January 1910 “The second week of aviation in Los Angeles opened with a day so perfect that another degree would have carried it beyond the superlative, a crowd so large and enthusiastic that it seemed impossible to anticipate an end of the great event, and a series of performances as thrilling as the keenest imagination could have promised. Curtiss lowered his own ten-lap record for the course by over a minute. A leak in the big gasoline tank on the Farnum biplane was all that prevented Paulhan from breaking the world’s endurance record. As it was, he remained in the air two hours, lacking less than two minutes.... The Knabenshue and Beachy dirigibles raced one lap around the course, Knabenshue winning by 11 ½ seconds ” Los Angeles Times (January 18, 1910) p. II1. 
http://csudh.edu/1910airmeet/

January 1910 “America’s first aviation meet closed with a grand flourish yesterday. The wrecking crews will probably start tearing down the tribunes today, and the great open-air theater will resume operations as a placid barley field. The success of the meeting has amazed even the business men by whom it was instigated. Showmen consider it astonishing that a city no larger than Los Angeles could supply a continuous succession of audiences running into the tens of thousands daily. The aviation meet has demonstrated the fact that man has not only learned to fly, but to fly better than any of the heavier birds, like geese, turkeys and the larger ducks.” Los Angeles Times (January 21, 1910) p. III. 
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1910_Los_Angeles_International_Air_Meet_at_Dominguez_Field

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

- When available, the URL for the full text of each item is provided.

- California State Employees may contact the State Information & Reference Center (916-654-0261); cslinfo@library.ca.gov with the SITN issue number and the item number [S#].

- All other interested individuals should contact their local library - the items may be available there, or may be borrowed by your local library on your behalf.

  The following studies are currently on hand:
CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

DRUG PROSECUTION


["For nearly a century, the federal government of the United States has engaged in a variety of activities to stem the production, distribution, and sale of illicit substances, known collectively as the 'war on drugs.' This article chronicles the war on drugs in the United States, from its inception at the federal level, with the passage of the Harrison Act in 1914, through the major laws and policies that have been enacted since the Nixon Administration, the first White House to declare a 'war on drugs.' This paper also examines the failings of the country’s drug policies and recommends a public health approach to addiction that shifts the bulk of resources from supply-side to demand-side initiatives, such as drug treatment programs, which have proven to lower drug use and to be more cost effective than criminal justice responses to America’s drug problem."]

[Request #S10-2-4446]

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PRISONS


["This report examines the measures that Michigan took to bring about that turn-around. Most significantly, these changes did not require the legislature to change the statutory penalties for criminal offenses. Michigan’s successful reforms primarily involve the parole process, based on research that has identified practices and techniques that increase the accuracy of predicting which offenders can be safely released. The changes involve, however, far more than simply encouraging the parole board to increase its rate of approval of discretionary parole. The new policies are designed to provide offenders with individualized programing in prison, and re-entry services upon release, that are most likely to assure success on parole, based on evidence of what works to reduce crime and save money."]

[Request #S10-2-4447]

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RECIDIVISM


Full text at: http://www.nber.org/tmp/21055-w15602.pdf

"We study the re-arrest rates for two groups: individuals formerly in prison and individuals formerly under electronic monitoring (EM). We find that the recidivism rate of former prisoners is 22% while that for those ‘treated’ with electronic monitoring is 13% (40% lower). We convince ourselves that the estimates are causal using peculiarities of the Argentine setting. For example, we have almost as much information as the judges have when deciding on the allocation of EM; the program is rationed to only some offenders; and some institutional features (such as bad prison conditions) convert ideological differences across judges (to which detainees are randomly matched) into very large differences in the allocation of electronic monitoring."[Request #S10-2-4449]

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DEMOGRAPHY

MIGRATION


Full text at: http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2009/1209_migration_frey/1209_migration_frey.pdf

"In 2007-2008, the overall U.S. migration rate reached its lowest point since World War II. The slowdown was especially pronounced for long-distance moves, which remained flat through 2008–2009, as well as for single people and renters.... Thirteen states showed lower levels of out-migration. The migration fortunes of three Sun Belt states -- Florida, Texas, and California -- showed distinctly different loss and gain patterns in various population groups.... Migration to exurban and newer suburban counties dropped substantially, while it brought about unexpected 'windfall' gains in many large urban cores. Large urban areas such as Boston, Chicago, New York, and Philadelphia saw net out-migration shrink significantly from 2005 to 2008, and San Francisco actually posted a net migration gain after registering annual losses throughout the decade."[Request #S10-2-4450]

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**ECONOMY**

**BIOTECHNOLOGY**


Full text at: [http://www.baybio.org/pdf/Policy-Chapter.pdf](http://www.baybio.org/pdf/Policy-Chapter.pdf)

[“California's biotech and medical device industries are selling more products and employing more people despite the recession, but industry leaders said the state needs to invest in education and get more competitive on taxes to keep its lead in a field that was born here.... The report sketched the medical innovation landscape in California and the challenges the state faces from other regions bent on replicating its success.... The state continues to attract the lion's share of the venture capital flowing into the life sciences. Despite the recession, total industry employment grew from 278,158 in 2008 to 280,508 in 2009.” San Francisco Chronicle (January 13, 2010) 1.]

[Request #S10-2-4453]

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**ECONOMIC CONDITIONS**

**Helping Each Other in Times of Need: Financial Help as a Means of Coping with the Economic Crisis. By Susann Rohwedder, RAND Corporation. (RAND, Santa Monica, California) 2009. 7 p.**


["How are U.S. households coping in difficult times? One way is by reaching out to support each other financially.... In the midst of financial trouble, those giving help far outnumber those receiving it, suggesting that transfers tend to be received from more than one source. Overall, nearly 30 percent of households said that they had given more than $500 to family, grown children, relatives, or friends as a means of helping them cope with the crisis. In contrast, only about 13 percent report having received help of this sort.... Low-income households are less likely to have given help, and so are younger households. Similarly, the older the household, the less likely it was to have received help. In contrast, the percentage receiving help was largest among the youngest households -- those 18 to 34 years old.”]

[Request #S10-2-4381]

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**ECONOMIC POLICY**


"States face a serious fiscal problem that could force them to institute additional deep budget cuts and tax increases in 2010, weakening the fragile economic recovery and harming vulnerable children, seniors, and people with disabilities, among others. The federal assistance that states received for their Medicaid programs under this year’s economic recovery legislation is scheduled to end with a 'cliff' on December 31, 2010, and the assistance states received for education and other services also will be largely exhausted by then. Although that date is more than a year away, the problem is coming to a head now. That’s because states -- which continue to face huge budget shortfalls that they must close -- are taking steps now to plan their budgets for state fiscal year 2011, which starts on July 1, 2010 in most states."

[Request #S10-2-4321]

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**INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE**


"The federal government and the state of California, as well as other states throughout the nation, have made universal access to broadband service a public policy goal, assuming that multiple economic and social benefits will accrue from increasing broadband access. This study assesses whether policies designed to increase broadband availability -- especially to unserved and underserved communities -- will contribute to local economic development. It finds a positive relationship between broadband expansion and employment growth, but the benefits for local residents are ambiguous."

[Request #S10-2-4454]

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["The report draws from CEP's eight-year study of high school exit exams to identify long-term trends in state policies and student performance. It highlights a growing trend among states to establish alternate pathways to graduation for students who are struggling to pass exit exams. The report also analyzes exit exam pass rates and finds that 11 of the 16 states showed an average annual growth in the proportion of students passing the test in reading and 13 states showed average annual growth in mathematics. Although many states narrowed the gaps in initial pass rates between the various student subgroups over the years, the gaps remain large in both subjects."]

[Request #S10-2-4475]

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["This report traces the history of a number of leading charter management organizations (CMOs), showing how they have grown, how they have succeeded, and where they have fallen short. It documents a host of budgetary and regulatory barriers that local, state, and national policymakers will need to address if CMOs are to fulfill the expectations that are increasingly being thrust upon them. It also suggests that achieving the core mission that unites all leading CMOs -- providing a great education to the most disadvantaged students -- requires extraordinary levels of organizational, financial, and human resources. This lesson has important implications not just for the charter school movement, but for public education as a whole."]

[Request #S10-2-4476]

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SCHOOL REFORM


"A small but growing number of schools have begun to operate with school days substantially longer than the six-hour norm and, in many cases, a calendar that exceeds the standard 180 days. NCTL has produced this groundbreaking report on the state of what can be called 'expanded-time schools. Through this effort, NCTL has helped to define and bring together this previously unidentified category of schools, while still recognizing the considerable diversity among this group.... Though the findings cannot be considered conclusive -- the field of expanded-time schools is too new and decentralized to be confident that the database is fully representative of the population -- they do highlight the relatively widespread use and potential benefits of expanded time." [Request #S10-2-4479]

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT


"Creating statewide alignment of education, economic development and workforce development is different from state to state. Some states have a myriad of specific programs in place, but collectively they don’t add up to a statewide strategy. Other states have a vision for greater alignment but are having a difficult time moving forward with policy and programmatic reform. We offer some critical strategies that states could (and should) employ to move the needle on alignment.... Identify a Neutral Intermediary. Engage Business with a Substantive Role. Think Globally, Act Regionally. Inventory Current Efforts. Do a Data Integration. Conduct a Policy Audit. Assess the Capacity and Charge of Current Commissions and Councils. Use New Resources to Leverage Existing Resources. Engage the Legislature and the Board of Regents.” [Request #S10-2-4478]
EMPLEYMENT

JOB CREATION


["The U.S. economy is now in 'recovery' in the eyes of most economists. But the challenge of sustained job creation remains ahead of us.... This all suggests a need for additional actions -- some of which will require additional government spending. Such a suggestion, however, will no doubt trigger concerns about contributing to federal budget deficits. But the path to fiscal probity is not through excessive frugality in 2010, but rather in wise action to get the economy back on track in the short term so that we can see deficits, as a percentage of GDP, begin to decline... This paper provides a list of suggested policy steps that Congress and the Obama administration can take and suggestions for how to pay for it. It is not intended to be a ‘plan’ but rather a set of options that, in our judgment, can contribute substantially to putting our nation’s labor market back on track."]
[Request #S10-2-4456]

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["The recovery period will be protracted and characterized by high unemployment. Instead of a temporary program to be repealed pending recovery, what is needed is a sustained economic growth program in which short-term policies are converted into permanent structural reforms as the economy grows stronger. An effective program for creating jobs in the short term while laying the groundwork for future growth must meet several tests. First, public spending or tax expenditures must have high multiplier effects. Second, short-term policies should be of value if they are converted into long-term reforms. Finally, the scale should be adequate and substantial, not inadequate and symbolic."]
[Request #S10-2-4455]

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LOW-WAGE WORKERS


["The amount of added income that work support programs bring to a low-wage worker’s family can add up to thousands of dollars a year: a hundred dollars or more, depending on family size, of extra food purchasing power per month.... However, many programs that can ease the difficulties of low-wage work are undersubscribed. In many respects, the administration and rules governing the benefits that are now called 'work supports' are just beginning to catch up with the fact that many people who receive them are employed and raising families. The lessons derived here from four innovative programs should help public, nonprofit, and other social service agencies increase low-wage workers’ access to these supports -- ones that they may not realize they qualify for or that they believe are too complicated and inconvenient to pursue."
][Request #S10-2-4340]

ENERGY

ALTERNATIVE FUELS


[“Liquid fuels from biomass and coal have the potential to reduce petroleum fuel use and CO2 emissions in the U.S. transportation sector over the next 25 years. Even with abundant resources in biomass and coal, however, substantial investments in research, development, and commercial demonstration projects will be needed to produce these alternative liquid fuels in an environmentally conscious way, and at a level that could impact U.S. dependence on imported oil.... Although a relatively new technology, several combined coal-and-biomass demonstration plants are operating in Europe. This technology could be an important part of U.S. energy strategy as it combines the environmental benefits of biomass with the relative abundance and lower costs of coal." ][Request #S10-2-4460]

Book. 388 p.

Executive Summary. 25 p.
http://www.nap.edu/nap-cgi/report.cgi?record_id=12620&type=pdfxsum

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ENERGY POLICY


["We found that as of November 16, 2009, the Energy Commission had entered into contracts totaling only $40 million despite having had access to $113 million of the $226 million in Recovery Act funds it has been awarded for the Energy Program. Although these funds have been available to the Energy Commission since July 2009, it has been slow in developing guidelines, issuing requests for proposals, and implementing the internal controls needed to administer the Energy Program. As a result, few Recovery Act dollars have been spent. The remaining $113 million in funds will be available to the Energy Commission on January 1, 2010.... As soon as possible, the Energy Commission should take the steps necessary to implement a system of internal controls adequate to provide assurance that Recovery Act funds will be used to meet the purposes of the Recovery Act."]

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

BAY DELTA


["Federal officials released a plan of action to help California deal with water supply and environmental problems in the Delta. The Department of Interior plan fulfills a promise by the Obama administration in September to resume a more active role in California's water woes. It results from a memorandum of understanding signed between a number of federal agencies that deal with water, wildlife and farming activities.... Federal officials described the plan as an evolving document that will change as conditions warrant in the year ahead.... The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will also study water quality in the Delta, possibly including new limits on pesticides, and will work with the state to consider new water quality standards for the estuary." Sacramento Bee (December 22, 2009) 1.][Request #S10-2-4430]

["Now that the state has produced plans for climate mitigation and adaptation, closer coordination is needed to implement both approaches.... The report takes into account the long-term, complex, and uncertain nature of climate change and establishes a proactive foundation for an ongoing adaptation process. Rather than address the detailed impacts, vulnerabilities, and adaptation needs of every sector, those determined to be at greatest risk are prioritized.... California’s ability to manage its climate risks through adaptation depends on a number of critical factors including its baseline and projected economic resources, technologies, infrastructure, institutional support and effective governance, public awareness, access to the best available scientific information, sustainably-managed natural resources, and equity in access to these resources."]

Executive Summary. 11 p.

GREEN HOUSE GASES


["A coalition of utilities is condemning a draft report by a panel of experts advising the air board on the design of its greenhouse gas (GHG) cap-and-trade program for recommending that most of the revenue from allowance auctions be returned to the public, instead of funneling the money to utilities to carry out energy efficiency and other GHG-cutting programs on behalf of their customers.... The state's cap-and-trade program design is considered a model for other states and the nation, especially with regard to how it targets new revenue for low-income and 'disadvantaged' communities that may be disproportionately affected by rising energy prices under climate change regulations." Inside Cal/EPA (January 8, 2010) 1.][Request #S10-2-4487]
TOXICS


["Chemicals from cosmetics, perfumes and other fragrances were detected along with dozens of other industrial compounds in the umbilical cords of African American, Asian and Latino infants in the United States. It was the 11th time the working group has conducted laboratory tests of human blood for chemicals in household and industrial products. Overall, the working group found 414 chemicals and pollutants in 186 people of all ages and races, including Caucasians. The latest study was the first time newborns of minority mothers were exclusively tested. 'Our results strongly suggest that the health of all children is threatened by trace amounts of hundreds of synthetic chemicals coursing through their bodies from the earliest stages of life.' said Anila Jacob, the group's senior scientist." San Francisco Chronicle (December 3, 2009) 1.]

[Request #S10-2-4483]

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GENERAL GOVERNMENT

FEDERAL DEBT


[“The debt is not a measure of intergenerational equity and it is extremely misleading to present it as one. The generations that came of age after World War II were handed the largest debt in the country’s history (far larger than the debt levels currently projected), yet enjoyed the greatest period of prosperity the country has ever enjoyed. We hand a whole economy and society down to future generations, including a physical and social infrastructure, a level of development of technology, a level of education, and of course the natural environment. These factors will determine their well being, not the government debt.”]

[Request #S10-2-4388]

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PUBLIC EMPLOYEES


"State and local governments face large budget deficits as revenues have stagnated and spending has remained at high levels. To reduce deficits, large savings can be found in the generous compensation packages of the nation’s 20 million state and local workers. In 2008, wages and benefits of $1.1 trillion accounted for half of total state and local government spending. This bulletin examines state and local compensation costs, with a focus on the lucrative pensions enjoyed by public sector workers.... And with employee compensation representing half of total state and local spending, large savings could be found by freezing wages and overhauling excessive benefit packages."

[Request #S10-2-4462]

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REGULATIONS


Full text at: http://assets.opencrs.com/rpts/R40249_20091214.pdf

"Federal financial regulation in the United States has evolved through a series of piecemeal responses to developments and crises in financial markets. This report provides an overview of current U.S. financial regulation: which agencies are responsible for which institutions and markets, and what kinds of authority they have.... The United States has never attempted a wholesale reformation of the entire regulatory system comparable to the 1986 'Big Bang' in the UK, which reorganized regulatory agencies across industry lines and sought to implement a consistent philosophy of regulation. In the wake of the current financial turmoil, however, such a reevaluation is possible, and a number of broad restructuring proposals have already come forward."

[Request #S10-2-4439]

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STATE TAXES


Full text at: http://www.nber.org/tmp/8112-w15612.pdf

["This paper documents the rise of the Internet as a source of state-tax-free cigarettes and its impact on taxed sales elasticities. Using data on cigarette tax rates, taxable cigarette sales and individual smoking rates by state from 1980 to 2005, merged with data on Internet penetration, the paper documents that there has been a substantial increase in the sensitivity of taxable cigarette sales to state tax rates that is correlated with the rise of Internet usage within states. The estimates imply that the increased sensitivity from cigarette smuggling over the Internet has lessened the revenue generating potential of cigarette tax increases significantly, although states are still far from the revenue-maximizing tax rates."]

[Request #S10-2-4461]

HEALTH

HEALTH CARE


Full text at: http://www.chcf.org/topics/almanac/index.cfm?itemID=134144

["Researchers conducted site visits in the fall of 2008 to six large California communities to study local health care systems and to gain insights into regional characteristics in health care affordability, access, and quality. The six markets -- Fresno, Los Angeles, Oakland/San Francisco, Riverside/San Bernardino, Sacramento, and San Diego -- reflect a range of economic, demographic, health care delivery, and financing conditions.... CHCF has produced a series of four briefs that examine specific health system issues. The issue briefs are: 1) Shifting Ground: Erosion of the Delegated Model in California; 2) California's Safety Net: The Role of Counties in Overseeing Care; 3) A Tighter Bond: California Hospitals Seek Stronger Ties with Physicians; and 4) Managed Care in California: Cost Concerns Influence Product Design."]

[Request #S10-2-4495]
HEALTH CARE REFORM


Full text at: http://www.nihcr.org/Policy%20Analysis%20No.%201.pdf

["As consensus grows that true reform of the U.S. health care system requires a move away from fee-for-service payments, designing alternative payment methods, including episode-based payments, has emerged as a high priority for policy makers. An episode-based payment approach would essentially bundle payment for some or all services delivered to a patient for an episode of care for a specific condition over a defined period. Ideally, a well-designed episode-based payment system would encourage providers to improve efficiency and quality of care. Careful consideration of how to design and implement episode-based payments, however, will set the stage for their success or failure."]

[Request #S10-2-4504]

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Full text at: http://www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu/pubs/files/Safety-Net-Based_Networks_PB.pdf

["Organized provider networks have been developed as a method of achieving efficiencies in the delivery of health care, and to reduce problems such as limited access to specialty and tertiary care, fragmentation and duplication of services, low-quality care and poor patient outcomes. This policy brief examines the experience of ten California counties participating in the Health Care Coverage Initiative, a demonstration project to expand coverage to low-income and indigent residents, in overcoming these barriers and creating provider networks based on existing safety-net systems. The brief examines the structure of the networks built, how they were implemented, the types of services and reimbursements offered, the health information technologies employed in the effort, as well as plans to further enhance the networks in the future."]

[Request #S10-2-4491]

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MEDICAID


[Integrating care for dual eligibles offers a significant opportunity to improve care and control rising health care costs, but progress in this area has been slow. This policy brief explores alternative strategies to integrate care for this high-need, high-cost population and analyzes the current legal and regulatory barriers..... The resulting brief examines potential administrative and/or legislative changes that foster integration while permitting Medicare and Medicaid to share in any savings. The brief outlines promising opportunities to integrate care within three areas: 1) current state plan options and potential approaches to health system improvement; 2) achieving integration through current and potential demonstration and waiver authorities; and 3) options for legislative consideration."
[Request #S10-2-4497]

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HOUSING

REAL ESTATE LOANS


Full text at: http://www.palgrave-journals.com/be/journal/v45/n1/abs/be200928a.html

[This paper emphasizes the economic variables and data used to model notices of default in California. Forecast models are notoriously complicated and require sophisticated software to run. Few businesses, particularly small enterprises, have the necessary resources to engage in large-scale model building. Datasets can be difficult and expensive to obtain and usually require significant analysis. The paper focuses on methodology to give the model a general appeal."
[Request #S10-2-4463]

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"2009, in particular, was a devastating year for California’s children. When push came to shove over the state’s budget crunch, children suffered the deepest cuts. While federal stimulus funding is providing some relief to the children impacted, this support is temporary. These are undeniably difficult economic times in California, and additional, large-scale state budget cuts are widely expected in the near future. This tough climate, however, does not justify the state’s short-sighted decision-making regarding investments in children. Other states facing severe budget shortfalls in 2009, such as Oregon, New Jersey and Florida, have recognized the clear value of putting children first and acted accordingly. California’s failure to prioritize children is jeopardizing the state’s chances for a sustainable, long-term economic recovery."

[Request #S10-2-4465]

"This report describes child and youth well-being over time, and projects the potential impact of the current economic crisis on child poverty from 2008 to 2012.... Results indicate that:(1) Overall well-being in California, the Bay Area, and in Los Angeles County steadily improved over this time period; 2) Girls had an advantage over boys in overall well-being throughout the period under study; 3) But compared to girls, boys made much more progress in overall well-being during these years; 4) All four racial and ethnic groups -- African American, Asian, Latino, and Caucasian -- showed improvement in their well-being; 5) Nonetheless, Disparity Well-Being Indices show that gaps in well-being among racial/ethnic groups persisted over time; and 6) Gender and race/ethnic groups generally showed similar trends over time across most of the well-being domains."

[Request #S10-2-4417]
FAMILIES


Full text at: http://www.liveunitedca.org/pdfs/Make_ends_meet_report.pdf

"Even before the current recession, more than 440,000 Bay Area households were struggling to make ends meet. That amounts to 22.1 percent of the households in the 10-county Bay Area.... The analysis is based on the Self-Sufficiency Standard, a formula developed to capture the actual cost of living in a particular locale. The standard is an alternative to the more than 40-year-old federal poverty scale, which dramatically understates what it costs two parents to raise an infant child.... The report found that working did not ensure a self-sufficient income, as 86.5 percent of all Bay Area households falling below the threshold had at least one person drawing a paycheck." San Francisco Chronicle (December 9, 2009) 1.

[PARENTS]


"Home visiting programs, which offer in-home services to pregnant women and new families, can be an effective tool for meeting unmet needs, and they can lead to improved maternal and child health outcomes, positive parenting, safe homes, and connections to integrated assistance.... Throughout Europe, home health visiting programs are integrated into comprehensive maternal and child health systems and routinely offered to all families regardless of their income level. U.S. families, in contrast, can choose to purchase such support services if they can afford them, but most simply go without.... A handful of home visiting programs in the United States provide in-home support from nurses and paraprofessionals to new and expecting parents, primarily those who are low-income, teens, dealing with a disability, or otherwise considered vulnerable or at risk."

[Request #S10-2-4467]
TRANSPORTATION

FEDERAL FUNDING


"The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) provides California with about $3.7 billion in one-time funding for transportation programs, based on formulas. In order to create jobs and stimulate the economy, ARRA focuses on funding ‘shovel-ready’ projects that can begin construction quickly.... Caltrans has made good progress in the use of almost $1 billion made available to the department, already putting out to bid contracts for 92 percent of the funds. Local road agencies have been slower to use their obligated ARRA transportation funds, with contracts for only one-third of their funds out to bid. The progress of transit system operators is unclear due to a lack of complete information. From the data we were able to compile, however, the operators appear to be making good progress."

[Request #S10-2-4409]

HIGH-SPEED RAIL


"The incompatibilities that have been designed into modern urban transit systems -- nonstandard gauges for BART; Washington, D.C. Metrorail; and the Toronto subway -- are the most revealing symptoms of the old paradigm. Going hand-in-hand with this old paradigm, high-speed rail systems proposed for the U.S. have been mostly point-to-point systems that copy the European and Japanese models, even though urban densities and land use patterns are vastly different in North America. The new paradigm sees urban, regional, and high-speed rail as one coherent system. It is the author’s belief that this more-sophisticated approach is necessary to make high-speed rail work -- and work well -- in the North American market."

[Request #S10-2-4470]
"Investments in turnpikes, ports, canals and railroads provided the initial ability for the nation to expand beyond the original colonized coasts, and promote the agricultural and industrial development of the nation’s heartland. Similarly, investments in urban transit and streets allowed growing American cities to handle the increasing number of people that were needed to support the massive expansion of the nation’s industrial capacity. The purpose of this paper is to provide some thoughts on what such a national vision should include and how the characteristics of this vision relate to the rapidly changing context within which a national transportation system operates. In particular, this paper provides a perspective on what policies and investments should be pursued to shape America’s transportation policy in the 21st century."