

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

California -- One Hundred Years Ago

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. III.

<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

- 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

"A Century of Losing Battles: The Costly and Ill-Advised War on Drugs in the United States." By Arthur J. Lurigio and others. IN: Justice Policy Journal, vol. 6, no. 2 (Fall 2009) 46 p.

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

["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

Michigan Breaks the Political Log Jam: A New Model for Reducing Prison Populations. By Elizabeth Alexander, American Civil Liberties Union. (The Union, New York, New York) November 2009. 19 p.

Full text at: <http://www.aclu.org/files/assets/2009-12-18-MichiganReport.pdf>

["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 programming 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

Criminal Recidivism after Prison and Electronic Monitoring. By Rafael Di Tella, Harvard Business School, and Ernesto Schargrotsky, Universidad Torcuato Di Tella. (National Bureau of Economic Research, Cambridge, Massachusetts) December 2009. 43 p.

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

The Great American Migration Slowdown: Regional and Metropolitan. By William Frey, Brookings Institution. (The Institution, Washington, DC) December 2009, 28 p.

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

BayBio: IMPACT 2009: Innovation Fuels the Golden State: A Challenge for California's Leadership. By BayBio. (BayBio, San Francisco, California) January 2010. 44 p.

Full text at: <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.

Full text at: http://www.rand.org/pubs/occasional_papers/2009/RAND_OP269.pdf

["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

Additional Federal Fiscal Relief Needed to Help States Address Recession's Impact: Without It, States' Steps to Balance Their Budgets Could Cost Economy 900,000 Jobs Next Year. By Iris J. Lav and others, Center for Budget and Policy Priorities. (The Center, Washington, DC) November 19, 2009. 9 p.

Full text at: <http://www.cbpp.org/files/11-11-09stim.pdf>

["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

Does Broadband Boost Local Economic Development? By Jed Kolko, Public Policy Institute of California. (The Institute, San Francisco, California) January 2010. 36 p.

Full text at: <http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=866>

["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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EDUCATION

ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT

State High School Exit Exams: Trends in Test Programs, Alternate Pathways, and Pass Rates. By Ying Zhang, Center on Education Policy. (The Center, Washington, DC) November 2009. 56 p.

Full text at: <http://www.cep-dc.org/document/docWindow.cfm?fuseaction=document.viewDocument&documentId=297&documentFormatId=4398>

["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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CHARTER SCHOOLS

Growing Pains: Scaling Up the Nation's Best Charter Schools. By Education Sector. (Education Sector, Washington, DC) November 2009. 25 p.

Full text at: http://www.educationsector.org/usr_doc/Growing_Pains.pdf

["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

Tracking An Emerging Movement: A Report on Expanded-Time Schools in America. By David A. Farbman, The National Center on Time & Learning. (The Center, Boston, Massachusetts) December 2009. 56 p.

Full text at: <http://www.timeandlearning.org/images/12.7.09FinalDatabaseReport.pdf>

["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]

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WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Revving the Education Engine: Effectively Aligning Education, Workforce and Economic Development Policy. By Bruce Vandal, Education Commission of the States. (The Commission, Denver, Colorado) 2009. 24 p.

Full text at: <http://www.ecs.org/docs/RevvingEdEngine.pdf>

["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]

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EMPLOYMENT

JOB CREATION

Meeting the Jobs Challenge: How to Avoid Another Jobless—or Job-Loss—Economic Recovery. By David M. Abromowitz and others, Center for American Progress. (The Center, Washington, DC) December 2009. 36 p.

Full text at: http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2009/12/jobs_challenge.html

["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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Jobs and the New Growth Agenda. By Michael Lind, New America Foundation. (The Foundation, Washington, DC) December 2009. 5 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.newamerica.net/sites/newamerica.net/files/policydocs/Jobs%20and%20the%20New%20Growth%20Agenda.pdf>

["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

Helping Low-Wage Workers Access Work Supports: Lessons for Practitioners.
By Kay Sherwood, MDRC. (MDRC, New York, New York) November 2009.

Full text at: <http://www.mdrc.org/publications/533/policybrief.pdf>

["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]

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ENERGY

ALTERNATIVE FUELS

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

["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.

http://books.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12620&utm_medium=email&utm_source=National%20Academies%20Press&utm_campaign=NAP+mail+new+01.05.10&utm_content=Downloader&utm_termtoc

Executive Summary. 25 p.

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

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ENERGY POLICY

California Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission: It Is Not Fully Prepared to Award and Monitor Millions in Recovery Act Funds and Lacks Controls to Prevent Their Misuse. By the California Bureau of State Audits. (The Bureau, Sacramento, California) December 2009. 38 p.

Full text at: <http://www.bsa.ca.gov/pdfs/reports/2009-119.1.pdf>

["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."]
[Request #S10-2-4459]

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ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

BAY DELTA

Interim Federal Action Plan for the California Bay-Delta. By the U.S. Department of Interior and others. (The Department, Washington, DC) December 22, 2009. 23 p.

Full text at: <http://www.doi.gov/documents/CAWaterWorkPlan.pdf>

["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]

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CLIMATE CHANGE

2009 California Climate Adaptation Strategy: A Report to the Governor of California in Response to Executive Order S-13-08. By the California Natural Resources Agency. (The Agency, Sacramento, California) December 2009.

["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."][Request #S10-2-4428] Report. 200 p.

<http://www.climatechange.ca.gov/adaptation/index.html>

Executive Summary. 11 p.

<http://www.energy.ca.gov/2009publications/CNRA-1000-2009-027/CNRA-1000-2009-027-F-ES.PDF>

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GREEN HOUSE GASES

Allocating Emissions Allowances Under California's Cap-and-Trade Program: Recommendations to the California Air Resources Board From the Economic and Allocation Advisory Committee, Draft. By the Economic and Allocation Advisory Committee. (The Committee, Sacramento, California) January 10, 2010. 86 p.

Full text at: http://www.climatechange.ca.gov/eaac/documents/eaac_reports/2010-01-10_EAAC_Allocation_Report_Draft.pdf

["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]

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TOXICS

Pollution in People: Cord Blood Contaminants in Minority Newborns. By the Environmental Working Group. (The Group, Washington, DC) December 2009. 61 p.

Full text at: <http://www.ewg.org/files/2009-Minority-Cord-Blood-Report.pdf>

["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

Taming the Deficit: Saving Our Children from Themselves. By David Rosnick and Dean Baker, Center for Economic and Policy Research. (The Center, Washington, DC) December 2009. 7 p.

Full text at: <http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/taming-the-deficit-2009-12.pdf>

["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

Employee Compensation in State and Local Governments. By Chris Edwards, Cato Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) January 2010. 3 p.

Full text at: <http://www.cato.org/pubs/tbb/tbb-59.pdf>

["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

Who Regulates Whom? An Overview of U.S. Financial Supervision. By Mark Jickling and Edward V. Murphy, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. (The Service, Washington, DC) December 14, 2009. 40 p.

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

Playing With Fire: Cigarettes, Taxes and Competition From the Internet. By Austan Goolsbee, University of Chicago, and others. (National Bureau of Economic Research, Cambridge, Massachusetts) December 2009. 42 p.

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]

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HEALTH

HEALTH CARE

Issues and Trends from a Six-Region Study of California Health Systems. By Jon B. Christianson, The Center for Studying Health System Change, and others. (California HealthCare Foundation, Oakland, California) December 2009. Various pagings.

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]

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HEALTH CARE REFORM

Episode-Based Payments: Charting a Course for Health Care Payment Reform. By Hoangmai H. Pham and others, National Institute for Health Care Reform. (The Institute, Washington, DC) January 2010. 16 p.

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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Creation of Safety-Net Based Provider Networks Under the California Health Care Coverage Initiative: Interim Findings. By Dylan H. Roby and others, UCLA Center for Health Policy Research. (The Center. Los Angeles, California) December 2009. 16 p.

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

Supporting Alternative Integrated Models for Dual Eligibles: A Legal Analysis of Current and Future Options. By Sara Rosenbaum and others, George Washington University. (Center for Health Care Strategies, Hamilton, New Jersey) November 2009. 9 p.

Full text at:

http://www.chcs.org/usr_doc/Supporting_Alternative_Integrated_Models_for_Dual_Eligibles.pdf

["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

“Using Aggregate Time Series Variables to Forecast Notices of Default.” By Rani Isaac and others. IN: *Business Economics*, vol. 45, no. 1 (2010) pp. 8-15.

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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HUMAN SERVICES

CHILDREN

California Report Card 2010. Setting the Agenda for Children. By Jessica Mindnich and others, Children Now. (Children Now, Oakland, California) January 2010. 68 p.

Full text at: http://www.childrennow.org/uploads/documents/reportcard_2010.pdf

["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]

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California Child and Youth Well-Being Index, 1995-2007: Trends, Changes and Projections to 2012. By Qiang Fua and others, Duke University. (Lucile Packard Foundation for Children's Health, Palo Alto, California) December 2009. 56 p.

Full text at: <http://www.kidsdata.org/index/indexreport.pdf>

["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]

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FAMILIES

Struggling to Make Ends Meet in the Bay Area: Bay Area Self-Sufficiency Report 2009. By United Ways of the Bay Area and others. (United Ways of the Bay Area, San Francisco, California) December 2009. 12 p.

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.]
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PARENTS

There's No Place Like Home: Home Visiting Programs can Support Pregnant Women and New Parents. By Alexandra Cawthorne and Jessica Arons, Center for American Progress. (The Center, Washington, DC) January 2010. 13 p.

Full text at: http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/01/pdf/home_visitation.pdf

["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 #S10-2-4466]

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TRANSPORTATION

FEDERAL FUNDING

Using Federal Economic Stimulus Funds for Transportation: An Update. By Jessica Digiambattista and Eric Thronson, California Legislative Analyst's Office. (The Office, Sacramento, California) November 23, 2009. 16 p.

Full text at:

http://www.lao.ca.gov/2009/trns/trans_stimulus/trans_stimulus_112309.pdf

["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]

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HIGH-SPEED RAIL

"The Internal Distribution Advantage of High-Speed Rail: A Call for Convergence." By Reinhard Clever. IN: *Current Research and Development in Intercity Rail Passenger Systems*, vol. 15 (Fall 2009) pp. 8-15

Full text at: http://onlinepubs.trb.org/onlinepubs/irps/irps_15.pdf

["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]

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TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

Toward a Vision for the Nation's Surface Transportation System: Policies to Transcend Boundaries and Transition to a New Era. By Michael D. Meyer, Georgia Institute of Technology. (Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Cambridge, Massachusetts) November 2009. 25 p.

Full text at: https://www.lincolnst.edu/pubs/dl/1727_947_Meyer%20Final.pdf

["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."]

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