

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

California -- One Hundred Years Ago

June 1908: Alarmed at the increasing number of vicious fights between bull dogs and the attacks made upon men and children by these animals, N.W. Zimmer of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals will today start a crusade against all fighting bulls and their trainers.... Not in the history of California has there been a time when bulldog baiting was as popular as now. Hundreds of young men are cultivating the "sport." Scores of them are buying and training bull pups for the pit. Fights are pulled off every week in and about Los Angeles, and the officers are powerless to proceed against the owners of the dogs because of the lack of evidence. "The next man arrested on the charge of dog fighting will be given a sentence on the chain gang if the justice will listen to our earnest request." *Los Angeles Times* (June 5, 1908) pg II1.

1908: That vivisection is practiced in Los Angeles was admitted yesterday by George H. Kress of the College of Medicine, University of Southern California. George B. Vacher, city dog catcher, who furnishes the dogs, says he has provided eighteen short-haired canines to the college, within the last three months. He has also made other deliveries of dogs there. These dogs are chloroformed and operated on for the enlightenment of students. Vivisection as a practice has divided many people into great camps of warring opinions: one side insisting that vivisection is a blemish on our higher civilization; the other that vivisection is a necessity if we are to advance in our conquest of disease. *Los Angeles Times* (July 26, 1908) pg II8.

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Introduction to Studies in the News

Studies in the News is a current compilation of items significant to the Legislature and Governor's Office. It is created weekly by the 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 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

AFRICAN AMERICANS

Targeting Blacks: Drug Law Enforcement and Race in the United States. By Jamie Fellner, Human Right Watch, and Patrick Vinck, Berkeley-Tulane Initiative. (Human Rights Watch, New York, New York) May 2008. 69 p.

Full text at: <http://hrw.org/reports/2008/us0508/us0508web.pdf>

["African-Americans constituted 53.5 percent of all persons who entered prison because of a drug conviction.... A black man was 11.8 times more likely than a white man to enter prison for drug offenses....A black woman was 4.8 times more likely than a white woman to enter prison for drug offenses....Among all African-Americans entering prison, almost two out of five (38.2 percent) were convicted of drug offenses, compared to one in four whites (25.4 percent). Drug law enforcement in the United States continues to produce disproportionate rates of black incarceration, particularly for black men."]
[Request #S08-24-2244]

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Disparity By Geography: The War on Drugs in America's Cities. By Ryan S King, The Sentencing Project. (The Project, Washington, DC) May 2008. 48 p.

Full text at:

http://www.sentencingproject.org/Admin/Documents/publications/dp_drugarrestreport.pdf

["The War on Drugs ushered in a new era in American policing.... Between 1980 and 2003, the number of drug offenders increased by 1100% from 41,100 in 1980 to 493,800 in 2003.... with a rise in arrests concentrated in African American communities. This study represents the first longitudinal analysis of drug arrests by race at the city level, analyzing data from 43 of the nation's largest cities between 1980-2003. Key findings include.... 31 million arrests for drug offenses in the United States. Forty of the nation's 43 largest cities experienced growth in drug arrests from

1980-2003. Drug arrests for African Americans rose at three times the rate for whites from 1980 to 2003...The extreme variation in city-level drug arrests suggests that policy and practice decisions.... are responsible for much of this disparity."]

[Request #S08-24-2246]

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PRISONER REENTRY

Life After Lockup: Improving Reentry from Jail to the Community. By Amy L. Solomon, Justice Policy Center, Urban Institute, and others. (The Institute, Washington, DC) May 2008. 189 p.

Full text at: http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411660_life_after_lockup.pdf

["Substance addiction, job and housing instability, mental illness, and a host of health problems are part of the day-today realities for a significant share of the many who cycle in and out of jail. Given that more than 80 percent of inmates are incarcerated for less than 1 month -- many for only a few hours or days -- jails have little time or capacity to address these deep-rooted and often overlapping issues....Collaboration across disciplines and jurisdictional boundaries is at the core of jail reentry, and in recent years, the field has seen an explosion of creative and productive partnerships between jails and law enforcement, probation, faith-based organizations, mental health clinics, victim advocate groups, the business community, and a variety of other social service and community providers."]

[Request #S08-24-2217]

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The Jail Administrator's Toolkit for Reentry. By Jeff Mellow, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, and others. (The Urban Institute, Washington, DC) May 2008. 165 p.

Full text at: http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411661_toolkit_for_reentry.pdf

["What we hope you notice about this Toolkit is its practitioner-oriented focus, and its use of real language and examples from jails and criminal justice officials across the country. Our goal is not to bore you with statistics or studies that look good on paper, but are difficult to implement in the field or don't seem relevant to your work. Instead, the information in the Toolkit is straight from the source: small, medium, and large jails tackling the reentry issue on a daily basis. Jails differ from prisons so we only highlight county- and city-specific reentry examples. Even among jails, urban, suburban, and rural facilities face different challenges."]

[Request #S08-24-2218]

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CULTURE AND SOCIETY

IMMIGRANTS

Measuring Immigrant Assimilation in the United States. By Jacob L. Vigdor, Duke University. (The Manhattan Institute, New York, New York) May 2008. 56 p.

Full text at: http://www.manhattan-institute.org/pdf/cr_53.pdf

["Immigrants are assimilating faster today than in generations past and whether they speak English may not be the key to how well they integrate into the U.S. economy and civic life. Vigdor comprised an index to measure the degree to which immigrants mirrored U.S.-born residents' labor trends, cultural habits and civic participation. What he found was that immigrants have been assimilating more quickly since 1990 than in years past despite higher levels of immigration to the United States. 'The fact that assimilation is occurring rapidly means that these immigrants are making up the difference,' Vigdor said, adding that an economic boom over the last 25 years and improved communications have made more opportunities available to immigrants." Orange County Register (May 12, 2008) 1.]
[Request #S08-24-2228]

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DEMOGRAPHY

CALIFORNIA

Geographic Divides in Los Angeles County: Demography, Income and Housing. By Bill Pitkin, United Way of Greater Los Angeles. (United Way, Los Angeles, California) May 2008. 16 p.

Full text at:
<http://www.unitedwayla.org/getinformed/rr/Documents/FinalRevisedResearchBriefMay08.pdf>

["There is evidence that segregation along economic class is growing, the rich and poor living farther from one another and reinforcing social inequalities. This research brief explores how populations and socio-economic conditions vary across Los Angeles County, by examining three key issues: 1) Demography: description of the population; 2) Income and Workforce: educational and economic levels of residents; and 3) Housing: the type of housing available and its affordability. In each case we look at how conditions vary across geographic areas and rank communities according to key indicators. We look at how communities compare based on an average ranking of nine key variables to and conclude with implications of the geographic divides in Los Angeles County."]
[Request #S08-24-2281]

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ECONOMY

BUSINESS FORECASTS

The CSUN San Fernando Valley Economic Report. By Daniel Blake, San Fernando Valley Economic Research Center, California State University, Northridge. (The Center, Northridge, California) May 8, 2008. 37 p.

Full text at:

http://www.csun.edu/sfverc/reports/pdfs/08/CSUN_SFV_Economic_Report_08.pdf

["San Fernando Valley businesses are upbeat about their prospects, with more than half expecting sales growth in 2008. The annual survey revealed optimism among the owners of midsize businesses in key segments of the local economy. The report was compiled from 125 interviews.... which contacted more than 500 Valley companies with 50 to 100 employees. The survey covers aerospace, biotech, professional and business services, entertainment, health services, manufacturing and wholesale trade." Los Angeles Daily News. (May 3, 2008) 1.]
[Request #S08-24-2202]

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COST OF LIVING

How Much is Enough in Your County? The 2008 California Family Economic Self-Sufficiency Standard. By Jenny Chung and others, Insight Center for Community Economic Development. (The Center, Oakland, California) May 2008. 14 p.

Full text at: <http://www.insightcced.org/uploads/cfes/sss-exec-summ-final-050908.pdf>

["Working families often fall through the cracks of our public policies: with two full-time minimum wage jobs, they earn too much to qualify for public work supports, such as child care and transportation, but not enough to pay for their basic needs. This is because access to these supports is often determined by unrealistically low estimates of income 'adequacy', including the one-size-fits-all Federal Poverty Level (FPL). While a parent with a preschooler and a school-age child needs nearly \$45,000 just to make ends meet, the FPL for this family of three is only \$17,600. Both the minimum wage and FPL provide levels of inadequacy: the minimum wage offers workers an inadequate income and the FPL measures an extreme level of income inadequacy. "]
[Request #S08-24-2237]

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Understanding the Digital Savvy Consumer. By Scarborough Research. (Scarborough Research, New York, New York) May 2008. 70 p.

Full text at:

http://www.scarborough.com/press_releases/Digital%20Savvy%20Free%20Study%20FINAL%205.12.08.pdf

["San Diego is one of the nation's four most 'digitally savvy' cities, according to a survey that measured the concentration of technology users with a wide range of high-tech habits.... The top three cities on the list were Austin, Texas; Las Vegas; and Sacramento.... Seattle and San Francisco finished lower in the top 10, with about 9 percent of Seattleites and 8 percent San Franciscans qualifying as savvy... Scarborough said it looked at heavy tech users for the first time to better understand how they compare to the general population in values, politics, employment and consumption of media and goods, such as luxury vehicles, entertainment and second homes." San Diego Union-Tribune (May 15, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-24-2233]

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EDUCATION

HIGHER EDUCATION

Who Pays? Foreign Students Do Not Help with the Balance of Payments. By David North, Center for Immigration Studies. (The Center, Washington, DC) June 2008. 8 p.

Full text at: <http://www.cis.org/articles/2008/back608.pdf>

["It has been argued for years that foreign students contribute to America's balance of payments because of money they bring with them from abroad. A careful analysis shows that such arguments are false because of three fundamental flaws: 1) The calculations ignore the massive, partially hidden subsidies to higher education coming from American tax dollars and endowment funds; 2) The calculations supporting the balance-of-payments argument use highly questionable data collection techniques; and 3) Other, stronger, studies show that foreign students make heavy use of U.S. funds to support their graduate educations."]

[Request #S08-24-2276]

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SCHOOL READINESS

Too Young to Leave the Nest: The Effect of School Starting Age. By Sandra E. Black, University of California, Los Angeles, and others. (National Bureau of Economic Research, Cambridge, Massachusetts) April 2008. 58 p.

Full text at: <http://www.nber.org/papers/w13969.pdf>

["Does it matter when a child starts school? This paper uses data on the population of Norway to examine the role of school starting age on outcomes such as IQ scores, educational attainment, teenage pregnancy, and earnings. Unlike much of the recent literature, we are able to separate school starting age from test age effects using scores from IQ tests taken outside of school, at the time of military enrolment, and measured when students are around age 18. We find evidence for a small positive effect of starting school younger on IQ cores measured at age 18.... There appears to be a short-run positive effect on earnings of beginning school at a younger age; however, this effect has essentially disappeared by age 30."]

[Request #S08-24-2268]

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EMPLOYMENT

LOW-WAGE WORKERS

Understanding the Demand Side of the Low-Wage Labor Market: Final Report. By Gregory Acs and Pamela J. Loprest, Urban Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) May 27, 2008. 125 p.

Full text at: http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411680_low-wage_labor.pdf

["Most past research in this area has focused on the workers themselves -- the supply side of the labor market -- and what individual characteristics are associated with better jobs and advancement. This is only half the equation. Understanding the hiring practices, job requirements, and workplace policies of employers -- the demand side -- can provide considerable information to policy makers interested in promoting work and advancement among welfare recipients and other less-skilled workers....

Advertising is still the most common way these jobs are filled (about half of them), and a third of this advertising is on the internet.... Finding workers for noncollege jobs is not universally easy for employers."]

[Request #S08-24-2285]

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ENERGY

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

The Size of the U.S. Energy Efficiency Market: Generating a More Complete Picture. By Karen Ehrhardt-Martinez and John A. "Skip" Laitner, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy. (The Council, Washington, DC) May 2008. 58 p.

Full text at: <http://aceee.org/pubs/e083.pdf?CFID=301223&CFTOKEN=80926155>

["U.S. energy consumption (as measured per dollar of economic output) will have been slashed by the end of 2008 to half of what it was in 1970...Using energy efficiency, the U.S. can cost-effectively reduce energy consumption by at least another 25% to 30% over the course of the next 20 to 25 years. Since 1970, energy efficiency has met about 75% of the demand for new energy-related services. In 2004 alone, investments in energy-efficient technologies are estimated to have generated enough energy to operate about 40 mid-sized coal-fired or nuclear power plants...In 2004, the building sector did the most to curb its energy demands, representing 60% of total energy-efficiency investments and 40% of total U.S. energy consumption."]

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GASOLINE AND DIESEL

Retail Gasoline Prices: Testimony before the Task Force on Competition Policy and Antitrust of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Judiciary. By Lucian Pugliaresi, Energy Policy Research Foundation, Inc.. (The Foundation, Washington, DC) May 7, 2008. 14 p.

Full text at: <http://www.eprinc.org/pdf/ejctestlou2008.pdf>

["We would have expected oil prices to rise in response to demand growth and rising costs of new supplies, but current price increases reflect a failure of the world petroleum market to deliver new supplies from fields that could easily do so within the current (or even a lower) price structure.... Many observers have argued that these higher prices also provide benefits in demand reduction, new conservation initiatives, and acceleration of incentives for moving the U.S. to the fuels of the future.... Our perspective is that the current price structure is not sustainable, but our failure to provide access to conventional fuels may mean the transition to a lower and more realistic price level may also involve a lot of unnecessary economic pain."]

[Request #S08-24-2274]

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ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

AIR POLLUTION

Methodology for Estimating Premature Deaths Associated with Long-term Exposures to Fine Airborne Particulate Matter in California: Draft. By Hien T. Tran and others, California Air Resources Board. (The Board, Sacramento, California) May 22, 2008.

["As many as 24,000 deaths annually in California are linked to chronic exposure to fine particulate pollution, triple the previous official estimate of 8,200. The revised figures are based on a review of new research about the hazards posed by microscopic particles, which sink deep into the lungs.... Californians exposed to high levels of fine particulates had their lives cut short on average by 10 years. Researchers also found that when particulates are cut even temporarily, death rates fall.... More measures will be needed, air board officials said, including eventually lowering the maximum permissible levels of soot statewide. California already has the lowest thresholds in the world but researchers say no safe level of exposure has been found." Los Angeles Times (May 22, 2008) 1.]
[Request #S08-24-2260]

Report. 136 p.

<http://www.arb.ca.gov/research/health/pm-mort/pm-mortdraft.pdf>

Staff presentation. 21 p.

<ftp://ftp.arb.ca.gov/carbis/board/books/2008/052208/08-5-5pres.pdf>

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EARTHQUAKES

The ShakeOut Scenario. By Lucille M. Jones, U.S. Geological Survey, and others. (The Survey, Reston, Virginia) May 2008.

["Scientists have unveiled a hypothetical Scenario describing how a magnitude 7.8 Southern California earthquake -- similar to the recent earthquake in China -- would impact the region, causing loss of lives and massive damage to infrastructure, including critical transportation, power, and water systems. In the Scenario, the earthquake would kill 1,800 people, injure 50,000, cause \$200 billion in damage, and have long-lasting social and economic consequences. This is the most comprehensive analysis ever of what a major Southern California earthquake would mean, and is the scientific framework for what will be the largest earthquake preparedness drill in California history, scheduled for November 13, 2008." Science Daily (May 23, 2008) 1.]
[Request #S08-24-2280]

Report. 312 p.
<http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2008/1150/of2007-1150.pdf>

Shakeout Scenario. 24 p.
<http://pubs.usgs.gov/circ/1324/c1324.pdf>

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HEALTH

HEALTH CARE

Employer Health Costs In a Global Economy: A Competitive Disadvantage For U.S. Firms. By Len Nichols and Sarah Axeen, New America Foundation. (The Foundation, Washington, DC) May 2008.

["U.S. manufacturers who provide health insurance spend an average of \$2.38 per worker per hour on healthcare -- more than twice as much as their foreign competitors. Many economists have suggested that companies would pass those costs onto workers by lowering wages or onto consumers by raising prices. But neither lower wages nor higher prices are an option for most companies. Employers can't slash wages fast enough to keep up with rising healthcare costs.... Foreign manufacturers' healthcare costs are lower because they are the beneficiaries of government-run programs and because many competitor nations enjoyed greater healthcare efficiency, spending less for better outcomes." Los Angeles Times (May 6, 2008) 1.]
[Request #S08-24-2208]

Report. 15 p.
<http://www.newamerica.net/files/EMPLOYER%20HEALTH%20COSTS%20IN%20A%20GLOBAL%20ECONOMY.pdf>

Issue Brief. 4 p.
<http://www.newamerica.net/files/Employer%20Burden%20-%20issue%20brief.pdf>

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HEALTH INSURANCE

Understanding the Uninsured: Tailoring Policy Solutions for Different Subpopulations. By the National Institute for Health Care Management Foundation. (The Institute, Washington, DC) April 2008. 20 p.

Full text at: <http://www.nihcm.org/pdf/NIHCM-Uninsured-Final.pdf>

["People without health insurance are heterogeneous, and understanding this diverse group is important for policymakers looking to design solutions to the problem. Different approaches are needed for different subpopulations of the uninsured. Toward this end it is helpful to place the uninsured into subgroups based on their program

eligibility, income and demographics.... In addition to segmenting the uninsured population into more distinct groups, we present a range of policy options that have been proposed or implemented to extend coverage to these subgroups. We do not endorse any particular policy option. Instead, this brief is meant to serve as a primer on available options and not a prescription defining the optimal solution."]
[Request #S08-24-2238]

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HOMOSEXUALITY

Health Care Quality Index: Creating a National Standard for Equal Treatment of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Patients and Their Families. By The Human Rights Campaign Foundation and The Gay and Lesbian Medical Association. (The Foundation, Washington, DC) 2008. 40 p.

Full text at: http://www.hrc.org/documents/Healthcare_Equality_Index_2008.pdf

["The Healthcare Equality Index measures how equitably hospitals in the United States treat their gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender patients and employees. The 2008 HEI Index report outlines these responses from 88 participating hospitals from across the country. The survey focuses on five main policy criteria: patient non-discrimination, hospital visitation, decision making, cultural competency training and employment policies. This year's survey results show many hospitals are making strides in the right direction. However, GLBT individuals face discrimination in healthcare settings every day. Some are denied access to their partners or children during an emergency. Some healthcare providers lack knowledge of GLBT health needs. In short, a great deal of work remains to be done."]

[Request #S08-24-2282]

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LEAD POISONING

"Neurological and Behavioral Consequences of Childhood Lead Exposure" By David C. Bellinger and others. AND: "Association of Prenatal and Childhood Blood Lead Concentrations with Criminal Arrests in Early Adulthood." By Kim N. Dietrich and others. AND: "Decreased Brain Volume in Adults with Childhood Lead Exposure." By Kim M. Cecil and others. IN: Public Library of Science - Medicine, vol. 5, no. 5 (May 2008)

["The first study to follow lead-exposed children from before birth into adulthood has shown that even relatively low levels of lead permanently damage the brain and are linked to higher numbers of arrests, particularly for violent crime.....The researchers also found that lead exposure is a continuing problem despite the efforts of the federal government and cities to minimize exposure.... The link between criminal behavior and lead exposure was found among even those who were exposed to amounts of lead similar to what the average U.S. child is exposed to today.... The most affected regions

of the brain were those regulating decision making, impulse control, attention, error detection, task completion and reward-based decision making." Los Angeles Times (May 28, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-24-2270]

Neurological and Behavioral Consequences. 3 p.

http://medicine.plosjournals.org/archive/1549-1676/5/5/pdf/10.1371_journal.pmed.0050115-S.pdf

Association of Prenatal and Childhood Blood Lead. 9 p.

http://medicine.plosjournals.org/archive/1549-1676/5/5/pdf/10.1371_journal.pmed.0050101-S.pdf

Decreased Brain Volume in Adults. 10 p.

http://medicine.plosjournals.org/archive/1549-1676/5/5/pdf/10.1371_journal.pmed.0050112-S.pdf

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TOXICOLOGY

Toxic Baby Furniture: The Latest Case for Making Products Safe from the Start. By Travis Madsen, Frontier Group, and Rachel Gibson, Environment California Research and Policy Center. (The Center, Los Angeles, California) May 2008.

["Cribs and changing tables may be exposing babies to unhealthy levels of formaldehyde.... The report found a half dozen products -- out of 21 nursery furnishings it tested -- emitted formaldehyde at levels high enough to trigger allergy and asthma attacks in children. The only standards for formaldehyde exposure come from federal housing regulators who monitor its use in prefabricated homes. No one measures its emissions from children's furnishings, the report said.... 'Everyone knows (formaldehyde) is bad ... unlike with other chemicals where there's a perceived debate over the science,' said Gibson." Sacramento Bee (May 6, 2006) 1.]

[Request #S08-24-2206]

Report. 38 p.

<http://www.environmentcalifornia.org/uploads/m6/Hu/m6HuxW63GdfLMPTZJkzB2A/Toxic-Baby-Furniture---The-Latest-Case-for-Making-Products-Safe-from-the-Start.pdf>

Press release. 1 p.

<http://www.environmentcalifornia.org/newsroom/environmental-health/environmental-health/new-report-formaldehyde-from-baby-nursery-furniture-contaminates-indoor-air>

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HUMAN SERVICES

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Child Well-Being as Human Capital . By Fred Wulczyn, Chapin Hall Center for Children, University of Chicago. (The Center, Chicago, Illinois) 2008. 13 p.

Full text at:

http://www.chapinhall.org/content_director.aspx?arid=1468&afid=432&dt=1

[" There is emerging interest in child well-being as an outcome for children in the child welfare system. Drawing on the idea of trajectories, the author borrows on the notion of human capital. Well-being of human capital.... embeds multiple dimensions, such as education, physical health, and behavioral health, into a single construct. From the available data.... developmental processes influence the risk of (and response to) maltreatment, placement into foster care, and permanency. Child welfare careers start at all points along the developmental trajectory, many starting during the earliest stages of development. Services have to be designed with this broader context in mind, to offset the risk factors and effects on development."]

[Request #S08-24-2254]

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EARNED INCOME TAX CREDITS

The Earned Income Tax Credit in Los Angeles County: Trends and Opportunities. By Edmund Khashadourian and others, United Way of Greater Los Angeles. (United Way, Los Angeles, California) March 2008. 8 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.unitedwayla.org/getinformed/rr/research/financial/Documents/EITCbriefVersion1.pdf>

["This publication examines the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) in Los Angeles County. The research brief includes: a history of the EITC, participant eligibility, historic trends in participation, rates of participation across LA County, tax preparation trends (paid sites, volunteer income tax assistance sites, Refund Anticipation Loans), and more. In addition, policy options are examined, including linking EITC to asset building strategies.... About 1 in 5 of those in LA County that file, claim the EITC. In 2006, over 750,000 LA County taxpayers received the EITC, providing about \$1.5 billion dollars back to the community, averaging about \$2,000 per person."]

[Request #S08-24-2087]

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TEEN PREGNANCY

No Time for Complacency: Teen Births in California. By Norman A. Constantine and others, Center for Research on Adolescent Health and Development. (The Center, Oakland, California) May 2008. 6 p.

Full text at: <http://teenbirths.phi.org/2008TeenBirthsReport.pdf>

["The teenage birthrate in California increased in 2006 for the first time in 15 years and costs taxpayers \$1.7 billion a year. Teen health experts said likely causes include.... higher poverty rates statewide and a growing teenage population. Funding for sex education has not grown fast enough to keep up with the increasing number of teenagers. Teenage mothers are less educated than their peers, make less money, are more likely to be single moms, and run a higher risk of having a baby with health problems. The teen birthrate among Latinas is almost twice the national average.... The report examines progress and challenges for California and for individual Senate Districts." San Francisco Chronicle, (May 21, 2008) 1.]
[Request #S08-24-2252]

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VETERANS

Veterans Home of California at Yountville: It Needs Stronger Planning and Oversight in Key Operational Areas, and Some Processes for Resolving Complaints Need Improvement. By the California Bureau of State Audits. (The Bureau, Sacramento, California) April 2008. 71 p.

Full text at: <http://www.bsa.ca.gov/pdfs/reports/2007-121.pdf>

["The state veterans home in Yountville, the nation's oldest veterans home, suffers from chronic staff shortages and a lack of proper oversight for timely maintenance of medical equipment.... The report concluded the home has had difficulty filling health care positions in recent years and some nurses have had to work substantial amounts of overtime to meet the residents' needs.... The auditor also found weak management of proper record-keeping and maintenance of medical equipment. In addition, the auditor concluded that the home should conduct a comprehensive assessment of whether its facilities meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act." San Francisco Chronicle (April 25, 2008) 1.]
[Request #S08-24-2186]

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YOUTH

A Collective Responsibility, A Collective Work: Supporting the Path to Positive Life Outcomes for Youth in Economically Distressed Communities. By Rhonda Tsoi-A-Fatt, Center for Law and Social Policy. (The Center, Washington, DC) May 2008. 34 p.

Full text at: <http://clasp.org/publications/collectiveresponsibility.pdf>

[“This paper presents a picture of risk and challenge for youth in distressed communities and outlines how these communities can band together to create a continuum of supportive activities to bolster youth's success in school and life. As youth grow and develop, individualized support and exposure to new experiences have a significant impact on their life trajectory. Youth in economically distressed communities deserve to have access to these types of opportunities, which are much more readily available to their peers in other communities. This investment in youth can have a positive effect on academic success, future life earnings, family stability, and the livelihood of the community.”]

[Request #S08-24-2275]

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