

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

California -- One Hundred Years Ago

August 1908. Spokane. "Desperate Deed. Bandits Hold Up Train at Spokane. Bandits held up the Northern Pacific westbound passenger train tonight near Trent, nine miles east of Spokane, drove out the engineer and fireman, uncoupled the mail car and locomotive from the rest of the train, and then themselves ran the engine and mail car to Yardley, in the outskirts of the city. A special train with officers has gone to the scene. It is not yet known whether the robbers got away with much loot." *Los Angeles Times* (August 15, 1908) pg. 11.

August 1908. "Safe Cracked at Alhambra. The Pacific Electric station at Alhambra and the store of the Alhambra Furniture Company in the same city were entered, probably by yeggmen, early yesterday morning. Although the railroad office was ransacked, the burglars secured nothing of value but a revolver. At the furniture store the safe was almost torn to pieces by nitroglycerine or dynamite, but only \$2 worth of postage stamps was secured. Because of the bungling manner in which both jobs were done, the officers believe that yeggmen were responsible. The safe was not locked and by turning the handle, the door could have been easily opened." *Los Angeles Times* (August 17, 2008) pg. 111. [The Random House Unabridged Dictionary defines "yegg" as a safecracker, itinerant burglar, or thug.]

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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

IMMIGRATION

The Recidivism Patterns of Previously Deported Aliens Released From a Local Jail: Are They High-Risk Offenders? By Laura J. Hickman and Marika J. Suttorp. IN: Crime & Delinquency, doi:10.1177/001128708317636. (June 2008)

Full text at: <http://cad.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/001128708317636v1>

["Illegal immigrants who have been deported at least once from the United States are far more likely than other immigrants to repeatedly commit crimes. The data indicated that illegal immigrants, overall, were not a greater crime risk, which looked at all inmates released from Los Angeles County Jail for a month in 2002. But among those who previously had been deported, reentered the U.S. and were arrested and released from jail, nearly 75% went on to commit another crime within a year. And 28% were arrested three or more times during the one-year period. The recidivism rate was much lower for illegal immigrants who had not been previously deported, with 32% of those inmates being rearrested within a year and 7% arrested three or more times during that year." Los Angeles Times (September 8, 2008) 1.]
[Request #S08-43-2856]

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JUVENILE JUSTICE

A Sensible Model for Juvenile Justice. By Jeffrey A. Butts, Chapin Hall Center for Children. (The Center, Chicago, Illinois) Summer 2008. 13 p.

Full text at: http://www.chapinhall.org/article_abstract.aspx?ar=1473

["This paper provides an overview of the current juvenile justice system and offers suggestions for a new model using a positive youth development approach. To be effective, juvenile justice must be theoretically oriented. The juvenile justice system should focus on reducing the causes of juvenile crime to reduce the effects of juvenile crime, and this requires program models that go beyond mental health services and substance abuse treatment. The majority of youth referred to the juvenile justice system do not have mental health disorders or substance abuse problems. Practitioners need a sensible model of intervention, one that can address the full range of delinquent offenders coming to the attention of law enforcement and the courts."]

[Request #S08-43-2817]

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PAROLE

Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation: It Does Not Always Follow Its Policies When Discharging Parolees. By the California Bureau of State Audits. (The Bureau, Sacramento, California) August 2008. 41 p.

Full text at: <http://www.bsa.ca.gov/pdfs/reports/2008-104.pdf>

["Nearly 5,000 California parolees -- including hundreds of sex offenders and those convicted of violent felonies -- have been released from supervision without proper review. The audit found corrections officials failed to file discharge reports for about 9 percent of 56,000 parolees between January 2007 and March 2008. As a result, about 775 ex-cons who had committed violent or sexual offenses were automatically released from parole." San Jose Mercury News (August 26, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-43-2826]

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DEMOGRAPHY

CALIFORNIA

Planning for California's Future: The State's Population Is Growing, Aging, and Becoming More Diverse. By the California Budget Project. (The Project, Sacramento, California) August 2008. 9 p.

Full text at: http://www.cbp.org/pdfs/2008/0808_bb_demographics.pdf

["California's population is growing, it's aging and its ethnic diversity is increasing, and that means the state must invest more in education, infrastructure and services for the elderly or face a crisis in the not-too-distant future.... 'We need to decide what is going to be the role of state policies,' said Jean Ross, executive director of the budget project. 'If not, we're not going to have an economy that can compete globally. And we'll have an aged population that doesn't have the resources to take care of itself.'" San Francisco Chronicle (August 12, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-43-2777]

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INCOME DISTRIBUTION

Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2007. By Carmen DeNavas-Walt and others, U.S.Census Bureau. AND: Income, Earnings, and Poverty Data From the 2007 American Community Survey. By Alemayehu Bishaw and Jessica Semega, U.S.Census Bureau. (The Bureau, Washington, DC) August 2008.

["With a three-year average of 18.6 percent of its population (6.7 million persons) lacking health insurance, California trailed just Texas, New Mexico, Florida, Arizona, Louisiana and Mississippi.... A California poverty rate of 12.4 percent is virtually identical to that of the nation as a whole, but it offers an internal contradiction when it comes to families' economic health. Poverty rates range from a Mississippi-like 23.7 percent in Tulare County to 5.9 percent in San Mateo County, lower than the lowest state (New Hampshire at 7.1 percent)." Sacramento Bee (August 26, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-43-2833]

Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance. 84 p.

<http://www.census.gov/prod/2008pubs/p60-235.pdf>

Income, Earnings, and Poverty Data. 51 p.

<http://www.census.gov/prod/2008pubs/acs-09.pdf>

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ECONOMY

BANKRUPTCY

Household Consumption and Personal Bankruptcy: Draft. By Ning Zhu, University of California, Davis. (The Author, Davis, California) September 2008. 38 p.

Full text at:

http://www.gsm.ucdavis.edu/uploadedFiles/Faculty/Directory_and_Profiles/personal_bank.pdf

["Overspending has become the leading source of personal bankruptcies in recent years. Previously, illness and unemployment were the primary reasons.... Zhu said debt caused half of all recent bankruptcies, while unemployment caused 13 percent of filings. Medical problems accounted for 5 percent. He said bankrupt households have bigger mortgages and higher car loans and credit card balances than households that keep their finances in the black. At the same time, bankrupt households earn half as much money as those that remain solvent. The research paper recommends bankruptcy law reform to prevent people from intentionally using bankruptcy to deal with excessive debts." Sacramento Bee (August 30, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-43-2838]

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NOT FOR PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Volunteering in America: 2008 State and City Trends and Rankings. By the Corporation for National & Community Service. (The Corporation, Washington, DC) July, 2008.

["California ranks 42nd with a rate of 24.3 percent, scarcely half of No. 1 Utah's participatory record. Not surprisingly, Salt Lake City ranked No. 1 among the nation's 50 largest cities and Provo, UT, No. 1 among medium-sized cities. San Francisco's 20th place was the best showing among California's large cities while Los Angeles was near the bottom at No. 44, with San Diego, Sacramento and San Jose in between. Oxnard was California's most volunteer-oriented medium-size city at No. 50." Sacramento Bee (July 29, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-43-2753]

Issue brief. 7p.

http://www.volunteeringinamerica.gov/assets/resources/VIA_Brief_FINAL.pdf

State profiles. Various pagings

<http://www.volunteeringinamerica.gov/map.cfm?mode=1>

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SILICON VALLEY

Life in the Valley Economy: Silicon Valley Progress Report 2008. By Louise Auerhahn and others, Working Partnerships USA. (Working Partnerships USA, San Jose, California) August 2008. 132 p.

Full text at: <http://www.wpusa.org/LIVE/linked/LIVE2008.pdf>

["Silicon Valley is known worldwide as a center of high-tech innovation, but a new report warns that a widening wage gap is putting pressure on middle-income earners and grinding down those at the bottom. Silicon Valley's economy is like a barbell or an hourglass -- great jobs at the top for software engineers and biotech scientists, and lots of low-paying jobs at the bottom for janitors and home health aides. But it's tough times for those in the middle to bottom.... Other suggestions from the report include partnerships between unions, business, community colleges and other local authorities to create job training programs to boost the skills of current or laid-off workers." San Francisco Chronicle (August 26, 2008) 1.]
[Request #S08-43-2814]

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EDUCATION

ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Learning What Works: Continuous Improvement in California's Education System. By Susanna Loeb and David N. Plank, Policy Analysis for California Education. (PACE, Berkeley, California) August 2008. 12 p.

Full text at: <http://pace.berkeley.edu/reports/PB.08-4.pdf>

["Loeb and Plank argue that to raise student performance and satisfy public expectations, California's education system must be transformed into a continuously improving system that encourages innovation, carefully measures the impact of different policies and practices, and -- most importantly -- learns from experience. They identify the essential features of a continuously improving system, which include clear and specific goals, timely and reliable data, strong capacity to support change, decision-making flexibility, and aligned incentives. They explain how each of these features supports continuous improvement, and discuss the differences between a continuously improving system and the education system that California has now."]
[Request #S08-43-2845]

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ART EDUCATION

Revitalizing Arts Education Through Community-Wide Coordination. By Susan J. Bodilly and others, RAND Corporation. (The Corporation, Santa Monica, California) 2008.

["For more than 30 years, arts education has been a low priority in the nation's public schools.... Some communities have responded with initiatives aimed at coordinating schools, cultural institutions, community-based organizations, foundations, and/or government agencies to promote access to arts learning for children in and outside of school. The objective of this study was to investigate this phenomenon in six urban U.S. communities descriptively and comparatively analyzing how these efforts started, how they evolved, what kinds of organizations became involved, what conditions fostered or impeded coordination, and what strategies were used to improve both access to and quality of arts education.... The six efforts are, generally speaking, fragile."]

[Request #S08-43-2825]

Report. 109 p.

http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2008/RAND_MG702.pdf

Summary. 10 p.

http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2008/RAND_MG702.sum.pdf

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TEXTBOOKS

Affordability of College Textbooks: Textbook Prices Have Risen Significantly in the Last Four Years, but Some Strategies May Help to Control These Costs for Students. By the California Bureau of State Audits. (The Bureau, Sacramento, California) August 2008. 106 p.

Full text at: <http://www.bsa.ca.gov/pdfs/reports/2007-116.pdf>

["Of 23 textbooks we reviewed, publishers released a new edition about every four years on average; however, many of the deans, department chairs, and faculty members that we interviewed stated that revisions to textbooks are minimal and are not always warranted... Campus bookstores have implemented several strategies to reduce students' textbook costs; however they have not consistently employed them. The community colleges and CSU, with some participation from UC, have explored possible solutions for the rising costs of textbooks, including open educational resources and the Digital Marketplace, both of which offer means of content delivery that differ from that of traditional textbooks."]

[Request #S08-43-2794]

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Course Correction: How Digital Textbooks are Off Track and How to Set Them Straight. By Nicole Allen, Make Textbooks Affordable. (Make Textbooks Affordable, Portland Oregon) August 2008. 22 p.

Full text at: http://www.maketextbooksaffordable.org/course_correction.pdf

["Over the past year, seemingly everyone from Congress to the California auditor have decried college textbook costs. Many of these critics have pointed to online digital textbooks, which typically sell for half the price of print editions, as an affordable alternative. But a sharply critical report asserts that commercial publishers are going about the digital textbook revolution the wrong way. Commercial e-textbooks are no cheaper than hard-copy editions when you take into account that students can sell print books back to the bookstore for half the cover price. And restrictions on printing and online access make commercial e-books unfeasible for many students." Los Angeles Times (August 26, 2008) 1.]
[Request #S08-43-2813]

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EMPLOYMENT

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Health Insurance and Job Creation by the Self-Employed. By Aparna Mathur, American Enterprise Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) August 2008. 44 p.

Full text at: http://www.aei.org/publications/pubID.28507/pub_detail.asp

[" What determines an entrepreneur's decision to employ more workers and expand the size of the business? Why do the bulk of small businesses employ less than 9 people, and why are more than 50% of small businesses sole-proprietorships with no employees? This paper highlights the role of health care regulation -- health insurance mandates -- on a small firm's decision to increase employment and expand the firm. While there is general agreement that health insurance mandates affect small firms disproportionately more, there are conflicting views about whether they distort firm behavior in terms of firm's decision to offer insurance coverage to workers, reduce coverage and their impact on small firm premium costs."]
[Request #S08-43-2808]

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LABOR UNIONS

The State of The Unions in 2008: A Profile of Union Membership in Los Angeles, California and the Nation. By Ruth Milkman and Bongoh Kye, UCLA Institute for Research on Labor and Employment. (The Institute, Los Angeles, California) September 2008. 14 p.

Full text at: <http://www.irle.ucla.edu/research/pdfs/unionmembership08-color.pdf>

["Pushed by membership gains here in California, the percentage of U.S. union workers is increasing for the first time since 1979. But it's not exactly a rapid advance. The rate of union membership rose only one-tenth of a percentage point from 2006 to 2007. From 2007 to 2008, union membership nationwide rose half a percentage point, to 12.6 percent of all U.S. civilian workers. The report says that only 7.7 percent of private sector jobs in the United States are held by union-represented workers. But the private sector numbers are slightly higher in California, at 10 percent or more.... The report said that this year, 57.1 percent of jobs in the public sector in California are held by union members, and the figure is 37.2 percent nationwide." San Francisco Chronicle (August 31, 2008) 1.]
[Request #S08-43-2837]

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WORKER RETRAINING

Pushing the Envelope: State Policy Innovations in Financing Postsecondary Education for Workers Who Study. By Radha Roy Biswas and others, Jobs for the Future. (Jobs for the Future, Boston Massachusetts) June 2008.

["Workers who study differ from traditional students in many ways. Most important, they must balance the obligations of school and work. In addition, although their incomes are usually higher than those of traditional students, they frequently also support families and must meet other family obligations. Workers who study also face a variety of barriers to receiving financial aid, including regulations related to enrollment costs and student income, enrollment intensity, and the type of training or education eligible for aid.... State governments are in a unique position to address these challenges. It is in their economic interest to invest in their workforces. Also, they can leverage the federal student aid system to help adults by coordinating state and federal student aid policies."]
[Request #S08-43-2805]

Report. 34 p.

<http://www.jff.org/Documents/BTPushingEnvelope.pdf>

Executive Summary. 2 p.

<http://www.jff.org/Documents/BTEnvelopeXS.pdf>

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WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Green Recovery: A New Program to Create Good Jobs and Start Building a Low-Carbon Economy. By Robert Pollin, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, and others. (Center for American Progress, Washington, DC) September 2008. 42 p.

Full text at: http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2008/09/pdf/green_recovery.pdf

["A \$100 billion US government investment over two years could create 2 million 'green' jobs in such industrial sectors as steel and construction.... \$50 billion of the investment would be tax credits to help private businesses and homeowners pay to make their buildings more energy efficient; \$46 billion would be in the form of direct government spending on retrofitting buildings, expanding mass transit and freight rail, making 'smart' electrical grids and new investment in renewable energy; and \$4 billion in federal loan guarantees. To put the amount in perspective, the April 2008 stimulus program cost US\$168 billion. Many of the new jobs would be in construction, where some 800,000 jobs have been lost in the last two years." Reuters (September 10, 2008) 1.]
[Request #S08-43-2859]

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ENERGY

ELECTRICITY INDUSTRY

The Smart Alternative: Securing and Strengthening Our Nation's Vulnerable Electric Grid. By Kenneth R. Nahigian, The Reform Institute. (The Institute, Alexandria, Virginia) June 30, 2008. 16 p.

Full text at:

http://www.reforminstitute.org/uploads/publications/Smart_Grid_Final.pdf

["With an increasing focus on developing and utilizing alternative energy sources to ensure a secure and reliable energy supply, the need is becoming abundantly clear for a modernized energy infrastructure capable of facilitating such innovation and enhancing America's resilience. The essence of resilience is the ability of our Nation to identify, prepare for, respond rapidly to, and recover from any possible catastrophic event. The practical adoption and implementation of a next-generation electrical power grid -- Smart Grid -- will reduce the consequences of the electrical grid being targeted by terrorists or adversely affected by a natural disaster while improving energy efficiency and reliability."]
[Request #S08-43-2804]

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LIQUIFIED NATURAL GAS

What Is LNG? And What Is Proposed for California? By the California Senate Office of Research. (The Office, Sacramento, California) September 2008. 8 p.

Full text at: <http://www.sor.govoffice3.com/vertical/Sites/%7B3BDD1595-792B-4D20-8D44-626EF05648C7%7D/uploads/%7B9EBEC7F2-AF36-41DC-92FA-E6A0BBD96C06%7D.PDF>

["Numerous energy companies are exploring new natural gas sources overseas, most notably liquefied natural gas (LNG), and some would even like to deliver LNG just offshore of Southern California.... While there are no liquefied natural gas facilities in California at present, three offshore LNG receiving (import) terminals are being proposed for the state; two are now under consideration and another company expects to file an application soon: Clearwater Port, 12.6 miles offshore of Oxnard; OceanWay Secure Energy, 27 miles offshore of Los Angeles; and Port Esperanza, 15 miles seaward of the Port of Long Beach.... California currently imports 86.5 percent of its natural gas supply and the state's demand for natural gas -- with LNG potentially being a viable long-term option -- is growing."]
[Request #S08-43-2852]

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ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Change and Discounting the Future: A Guide for the Perplexed. By David Weisbach, University of Chicago Law School, and Cass R. Sunstein, Harvard Law School. (American Enterprise Institute, Washington, DC) August 2008. 38 p.

Full text at: <http://aei-brookings.org/admin/authorpdfs/redirect-safely.php?fname=./pdffiles/phpEK.pdf>

["Some of the most important disagreements about how aggressively to respond to the threat of climate change turn on the choice of the discount rate. A high discount rate implies relatively modest and slow reductions; a low discount rate implies immediate and dramatic action. The debate between the two sides reflects a disagreement between the positivists, who argue for a market rate, and the ethicists, who urge that the positivist approach violates the duty of the present to the future. We argue that the positivists are largely right, and that the question of discounting should be separated from the question of the ethical duties of the present. Discounting is a means of taking account of opportunity costs, and a refusal to discount may well hurt, rather than help, future generations.."]
[Request #S08-43-2811]

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WATER CONSERVATION

More with Less: Agricultural Water Conservation and Efficiency in California: A Special Focus on the Delta. By Heather Cooley and others, Pacific Institute. (The Institute, Oakland, California) September 2008.

["By growing less thirsty crops and investing in more efficient irrigation technology, California farmers could save billions of gallons of water each year....Before Californians take on costly new dam and reservoir projects, state and federal policymakers need to build on existing methods for reducing agricultural water use.... With farmers using about 80 percent of the water drawn from the critically ill Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, agricultural water conservation must expand -- and quickly.... The report also recommends broader changes to state and federal policies that are sure to draw sharp criticism from farmers. Policymakers should reduce or realign federal subsidies that encourage the growing of low-value, water-heavy crops such as alfalfa and cotton." San Francisco Chronicle (September 8, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-43-2855]

Report. 69 p.

http://www.pacinst.org/reports/more_with_less_delta/more_with_less.pdf

Executive Summary. 12 p.

http://www.pacinst.org/reports/more_with_less_delta/exec_sum.doc.pdf

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Saving Water: From Field to Fork: Curbing Losses and Wastage in the Food Chain. By Jan Lundqvist and others, Stockholm International Water Institute. (The Institute, Stockholm, Sweden) 2008. 36 p.

Full text at:

http://www.siwi.org/documents/Resources/Policy_Briefs/PB_From_Field_to_Fork_2008.pdf

["Agriculture is the largest human use of water. Clearly, agricultural practices need to be targeted to reduce wastage of water. This has been the center of attention for water saving practices for years. But there are additional ways to save water. Food consumers and businesses have a key role. Losses of food between the farmers' field to our dinner table -- in food storage, transport, food processing, retail and in our kitchens -- are huge. This loss of food is equivalent to a loss in water. Reducing food loss and wastage lessens water needs in agriculture. We need to pay more attention to this fact. Our key message: make the food chain more efficient to save water to facilitate the achievement of multiple development objectives."]

[Request #S08-43-2810]

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GENERAL GOVERNMENT

ELECTIONS

Key Questions for Key States. By Nathan Cemenska and Sarah Cherry, Ohio State University, Moritz College of Law. (The College, Columbus, Ohio) September 3, 2008. 21 p.

Full text at:

<http://moritzlaw.osu.edu/electionlaw/maps/documents/50QsforExecutiveSummarywithlinks.pdf>

["The 2000 presidential contest was a disaster and, since then, disturbing election problems have occurred in Ohio, Colorado, Florida and elsewhere. Will the 2008 presidential election be similarly flawed, or will it go smoothly?... To help answer this question, we researched dozens of election law issues over 17 states, categorized the approach of each state, and plugged the data into a series of interactive maps and charts.... We divided the issues into ten groups: institutional arrangements, voter registration/statewide database, challenges to voter eligibility, provisional voting, early and absentee voting, voting technology, polling place operations, ballot security, emergency preparedness, and post-election processes (counting, recounting and post-election lawsuits)."]
[Request #S08-43-2854]

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

State and Federal Electronic Government in the United States, 2008. By Darrell M. West, Brookings Institution. (The Institution, Washington, DC)August 26, 2008. 19 p.

Full text at:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2008/0826_egovernment_west/0826_egovernment_west.pdf

["This report assesses the nature of American state and federal electronic government in 2008 by examining whether e-government effectively capitalizes on the interactive features available on the World Wide Web to improve service delivery and public outreach. Although considerable progress has been made over the past decade, e-government has fallen short of its potential to transform public-sector operations. This report closes by suggesting how public officials can take maximum advantage of technology to improve government performance.... The top ranking state is Delaware with an 83.7 percent score. It is followed by Georgia, Florida, California, Massachusetts, Maine, Kentucky, Alabama, Indiana and Tennessee."]

[Request #S08-43-2841]

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PUBLIC POLICY

Beyond Ideology, Politics, and Guesswork: The Case for Evidence-Based Policy.
By Terence Dunworth and others, the Urban Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) August 2008. 8 p.

Full text at: http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/901189_evidencebased.pdf

["U.S. public policy has increasingly been conceived, debated, and evaluated through the lenses of politics and ideology. The fundamental question -- Will the policy work? -- too often gets short shrift or even ignored. A remedy is evidence-based policy -- a rigorous approach that draws on careful data collection, experimentation, and both quantitative and qualitative analysis to determine what the problem is, which ways it can be addressed, and the probable impacts of each of these ways. Examples of how evidence informs good policy and lack of evidence can invite bad include health insurance coverage, education, sentencing policy, and redress for housing discrimination."]

[Request #S08-43-2800]

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HEALTH

EMERGENCY CARE

Emergency Department Care in California: Who Uses It and Why? By Shannon McConville and Helen Lee, Public Policy Institute of California. (The Institute, San Francisco, California) August 2008. 24 p.

Full text at: <http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=775>

["Californians make more than 10 million visits to hospital emergency departments annually. Many of these could be avoided with timely care from family physicians or outpatient clinics. This issue of California Counts presents a comprehensive portrait of emergency department care from several perspectives. Among its findings: The Central Valley and Los Angeles are home to some of the most crowded emergency departments in the state; patients with Medi-Cal coverage visit emergency departments more than do the uninsured; and Hispanics and Asians are less likely to use emergency care than whites."]

[Request #S08-43-2843]

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HEALTH CARE POLICY

Behavioral Economics: Lessons from Retirement Research for Health Care and Beyond. By Peter Orszag, Congressional Budget Office. (The Office, Washington, DC) August 7, 2008. 14 p.

Full text at: http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/96xx/doc9673/08-07-Presentation_RRC.pdf

["When it comes to complex choices such as whether to save and when to retire, people's decisions are often influenced by social norms and the presentation of their options -- in addition to the 'substance' of the options themselves. Behavioral economics has suggested ways to change how such choices are presented in order to help improve decisionmaking without necessarily constraining choice. But when we shift our attention to what is perhaps an even more urgent public policy issue -- health care costs and the large portion of those resources that do not result in improved health -- progress has been disappointing. Despite the central importance of health care, relatively little research in behavioral economics has been conducted in the area, and, of course, even fewer results have been implemented in policy."]
[Request #S08-43-2776]

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HEALTH INSURANCE

Losing Ground: How the Loss of Adequate Health Insurance Is Burdening Working Families. By Sara R. Collins and others, The Commonwealth Fund. (The Fund, New York, New York) August 2008. 51 p.

Full text at:

http://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/publications_show.htm?doc_id=700872

["The economic downturn is forcing working families across the United States to make tough financial choices, often sacrificing needed health care and health insurance. This report examines the status of health insurance for U.S. adults under age 65 and the implications for family finances and access to health care. Insurance coverage deteriorated over the past six years, with declines in coverage most severe for moderate-income families. As result, more families are experiencing medical bill problems or cost-related delays in getting needed care. In 2007, nearly two-thirds of U.S. adults struggled to pay medical bills, went without needed care because of cost, were uninsured for a time, or were underinsured (i.e., were insured but not adequately protected from high medical expenses).]
[Request #S08-43-2802]

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HOUSING

HOME OWNERSHIP

Seven Ways Foreclosures Impact Communities. By Christine Vidmar, NeighborWorks America. (NeighborWorks, Washington, DC) August 2008. 7 p.

Full text at:

<http://www.nw.org/network/neighborworksprogs/foreclosuresolutions/reports/documents/7ForeclosureImpacts.pdf>

["The negative impacts of foreclosure on communities are far reaching. Although little formal data exists on this subject, local news accounts and reports from local officials paint a multifaceted picture. Not only are people losing homes, but also communities are suffering economically, physically and socially.... Communities suffer from increased crime.... Communities take a financial hit.... Community members are vulnerable to financial scams.... Youth experience stress and instability.... Displaced residents struggle to find shelter.... Communities are blighted by neglect.... Minorities are impacted disproportionately."]

[Request #S08-43-2844]

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HOUSING

Workforce Housing Scorecard for Los Angeles: 2008. By the Los Angeles Business Council. (The Council, Los Angeles, California) September 2008. 30 p.

Full text at:

http://www.labusinesscouncil.org/online_documents/2008/808014_LABC_PROGRAM_RS.pdf

["This publication looks at housing supply, affordability and density in L.A. County in relation to the County's changing demographics and job growth. Some of the issues examined include: the impact of housing affordability on employee retention, new housing units produced in relation to increased population growth, ratio of new housing to new jobs, the impact of housing prices on job and population growth, the impact of housing density and locations on future commutes, and more. A scorecard is presented that includes the 88 cities in L.A. County and 7 area planning commissions of the City of L.A. ranking these places on the following measures: total job growth, total housing growth, jobs to housing ratio, and change in housing density."]

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HUMAN SERVICES

CHILDREN

Parental Incarceration and Child Wellbeing in Fragile Families. By the Center for Research on Child Wellbeing. (The Center, Princeton, New Jersey) April 2008. 3 p.

Full text at: <http://www.fragilefamilies.princeton.edu/briefs/ResearchBrief42.pdf>

["This brief summarizes the results of an extensive analysis examining the risks faced by urban children whose parents have been incarcerated. The findings are not meant to suggest a causal relationship between incarceration and child wellbeing. Rather, the analyses identify the extent to which the children of incarcerated parents are at greater risk for material hardship, family instability, or developmental challenges. Understanding the areas in which these children experience the most substantial risk will help identify opportunities for intervention and the judicious use of social services."]

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POVERTY

Reversal of Fortune: A New Look at Concentrated Poverty in the 2000s. By Elizabeth Kneebone and Alan Berube, Metropolitan Policy Program at Brookings Institution. (The Institution, Washington, DC) August 2008. 28 p.

Full text at:

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2008/08_concentrated_poverty_kneebone/concentrated_poverty.pdf

["An analysis of the changing geographic distribution of low-income workers and their families, measured by receipt of the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) in tax years 1999 and 2005, nationwide and in 58 major metropolitan areas across the country reveals that: 1) The number of tax filers nationwide living in areas with high rates of working poverty increased by 40 percent, or 1.6 million filers; 2) Of 58 large metropolitan areas studied, 34 experienced increased rates of concentrated working poverty; 3) Major metropolitan areas in the Midwest and Northeast experienced substantial increases in concentrated working poverty over the first half of the decade, but Western metro areas saw steep declines; and 4) Both central cities and suburbs saw an increase in high-working-poverty communities."]

[Request #S08-43-2819]

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WELFARE TO WORK

A Comparison of Two Job Club Strategies: The Effects of Enhanced Versus Traditional Job Clubs in Los Angeles. By David Navarro and others, MDRC. (MDRC, New York, New York) August 2008

["Although much is known about how to help welfare applicants and recipients find jobs, little is known about how best to help them keep jobs or advance in the labor market. This report compares two different strategies for placing such individuals into jobs. One strategy, the Enhanced Job Club (EJC) model, seeks to place individuals in jobs that are in line with their careers of interest, under the theory that this might result in greater job retention and advancement. The other strategy, the Traditional Job Club (TJC) model, seeks to place individuals quickly in any type of job, under the theory that any job provides good training in work skills and may lead to better job opportunities.... The EJC model, compared with the TJC model, did not increase employment retention or advancement."]

[Request #S08-43-2848]

Report. 141 p.

<http://www.mdrc.org/publications/493/full.pdf>

Executive Summary. Various pagings.

<http://www.mdrc.org/publications/493/execsum.html>

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TRANSPORTATION

DRIVERS

Pay-As-You-Drive Auto Insurance: A Simple Way to Reduce Driving-Related Harms and Increase Equity. AND: The Impact of Pay-As-You-Drive Auto Insurance in California. By Jason E. Bordoff and Pascal J. Noel, Brookings Institution. (The Institution, Washington, DC) July 2008.

["The current lump-sum pricing of auto insurance is inefficient and inequitable. Drivers who are similar in other respects -- age, gender, location, driving safety record -- pay nearly the same premiums if they drive five thousand or fifty thousand miles a year.... A better approach is simple and obvious: pay-as-you-drive (PAYD) auto insurance..... We find that California drivers would especially benefit from a switch to PAYD auto insurance pricing. PAYD would result in an 8 percent driving reduction from light-duty vehicles. PAYD would generate 7 to 9 percent of the total CO2 reductions needed to meet California's emissions targets for 2020. Nearly two-thirds (64 percent) of households in California would have lower premiums under PAYD. Low-income drivers would benefit especially."]

[Request #S08-43-2842]

Pay-As-You-Drive Auto Insurance. 58 p.

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2008/07_payd_bordoffnoel/07_payd_bordoffnoel.pdf

The Impact of PAYD in California. 19 p.

http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/papers/2008/07_payd_california_bordoffnoel/07_payd_california_bordoffnoel.pdf

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SURFACE TRANSPORTATION

Managing Transport Challenges When Oil Prices Rise. By T. Hazledine, University of Auckland, and others. (New Zealand Transport Agency, Wellington, New Zealand) August 2008. 148 p.

Full text at: <http://www.landtransport.govt.nz/research/reports/357.pdf>

["When oil prices rise and consumers are faced with higher prices for petrol and diesel, government agencies are confronted with higher costs for maintaining and constructing road infrastructure as well as higher costs for operating public transport services. The price of oil is therefore a key driver of the cost of using, maintaining, constructing, and operating the transport network. This report aims to help government agencies understand the risks posed by high oil prices and, ultimately, recommend changes so that the transport system develops in a way that is less dependent on oil based transport fuels. The results of this research are summarised into four key sections, namely: modelling prices for transport fuels, modelling future travel demands, recommended responses to rising oil prices, and potential impacts of the responses."]

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