



## Studies in the News

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### **CULTURE & DEMOGRAPHY**

*A Nation of Immigrants: A Portrait of the 40 Million, Including 11 Million Unauthorized.* Pew Hispanic Center. Jan. 29, 2013.

Report. 8 p.:

[http://www.pewhispanic.org/files/2013/01/statistical\\_portrait\\_final\\_jan\\_29.pdf](http://www.pewhispanic.org/files/2013/01/statistical_portrait_final_jan_29.pdf)

**Statistical Profiles.** 43 p. <http://www.pewhispanic.org/files/2013/01/PHC-2011-FB-Stat-Profiles.pdf>

"The United States is the world's leader by far as a destination for immigrants. The country with the next largest number is Russia with 12.3 million. The U.S. total of 40.4 million, which includes legal as well as unauthorized immigrants, represents 13% of the total U.S. population in 2011.... The modern wave, which began with the passage of border-opening legislation in 1965, has been dominated by arrivals from Latin America (about 50%) and Asia (27%). Accompanying this report is a statistical portrait of the nation's foreign-born population."

## ECONOMY

***Patenting Prosperity: Invention and Economic Performance in the United States and its Metropolitan Areas.*** By Jonathan Rothwell, et al. Metropolitan Policy Program at Brookings. Feb. 2013.

Full Report. 49 p.:

<http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Research/Files/Reports/2013/02/patenting%20prosperity%20rothwell/patenting%20prosperity%20rothwell.pdf>

Interactive Features: <http://www.brookings.edu/research/interactives/2013/metropatenting>

“Patents, for all their flaws, are a widely used proxy for innovation.... The Brookings research details just how concentrated an activity associated with scientific and technological innovation – patent filings - really is. There are more than 370 metropolitan statistical areas in the United States. But the people living in just 20 metro areas – home to 34% of the population – generate 63% of the nation’s patents. In the five most patent-intensive metro areas, the study found, the average resident is 2.4 times more likely to produce a patented innovation than the average American.” Five metro areas with the most patent filings per million people, from 2007 to 2011, included San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, California. (*New York Times*, Feb. 1, 2013).

## EDUCATION

***Compensation Matters: The Case of Teachers.*** By Alicia H. Munnell, et al. Center for State & Local Government Excellence. Jan. 2013. 14 p.

<http://slge.org/publications/compensation-matters-the-case-of-teachers>

This report finds that higher teachers’ salaries correlate with better applicant pools for teachers. “Many public sector pension plans have recently cut pension benefits for new hires, thereby reducing compensation. One proxy for teacher quality is the average SAT score at a teacher’s undergraduate institution. School districts with higher wages and/or higher pensions are able to hire teachers from institutions with higher SAT scores. Cutting compensation for new teachers is not costless, as it will likely reduce applicant quality.” (Press Release, Jan. 22, 2013).

## EMPLOYMENT

***Assessing the Job Polarization Explanation of Growing Wage Inequality.*** By Lawrence Mishel, et al. Economic Policy Institute. Jan. 11, 2013. 8 p.

<http://www.epi.org/files/2012/wp295-assessing-job-polarization-explanation-wage-inequality.pdf>

Skills-based Technological Change (SBTC) accounts for wage inequality by focusing on technological change and individual decisions about acquiring skills. “We don’t deny that technological factors play a large role in the labor market. Our argument is that they have not played much of a role in the rise in wage inequality.... Our explanation emphasizes that, over each of the last three decades, different *policies*, ranging from macroeconomic (fiscal, exchange rate, and monetary policies that affect unemployment and trade) and trade policy to financialization and those policies affecting institutions and particular sectors (unionization, the minimum wage, trade policy, deregulation, etc.) had different effects on workers.”

## ENERGY

***The Limits of Wind Power.* By William Korchinski. Adam Smith Institute, et al. Feb. 2013. 34 p.**  
<http://www.adamsmith.org/sites/default/files/research/files/thelimitsofwindpowerstudy-adamsmithinstitute.pdf>

“Environmentalists advocate wind power as one of the main alternatives to fossil fuels, claiming that it is both cost effective and low in carbon emissions.... Wind blows at speeds that vary considerably, leading to wide variations in power output at different times and in different locations. To address this variability, power supply companies must install backup capacity, which kicks in when demand exceeds supply from the wind turbines; failure to do so will adversely affect grid reliability. The need for this backup capacity significantly increases the cost of producing power from wind. Since backup power in most cases comes from fossil fuel generators, this effectively limits the carbon-reducing potential of new wind capacity.”

## GENERAL GOVERNMENT

***Open Budget Survey 2012.* International Budget Partnership. Jan. 2013. 57 p.**  
<http://internationalbudget.org/wp-content/uploads/OBI2012-Report-English.pdf>

“The Open Budget Survey measures the state of budget transparency, participation, and oversight in countries around the world. It consists of 125 questions and is completed by independent researchers in the countries assessed. Ninety-five of the questions deal directly with the public availability and comprehensiveness of the eight key budget documents that governments should publish at various points of the budget cycle. The remaining 30 questions relate to opportunities for public participation in the budget process, and to the roles played by legislatures and supreme audit institutions in budget formulation and oversight.”

## HEALTH

***California Hospitals: Buildings, Beds, and Business.* California HealthCare Foundation. Jan. 2013. 58 p.**  
<http://www.chcf.org/~media/MEDIA%20LIBRARY%20Files/PDF/C/PDF%20CaliforniaHospitals2013.pdf>

“California’s 393 general acute care (GAC) hospitals saw 46 million outpatients and discharged 3.5 million inpatients in 2010, at a time when the number of beds available had declined to the lowest level in a decade. This report examines the state’s GAC hospital facilities, including their bed supply and capacity, use of services, financial health, and selected quality measures.... In 2009, 16% of Medicare inpatients treated for medical conditions were readmitted within 30 days of discharge in California, a similar percentage as the nation. California hospitals performed slightly better than the US average for Medicare surgical readmissions.”

## HUMAN SERVICES

***Electronic Information Exchange: Elements that Matter for Children in Foster Care.* By Beth Morrow. Children’s Partnership. Jan. 2013. 10 p.**  
[http://www.childrenspartnership.org/storage/documents/Publications/Electronic\\_Information\\_Exchange.pdf](http://www.childrenspartnership.org/storage/documents/Publications/Electronic_Information_Exchange.pdf)

“Currently, health and education records for foster children are captured in a Health and Education Passport. However, this record generally is shared only in paper form. It is a challenge to ensure that it contains the most current information and is available when care providers need it to help make informed

care decisions.... Electronic information exchange has the potential to improve care coordination for children.... This primer lays out the case for investing in systems that enable such exchange, reviews existing efforts underway in states and communities, identifies specific elements that serve this population most effectively, and discusses issues that need to be addressed and steps that can be taken to make the most of this opportunity.”

## TOOLS OF THE TRADE

***School Safety: Resources for Policy.* Education Commission of the States. Jan. 2013. 7 p.**  
<http://www.ecs.org/clearinghouse/01/05/74/10574.pdf>

“In the wake of the December 2012 shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, governors, legislators, and education leaders from across the country signaled their intentions to pursue legislation and policy to improve school safety. The purpose of this ECS Alert is to provide Education Commission of the States’ constituents with quick access to resources and information on potential policies directly related to school safety.” This document contains descriptions and links, sorted by topic, from ECS and other organizations, on current state policies and research related to school safety, bullying, and student well-being.

## TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE

***Pipeline Safety: Better Data and Guidance Needed to Improve Pipeline Operator Incident Response.* Government Accountability Office. GAO-13-168. Jan. 23, 2013. 50 p.**  
<http://www.gao.gov/assets/660/651408.pdf>

“The Department of Transportation’s (DOT) Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) has an opportunity to improve the ability of pipeline operators to respond to incidents by developing a performance-based approach for incident response times.... While defining performance measures and targets for incident response can be challenging, PHMSA could move toward a performance-based approach by evaluating nationwide data to determine response times for different types of pipeline (based on location, operating pressure, and pipeline diameter, among other factors). However, PHMSA must first improve the data it collects on incident response times. These data are not reliable both because operators are not required to fill out certain time-related fields in the reporting form and because operators told us they interpret these data fields in different ways.”

### **About *Studies in the News***

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