff in one unit."][Request #S09-29-3899]

Report. 203 p.

<http://www.mdrc.org/publications/519/full.pdf>

Executive Summary. 23 p.

<http://www.mdrc.org/publications/519/execsum.pdf>

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ENERGY

ENERGY CONSERVATION

Doing Well by Doing Good? Green Office Buildings. By Piet Eichholtz, Maastricht University, Netherlands, and others. (Center for the Study of Energy Markets, Berkeley, California) August 2009. 35 p.

Full text at: <http://www.ucei.berkeley.edu/PDF/csemwp192.pdf>

["This paper provides the first credible evidence on the economic value of the certification of 'green buildings' -- value derived from impersonal market transactions rather than engineering estimates.... We find that buildings with a 'green rating' command rental rates that are roughly three percent higher per square foot than otherwise identical buildings -- controlling for the quality and the specific location of office buildings.... Our analysis establishes that variations in the premium for green office buildings are systematically related to their energy-saving characteristics. For example, calculations show that a one dollar saving in energy costs from increased thermal efficiency yields roughly 18 dollars in the increased valuation of an Energy-Star certified building."][Request #S09-29-4120]

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ENERGY POLICY

The Clean-Energy Investment Agenda: A Comprehensive Approach to Building the Low-Carbon Economy. By John Podesta and others, Center for American Progress. (The Center, Washington, DC) September 2009. 16 p.

Full text at:

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/09/pdf/clean_energy_investment.pdf

["The United States is having the wrong public debate about global warming. We are asking important questions about pollution caps and timetables, carbon markets and allocations, but we have lost sight of our principal objective: building a robust and prosperous clean energy economy. This is a fundamentally affirmative agenda, rather than a restrictive one. Moving beyond pollution from fossil fuels will involve exciting work, new opportunities, new products and innovation, and stronger communities. Our current national discussion about constraints, limits, and the costs of transition misses the real excitement in this proposition. It is as if, on the cusp of an Internet and telecommunications revolution, debate centered only on the cost of fiber optic cable. We are missing the big picture here."]

[Request #S09-29-4186]

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GASOLINE AND DIESEL

Energy Markets: Refinery Outages Can Have Varying Gasoline Price Impacts, but Gaps in Federal Data Limit Understanding of Impacts. By the U.S. Government Accountability Office. GAO-09-700. (The Office, Washington, DC) July 2009. 48 p.

Full text at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d09700.pdf>

["While some unplanned refinery outages, such as those caused by accidents or weather, have had large price effects, GAO found that in general, refinery outages were associated with small increases in gasoline prices. Large price increases occurred when there were large outages; for example, in the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. However, we found that such large price increases were rare, and on average, outages were associated with small price increases. For example, GAO found that planned outages generally did not influence prices significantly -- likely reflecting refiners' build-up in inventories to meet demand needs prior to shutting down -- while for unplanned outages, average price effects ranged from less than one cent to several cents-per-gallon."]

[Request #S09-29-3992]

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ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

AGRICULTURAL MANAGEMENT

Review of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Response to Petitions to Reclassify the Light Brown Apple Moth as a Non-Actionable Pest: A Letter Report. By the Committee for the Review of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Response to Petitions to Reclassify the Light Brown Apple Moth as a Non-Actionable Pest, National Research Council. (National Academies Press) September 2009. 32 p.

Full text at: http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12762

["The U.S. Department of Agriculture expressed pleasure that the independent council's new report found, contrary to critics, the agency was correct in declaring the moth an 'actionable' pest. That designation has prompted special quarantines against the moth in Sonoma County and elsewhere around the state. But critics noted the research council found the agency's proposed response to critics failed to present 'its justification in a scientifically rigorous way or with sufficient clarity.' Similarly, the response did not portray 'the most likely magnitude of economic harm' caused by the moth.... The moth, a native of Australia, was confirmed in California two years ago. Since then inspectors have trapped more than 110,000 apple moths and placed nearly 3,500 square miles of land under quarantine." The Press Democrat (September 14, 2009) 1.][Request #S09-29-4136]

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BIRDS

"Re-Shuffling of Species with Climate Disruption: A No-Analog Future for California Birds?" By Diana Stralberg and others. IN: PLoS, vol. 4, no. 9 (September 2009) 8 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0006825>

["Some California species will face extinction as a result of global warming. In one fell swoop, the changes in bird habitats and behavior between now and 2070 will equal the evolutionary and adaptive shifts that normally occur over tens of thousands of years.... Not only will species shift and communities change, but the composition of communities in certain places will not resemble anything we see today.... 'Birds are nature's barometers,' said Wiens, who co-wrote the study. 'If birds occur in different combinations in the future, it's likely that other organisms such as insects and plants will as well. The reshuffling of bird assemblages that we project may just be the tip of the iceberg.'" San Francisco Chronicle (September 2, 2009) 1.][Request #S09-29-4138]

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GROWTH MANAGEMENT

Essential Smart Growth Fixes for Urban and Suburban Zoning Codes. By Kevin Nelson, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and others. (The Agency, Washington, DC) September 2009. 52 p.

Full text at: http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/pdf/2009_essential_fixes.pdf

["State and local governments are searching for ways to create vibrant communities that attract jobs, foster economic development, and are attractive places for people to live, work, and play. Many are discovering that their own land development codes and ordinances are often getting in the way of achieving these goals.... This document will help those communities that may not wish to revise or replace their entire system of codes and ordinances, but nevertheless are looking for 'essential fixes' that will help them get the smarter, more environmentally responsible, and sustainable communities they want.... Topics include mixing land uses, addressing parking requirements, modernizing street standards, managing storm water, adopting smart annexation policies, and more. Each essential fix describes actions that a community could take to overcome smart growth challenges."]

[Request #S09-29-4208]

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Smart Growth for Coastal and Waterfront Communities. By the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. (The Administration, Washington, DC) September 2009. 60 p.

Full text at: http://coastalsmartgrowth.noaa.gov/smartgrowth_fullreport.pdf

["The coastal and waterfront elements presented in this document augment the existing smart growth principles to reflect the specific challenges and opportunities characterizing the waterfront, be it on a coast, a river, or a lake. These elements provide guidance for communities to grow in ways that are compatible with their natural assets, creating great places for residents, visitors, and businesses This guide begins with an overview of some of the challenges and opportunities that communities along the water face. Ten sections follow, one for each of the smart growth coastal and waterfront elements.... The guide includes regulatory approaches as well as voluntary, incentive-based tools."]

[Request #S09-29-4204]

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HEALTH

EMERGENCY CARE

African Americans in Commercial HMOs More Likely to Delay Prescription Drugs and Use the Emergency Room. By Dylan H. Roby and others, UCLA Center for Health Policy Research. (The Center, Los Angeles, California) October 2009. 12 p.

Full text at: <http://healthpolicy.ucla.edu/pubs/Publication.aspx?pubID=371>

["In California, privately insured African Americans enrolled in HMOs are far more likely to use the ER and to delay getting needed prescription drugs than HMO-insured members of other racial and ethnic groups.... It's not that African Americans fail to see their doctors. In fact, of all HMO enrollees, African Americans were the most likely to report seeing a doctor in the past year. Patient income and illness did not predict ER or prescription drug use either.... While the reasons behind the ER use and drug delays among African Americans are the subject of future research, the data suggests that the way health maintenance organizations or their contracted physicians provide care -- and the way patients respond to that care -- may create obstacles to timely primary care, as well as foster excessive use of the emergency room and delays in getting needed medications."]

[Request #S09-29-4219]

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INFECTIOUS DISEASE

H1N1 Challenges Ahead. By Jeffrey Levi and others, Trust for America's Health. (The Trust, Washington, DC) October 2009. 38 p.

Full text at: <http://healthyamericans.org/reports/h1n1/TFAH2009challengesahead.pdf>

["If 30 percent of the U.S. population contracted H1N1, it could mean around 90 million Americans could get ill, 1.8 million could need to be hospitalized, and around 30,000 could die. The country is much better prepared to face a pandemic than it was just a few short years ago.... However, there were also many concerns that were identified, but were not adequately addressed or funded in prior planning efforts.... This report examines the challenges the country faces in preparing to deal with the complications that an H1N1 outbreak adds to this flu season related to medical care capacity, antiviral medications, disease surveillance, vaccinations, budget cuts at public health departments, and caring for people in communities, particularly meeting the special needs of at-risk populations, and provides a series of recommendations for how to address preparedness gaps."]

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NUTRITION

State Indicator Report on Fruits and Vegetables, 2009. By the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (The Centers, Atlanta, Georgia) 2009. 8 p.

Full text at:

http://www.fruitsandveggiesmatter.gov/health_professionals/statereport.html

["The report provides for the first time information on fruit and vegetable (F&V) consumption and policy and environmental support within each state. Fruits and vegetables are important for optimal child growth, weight management, and chronic disease prevention. The policy and environmental indicators are from multiple data sources and measure several aspects of a state's ability to support the consumption of F&V. Each indicator can be measured in most states.... Data in the report can be used by states to track progress on a variety of indicators in order to portray how states support the consumption of F&V, celebrate state successes, and identify opportunities for improvement of F&V support through environmental, policy and/or systems approaches."]

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WORK CONDITIONS

Regulatory Actions that Could Reduce Unnecessary Medical Expenses Under California's Workers' Compensation Program. By Barbara O. Wynn, RAND Center for Health and Safety in the Workplace. (California Commission on Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation, Oakland, California) July 2009. 21 p.

Full text at: <http://www.dir.ca.gov/chswc/Reports/2009/RANDpaper.pdf>

["Recent increases in medical expenses under California's workers compensation (WC) program have renewed interest in regulatory initiatives that might reduce medical treatment costs. The California Commission on Health and Safety and Workers' Compensation asked RAND to provide in a single document a summary of potential refinements to the Official Medical Fee Schedule that would reduce WC medical expenses. These findings should be of interest to policymakers and others involved in the medical care payment issues under California's WC system."]

[Request #S09-29-4164]

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HOUSING

REAL ESTATE LOANS

Foreclosures: A Crisis in Legal Representation. By Melanca Clark and Maggie Barron, Brennan Center for Justice. (The Center, New York, New York) October 2009. 59 p.

Full text at: http://brennan.3cdn.net/a5bf8a685cd0885f72_s8m6bevkv.pdf

["The nation's massive foreclosure crisis is also, at its heart, a legal crisis. Many homeowners are losing their homes because they lack the ability to navigate the landscape of our lending laws. The Legal Services Corporation, the major federal source of funding for civil representation for the poor, reports that nonprofit legal services programs across the nation are 'besieged with requests for foreclosure assistance.' Too few people are ever able to obtain qualified legal guidance.... Civil legal aid, always underfunded, has suffered from acute shortages since federal funds were cut by one-third in 1996. Moreover, just as the need for legal representation has reached its apex, the recession has forced state and local governments and private charities to cut their support for legal services."]

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HUMAN SERVICES

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Infants and Toddlers in State and Federal Budgets: Summary Report from Urban Institute Roundtable. By Rosa Maria Castañeda and Olivia Golden, Urban Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) August 2009. 24 p.

Full text at: http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411942_infants_and_toddlers.pdf

["The unique features of the roundtable included its joint focus on both federal and state budgets and its cross-program focus covering health, nutrition, and early education and family support. Federal and state decisionmakers often have only cursory knowledge of each other's environments and constraints and few opportunities to reflect on the most important intersections between federal and state budgets regarding young children's programs. Similarly, experts in health, nutrition, and early education and family support rarely have the opportunity to talk across the different service systems about achievements and failures on behalf of very young children. And experts in one field often do not know of budget, policy, and performance trends in the others."]

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“The Health and Cognitive Growth of Latino Toddlers: At Risk or Immigrant Paradox?” By Bruce Fuller and others. IN: **Maternal and Child Health Journal**, vol. 13, no. 6 (November 2009) pp. 755-768.

Full text at: <http://www.springerlink.com/content/188t5813v2270827/fulltext.pdf>

["Poor immigrant Latinas have healthy babies, but by age 2 or 3, their toddlers begin to lag behind white middle-class children in vocabulary, listening and problem-solving skills. Researchers call it the 'immigrant paradox': Pregnant Latino women smoke and drink less than pregnant white and African American women, Latino newborns have lower infant mortality rates, and the cognitive skill of infants 9 to 15 months are about equal for white and Latino children. But by the time they are toddlers, Latino children trail their white counterparts by up to six months in cognitive skills.... The new findings pinpoint the beginnings of those gaps at an earlier age than previously thought. They also highlight the urgency of early intervention -- children in preschool programs such as Head Start may already be at a disadvantage." Los Angeles Times (October 22, 2009) A10.]

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TRANSPORTATION

FINANCING

Future Financing Options to Meet Highway and Transit Needs. By Gary Maring, Cambridge Systematics. (Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Cambridge, Massachusetts) September 2009. 16 p.

Full text at: https://www.lincolninst.edu/pubs/dl/1689_901_Maring%20Final.pdf

["The objective of this paper is to analyze options for all levels of government to close the nation's highway and transit investment deficits on a sustainable basis both short- and long-term.... Motor fuel and vehicle taxes and fees are the mainstay of Federal and state highway programs, are a major contributor to transit funding, and will continue those roles for the horizon of this study.... State and local governments continue to innovate with new or expanded sources.... Growing freight oriented bottlenecks suggest the need for targeted intermodal freight sources of revenue.... The key issue is how to successfully implement these strategies at all levels of government to achieve the investments that are needed in our surface transportation systems."]

[Request #S09-29-4157]

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TRAFFIC CONGESTION

Gridlock and Growth: The Effect of Traffic Congestion on Regional Economic Performance. By David T. Hartgen and M. Gregory Fields, University of North Carolina, Charlotte. (The Reason Foundation, Los Angeles, California) August 2009.

["Perhaps one reason policymakers have not done more to reduce gridlock is a lack of understanding about how congestion negatively impacts our cities and their competitiveness.... Most major cities will find that wise infrastructure investments that eliminate gridlock and produce free-flowing road conditions will more than pay for themselves by boosting the region's economy, and thus tax revenues. Reducing congestion and increasing travel speeds enough to improve access by 10 percent to key employment, retail, education and population centers increases regional production of goods and services by 1 percent. While seemingly small in percentage terms, this leads to tens of billions of dollars for a region's employers and workers due to productivity and efficiency benefits."][Request #S09-29-4083]

Report. 64 p.

http://reason.org/files/ps371_growth_gridlock_cities_full_study.pdf

Policy Summary. 8 p.

http://reason.org/files/ps371_growth_gridlock_cities_policy_summary.pdf

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TRANSIT

Getting on Track: Record Transit Ridership Increases Energy Independence. By Rob McCulloch and others, Environment California Research and Policy Center. (The Center, Los Angeles, California) September 2009. 22 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.environmentcalifornia.org/uploads/go/DJ/goDJICpZSYkySI6Gf6vsLw/CAE-transpo-report-2009.pdf>

["Nationwide, in 2008 transit ridership rose by 4 percent and people drove nearly 4 percent less than they did the year before. Overall, Americans took approximately 10.7 billion trips via public transportation last year, saving more than 4 billion gallons of gasoline. This is equivalent to the gasoline used by more than 7.2 million cars a year -- nearly as many cars as are registered in Florida. If we doubled the nation's current ridership of public transportation, we could reduce oil usage in this country comparable to what we import each year from Saudi Arabia.... In terms of global warming, public transportation reduced carbon dioxide emissions by 37 million tons in 2008.... This report documents transit growth continuing into this year, highlights future potential benefits and outlines ways to improve the state of public transportation."][Request #S09-29-4131]

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TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

A Review of the International Modeling Literature: Transit, Land Use, and Auto Pricing Strategies to Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled and Greenhouse Gas Emissions. By Caroline Rodier, University of California, Berkeley. (Transportation Sustainability Research Center, Richmond, California) October 2009. 32 p.

Full text at: http://www.its.berkeley.edu/newsbits/fall2009/Final_Report_AB_32.pdf

["Currently, most operational regional models in California have limited ability to represent the effects of transit, land use, and auto pricing strategies; efforts are now underway to develop more advanced modeling tools, including activity-based travel and land use models. In the interim, this report reviews the international modeling literature on land use, transit, and auto pricing policies to suggest a range of VMT and GHG reduction that regions might achieve if such policies were implemented. The synthesis of the literature categorizes studies, by geographic area, policy strength, and model type, to provide insight into order of magnitude estimates for 10-, 20-, 30-, and 40-years time horizons. The analysis also highlights the effects of modeling tools of differing quality, policy implementation timeframes, and variations in urban form on the relative effectiveness of policy scenarios."]

[Request #S09-29-4197]

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