

**CALIFORNIA RESEARCH BUREAU  
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Studies in the News**

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**California -- One Hundred Years Ago**

**October 1908:** “Upon the inauguration of the system of bank examination proposed at the meeting of the central board of the State Clearinghouse Association, which adjourned today, California will be provided with an absolute prohibition of bank failure, according to C.E. Woodside, cashier of the First National Bank of Los Angeles, who performed most of the work of drafting the constitution of the new organization. So exhaustive will be the examination undertaken by the association that even the slightest technical discrepancy in the conduct of the bank will be at once detected and the most drastic measures put in force to obviate the harm falling upon the association, institutions or depositors.” *Los Angeles Times* (October 15, 1908) pg. I3.

**1908:** “A big sensation was created here this evening by the grand jury report, which says, in regard to the Bank of Calistoga failure: “We cannot too strongly condemn the course of the bank commissioners in letting this bank’s affairs slide carelessly along without any proper investigation, even while the bank was being closed, opened and closed again by order of that commission. The commissioners appear to have been entirely indifferent to the real conditions there. We firmly believe that the loss which has been suffered could have been avoided if any proper supervision had been exercised by the commission as is contemplated by statute.” It was expected that the jury could return several indictments on account of the failure but did not. The president, Harry H. Brown, is in Manila, and Cashier, G. Starr Cutler is in the East.” *Los Angeles Times* (December 29, 1908) pg. I3.

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## Introduction to Studies in the News

*Studies in the News* is a current compilation of items significant to the Legislature and Governor's Office. It is created weekly by the California State Library's [California Research Bureau](#) to supplement the public policy debate in California. To help share the latest information with state policymakers, these reading lists are now being made accessible through the California State Library's website. This week's list of current articles in various public policy areas is presented below. Prior lists can be viewed from the California State Library's Web site at [www.library.ca.gov/sitn](http://www.library.ca.gov/sitn)

- When available, the URL for the full text of each item is provided.
- California State Employees may contact the State Information & Reference Center (916-654-0261); [csinfo@library.ca.gov](mailto: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

### GUNS & GUN CONTROL

**The Effect of Gun Shows on Gun-Related Deaths: Evidence from California and Texas. By Mark Duggan, University of Maryland, and others. (National Bureau of Economic Research, Cambridge, Massachusetts) October 2008. 53 p.**

Full text at: <http://papers.nber.org/papers/w14371>

["Gun control advocates argue that because sales at gun shows are much less regulated than other sales, such shows make it easier for potential criminals to obtain a gun.... On the other hand, proponents argue that gun shows are innocuous since potential criminals can acquire guns quite easily through other black market sales or theft. In this paper, we use data from Gun and Knife Show Calendar combined with vital statistics data to examine the effect of gun shows. We find no evidence that gun shows lead to substantial increases in either gun homicides or suicides. In addition, tighter regulation of gun shows does not appear to reduce the number of firearms-related deaths."]

[Request #S08-47-2935]

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## PRISONER REENTRY

**Release Planning for Successful Reentry: A Guide for Corrections, Service Providers, and Community Groups. By Nancy La Vigne and others, the Urban Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) September 2008. 104 p.**

Full text at: [http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411767\\_successful\\_reentry.pdf](http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411767_successful_reentry.pdf)

["This report is designed to help the corrections community, service providers and community groups prepare prisoners for the moment of release from prison and the time immediately following release. It describes the eight most basic and immediate needs returning prisoners have when they exit prison, recommends minimum policies practitioners can institute to meet these needs, and highlights the opportunities and challenges practitioners face when trying to improve their release planning policies. The report also uses the results of a survey of 43 departments of corrections to illustrate what release planning procedures are currently being implemented across the country."]

[Request #S08-47-2934]

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## DEMOGRAPHY

### IMMIGRATION

**Trends in Unauthorized Immigration: Undocumented Inflow Now Trails Legal Inflow. By Jeffrey Passel and D'Vera Cohn, Pew Hispanic Center. (The Center, Washington, DC) October 2008. 25 p.**

Full text at: <http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/94.pdf>

["In tandem with a sluggish U.S. economy, the number of illegal immigrants entering the United States each year since 2005 has dropped significantly -- and the undocumented population has stopped growing.... Between 2000 and 2004, during periods of more robust economic growth, an average of 800,000 illegal immigrants a year either overstayed visas or crossed into the United States. From 2005 to 2008, the average number of illegal immigrants entering dropped to 500,000 a year. For the first time in a decade, fewer illegal immigrants are coming into the United States now than legal immigrants... Passel noted that beefed-up border and workplace enforcement also may be slowing illegal immigration." Sacramento Bee (October 3, 2008) A3.]

[Request #S08-47-2919]

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## ECONOMY

### AGRIBUSINESS

**Summary of California County Agricultural Commissioners' Reports, 2006-2007. By the National Agricultural Statistics Service, California Field Office. (The Office, Sacramento, California) August 29, 2008. 21 p.**

Full text at:

[http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/California/Publications/AgComm/2007/08cavtb00.pdf](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/California/Publications/AgComm/2007/08cavtb00.pdf)

["California's farmers easily maintained its status as the nation's most productive agricultural state last year, with just under \$44 billion in crops. At \$7.3 billion, dairying was the state's biggest agricultural category last year, followed by grapes at \$4 billion. Although \$44 billion is a big number, it still represents a fraction, less than 3 percent of the state's overall economic output, which ranks eighth in the world." Sacramento Bee (September 16, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-47-2906]

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### ECONOMIC POLICY

**Common Wealth: Economics for a Crowded Planet. By Jeffrey D. Sachs. (The Penguin Press, New York, New York) 2008. 400 p.**

[" Sachs argues that the problems of global warming, biodiversity, water scarcity, overpopulation and global poverty all can be solved in an affordable manner.... Sachs deploys a number of gambits to make the case for the political viability of his plans. The first is to stress past examples of international cooperation.... The second gambit is to embrace technological optimism. Sachs is a big fan of carbon capture and sequestration and other innovations that could reduce the emission of greenhouse gases.... The third tactic is to stress the relative affordability of his plans." Washington Post (July 17, 2008) 1.] Note: Common Wealth is available for loan

[Request #S08-47-2939]

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## EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

**A Study of the Economic Impact and Benefits of UC San Diego: Fiscal Year 2006-07. By CBRE Consulting, Inc. Prepared for University of California, San Diego. (The University, San Diego, California) July 2008.**

["The University of California campus contributes \$5.7 billion in direct and indirect spending and personal income to the local economy. And it continues to be a wellspring of wealth and ideas. More than 33,600 local jobs are tied to the university, while research on campus has helped spur the creation of dozens of companies across the state.... Drawing on fiscal year 2006-07 data, the company examined the financial impact of academic programs, UCSD Medical Center, faculty research, student and visitor spending and other direct and indirect impacts. The study says every dollar in direct spending at UCSD generates an additional 92 cents in indirect spending in the county." San Diego Union-Tribune (October 1, 2008) 1.][Request #S08-47-2912]

Report. 112 p.

<http://ucsdnews.ucsd.edu/EconomicImpact/pdf/UC-San-Diego-Economic-Impact-Report-July-10-2008.pdf>

Executive Summary. Various pagings.

<http://ucsdnews.ucsd.edu/EconomicImpact/execSummary.html>

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## EDUCATION

### ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

**A Call to Restructure Restructuring: Lessons from the No Child Left Behind Act in Five States. By Caitlin Scott, Center on Education Policy. (The Center, Washington, DC) September 2008. 33 p.**

Full text at: [http://www.cep-dc.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=document\\_ext.showDocumentByID&nodeID=1&DocumentID=248](http://www.cep-dc.org/index.cfm?fuseaction=document_ext.showDocumentByID&nodeID=1&DocumentID=248)

["If the system mandated by No Child Left Behind to fix thousands of failing schools were subjected to its own rigorous standards, it too could fail. That's the conclusion of the first large study examining whether school-restructuring programs required by the federal No Child Left Behind education act are actually working. The number of schools failing to meet achievement goals nationwide under No Child Left Behind jumped by 50 percent since last year -- with California leading the way. California now has more than 1,000 persistently failing schools forced to undergo drastic restructuring. That's more than any other state." San Francisco Chronicle (September 23, 2008) 1.][Request #S08-47-2902]

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## UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

**University of California Accountability Framework: Draft for Discussion. By the University of California, Office of the President. (The Office, Oakland, California) September 21, 2008. 211 p.**

Full text at:

[http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/accountability/documents/accountabilityframework\\_draft.pdf](http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/accountability/documents/accountabilityframework_draft.pdf)

["The report, which will be updated annually, provides data on about 100 measures of its 10-campus system, from diversity to faculty salaries. It represents UC's first leap into the national 'accountability' movement.... Much of the information contained in the report is already in the public domain. But buried within complex charts and tables, it was not easily accessible. The report compares UC campuses to each other, as well as other public institutions, like the University of Michigan, and private peers, such as Stanford.... The report represents a shift in policy by UC, which has resisted participating in an accountability system. In contrast, California State University has enthusiastically adopted this approach and has put out its own report since 1999." San Jose Mercury News (September 22, 2008) 1.]  
[Request #S08-47-2910]

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## WORKFORCE PREPARATION

**A Developmental Perspective on College and Workplace Readiness. By Laura Lippman and others, Child Trends. (Child Trends, Washington, DC) September 2008. 49 p.**

Full text at: [http://www.childtrends.org/Files//Child\\_Trends-2008\\_09\\_15\\_FR\\_ReadinessReport.pdf](http://www.childtrends.org/Files//Child_Trends-2008_09_15_FR_ReadinessReport.pdf)

["A new report finds that there are many opportunities for high schools to widen the road to success by focusing on the competencies necessary for the development of the whole young person. The report cross-walks research on college readiness, workplace readiness, and youth development, identifying areas of consensus as well as gaps. It also focuses on successful strategies for groups of students that face greater challenges in preparing for college, the workplace, and the transition to adulthood. The report identifies several critical gaps in the criteria used by colleges and employers to determine the competence of young applicants and identifies strengths valued by colleges and employers, but largely overlooked in the youth development research literature."]  
[Request #S08-47-2929]

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## EMPLOYMENT

### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

**Current and Potential Green Jobs in the U.S. Economy. By Global Insight. Prepared for the United States Conference of Mayors and the Mayors Climate Protection Center. (The Conference, Washington, DC) October 2008.**

["The US economy could generate 4.2 million new 'green' jobs in the next 30 years, about 10 percent of all the jobs created. The United States now has about 750,000 green jobs, which generally involve producing renewable energy or providing engineering, legal or research support.... The study is the first attempt to quantify the economic opportunity presented by a drive by US cities and states to boost energy efficiency and reduce greenhouse gases and the use of fossil fuels.... The forecast is based on the assumption that 40 percent of the electricity generated in the United States by 2038 will come from alternative fuels. It also assumes that 30 percent of fuel used in cars and light trucks will come from alternatives to gasoline and diesel, and that electricity use in existing buildings will drop by 35 percent." Reuters (October 3, 2008) 1.]  
[Request #S08-47-2932]

Report. 41 p.

<http://www.usmayors.org/pressreleases/uploads/GreenJobsReport.pdf>

Key findings. 2 p.

<http://www.usmayors.org/pressreleases/uploads/greenjobkeyfinds.pdf>

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## ENERGY

### ENERGY CONSERVATION

**2008 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard. By Maggie Eldridge and others, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy. (The Council, Washington, DC) October 2008.**

["Energy efficiency is the 'first fuel' in the race for clean and secure energy resources. Faced with rapidly increasing energy prices, constraints in energy supply and transmission, and energy reliability concerns, states are turning to energy efficiency as the most reliable, cost-effective, and quickest resource to deploy....

We present here a comprehensive state energy efficiency scorecard to document best practices and recognize leadership among the states. The scorecard can serve as a means of benchmarking state efforts, with the goal of encouraging states to continue to raise the bar in efficiency commitments.... California tops the list of U.S. states employing energy efficiency to grow their economies while meeting electricity demand, combating global warming, and contributing to U.S. energy security."]

[Request #S08-47-2936]

Report. 57 p.

<http://aceee.org/pubs/e086.pdf?CFID=301223&CFTOKEN=80926155>

Executive Summary. 5 p.

[http://www.aceee.org/pubs/e086\\_es.pdf](http://www.aceee.org/pubs/e086_es.pdf)

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## ENERGY MANAGEMENT

**A National Strategy for Energy Security: Recommendations to the Nation on Reducing U.S. Oil Dependence. By the Energy Security Leadership Council. (Securing America's Future Energy, Washington, DC) September 2008. 124 p.**

Full text at: [http://www.secureenergy.org/files/files/936\\_Recommendations\\_2008.pdf](http://www.secureenergy.org/files/files/936_Recommendations_2008.pdf)

["The Energy Security Leadership Council believes that America's energy security can be fundamentally improved through major reductions in oil demand and increases in domestic energy production. Above all, we must transform our transportation sector so that oil is no longer its primary fuel. ... Taken as a whole, our proposals constitute a comprehensive and integrated plan for achieving a safer energy future for America. We fully expect that all participants in this deeply entrenched debate will take issue with some of our solutions. Our mission is to secure the support of a bipartisan coalition that has the vision to identify -- and the courage to sustain-- difficult choices."]

[Request #S08-47-2923]

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## ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

### AGRICULTURE

**Food Safety: Improvements Needed in FDA Oversight of Fresh Produce.** By the U.S. Government Accountability Office. GAO-08-1047. (The Office, Washington, DC) September 2008.

Full text at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d081047.pdf>

["FDA has no formal program devoted exclusively to fresh produce and has not consistently and reliably tracked its fresh produce spending. FDA has proposed changes through its Food Protection Plan that could significantly enhance its fresh produce oversight. However, the agency is still in the planning stages for several enhancements and has not provided specific information on strategies and resources, making it difficult to assess the likelihood of success.... GAO recommends, among other things, that the Commissioner of FDA update its guidance on good agricultural practices and its regulations on current good manufacturing practice for food, and seek explicit authority from the Congress to adopt preventive controls for high-risk foods and authority for enhanced access to records."]

[Request #S08-47-2921]

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### GREEN HOUSE GASES

**Climate-Change Policy and CO2 Emissions from Passenger Vehicles.** By David Austin, Congressional Budget Office. (The Office, Washington, DC) October 3, 2008. 8 p.

Full text at: [http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/98xx/doc9830/10-06-ClimateChange\\_Brief.pdf](http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/98xx/doc9830/10-06-ClimateChange_Brief.pdf)

["This issue brief examines the role of passenger vehicles (cars and light trucks) in the U.S. effort to curb those emissions. In particular, the brief looks at how putting a price on CO2 emissions would affect gasoline prices and, as a consequence, vehicle emissions.... The initial impact on vehicle emissions would be particularly small: People could drive less and at slower speeds, and some could switch to public transit, but in the short run they would have few other alternatives. Over time, consumers could respond to higher gasoline prices by buying more fuel-efficient vehicles and reducing their commuting distance when an opportunity arises.... But a CO2 price high enough to induce sizable reductions from other sources of emissions would have only a small effect on vehicle emissions of CO2."]

[Request #S08-47-2926]

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**Design Recommendations for the WCI Regional Cap-and-Trade Program. By the Western Climate Initiative. (The Initiative, Denver, Colorado) September 2008. 122 p.**

Full text at:

<http://www.westernclimateinitiative.org/ewebeditpro/items/O104F19865.PDF>

["Seven Western states and four Canadian provinces proposed a sweeping regional crackdown on global warming emissions in the face of continuing reluctance by the Bush administration and Congress to pass comprehensive climate legislation. The Initiative aims to slash regional greenhouse gas pollutants by about 15% below 2005 levels in the next 12 years.... The plan covers about 20% of the U.S. economy and more than 70% of the Canadian economy, affecting power plants, industrial facilities and transportation, among other economic sectors. The seven states are Arizona, California, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah and Washington. The Canadian provinces are British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec." Los Angeles Times (September 24, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-47-2905]

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## **GENERAL GOVERNMENT**

### **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

**Urban to Rural Evacuation: Planning for Rural Population Surge. By Michael Meit and others, The Walsh Center for Rural Health Analysis. (The Center, Chicago, Illinois) August 2008. 30 p**

Full text at: [http://www.norc.org/NR/rdonlyres/D0577161-5CFF-4F4A-A243-2BB67826A256/0/URBANTORURALEVACUATIONPLANNINGFORRURALPOPULATIONSURGE\\_FinalReport.pdf](http://www.norc.org/NR/rdonlyres/D0577161-5CFF-4F4A-A243-2BB67826A256/0/URBANTORURALEVACUATIONPLANNINGFORRURALPOPULATIONSURGE_FinalReport.pdf)

["Rural emergency planning efforts have focused more on addressing the needs of rural residents and have not accounted for potential population surge from neighboring urban areas in the event of disaster. In many areas, rural infrastructure and capacities are likely to be stretched thin or possibly overwhelmed.... While residents might evacuate to rural areas, an additional concern is the large number who may evacuate through these areas, consuming fuel, food, water, and sanitation resources as they travel to their destinations..... Evacuees exposed to radiation, chemical, or biological threats will likely overwhelm the health systems of small communities, and may also precipitate health consequences among the local population."]

[Request #S08-47-2930]

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## LOTTERIES

**Turning the Lottery Loose. By Jonathan Walters. IN: Governing, (September 2008) Various pagings.**

Full text at: <http://www.governing.com/articles/0809/lotteries.htm>

[“If there is one state that symbolizes all the hopes and aspirations, pressures and problems related to lotteries as a miracle fiscal fix, it is California. In the past two years, the California lottery has become the focus of intense fiscal interest, not to mention fierce political warfare.... The whole question of a lottery's earning potential, though, is tricky and controversial. Setting aside the issue of whether the private sector might be more adept at running lotteries, the extent to which state lotteries are leaving too much money in the pockets of their residents depends to a large degree on the rules and regulations surrounding how each particular lottery operates.”]

[Request #S08-47-2899]

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## STATE BUDGETS

**State Revenue Report: The Damage Is Just Beginning: Sales and Property Taxes Weaken: Sharp Drop in Income Taxes Appears Near-Certain. By Donald J. Boyd and Lucy Dadayan, Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government. (The Institute, Albany, New York) October 2008. 29 p.**

Full text at: <http://www.rockinst.org/WorkArea/showcontent.aspx?id=15322>

["State tax revenues were superficially strong in this year's second quarter, as predicted in our last revenue report, but trouble is brewing. Some states have already made midyear budget cuts, and more widespread cuts are virtually certain as revenues deteriorate further. Overall, state tax collections rose 3.6 percent from a year earlier. A 1.4 percent decline in the sales tax, an 8.3 percent decline in the corporate income tax, and a 3.4 percent decline in motor fuel taxes were more than offset by income tax growth of 6.6 percent. The income tax growth was driven by income earned in 2007 and will be ephemeral. States should expect sharp declines in income-tax revenue later this fiscal year, especially in the important April-June quarter."]

[Request #S08-47-2925]

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## VOTERS & VOTING

**Voter Purges.** By Myrna Pérez, Brennan Center for Justice, New York University School of Law. (The Center, New York, New York) September 2008.

["Voter registration lists, also called voter rolls, are the gateway to voting. A citizen typically cannot cast a vote that will count unless her name appears on the voter registration rolls.... Purges, if done properly, are an important way to ensure that voter rolls are dependable, accurate, and up-to-date. Precise and carefully conducted purges can remove duplicate names, and people who have moved, died, or are otherwise ineligible. Far too frequently, however, eligible, registered citizens show up to vote and discover their names have been removed from the voter lists. States maintain voter rolls in an inconsistent and unaccountable manner. Officials strike voters from the rolls through a process that is shrouded in secrecy, prone to error, and vulnerable to manipulation."]

[Request #S08-47-2927]

Report. 52 p.

[http://www.brennancenter.org/content/resource/voter\\_purges](http://www.brennancenter.org/content/resource/voter_purges)

Executive Summary. 10 p.

[http://brennan.3cdn.net/6a4d11c28940329e55\\_6lm6bn1jd.pdf](http://brennan.3cdn.net/6a4d11c28940329e55_6lm6bn1jd.pdf)

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**Elections: States, Territories, and the District Are Taking a Range of Important Steps to Manage Their Varied Voting System Environments.** By the U.S. Government Accountability Office. GAO-08-874. (The Office, Washington, DC) September 2008. 129 p.

Full text at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08874.pdf>

["Notwithstanding their system approval and testing efforts, most states nevertheless have reported experiencing problems on Election Day. While these entities largely described the problems as isolated and having minimal impact, a few reported that they experienced problems that were more widespread and significant. However, the full scope of the problems that may have been experienced is not clear because states and others reported that local jurisdictions were generally not required to report problems. To address this, a few states and territories reported that they are becoming more active in identifying and resolving problems. However, election officials also cited related challenges, such as determining the cause of the problems and appropriate corrective actions."]

[Request #S08-47-2915]

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## HEALTH

### EMPLOYEE HEALTH BENEFITS

**Employer Health Benefits: 2008 Annual Survey. By the Kaiser Family Foundation. (The Foundation, Menlo Park, California) September 2008.**

["American workers are paying more for their employer-backed health insurance and getting skimpier benefits -- a troubling trend that authors of a new study say offsets a moderation in premium increases. Health insurance premiums rose a modest 5 percent this year from 2007, the lowest increase in 10 years. But considering the cost of insurance has more than doubled since 1999 and wages have increased just 34 percent during that time, rising costs continue to hit workers in the pocketbook.... The study estimates more than 57 million Americans live in families struggling with medical bills, up 14 million people since 2003. Of those in trouble, the vast majority -- 42.5 million -- had some form of health insurance coverage." San Francisco Chronicle (September 25, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-47-2900]

Survey. 214 p.

<http://ehbs.kff.org/?page=abstract&id=1>

Summary. 8 p.

<http://ehbs.kff.org/images/abstract/7791.pdf>

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### HEALTH CARE

**Public Views on U.S. Health System Organization: A Call for New Directions. By Sabrina K. H. How and others, The Commonwealth Fund. (The Fund, New York, New York) August 2008. 12 p.**

Full text at: [http://www.commonwealthfund.org/usr\\_doc/How\\_Public\\_Views\\_8-4-08.pdf?section=4039](http://www.commonwealthfund.org/usr_doc/How_Public_Views_8-4-08.pdf?section=4039)

["Eight of 10 respondents agreed that the health system needs either fundamental change or complete rebuilding. Adults' health care experiences underscore the need to organize care systems to ensure timely access, better coordination, and better flow of information among doctors and patients. There is also a need to simplify health insurance administration. There was broad agreement among survey respondents that wider use of health information systems and greater care coordination could improve patient care. The majority of adults say it is very important for the 2008 presidential candidates to seek reforms to address health care quality, access, and costs."]

[Request #S08-47-2783]

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## HEALTH SURVEY

**The Health of California's Adults, Adolescents and Children: Findings from CHIS [California Health Interview Survey] 2005 and 2003. By Sue Holtby and others, UCLA Center for Health Policy Research. (The Center, Los Angeles, California) September 2008. 112**

Full text at: [http://www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu/pubs/files/Hlth\\_CAs\\_RT\\_090908.pdf](http://www.healthpolicy.ucla.edu/pubs/files/Hlth_CAs_RT_090908.pdf)

["The CHIS reports on key indicators of health status, health behavior and access to healthcare. Some of the topics include: diabetes, obesity, heart disease, cancer, consumption of fruits and vegetables, consumption of fast food, average number of days walked, biked to school for children, time spent watching T.V., source of regular health care, incidence of prescription drug usages, and many others. Many indicators are examined across age, race/ethnicity, gender and income levels (from below federal poverty level, to 3 times above the federal poverty level.). In addition, comparisons are presented for the years 2003 and 2005."] [Request #S08-47-2907]

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## HUMAN SERVICES

### ELDERLY

**LA Seniors Count: Survey of the Older Adult Population. By the County of Los Angeles, Community and Senior Services, and the City of Los Angeles, Department of Aging. (The County, Los Angeles, California) October 2008. 84 p.**

Full text at: <http://css.lacounty.gov/docs/css-nar-080501.pdf>

["This survey of over 16,000 L.A. County seniors is a needs assessment of seniors and senior services in Los Angeles County. Topics of the survey include health (access to health care, use of health services, affordability of health care), transportation (access to and ease of use for public transportation), housing (affordability, safety and home maintenance), employment (access to jobs), and other areas.... Selected Findings: 1) By 2030, L.A. County will have nearly 3 million people over age 60, compared to about 1.4 million today, 2) Nearly one in five seniors surveyed (or about 18%) lacks affordable dental care, 3) Nearly half of seniors surveyed (47%) said that they did not have prescription drug coverage, and 4) One in ten seniors stated that they had trouble affording utilities to the point where it affected their quality of life."] [Request #S08-47-2931]

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## WELFARE

**The New Retrenchment: Social Welfare Spending, 1977-2006.** By Thomas Gais and Lucy Dadayan, Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government. (The Institute, Albany, New York) September 2008. 30 p.

Full text at: <http://www.rockinst.org/WorkArea/showcontent.aspx?id=15262>

["In 2006, for the first time since 1983, social welfare spending by state and local governments dropped after adjusting for inflation and the number of people living in poverty. By social welfare spending, we mean expenditures under programs primarily serving low-income persons and families. The three categories of social welfare spending are expenditures for cash assistance, medical assistance, and (nonhealth) social services.... Nonhealth spending appeared to be increasingly dependent on state and local resources, across states and over time. Given the downturn or slow growth of state revenues, states are thus likely to see further contractions, and these reductions will probably be applied to nonhealth spending levels already lower than those seen before the last economic downturn."]

[Request #S08-47-2872]

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## TRANSPORTATION

### HIGH-SPEED RAIL

**The Economic Impact of the California High-Speed Rail in the Sacramento/Central Valley Area.** By Shawn Kantor, University of California, Merced. Prepared for the California High Speed Rail Authority. (The Authority, Sacramento, California) September 2008. 37 p.

Full text at:

[http://www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov/images/chsr/20081003135956\\_HSRCentralValleyReportFINAL-2.pdf](http://www.cahighspeedrail.ca.gov/images/chsr/20081003135956_HSRCentralValleyReportFINAL-2.pdf)

["A new study of California's proposed high-speed rail system estimates \$3 billion in direct economic benefits to the Central Valley -- and possibly billions more if the system gives a permanent boost to the region's economy.... The authority's board chairman, former state Sen. Quentin Kopp said that high-speed rail would provide the region's residents in time and money that otherwise would be spent on driving to the Bay Area or Southern California, including gas, maintenance and parking. The estimated economic benefit also includes productivity gains, Kantor said.... He said that construction was likely to be a significant economic stimulus, because the region would have 40% of the system's tracks but only 15% of the population it would serve." Fresno Bee (October 1, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-47-2917]

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## TRAFFIC CONGESTION

**Moving Los Angeles: Short-Term Policy Options for Improving Transportation.  
By Paul Sorensen and others, RAND Corporation. (The Corporation, Santa  
Monica, California) October 2008.**

["More toll lanes, one-way streets, pricier parking and bus-only lanes are the best short-term fixes to keep traffic moving in the Southland. There are few ideas in the study that haven't been floated before by a variety of interest groups. But Rand researchers say that with little room to build or expand roads in Southern California, the only real option is a coordinated effort to better manage traffic.... 'We're trying to say that everyone complains about traffic congestion, here's a way of doing something about it," said Martin Wachs, another author of the study. 'If properly informed, citizens may opt to take some of these measures, as they have done in London and Stockholm and Oslo and a number of cities around the world.'" Los Angeles Times (October 2, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-47-2916]

Report. 640 p.

[http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2008/RAND\\_MG748.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2008/RAND_MG748.pdf)

Summary. 78 p.

[http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2008/RAND\\_MG748.sum.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2008/RAND_MG748.sum.pdf)

Research Brief. 5 p.

[http://www.rand.org/pubs/research\\_briefs/2008/RAND\\_RB9385.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_briefs/2008/RAND_RB9385.pdf)

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