

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

California -- One Hundred Years Ago

August 1910 “The ship Cabrillo will be the gathering place tomorrow afternoon of the Santa Monica Bay Political Equality League, which is being organized as a branch of the Los Angeles league of the same name. The object of the league is to express approval of the movement of women to attain full suffrage in California. One of the first requests will be to members of the legislature for a submission of a constitutional amendment granting the women this privilege.” Los Angeles Times (August 24, 1910) p. II8.

“The Times will stand for votes for women when the real women of the country in considerable numbers ask for the franchise.” Los Angeles Times (August 29, 1910) p. I6

November 1910 “In a brilliant address... Mrs. Seward A. Simons, in part said ‘Until women really have the suffrage, which most intelligent persons believe they will have before long, it will always be possible to evade a discussion of the question by saying: When the majority of women want the vote they will get it. Just why they feel so sure of that position they have never undertaken to prove, but it is a very easy way of evading direct discussion... It is a fact that more women in proportion to their numbers have asked for the ballot than have men of any disenfranchised class in the history of the world.’” Los Angeles Times (November 10, 1910) p. III1.

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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.
- Studies in the News is also available as an RSS feed at <http://www.library.ca.gov/sitn/crb/>

The following studies are currently on hand:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

CHILD PROTECTION

The National Strategy for Child Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction: A Report to Congress. By the U.S. Department of Justice. (The Department, Washington, DC) August 2010. 280 p.

Full text at: <http://www.projectsafefchildhood.gov/docs/natstrategyreport.pdf>

["In this inaugural National Strategy report, the Department describes its first-ever threat assessment of the danger that faces the nation's children, its current efforts to combat child exploitation, and posits some goals and plans to fight the threats that are facing our Nation's children.... The Department's approach for achieving this goal is multifaceted and includes: (1) an overarching statement of broad goals that will be used to direct the National Strategy; (2) more specific goals to address the dangers identified by the Threat Assessment; (3) programmatic goals that can provide some measurable information and results to help guide the Strategy going forward; and (4) individualized goals by relevant Department components that are designed to support both the broad goals of the Strategy and the programmatic goals of the Department."]

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GANGS

Homicide in California 1981-2008: Measuring the Impact of Los Angeles and Gangs On Overall Homicide Patterns. By George Tita, University of California, Irvine, and Allan Abrahamse, RAND. (Governor's Office of Gang and Youth Violence Policy, Sacramento, California) April 2010. 33 p.

Full text at: http://calgrip.ca.gov/documents/Homicide_CA_1981_2008_Tita.pdf

["Homicide is the best documented measure of gang violence.... At a state level, the rate of gang killings has decreased since 2002. As always, however, the real story required some drilling down. Over the past five years, the City of Los Angeles has seen a 30 percent drop in gang homicides. In contrast, the rest of the state has experienced a nine percent increase and the counties with the largest increases are located principally in the Central Valley and points north (e.g., Tulare, Fresno, Stanislaus, and Santa Clara Counties). The study confirms what residents in these communities know too well: gangs and gang violence have robustly emerged throughout the state.... The state must form an individualized partnership with each community that has the will to deploy its resources in a strategic and sustained fashion."]

[Request #S10-16-5157]

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IMMIGRATION

"Is Immigration Responsible for the Crime Drop? An Assessment of the Influence of Immigration on Changes in Violent Crime Between 1990 and 2000."
By Tim Wadsworth. IN: *Social Science Quarterly*, vol. 91, no.2 (June 2010) pp. 531-553.

Full text at: <http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/123341598/abstract>

["Some scholars have recently questioned whether the increase in immigration between 1990 and 2000 may have actually been responsible for part of the national decrease in crime during the 1990s. The current work evaluates the influence of immigration on crime in urban areas across the United States between 1990 and 2000.... Immigration is associated with higher levels of homicide and robbery. However, the pooled cross-sectional time-series models suggest that cities with the largest increases in immigration between 1990 and 2000 experienced the largest decreases in homicide and robbery during the same time period. The findings offer insights into the complex relationship between immigration and crime and suggest that growth in immigration may have been responsible for part of the precipitous crime drop of the 1990s."]

[Request #S10-16-5057]

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JUVENILE JUSTICE

Reforming Juvenile Justice Systems: Beyond Treatment. By Janeen Buck-Willison and others, the Urban Institute. (*Reclaiming Futures, Portland, Oregon*) April 2010. 36 p.

Full text at: http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/1001366_juvenile_justice.pdf

["Reclaiming Futures is an initiative designed to improve outcomes for drug-involved youth in the juvenile justice system. Reclaiming Futures is a comprehensive approach to system change involving community organizing, managerial reforms, communication efforts, leadership dynamics, interorganizational relations, and treatment technologies. System change initiatives are difficult to implement and evaluate, and it should not be surprising that they often involve strategies and activities not derived from random-assignment studies with statistically significant effects. In other words, some components of the Reclaiming Futures initiative were not evidence-based. Yet, they are still critical features of the Reclaiming Futures approach. This report describes two such components: positive youth development and cultural competence."]

[Request #S10-16-4871]

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CULTURE AND SOCIETY

LATINOS

The Latino Digital Divide: The Native Born versus The Foreign Born. AND: How Young Latinos Communicate with Friends in the Digital Age. By Gretchen Livingston and Mark Hugo Lopez, Pew Hispanic Center. (The Center, Washington, DC) July 28, 2010.

["When it comes to socializing and communicating with friends, young Latinos (ages 16 to 25) make extensive use of mobile technology. Half say they text message (50%) their friends daily, and 45% say they talk daily with friends on a cell phone.... Use of mobile communication technologies differs notably among young Latinos by nativity. Two-thirds (65%) of the native born say they communicate with their friends by text message daily, while just 26% of the foreign born do so.... Among youth ages 16 to 25, non-Hispanics are approaching near-universal internet use, but the rate is markedly lower for Hispanics."]
[Request #S10-16-5161]

Latino Digital Divide. 8 p.

<http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/123.pdf>

How Young Latinos Communicate. 18 p.

<http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/124.pdf>

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PRIVACY

Reputation Management and Social Media: How People Monitor their Identity and Search for Others Online. By Mary Madden and Aaron Smith, Pew Internet & American Life Project. (The Project, Washington, DC) May 26, 2010. 76 p.

Full text at: <http://pewinternet.org/Reports/2010/Reputation-Management.aspx>

["Reputation management has now become a defining feature of online life for many internet users, especially the young. While some internet users are careful to project themselves online in a way that suits specific audiences, other internet users embrace an open approach to sharing information about themselves and do not take steps to restrict what they share.... When compared with older users, young adults are more likely to restrict what they share and whom they share it with. Contrary to the popular perception that younger users embrace a laissez-faire attitude about their online reputations, young adults are often more vigilant than older adults when it comes to managing their online identities."]

[Request #S10-16-5160]

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DEMOGRAPHY

IMMIGRANTS

Unauthorized Immigrants and Their U.S.-Born Children. By Jeffrey S. Passel and Paul Taylor, Pew Hispanic Center. (The Center, Washington, DC) August 11, 2010. 11 p.

Full text at: <http://pewhispanic.org/reports/report.php?ReportID=125>

["An estimated 340,000 of the 4.3 million babies born in the United States in 2008 were the offspring of unauthorized immigrants. Unauthorized immigrants comprise slightly more than 4% of the adult population of the U.S., but because they are relatively young and have high birthrates, their children make up a much larger share of both the newborn population (8%) and the child population (7% of those younger than age 18) in this country.... The new analysis finds that nearly four-in-five (79%) of the 5.1 million children (younger than age 18) of unauthorized immigrants were born in this country and therefore are U.S. citizens. In total, 4 million U.S.-born children of unauthorized immigrant parents resided in this country in 2009, alongside 1.1 million foreign-born children of unauthorized immigrant parents."][Request #S10-16-5162]

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ECONOMY

AGRIBUSINESS

Structure and Finances of U.S. Farms: Family Farm Report, 2010 Edition. By Robert A. Hoppe and David E. Banker, Economic Research Service, United States Department of Agriculture. (The Service, Washington, DC) July 2010. 72 p.

Full text at: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/eib66/>

["Most U.S. farms -- 98 percent in 2007 -- are family operations, and even the largest farms are predominantly family run. Large-scale family farms and nonfamily farms account for 12 percent of U.S farms but 84 percent of the value of production. In contrast, small family farms make up most of the U.S. farm count but produce a modest share of farm output. Small farms are less profitable than large-scale farms, on average, and their operator households tend to rely on off-farm income for their livelihood. Generally speaking, farm operator households cannot be characterized as low-income when both farm and off-farm income are considered. Nevertheless, limited-resource farms still exist and account for 3 to 12 percent of family farms, depending on how 'limited-resource' is defined. "]
[Request #S10-16-5168]

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BANKING

Unbanked by Choice: A Look at How Low-Income Los Angeles Households Manage the Money They Earn. By Daniel Tellalian, Emerging Markets, Inc., and others. (The Pew Health Group, Washington, DC) July 2010. 28 p.

Full text at:

http://www.pewtrusts.org/uploadedFiles/wwwpewtrustsorg/Reports/Safe_Banking_Opportunities_Project/PEW%20Unbanked%20Report_FINAL.pdf?n=9888

["Families without a bank account live in a dangerous financial world. Lacking access to government-insured savings or opportunities to build credit, they not only incur risks of theft, fraud and loss, but by using alternative financial service providers such as check cashers or payday lenders, they also become prey to expensive predatory products and services that make it harder for them to achieve financial security.... We began an in-depth study of the financial behaviors of similarly situated unbanked and banked low-income families to inform policy solutions that would bring more Americans into the financial mainstream.... The data shows different patterns of financial behavior between the Banked and the Unbanked. Moreover, it reveals that the Banked and Unbanked further segment into distinct sub-groups based on their usage of financial services and providers."]

[Request #S10-16-5169]

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ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

From Recession to Recovery: Analyzing America's Return to Growth. By Ross DeVol, the Milken Institute. (The Institute, Santa Monica, California) July 2010. 58 p.

Full text at: http://www.milkeninstitute.org/pdf/From_recession_to_recovery.pdf

["According to the forecast, well-established patterns in the postwar period demonstrate that the rate of economic recovery after a recession is usually proportional to the depth of the decline experienced. Combining an examination of this precedent with a detailed analysis of the existing momentum and activity in key economic sectors, the report paints a decent recovery picture, even with a conservative projection. According to DeVol, the resurgence of business investment in equipment, particularly in IT and software, is the overlooked story of this recovery. The full forecast includes projections for consumer and labor markets, housing and nonresidential construction, the federal deficit, state and local government purchases, and interest rates."]

[Request #S10-16-5164]

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EXPORTS

Export Nation: How U.S. Metros Lead National Export Growth and Boost Competitiveness. By Emilia Istrate and others, The Brookings Institution. (The Institution, Washington, DC) July 2010. 45 p.

Full text at:

http://www.brookings.edu/reports/2010/0726_exports_istrate_rothwell_katz.aspx

["If the U.S. is to achieve a significant surge in exports, metropolitan areas will play a huge role. Reflecting their high concentration of the nation's human and physical capital, metropolitan areas produce 84 percent of the nation's exports, making them the points of leverage for scaling up trade with the wider world. The 100 largest metropolitan areas alone account for over 64 percent of the nation's exports, including 75 percent of its service exports.... Increasing the nation's exports holds out the potential of generating a significant number of good-paying jobs in the United States at a time when they are much needed.... Export intensive industries pay higher wages than domestic oriented industries in large metropolitan areas.... Future export growth will come increasingly from large emerging markets."]
[Request #S10-16-5167]

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WOMEN

Women and the Economy 2010: 25 Years of Progress But Challenges Remain. By the U.S. Congress Joint Economic Committee. (The Committee, Washington, DC) August 2010. 14 p.

Full text at: http://jec.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?a=Files.Serve&File_id=f9f3a9b8-2f54-4e83-9029-477a3fc73cd5

["This report provides a comprehensive overview of women's economic progress over the last twenty-five years and highlights the additional work left to be done. The role of women in the American economy is of indisputable importance. The future of the American economy depends on women's work, both inside and outside the home.... Women comprise half of all U.S. workers, and well over half of all American women are in the labor force. Women's educational attainment outstrips that of men, and women's share of union membership is growing rapidly. Families are increasingly dependent on working wives' incomes in order to make ends meet.... While the pay gap has narrowed over the last 25 years, the average full-time working woman earns only 80 cents for every dollar earned by the average full-time working man."]
[Request #S10-16-5184]

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EDUCATION

EDUCATIONAL REFORM

America's Best (and Worst) Cities for School Reform: Attracting Entrepreneurs and Change Agents. By Frederick M. Hess, American Enterprise Institute, and others. (Thomas B. Fordham Institute, Washington, DC) August 2010. 148 p.

Full text at:

http://www.edexcellence.net/201008_SchoolReformCities/Fordham_SchoolReform_Final_Complete.pdf

["This study evaluates how welcoming thirty American cities -- the twenty-five largest and five smaller 'hotspots' -- are to 'nontraditional' problem-solvers and solutions. It assumes that the balky bureaucracies meant to improve K-12 education and hold leaders accountable are so calcified by policies, programs, contracts, and culture that only in the most exceptional of circumstances can they be fixed simply by top-down applications of new curricula or pedagogy. Enter the education entrepreneur, a problem-solver who has developed a different and -- it is to be hoped -- better approach to teaching and learning.... Few cities are rolling out the red carpet for education entrepreneurs. No cities were awarded As and just a handful of cities received Bs when measured for their hospitality towards reformers. The majority fell in the C range."][Request #S10-16-5186]

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HIGHER EDUCATION

Beyond the Rhetoric; Improving College Readiness Through Coherent State Policy. By the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education and the Southern Regional Education Board. (The Board, Atlanta, Georgia) June 2010. 14 p.

Full text at: <http://publications.sreb.org/2010/Beyond%20the%20Rhetoric.pdf>

["This brief addresses the state policy dimensions of college readiness. It identifies the key issues and problems associated with the college readiness gap, which is a major impediment to increasing the numbers of college students who complete certificates or degrees. This policy brief also provides governors, legislators, and state education leaders with specific steps they need to take to close the readiness gaps in their states.... States need to ensure that the readiness standards in reading, writing and math are sufficiently rigorous to predict success in first-year college classes. Moreover, these standards must be applied to all degree programs in all postsecondary institutions. At the same time, we urge postsecondary education to research empirically the applicability of these standards to readiness for non-degree programs and to apply them in those areas as well, if relevant."]

[Request #S10-16-5189]

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SCHOOL SAFETY

What Characteristics of Bullying, Bullying Victims, and Schools are Associated with Increased Reporting of Bullying to School Officials? By Anthony Petrosino, Learning Innovations at WestEd, and others. (Institute of Education Sciences, Washington, DC) August 2010. 45 p.

Full text at: <http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/edlabs/projects/project.asp?ProjectID=239>

["This study tested 51 characteristics of bullying victimization, bullying victims, and bullying victims' schools to determine which were associated with reporting to school officials. It found that 11 characteristics in two categories -- bullying victimization and bullying victims -- showed a statistically significant association with reporting. The study also notes the high percentage (64 percent) of respondents who experienced bullying but did not report it.... Bullying appears to be frequent among U.S. students and has been associated with several short- and long-term negative consequences such as depression and poor health. Research suggests that many bullying incidents are not reported to school officials, which hampers educators' ability to define the scope or frequency of bullying behavior in their schools or districts, the first step in addressing the problem."]

[Request #S10-16-5188]

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TEACHERS

Better Benefits: Reforming Teacher Pensions for a Changing Work Force. By Chad Aldeman, Education Sector, and Andrew J. Rotherham, Bellwether Education. (Education Sector, Washington, DC) August 2010. 27 p.

Full text at: http://www.educationsector.org/usr_doc/Pensions-Report-RELEASE.pdf

["Underfunded and poorly structured teacher retirement systems are problems that the country cannot afford to ignore. But reforming these systems is complicated and difficult. Recent moves by states to quickly raise revenue or decrease benefits do not provide the long-term fixes needed to fully address fiscal issues as well as human capital or teacher quality concerns.... Still, there are steps that can be taken to modernize the system. Some address the technical aspects or basic structure of plans; others tackle the political obstacles or legal limitations. Some are short term; others are more permanent. They all must be crafted with an eye toward simultaneously creating a sustainable cost structure and improving the quality of the teaching work force."]

[Request #S10-16-5187]

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EMPLOYMENT

LABOR

Building Better: A Look at Best Practices for the Design of Project Labor Agreements. By Dale Belman, Michigan State University, and Matthew M. Bodah, University of Rhode Island. (Economic Policy Institute, Washington, DC) August 12, 2010. 47 p.

Full text at: http://epi.3cdn.net/179fd74170130cd540_ibm6ib3kd.pdf

["Project labor agreements (PLAs) are a type of contract used in the construction industry to set the terms and conditions of employment on large projects of long duration and design complexity. Although PLAs have been around for years, their use has become controversial as the nonunion sector of the construction industry has grown and as PLAs have been applied to relatively small projects. Critics argue that PLAs place nonunion contractors at a disadvantage in bidding on projects and raise overall project costs. PLA opponents are particularly critical of the use of PLAs on public projects.... The report hopes to move the PLA discussion beyond a debate about whether PLAs are good or bad and toward a more constructive discussion regarding how to create PLAs that help deliver better projects for owners, contractors, workers, and communities."]

[Request #S10-16-5179]

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LABOR UNIONS

Ralphs Grocery Company v. United Food and Commercial Workers Union, Local 8. California Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District. C060413. July 19, 2010. 37 p.

Full text at: <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/opinions/documents/C060413.PDF>

[" A state appellate court has struck down two California laws while ruling that owners can't be forced to allow picketing on their property just because there is a labor dispute. The court ordered a lower court to halt peaceful, informational, long-term picketing at a nonunion grocery store in Sacramento. The court said the laws it was overturning did not let owners keep people off their property who were espousing views contrary to the owners' as part of a labor dispute. 'We conclude that such legislation violates the First and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution and, therefore, is invalid,' the justices ruled.... A section of California's Code of Civil Procedure, known as the Moscone Act, and a section of the Labor Code limit courts' jurisdiction over labor disputes." Sacramento Bee (July 21, 2010) 8B.]

[Request #S10-16-5073]

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PUBLIC EMPLOYEES

Local Governments Cutting Jobs and Services: Job Losses Projected to Approach 500,000. By Christopher W. Hoene, National League of Cities, and Jacqueline J. Byers, National Association of Counties. (The League, Washington, DC) July 2010. 8 p.

Full text at:

http://www.nlc.org/ASSETS/06F2CD78F5FB4A7DA1B84DA4A92008A8/LJAreport_FINAL.pdf

["Unfortunately, just as families are increasingly turning to local governments for support, local governments are facing their own fiscal crisis. The effects of the Great Recession on local budgets will be felt most deeply from 2010 to 2012. In response, local governments are cutting services and personnel. This report reveals that local government job losses in the current and next fiscal years will approach 500,000, with public safety, public works, public health, social services and parks and recreation hardest hit by the cutbacks. Local governments are being forced to make significant cuts that will eliminate jobs, curtail essential services, and increase the number of people in need."]

[Request #S10-16-5170]

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WORKFORCE

Hard Work? Patterns in Physically Demanding Labor Among Older Workers. By Hye Jin Rho, Center for Economic and Policy Research. (The Center, Washington, DC) August 2010. 19 p.

Full text at: <http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/older-workers-2010-08.pdf>

["This paper shows that many older workers (6.5 million) were employed in physically demanding jobs in 2009..... Among the older workers, physically demanding jobs or jobs with difficult working conditions were most likely to be held by men, racial/ethnic minorities, immigrants, the less educated, or the less affluent. These findings suggest that raising Social Security's normal retirement age higher than already scheduled would place a greater burden on older workers in occupations that require physically demanding work, as they may not be able to continue to work in their jobs into their mid-to-late 60s. Due to the difficult demands and conditions of their jobs, many may have no other option but to leave the workforce before they hit the normal retirement age and receive reduced benefits."]

[Request #S10-16-5171]

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ENERGY

COAL

Coal Power Plants: Opportunities Exist for DOE to Provide Better Information on the Maturity of Key Technologies to Reduce Carbon Dioxide Emissions. By the U.S. Government Accountability Office. GAO-10-675. (The Office, Washington, DC) June 2010. 69 p.

Full text at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d10675.pdf>

["DOE does not systematically assess the maturity of key coal technologies, but GAO found consensus among stakeholders that Carbon Capture and Store is less mature than efficiency technologies. Specifically, DOE does not use a standard set of benchmarks or terms to describe the maturity of technologies, limiting its ability to provide key information to Congress, utilities, and other stakeholders.... Commercial deployment of CCS is possible within 10 to 15 years while many efficiency technologies have been used and are available for use now. Use of both technologies is, however, contingent on overcoming a variety of economic, technical, and legal challenges.... CCS technologies offer more potential to reduce CO2 emissions than efficiency improvements alone, and both could raise electricity costs and have other effects."]

[Request #S10-16-5077]

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ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY

Uncertainty over Population, Prices or Climate? Identifying the Drivers Of California's Future Residential Electricity Demand. By Maximilian Auffhammer and Anin Aroonruengsawat, University of California, Berkeley. (Energy Institute at Haas, Berkeley, California) August 2010. 34 p.

Full text at: http://ei.haas.berkeley.edu/pdf/working_papers/WP208.pdf

["This study simulates the impacts of higher temperatures resulting from anthropogenic climate change on residential electricity consumption for California. Flexible temperature response functions are estimated by climate zone, which allow for differential effects of days in different temperature bins on households' electricity consumption.... Holding population constant, total consumption for the households considered may increase by up to 55% by the end of the century. The study further simulates the impacts of higher electricity prices and different scenarios of population growth. Finally, simulations were conducted consistent with higher adoption of cooling equipment in areas which are not yet saturated, as well as gains in efficiency potentially due to aggressive energy efficiency policies."]

[Request #S10-16-5183]

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ENERGY POLICY

Powering America's Economy: Energy Innovation at the Crossroads of National Security Challenges. By the Center for Naval Analyses. (The Center, Alexandria, Virginia) July 2010. 49 p.

Full text at: <http://www.cna.org/research/2010/powering-americas-economy-energy-innovation>

["The country's energy policy -- particularly on climate change -- poses a 'serious threat' to economic and national security, but that threat can be turned into an opportunity. The predicted effects of climate change 'have the potential to disrupt our way of life' and 'create sustained natural and humanitarian disasters on a scale far beyond those we see today.' That, in turn, will likely foster political instability both at home and abroad. The country cannot afford business as usual when it comes to energy. 'The U.S. government should take bold and aggressive action to support clean energy technology innovation and significantly decrease the nation's dependence on fossil fuels,' it says. Given the integral link between economic and national security interests, the Department of Defense is 'uniquely positioned' to lead the way in clean energy technology." The Hill (July 27, 2010) 1.]

[Request #S10-16-5174]

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Energy Use in the U.S. Food System. By Patrick Canning, and others, Economic Research Service, United States Department of Agriculture. (The Service, Washington, DC) March 2010. 39 p.

Full text at: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/err94/>

["Energy is an important input in growing, processing, packaging, distributing, storing, preparing, serving, and disposing of food. Analysis using the two most recent U.S. benchmark input-output accounts and a national energy data system shows that in the United States, use of energy along the food chain for food purchases by or for U.S. households increased between 1997 and 2002 at more than six times the rate of increase in total domestic energy use. This increase in food-related energy flows is over 80 percent of energy flow increases nationwide over the period. The use of more energy-intensive technologies throughout the U.S. food system accounted for half of this increase, with the remainder attributed to population growth and higher real (inflation-adjusted) per capita food expenditures."]

[Request #S10-16-5173]

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ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mayors and Climate Protection Best Practices. By the United States Conference of Mayors. (The Conference, Washington, DC) June 2010. 18 p.

Full text at: <http://www.usmayors.org/climateprotection/documents/2010-mcpc-bestpractices.pdf>

["The Awards Program recognizes mayors for innovative practices in their cities designed to increase energy efficiency and curb global warming. An independent panel of judges selected the winners from a pool of 140 applicants.... The plan offers strategies that can be used by all cities striving to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change.... 'Globally, cities occupy two percent of the planet's landmass, but consume over 75 percent of the world's natural resources,' said North Little Rock's Mayor Hays. 'Now, you tell me, who has responsibility and opportunity for the future of our children and grandchildren? Mayors, let's keep making things happen!'" USCOM Press Release (June 11, 2010) 1.]

[Request #S10-16-5107]

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ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY

"Effects of Green Buildings on Employee Health and Productivity." By Amanjeet Singh and others. IN: American Journal of Public Health, doi:10.2105/AJPH.2009.180687. (July 15, 2010) pp. e1-e4.

Full text at: <http://ajph.aphapublications.org/cgi/reprint/AJPH.2009.180687v1>

["We investigated the effects of improved indoor environmental quality (IEQ) on perceived health and productivity in occupants who moved from conventional to green (according to Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design ratings) office buildings. In 2 retrospective-prospective case studies we found that improved IEQ contributed to reductions in perceived absenteeism and work hours affected by asthma, respiratory allergies, depression, and stress and to self-reported improvements in productivity. These preliminary findings indicate that green buildings may positively affect public health."]

[Request #S10-16-5109]

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OCEAN RESOURCES

Final Recommendations Of The Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force. By the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force. (White House Council on Environmental Quality, Washington, DC) July 19, 2010. 96 p.

Full text at: http://www.whitehouse.gov/files/documents/OPTF_FinalRecs.pdf

["President Barack Obama set a new policy intended to improve coordination of uses of U.S. coastal waters ranging from recreation to commercial fishing to offshore drilling. Obama was to sign an executive order creating a single National Ocean Council to make sense of the huge number of rules from different agencies on the use of U.S. coastal waters and the Great Lakes. The plan, the final recommendation of an Ocean Policy Task Force that Obama established last year, does not set new rules for offshore drilling, commercial or recreational fishing or other uses of U.S. waters. The new council will include officials from several federal agencies who will set policy goals and coordinate the use of U.S. coastal waters and the Great Lakes." Reuters (July 20, 2010) 1.]
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WATER SUPPLY

A Scientific Assessment of Alternatives for Reducing Water Management Effects on Threatened and Endangered Fishes in California's Bay Delta. By the Committee on Sustainable Water and Environmental Management in the California Bay-Delta, National Research Council. (National Academies Press, Washington, DC) 2010.

["The Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service required changes (reasonable and prudent alternatives, or RPAs) in water operations and related actions to avoid jeopardizing the continued existence and potential for recovery of threatened species of fish. Those changes have reduced the amount of water available for other uses, and the tensions that resulted have been exacerbated by recent dry years.... The National Research Council examines the issue in the present volume to conclude that most of the actions proposed by two federal agencies to protect endangered and threatened fish species through water diversions in the California Bay-Delta are 'scientifically justified.' But less well-supported by scientific analyses is the basis for the specific environmental triggers that would indicate when to reduce the water diversions required by the actions."]

Book. 104 p.

[book](#)

Summary. 25 p.

[summary](#)

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GENERAL GOVERNMENT

COURTS

The New Politics of Judicial Elections, 2000-2009: Decade of Change. By Adam Skaggs, Brennan Center for Justice, and others. (The Center, New York, New York) August 2010. 120 p.

Full text at:

http://www.brennancenter.org/content/resource/the_new_politics_of_judicial_elections

["State judicial elections have been transformed during the past decade. The story of America's 2000–2009 high court contests -- tens of millions of dollars raised by candidates from parties who may appear before them, millions more poured in by interest groups, nasty and misleading ads, and pressure on judges to signal courtroom rulings on the campaign trail -- has become the new normal. For more than a decade, partisans and special interests of all stripes have been growing more organized in their efforts to use elections to tilt the scales of justice their way. Many Americans have come to fear that justice is for sale.... By tallying the numbers and 'connecting the dots' among key players over the last five election cycles, this report offers a broad portrait of a grave and growing challenge to the impartiality of our nation's courts."][Request #S10-16-5181]

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PROPOSITIONS

Assessing How Marijuana Legalization in California Could Influence Marijuana Consumption and Public Budgets. By Beau Kilmer and others, RAND Corporation. (RAND, Santa Monica, California) July 2010. 84 p.

Full text at: http://www.rand.org/pubs/occasional_papers/2010/RAND_OP315.pdf

["If recreational marijuana is legalized in California, prices of the drug could plummet 80 percent and the number of dope-smokers would rise, but the amount of money the state would bring in through taxes and fees is a big question mark. While the state could save more than \$300 million a year by not enforcing laws outlawing weed, it may lose that much or more in federal funding.... The upshot of the six-month study is this: It's anybody's guess as to whether the state will suffer or prosper if voters approve Proposition 19 on the November ballot.... 'There is no place in the world where the wholesale production of marijuana is legal,' Pacula said. 'So the economic literature that exists about marijuana usage in relation to prices and changes in law is all about small changes, not the wholesale changes like what is being proposed.'" San Francisco Chronicle (July 8, 2010) 1.]

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PUBLIC EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

The Crisis in Public Sector Pension Plans: A Blueprint for Reform in New Jersey. By Eileen Norcross, Mercatus Center, and Andrew Biggs, American Enterprise Institute. (The Center, Washington, DC) June 2010. 34 p.

Full text at: <http://mercatus.org/sites/default/files/publication/WP1031-%20NJ%20Pensions.pdf>

["New Jersey's public pensions are emblematic of pension funding problems across the country. Over the past two decades, New Jersey's plans loosened accounting standards and increased investment risk while the government often failed to meet its required contributions. As a result, New Jersey plans are underfunded by more than \$100 billion on a market valuation basis.... New Jersey has recently passed reforms that would increase funding and reduce benefits for newly-hired public employees. These steps are useful but must go much further if a potential fiscal crisis is to be averted.... Current reforms lowering pension replacement rates should be continued and, if possible, extended to current employees. All vested benefits should be honored, but the rate at which future benefits are earned should be reduced."]

[Request #S10-16-5114]

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STATE TAXES

Sales Taxation of Business Purchases: A Tax Policy Distortion. By Alan D. Viard. IN: *State Tax Notes*, vol. 56, no. 12 (June 21, 2010) pp. 967-973.

Full text at: <http://www.aei.org/docLib/ViardTaxNotes062110.pdf>

["One might think that the prevalence of the sales tax would be good news for citizens and economists who support efficient taxation. The retail sales tax is commonly viewed as a proportional consumption tax. Economic analysis generally supports the efficiency of consumption taxation, which avoids the penalty on saving and investment imposed by income taxes.... Unfortunately, as most tax practitioners are aware, actual state and local sales taxes diverge dramatically from the popular and textbook vision of the tax. One major flaw, which is the focus of this article, is the imposition of tax on a wide range of business purchases; taxes on those purchases account for roughly 40 percent of nationwide sales tax revenue. The taxation of business purchases impedes economic efficiency and hides the true tax burden from the public."]

[Request #S10-16-5116]

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HEALTH

ELDERLY

Aging in PACE: The Case for California Expansion. By Fred Setterberg and others, California HealthCare Foundation. (The Foundation, Oakland, California) July 2010. 25 p.

Full text at: <http://www.chcf.org/publications/2010/07/aging-in-pace-the-case-for-california-expansion>

["The Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly, known as PACE, is a model of care that enables frail elders to live independently in their communities. Designed as an alternative to nursing homes, PACE has received many accolades for meeting the complex needs of this population while reducing the need for hospitalization. Although PACE originated in San Francisco almost 40 years ago and spread nationwide, its growth in California has been more sluggish than in many other states. Today there are 79 PACE organizations in 31 states. This report examines: 1) PACE's history in California; 2) Unique factors that affect growth in California; 3) The potential to attract new sponsors; 4) How other states are successfully increasing their PACE programs; and 5) Ideas for promoting expansion in California."]

[Request #S10-16-5128]

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FOOD SAFETY

Assessment of the Potential for Cross Contamination of Food Products by Reusable Shopping Bags. By Charles P. Gerba, University of Arizona, and others. (The University, Tucson, Arizona) June 2010. 15 p.

Full text at: http://uanews.org/pdfs/GerbaWilliamsSinclair_BagContamination.pdf

["Most shoppers -- 97%, in fact -- reported that they do not regularly, if ever, wash reusable bags. Further, three-fourths acknowledged that they don't use separate bags for meats and for vegetables. The researchers tested 84 of the bags for bacteria. They found whopping amounts in all but one bag, and coliform bacteria (suggesting raw-meat or uncooked-food contamination) in half. E. coli was among them -- in 12% of the bags.... This potential exists when raw meat products and foods traditionally eaten uncooked (fruits and vegetables) are carried in the same bags, either together or between uses. This risk can be increased by the growth of bacteria in the bags.... Machine washing or hand washing reduced bacteria levels to almost nothing." Los Angeles Times (July 4, 2010) 1.]

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GENETICS

Direct-to-Consumer Genetic Tests: Misleading Test Results Are Further Complicated by Deceptive Marketing and Other Questionable Practices. By the U.S. Government Accountability Office. GAO-10-847T. (The Office, Washington, DC) July 2010. 33 p.

Full text at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d10847t.pdf>

["GAO purchased 10 tests each from four companies, for \$299 to \$999 per test. GAO then selected five donors and sent two DNA samples from each donor to each company: one using factual information about the donor and one using fictitious information, such as incorrect age and race or ethnicity. After comparing risk predictions that the donors received for 15 diseases, GAO made undercover calls to the companies seeking health advice.... GAO's fictitious consumers received test results that are misleading and of little or no practical use.... GAO's donors also received DNA-based disease predictions that conflicted with their actual medical conditions.... GAO also found 10 egregious examples of deceptive marketing, including claims made by four companies that a consumer's DNA could be used to create personalized supplement to cure diseases."]

[Request #S10-16-5140]

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

National Progress Report on eHealth: 2010. By the eHealth Initiative. (The Initiative, Washington, DC) July 2010. 116 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.ehealthinitiative.org/sites/default/files/file/National%20Progress%20Report%20on%20eHealth%202010.pdf>

["A new report tracks developments over the past three years in promoting the adoption and use of health IT. The report finds that: 1) Significant advances have been made as a result of public and private sector initiatives. The 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which allocated \$30 billion to promote health IT, has been a key driver of progress; 2) Many providers are concerned about the lack of coordination across government health and health information technology initiatives; 3) More education and outreach to consumers about health IT and health information exchange are needed; and 4) Knowledge and transparency of privacy and security policies will be key to building consumer trust.... The report recommends implementing policies and programs that take into consideration all sectors of the health care community, including consumers."]

[Request #S10-16-5123]

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MENTAL HEALTH

Mental Health Status and Use of Mental Health Services by California Adults. By David Grant and others, University of California, Los Angeles. (The UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, Los Angeles, California) July 2010. 8 p.

Full text at: <http://www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu/pubs/Publication.aspx?pubID=419>

["Nearly 5 million California adults say they need help for a mental or emotional health problem, and more than 1 million Californians report symptoms associated with serious psychological distress. Yet of those people, only one in three reported visiting a mental health professional for treatment, revealing potential barriers due to lack of insurance or stigma.... Overall, men, adults age 65 or older, and Latino and Asian immigrants reported the lowest rates of visiting a mental health professional. But when it comes to rates of serious psychological distress and perceived need for help, the study reports that the biggest factor is income. Adults living below the federal poverty level were more than five times as likely to report symptoms of serious psychological distress than those whose incomes were at least three times higher than the poverty level." California Watch (July 29, 2010) 1.]
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HOUSING

REAL ESTATE LOANS

Now We're Talking: A Look at Current State-Based Foreclosure Mediation Programs and How to Bring Them to Scale. By Alon Cohen, FightMetric LLC., and Andrew Jakobovics, Center for American Progress. (The Center, Washington, DC) June 2010. 43 p.

Full text at:

http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2010/06/foreclosure_mediation.html

["There is a growing recognition in states across the country of the value of requiring foreclosure mediation when homeowners and their lenders and mortgage service companies enter the foreclosure process.... The number of states and municipalities that are in the process of implementing these kinds of mediation programs are significantly on the rise.... Based on our in-depth analysis of existing foreclosure mediation programs and their successes (and failures), we find that the optimal programs are those in which the first mediation session is automatically scheduled by the state once the mortgage servicer initiates the foreclosure process. We recommend that automatic mediation programs should be available wherever a borrower lives in a state, and, to that end, local pilot programs in some states should be expanded statewide."][Request #S10-16-5090]

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HUMAN SERVICES

CHILDREN

2010 KIDS COUNT Data Book: State Profiles of Child Well-Being. By the Annie E. Casey Foundation. (The Foundation, Baltimore, Maryland) July 2010. 60 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.aecf.org/KnowledgeCenter/PublicationsSeries/KCDataBookProds.aspx>

["Our KIDS COUNT Data Book has made significant strides in tracking results and compiling data on children and families during the past two decades. In addition to tracking 10 well-recognized indicators of child and family well-being, we have built an extensive online KIDS COUNT Data Center, which includes hundreds of additional indicators of well-being at the national, state, and community levels. But we can only go so far without improvements to our national and state data collection systems. At the Casey Foundation, we believe that calculating child well-being should be a national priority, as widely discussed and distributed as the monthly data on unemployment or housing starts."]

[Request #S10-16-5149]

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Who Are America's Poor Children? Examining Food Insecurity Among Children in the United States. By Vanessa R. Wight and others, National Center for Children in Poverty. (The Center, New York, New York) August 2010. 16 p.

Full text at: http://www.nccp.org/publications/pdf/text_958.pdf

["The focus of this report is on one type of material hardship -- food insecurity -- highlighting an important, but sometimes overlooked, dimension of impoverishment. This topic has taken on added significance recently as overall wealth in the United States is on the rise while record numbers of Americans are experiencing food insecurity, or the lack of consistent access to adequate food. Children exposed to food insecurity are of particular concern given the implications scarce food resources pose to children's health and well-being. This report examines what is known about food insecurity among children in the United States today, why this social problem warrants our attention, and the policy solutions that might help families minimize the degree to which they and their children experience this material hardship."]

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America's Future: Latino Child Well-Being in Numbers and Trends. By Mark Mather, Population Reference Bureau, and Patricia Foxen, National Council of La Raza. (The Council, Washington, DC) April 2010. 38 p.

Full text at:

http://www.nclr.org/images/uploads/publications/file_AMERICA_S_FUTURE_Latino_Child_Well_Being_in_Numbers_and_Trends.pdf

["A snapshot of Hispanic youngsters -- the fastest-growing group in the United States by age and ethnicity -- concludes that the obstacles and inequalities they face today 'may hinder the broader integration of Latinos into U.S. society if left unattended.' If those problems are addressed, though, 'we can expect that over time Latinos will assimilate' just as earlier immigrant groups did, with an accompanying rise in their social and economic status. More than one in five American children are Latino. While 92 percent of them are citizens, 58 percent live with one or more foreign-born parents.... Unless current trends are reversed, by 2030, 44 percent of poor children in the United States will be Latino, compared with one-third today. Foxen suggested that the picture could brighten as Hispanics assimilated." New York Times (April 27, 2010) 1.]
[Request #S10-16-5176]

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VETERANS

Army Health Promotion, Risk Reduction and Suicide Prevention Report. By the U.S. Army. (The Army, Washington, DC) July 2010. 350 p.

Full text at: <http://www.army.mil/-news/2010/07/28/42934-army-health-promotion-risk-reduction-and-suicide-prevention-report/index.html?ref=home-headline-link0>

["Understanding the complexity of HP/RR/SP issues requires robust and comprehensive research. The Army's current HP/RR/SP research efforts are not fully coordinated, synchronized, and may not be sufficiently balanced across the Care Continuum. Analysis by the Report Team of readily visible research indicates an over-weighted focus on medical and treatment issues and does not fully address other non-medical aspects of the continuum.... This section establishes the HP/RR/SP Research Portfolio that consists of all research programs and lines of research associated with HP/RR/SP efforts. It provides a process to align programs with the Care Continuum, measures research programs via approved standard metrics, and balances the portfolio based on performance and risk analyses."]
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TRANSPORTATION

BICYCLING AND PEDESTRIANS

Bikeability and the Twenty-Minute Neighborhood: How Infrastructure and Destinations Influence Bicycle Accessibility. By Nathan McNeil, Portland State University. (The University, Portland, Oregon) June 2010. 47 p.

Full text at: http://www.ibpi.usp.pdx.edu/media/McNeil_Bikeability_June2010.pdf

["This paper explores a methodology for assessing a neighborhood's bikeability based on its mix of infrastructure and destinations -- essentially the 20-minute neighborhood for bicycles. The area of outer east Portland, an area east of 82nd Avenue with substantially lower bicycling rates than other Portland neighborhoods, is used as a case study and compared to an assessment of neighborhoods that are considered to be bike-friendly (downtown, inner-east and north Portland). The paper examines prior approaches to assessing bikeability, details a new method to measure bikeability, presents the findings, and explores what impact expected or potential transportation and land use changes might have on bikeability."]

[Request #S10-16-5156]

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PUBLIC TRANSIT

Current Practices in Greenhouse Gas Emissions Savings from Transit. By Frank Gallivan and Michael Grant, ICF International. (Transportation Research Board, Washington, DC) 2010. 90 p.

Full text at: [GHG savings from transit](#)

["This synthesis describes the role of transit agencies in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and catalogues the current practice of a sample of transit agencies. The purpose of this synthesis is to inform transit agencies on how their services and operations specifically impact GHG emissions from transportation. This goal presents a complex challenge with no one single solution for transit agencies. They can contribute to this goal by increasing total ridership, boosting the numbers of passengers on individual trips, and reducing their use of energy from fossil-based sources. However, planning for and implementing strategies to reduce GHG emissions are still developing scenarios in the transit industry. Many transit agencies are struggling with how a goal to reduce GHG emissions can fit with their traditional planning objectives."]

[Request #S10-16-5000]

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Public Transportation: Federal Role in Value Capture Strategies for Transit Is Limited, but Additional Guidance Could Help Clarify Policies. By the U.S. Government Accountability Office. GAO-10-781. (The Office, Washington, DC) July 2010. 55 p.

Full text at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d10781.pdf>

["State and local governments are looking for alternative strategies to help fund transit systems. Value capture strategies, joint development, special assessment districts, tax increment financing, and development impact fees -- are designed to dedicate to transit either a portion of increased tax revenue or additional revenue through assessments, fees, or rents based on value expected to accrue as a result of transit investments. Several factors can facilitate or hinder transit agencies' and state and local governments' use of value capture strategies, such as coordination and support from public- and private-sector entities, transit project location and design, and state laws..... Several transit agency officials told GAO that FTA's joint development guidance is confusing, which can hinder their use of joint development when federal funding is involved."]

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