

O U T R E A C H S E R V I C E
U. S. SOCIETY & VALUES
A M E R I C A N E M B A S S Y R E S O U R C E C E N T E R

June 2006

IN DEPTH...

Views expressed in the **reports** are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect U.S. government

THE CONDITION OF EDUCATION 2006

U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)
June 1, 2006 – 409 pages

The Condition of Education is a congressionally mandated report that provides an annual statistical portrait of education in the United States.

The report is issued by U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). The 50 indicators included in the report cover all aspects of education, from student achievement to school environment and from early childhood through postsecondary education.

The report shows that U. S. public schools now have the most diverse student population in their history. In addition, more individuals are enrolling in postsecondary education, and more bachelor's degrees have been awarded than in the past.

One of the major findings in the 2006 report is that high school students in the United States are consistently outperformed by those from Asian and some European countries on international assessments of mathematics and science.

In contrast, fourth-graders score as well or better than most of their international peers, although their counterparts in other countries are gaining ground.

Other highlights include:

- * Nineteen percent of children ages 5-17 speak a language other than English at home.
- * Minority students make up 43 percent of public school enrollment.
- * Female college enrollment passed male enrollment in 1978. The gender gap has widened and is expected to grow.

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS (STEM) EDUCATION ISSUES AND LEGISLATIVE OPTIONS

Jeffrey J. Kuenzi, Christine M. Matthews, and Bonnie F. Mangan
Library of Congress, Congressional Research Service
May 22, 2006 – 35 pages

There is growing concern that the United States is not preparing a sufficient number of students, teachers, and practitioners in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). A large majority of secondary school students fail to reach proficiency in math and science, and many are taught by teachers lacking adequate subject matter knowledge.

When compared to other nations, the math and science achievement of U.S. pupils and the rate of STEM degree attainment appear inconsistent with a nation considered the world leader in scientific innovation. In a recent international assessment of 15-year-old students, the U.S. ranked 28th in math literacy and

24th in science literacy. Moreover, the U.S. ranks 20th among all nations in the proportion of 24-year-olds who earn degrees in natural science or engineering.

Several pieces of legislation have been introduced in the 109th Congress that address U.S. economic competitiveness in general and support STEM education in particular. These proposals are designed to improve output from the STEM educational pipeline at all levels, and are drawn from several recommendations offered by the scientific and business communities.

The objective of this report is to provide a useful context for these legislative proposals. To achieve this, the report first presents data on the state of STEM education and then examines the federal role in promoting STEM education. The report concludes with a discussion of selected legislative options currently being considered to improve STEM education.

2006 STATE OF COLLEGE ADMISSION

David A. Hawkins and Melissa Clinedinst
National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC)
May 17, 2006 – 86 pages

This report finds that while the country's most selective colleges are admitting fewer candidates, a student's chance for admission to a four-year college is still overwhelmingly good - U.S. colleges and universities admit seven out of ten students who apply. Other trends noted in this year's report:

- * There is a continued increase in applications to colleges and universities, fueled by increasing numbers of high school graduates.
- * There is a marked increase in Early Decision and Early Action applications after several years of apparent decline.
- * Grades in rigorous courses, standardized admission test scores, and overall grade point averages continue to be the top factors considered by colleges in the admission decision

THE PROBLEM OF AMERICAN EXCEPTIONALISM

Andrew Kohut and Bruce Stokes
Pew Research Center
May 9, 2006 – 8 pages

This stand-alone piece is drawn from the authors' new book, *America Against the World*. In this background report Kohut and Stokes examine the major factors, real and imagined, that contribute to a global rise in anti-Americanism. The authors differentiate between three types of American exceptionalism that shape both the ways that U.S. citizens look at the world and the ways that the world looks at them:

- * Misunderstood exceptionalism -- American values and attitudes that many in the United States as well as abroad regard as part of the problem, though there is little evidence to support this contention.
- * Conditional exceptionalism -- Aspects of the American character that are distinctive, but not so much that they are destined to consistently divide the American people from the rest of the world. These include values and attitudes that are products of the times or subject to the course of events and the influence of American leadership.
- * Problematic exceptionalism -- How Americans view themselves, their country, and the world in ways that reflect potentially unbridgeable, persistent gaps in opinions on important issues.

[Note: Contains copyrighted material.]

IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT WITHIN THE UNITED STATES

[CRS Report for Congress, RL33351]
Alison Siskin, Andorra Bruno, Blas Nunez-Neto, Lisa M. Seghetti, and Ruth Ellen Wasem
Library of Congress, Congressional Research Service
April 6, 2006 – 82 pages

This report provides an analysis of immigration enforcement within the United States. The report opens with a definition of immigration enforcement, a discussion of the statutory authority to conduct immigration enforcement, and an overview of immigration enforcement related legislation

since 1986. It follows with an exposition on the dichotomy of interior and border enforcement. The report then details different aspects of immigration enforcement in the United States including detention and removal, alien smuggling and trafficking, document and benefit fraud, worksite enforcement, inspections at ports of entry, and patrolling the border between ports of entry. The authors continue with a discussion of the role of state and local law enforcement in the enforcement of immigration laws. The report then presents a comparative analysis of the resources devoted to divergent immigration enforcement activities. It concludes with a discussion of crosscutting immigration enforcement issues related to the structure of the Department of Homeland Security. The appendix contains a glossary of acronyms.

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NO CONSENSUS ON IMMIGRATION PROBLEM OR PROPOSED FIXES

America's Immigration Quandary
March 30, 2006

Americans are increasingly concerned about immigration. A growing number believe that immigrants are a burden to the country, taking jobs and housing and creating strains on the health care system. Many people also worry about the cultural impact of the expanding number of newcomers in the U.S.

Yet the public remains largely divided in its views of the overall effect of immigration. Roughly as many believe that newcomers to the U.S. strengthen American society as say they threaten traditional American values, and over the longer term, positive views of Latin American immigrants, in particular, have improved dramatically.

DIMINISHING DIVIDE ON CULTURAL ISSUES? Opposition To Gay Marriage, Adoption And Military Service Declines

Polls/Survey Results, March 22, 2006

Public acceptance of homosexuality has increased in a number of ways in recent years. On three specific issues - allowing gays to serve openly in the military, adoption by homosexual couples and legalizing gay marriage - opposition has fallen considerably in the past decade, though each issue continues to be divisive, according to the latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press.

The survey found that half of Americans (51 percent) continue to oppose legalizing gay marriage, but this number is down from 63 percent just two years ago, when opposition spiked following the Massachusetts Supreme Court decision and remained high throughout the 2004 election season.

These are among the results of the survey, conducted among 1,405 adults from March 8-12.

AMERICA'S IMMIGRATION QUANDARY: no consensus on immigration problem or proposed fixes

Pew Research Center for the People & the Press and the Pew Hispanic Center
March 2006 – 84 pages

This report provides detailed analysis and discussion of findings from a national poll and five U.S. metropolitan-area surveys. It describes how immigration ranks as a problem nationally and in the respondents' communities, and addresses the public's distinction between legal and illegal immigration. It reviews concerns about immigration's impact on America's culture and economy.

The report looks at the broad range of immigration policy proposals being considered and the public's opinion of them. It examines trends in views regarding immigrants from Asian and Latin American nations and their willingness to assimilate. Public perceptions about the size of the legal and illegal immigrant populations are also described.

The report's final section summarizes survey results from each of the five metropolitan areas, and highlights notable differences among the cities, and between each region and the nation as a whole. The survey's questionnaire and results for the nation and the five metropolitan areas are available at the end of the report.

[Note: Contains copyrighted material.]

RESULTS THAT MATTER: 21st Century Skills And High School Reform

March 2006

The reason is straightforward: There has been little or no consideration given to the results that matter for today's high school graduates. Creating high schools that truly will improve learning, achievement and competencies demands a clear understanding of the knowledge, skills and attributes that are increasingly important for every high school student today.

High schools must be designed, organized and managed with a relentless focus on the results that matter in the 21st century — in addition to the traditional metrics of attendance, graduation and college matriculation rates — or they risk missing the mark. Traditional metrics are important, but they are no longer sufficient indicators of student preparedness.

There is broad agreement — and ample evidence, which is highlighted in this report— that for many students, high schools are not working and need to be overhauled. This report presents three fundamental ideas about high schools.

TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN: THE CONNECTION BETWEEN LEGAL AND ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

By James R. Edwards, Jr.
Center for Immigration Studies
February 2006

Are massive legal immigration and massive illegal immigration related? If so, how? Many in policy circles hold a view of "Legal immigration, good; illegal immigration, bad."¹ The logical extensions of such a simplistic perspective are to assume that the overall level of legal immigration does not matter and to underestimate any correlation to illegal immigration. But the facts show a distinct connection exists.

In brief, this report finds:

Legal and illegal immigration are inextricably related. As legal immigration levels have risen markedly since 1965, illegal immigration has increased with it.

The share of the foreign-born population who are illegal aliens has risen steadily. Illegal aliens made up 21 percent of the foreign-born in 1980, 25 percent in 2000, and 28 percent in 2005.

Mexico is the primary source country of both legal and illegal immigrants. Mexico accounted for about 30 percent of the foreign-born in 2000, and more than half of Mexicans residing in the United States in 2000 were illegal aliens.

The level of illegal immigration is severely masked by several amnesties that legalized millions of unlawfully resident aliens. The largest amnesty was the 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act, which legalized 3 million aliens.

Amnestied aliens to date have been fully eligible to sponsor additional immigrants. This has contributed to the ranks of immigrants, both legal and illegal (and often both).

Many aliens who receive a permanent resident visa each year have spent years living in the United States illegally.

"Anchor babies" and "chain migration" provide opportunities for many aliens to plant roots in the United States. Those aliens might not otherwise have done so.

THE DIVERSITY OF MUSLIMS IN THE UNITED STATES: VIEWS AS AMERICANS

Qamar-ul Huda
United States Institute of Peace (USIP)
February 2006 – 20 pages

The author, the Senior Program Officer in the USIP Religion and Peacemaking Program, analyzes ways that Muslims in the United States understand their roles as Americans in combating terrorism, and their unique contributions toward conflict prevention and peacemaking.

He suggests that the assimilation and integration of American Muslims has effectively enabled the flourishing of dozens of national and regional organizations working in areas of civil rights, human rights, interfaith dialogue, education, charity, public diplomacy, political activism, and other religious and secular activities. Overall, despite the post 9/11 scrutiny of the Muslim community, American Muslim groups have devised sophisticated grassroots campaigns on counter-terrorism and anti-extremist ideology.

This report is part of a larger book project on American Muslim identity formation and Islamic approaches toward mediation and peace building.

LIVING LONG IN FRAGILE HEALTH: THE NEW DEMOGRAPHICS SHAPE END OF LIFE CARE

By Joanne Lynn
RAND, 2006

Although most Americans aspire to healthy aging, they will probably grow old and accumulate diseases for a long time before dying. The author lays out the framework of an approach to reform for the health care system so that people can "live well while very sick and dying." She discusses three trajectories of decline—long maintenance of good function with a few weeks of rapid decline (e.g., as with most cancers); slow decline in physical capacity punctuated by serious exacerbations, with death coming rather seriously (e.g., as with heart failure); and long-term dwindling of function, needing years of personal care—and shows how society could build care arrangements based on each trajectory. Finally, she discusses the shape of a reform agenda that might make the last part of life as meaningful as possible at a cost the community can sustain.

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THE ROLE OF IMMIGRANTS IN THE U.S. LABOR MARKET

Nabeel A. Alsalam and Ralph E. Smith
Congressional Budget Office
November 2005 – 35 pages

The role of immigrants in the U.S. labor market has long generated substantial interest among policymakers. Lawmakers have considered a broad range of issues concerning foreign-born workers -- from the number of immigrants permitted to enter the United States and the criteria for determining who is admitted, to the rules governing their employment, and myriad questions related to undocumented workers.

This paper, requested by the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Finance Committee, is the third of several reports by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) that present facts and research on immigration to help inform the agency's federal budget and economic projections. The paper focuses on the role of immigrants in the labor market -- the skills they bring to that market; the types of jobs they hold; their compensation; and their impact on the native-born workforce. In keeping with CBO's mandate to provide objective, nonpartisan analysis, this paper makes no recommendations.

SIMPLE, FAIR, & PRO-GROWTH: PROPOSALS TO FIX AMERICA'S TAX SYSTEM: Report Of The President's Advisory Panel On Federal Tax Reform

November 2005 – 272 pages

In creating the President's Advisory Panel on Federal Tax Reform in January 2005, President Bush instructed the Panel to recommend options that would make the tax code simpler, fairer, and more conducive to economic growth.

The Panel, headed by former senators Republican Connie Mack and Democrat John Breaux, evaluated several reform proposals. After 12 public meetings in five states and Washington D.C., the Panel reached consensus to recommend two tax reform plans -- the Simplified Income Tax Plan and the Growth and Investment Tax Plan. While they use different approaches, the plans share a common goal of providing simple and straightforward ways for Americans to save free of tax, and lowering the tax burden on productivity-enhancing investment.

The plans include the following major features:

- * Simplification of the entire tax system and streamlined tax filing for both families and businesses.
- * Lower tax rates on families and businesses, while retaining the progressive nature of the current tax system.
- * Extension of important tax benefits for home ownership, charitable giving, and health insurance to all taxpayers.
- * Removal of impediments to saving and investment.
- * Elimination of the alternative minimum tax.

The report notes that while some of the recommendations may be controversial, taken as a whole, they accomplish the Panel's objectives. Each plan is designed to be comprehensive and should be viewed as an integrated package. The Panel believes that without large-scale changes, and continued commitment to avoiding complexity and special tax breaks, the tax code will become even more confusing, unfair, and damaging to the U.S. economy.

SECURITY CONTROLS ON THE ACCESS OF FOREIGN SCIENTISTS AND ENGINEERS TO THE UNITED STATES

Commission on Scientific Communication and National Security
Center for Strategic and International Studies
October 2005 – 24 pages

This white paper argues that the United States has strongly benefited from foreign engagement in the past, and in an increasingly globalized society, the value of foreign interaction continues to increase. For instance, the nation's scientific and technical infrastructure has long been enriched by foreign students, scholars, and professionals, and is now highly dependent on them. Therefore, the health and vitality of the U.S. science and technology base - and the continued ability of that base to support economic competitiveness, improve health and quality of life, and maintain and enhance national and homeland security – depend critically on foreign interaction.

The paper notes that openness can likewise facilitate those who threaten the security of the U.S. and its inhabitants. As a result, the national security community must identify individuals who intend to spy on the U.S. and U.S.-based commercial enterprises or to illegally export controlled technologies. At the same time, work must be done to ensure that U.S. visa policies facilitate, rather than undermine, long-term U.S. interests concerning foreign students, scientists, suppliers, and employees.

The paper also observes that because prospective visitors base their travel plans on their perceptions of the difficulties they may encounter, improving foreign perceptions of the U.S. visa system is as important as improving the system itself. It discusses the growing misperceptions overseas that the United States no longer welcomes international student and scientists and is an unfriendly place to study and conduct research. Such misperceptions are fueled in part by reports of visa difficulties and delays that do not reflect recent improvements to the system.

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OUTREACH SERVICE
U.S. SOCIETY & VALUES
AMERICAN EMBASSY RESOURCE CENTER
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NO PLACE LIKE HOME

Frank H Goodyear Jr, Ofelia Zepeda
Southwest Art
August 2005 - 4 pages

Heard Museum in Phoenix AZ presents the new ongoing exhibition Home: Native People in the Southwest as the culmination of its 75th anniversary celebration. The exhibit explores Native American's cultures and traditions as well as their strong connection to the lands that have been their homes for centuries.

THE REAL THING

David Rooks
American Theatre
July/August 2005 - 9 pages

Rooks interviews Native American playwright William S. Yellow Robe Jr. Yellow Robe speaks about his sharp-witted play Better-n-Indians. The play cast a sharp and unsentimental eye on modern Native life: all its broken-mirror reflections on identity, social and familial ties.

AMERICAN CHARACTER GETS MIXED REVIEWS: U.S. IMAGE UP SLIGHTLY, BUT STILL NEGATIVE

16-Nation Pew Global Attitudes Survey
Pew Global Attitudes Project; Pew Research Center
June 2005, 37 pages

This report, the ninth Pew Research Center Global Attitudes survey release, analyzes how the people of 16 countries worldwide view the United States and each other. The survey of nearly 17,000 people, conducted from April 20-May 31, indicated that anti-Americanism in Europe, the Middle East and Asia shows modest signs of abating. Nevertheless, it found that the United States remains broadly disliked in most countries surveyed, and recent popular U.S. policies have done little to repair America's image problem. While overall opinions of the U.S. have significantly improved in Indonesia, India and Russia, attitudes toward the U.S. remain quite negative in the Muslim world.

The report also examines:

- Attitudes toward the American people;
- Opinions of U.S. policies on democracy in the Middle-East, anti-terrorism efforts, and the war in Iraq;
- America's role as the world's military and economic superpower; and
- Attitudes on various global issues including China's emergence and immigration

[Note: Contains copyrighted material.]

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SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM: ANSWERS TO KEY QUESTIONS [GAO-05-193SP]

United States Government Accountability Office (GAO)
May 19, 2005

Social Security benefits are designed to partially replace earnings that workers lose when they retire, become disabled, or die. According to Social Security Administration (SSA) figures, in 2017 Social Security is projected to pay out more cash in benefits than it receives in revenues. After that time, the gap between costs and income grows continuously, and, unless action is taken to close this gap, the trust funds will eventually be depleted, around the year 2041. This special publication from GAO provides answers as to how the Social Security system works, why GAO believes it needs reform, what the basic options are, and how to assess their implications.

CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES [Translations in ten languages]

National Constitution Center
April 12, 2005

Translations of the United States Constitution, with amendments, are in Arabic, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Simple Chinese and Spanish.

WE THE PEOPLE OF MORE THAN ONE RACE IN THE UNITED STATES

Nicholas A. Jones
United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census
April 7, 2005

The "Two or More Races" category represents all respondents of the 2000 U.S. Census who reported that they were of more than one race. This report provides a portrait of the "Two or More Races" population in the United States and discusses the twelve largest race combinations within this population at the national level. It is part of the Census 2000 Special Reports series that presents demographic, social, and economic characteristics collected from Census 2000.

In Census 2000, the largest reported race combination was "White and Some Other Race", which represented 32 percent of the total "Two or More Races" population. The next three largest combinations were "White and American Indian/Alaskan Native" (17 percent), "White and Asian" (12 percent), and "White and Black" (11 percent). Together, these four combinations made up more than 70 percent of the total "Two or More Races" population. The "Two or More Races" population was considerably younger than the total U.S. population: 41 percent was under age 18, compared with 26 percent of the total population.

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FROM THE CAPITAL TO THE CLASSROOM: REPORT ON THE NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND (NCLB) ACT, YEAR 3

**Center on Education Policy (CEP)
March 23, 2005**

[Note: The Center on Education Policy is a national, independent advocate for public education and for more effective public schools. Its Board of Directors includes leaders from both the private and public sector; nearly all of its funding comes from charitable foundations such as The Atlantic Philanthropies, The George Gund Foundation, The Joyce Foundation, The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation, The Carnegie Corporation, The Hewlett Foundation, The Gates Foundation, The Ford Foundation, The Spencer Foundation, The William T. Grant Foundation, and Phi Delta Kappa International.]

This review of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act is based on an extensive body of original research and analysis, including a survey of education officials in 49 states, a survey of 314 representative school districts, and in-depth case studies in 36 districts. Of the states and districts surveyed by the Center on Education Policy (CEP), 36 states (73 percent) and a majority of districts (72 percent) report that student achievement on state tests is improving. A majority of states and districts also say that achievement gaps are narrowing between white students and other key subgroups including black students, Hispanic students, English language learners (ELL) and others.

However, long-term challenges remain, particularly with regard to funding. A majority of districts received less federal Title I funding in 2004-05 than they did in the previous year, and while the overall federal education budget has grown in smaller percentages in 2004 and 2005 than in previous years, it now stands to be cut in 2006, according to President Bush's budget request. As a result, 42 of the 49 states surveyed by CEP indicate that providing assistance to all schools identified for improvement poses a serious or moderate challenge. Forty-five states say that staff size is a serious or moderate challenge, and 31 states report that staff expertise presents a serious or moderate challenge. Roughly equivalent numbers of states report that issues of adequate state funding (40 states) or federal funding (39 states) presented a serious or moderate challenge in carrying out NCLB last school year. Among the other key challenges identified by states and districts include: ensuring equitable distribution of highly qualified teachers; working with English language learners; a narrowing of the curriculum.

INNOVATIONS IN AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AWARDS [2005]

**Harvard University, Kennedy School of Government, Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation; Council for Excellence in Government
March 16, 2005**

This summary describes fifty of the most creative, forward thinking, results-driven government programs at the federal, state, county and city levels that were named semifinalists for the prestigious "Innovations in American Government" Awards. Each entry has a brief description as well as web addresses and contacts for more information. The fifty programs are now eligible to win one of six \$100,000 grants. The programs represent the nation's best public sector efforts in the areas of education and training, criminal justice and public safety, economic and community development, health and social service, management, transportation, public works and environment. The programs were chosen from a pool of more than 1000 applicants for their novelty and uniqueness, effectiveness in addressing important problems, significance, and the potential for replication by other government entities. Eighteen finalists will be chosen from the fifty and announced in April.

Among the programs named to the Top 50 list are ten at the federal level (including two from the U.S. Department of Justice), twelve at the state level, nine at the county level, twelve at the city level, three school districts, two government corporations and two special/regional authorities. There are eight programs from or within California and four from or within New York. Other states with multiple finalists include: Virginia and Washington with three each; and Kentucky, Minnesota, Oregon, Texas and Vermont (all with two each).

NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS - 2005 GUIDE

National Endowment for the Arts (NEA)

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), established by Congress in 1965 as an independent federal agency, is the official arts organization of the United States government. As the largest annual funder of the arts in the country, the NEA is dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts, both new and established; bringing the arts to all Americans; and providing leadership in arts education. Through its grants and programs, the NEA brings great art to all 50 states and six U.S. jurisdictions including rural areas, inner cities, and military bases. The NEA awards more than \$100 million annually, investing in every state. The NEA has played a substantial role in the development of folk arts, dance, theater, literature, opera, and other arts that Americans enjoy.

This guide presents an overview of all the areas in which the NEA makes a difference: grantmaking and national initiatives, partnerships and research, accessibility and arts learning. Included is information on Grants for Arts Projects, Literature Fellowships, Lifetime Honors, Leadership and National Initiatives, and Partnerships.

STREET GANGS: THE NEW URBAN INSURGENCY

Max G. Manwaring

United States Army War College, Strategic Studies Institute (SSI)

March 2005

This report identifies some of the most salient characteristics of contemporary criminal street gangs (that is, "the gang phenomenon" or "third generation gangs"). The author argues that gang-related crime is now a serious national security and sovereignty problem in important parts of the global community. Manwaring maintains that although there are differences between gangs and insurgents in terms of original motives and modes of operation, "the gang phenomenon is a mutated form of urban insurgency. That is, these non-state actors must eventually seize political power to guarantee the freedom of action and the commercial environment they want. The common denominator that clearly links gangs and insurgents is that the gangs' and insurgents' ultimate objective is to depose or control the governments of targeted countries."

AMERICANS AND BRITONS: KEY POPULATION DATA FROM THE LAST THREE U.S. AND U.K. CENSUSES

Rebecca Tunstall

The Brookings Institution; London School of Economics

February 8, 2005

The United States and the United Kingdom are often considered the two most similar of developed countries. Many typologies of national systems used in political science, social science, and urban analysis categorize the U.S. and the U.K. together, and contrast their social, political, and cultural character to groups of other developed nations in Europe and elsewhere. Those similarities—and the two nations' equally evident differences—make them a rich field for comparative demographic research and policy analysis. This report draws mainly on internet-based and published data from the U.S. Censuses of 1980, 1990, and 2000, and the U.K. censuses of 1981, 1991, and 2001.

Among the author's findings are the following points:

* There are almost five times as many Americans as Britons. Three of the four U.S. regions have larger populations than the entire United Kingdom, and 10 states have populations larger than any U.K. region.

* The U.S. population grew by 13.2 percent in the 1990s, more than four times faster than the U.K.'s. Although U.K. population growth picked up slightly in the 1990s, forestalling fears of stagnation or decline, U.S. growth rates were higher in the 1980s and accelerated rapidly in the 1990s.

* Americans are significantly more racially and ethnically diverse than Britons, and a greater proportion of them was born in other countries. Nearly one-fourth (24.9 percent) of the U.S. population described themselves as nonwhite in 2000, while only 7.9 percent of the U.K. population described themselves as

from an ethnic minority in 2001. Higher proportions of foreign-born residents in the United States reflect higher recent immigration rates.

* Americans are slightly younger than Britons. The United States had a slightly higher proportion of residents in all age categories under 60, with a total of 83.8 percent of U.S. residents under age 60 in 2000 compared with 79.3 percent of U.K. residents in 2001. Both nations are aging, but the United Kingdom has been aging longer. The United States stemmed the aging process with higher immigration and fertility during the 1980s and 1990s.

* American adults are more likely to be married or divorced than Britons, and less likely to be single or widowed. Overall, 72.9 percent of Americans over age 14 had been married or divorced in 2000 compared with 69.8 percent of Britons over age 15 in 2001. Just over 54 percent of Americans were currently married compared with 50.8 percent of Britons.

* Females make up a slightly smaller majority of the population in the United States than in the United Kingdom. The gender balance has been stable for two decades in the United Kingdom while it has fluctuated in the United States from higher immigration and a younger population.

TRENDS 2005 [Trends in U.S. Society]

Pew Research Center

January 24, 2005

This report contains seven chapters with key findings on a number of key issues in U.S. life. Some of the highlights are the following:

* **The American Public: Opinions and Values** -- Notwithstanding a sharp partisan divide over national security, the latest survey found that fundamental American values still reflect a mix of both consensus and contention; there is, for example, broad public agreement about the importance of religion, the power of the individual and the need for environmental protection.

* **Religion & Public Life: A Faith-Based Partisan Divide** -- While national security is now the most influential political value, religious practice has become the most important demographic characteristic in shaping electoral behavior. Despite the fact that the great majority of Americans are religious and believe in God, whether a person regularly attends church correlated much more strongly with his or her vote for president last year than did such demographic characteristics as gender, age, income or region.

* **Media: More Voices, Less Credibility** -- In the past two decades, the public has lost more confidence in the media than in any other major institution in American society – including government, business, religion, education, the military and others.

* **Internet: The Mainstreaming of Online Life** -- On a typical day at the end of 2004, 70 million American adults logged onto the internet, a 37 percent increase over the number who did so in 2000.

* **Hispanics: A People in Motion** -- Latino immigrants have birth rates twice as high as those of the rest of the U.S. population, foretelling a sharp increase ahead in the percentage of Latinos who will be in schools and the work place. Between now and 2020, Latinos are expected to account for about half the growth of the U.S. labor force.

* **States: Policy Innovation Amid Fiscal Constraint** -- On issues ranging from health care to education to the environment to stem cell research to gay marriage, states are embarking on a different policy course from that of the federal government. They are being driven sometimes by ideology and often by fiscal pressure.

* **Global Opinion: The Spread of Anti-Americanism** -- After a brief uptick following the September 11 attack, opinions about the United States have fallen precipitously in nearly every corner of the globe. Anti-Americanism is deeper and broader now than at any time in modern history, fueled by a perception that the U.S. acts only in its own interests and is indifferent to those of other nations.

WE THE PEOPLE: WOMEN AND MEN IN THE UNITED STATES

Reneé E. Spraggins

United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census

January 27, 2005

This report provides a portrait of women in the United States and highlights comparisons with men at the national level. It is part of the Census 2000 Special Reports series that presents several demographic, social, and economic characteristics collected from Census 2000. The data contained in this report are based on the samples of households who responded to the 1970, 1980, and 1990 censuses and Census 2000. Among the highlights of this profile of gender in the U.S. population are the following:

* In 2000, 143.5 million females lived in the United States, 16 million more than a decade earlier. In 2000, 137.9 males lived in the U.S.

* In 2000, the male population was larger than the female population up through age group 30 to 34, but beginning with the age group 35 to 39, women outnumbered men. The most notable difference

between the number of men and women occurred in the older ages (65 years and over). Older women outnumbered older men by about 6 million (20.6 million compared with 14.4 million).

FORUM UNIFIED EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY SUITE

**United States Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)
February 1, 2005**

This set or suite of documents, updated and compiled in a unified site, presents a practical, comprehensive, and tested approach to assessing, acquiring, instituting, managing, securing, and using technology in education settings. It is designed to help individuals who lack extensive experience with technology to develop a better understanding of the terminology, concepts, and fundamental issues influencing technology acquisition decisions. This online resource combines and updates four previously existing NCES/Forum publications: Safeguarding Your Technology (1998), Technology @ Your Fingertips, Version 2.0 (2001), Technology in Schools (2002), and Weaving a Secure Web around Education (2003).

CENSUS 2000 SPECIAL REPORTS, WE THE PEOPLE: AGING

**Yvonne J. Gist and Lisa I. Hetzel
U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census
December 21, 2004**

This report provides a portrait of the social and economic characteristics of the population aged 65 and over in the United States at the national level. It is part of the Census 2000 Special Reports series that presents several demographic, social, and economic characteristics collected from Census 2000. The data contained in this report are based on the sample of households who responded to the Census 2000 long form questionnaire.

Among the findings in this report are the following:

- * There are far more women than men in the older population. In 2000, the sex ratio for the U.S. population as a whole was 96 (or 96 males per 100 females), compared with 70 (or 70 males per 100 females) for people 65 and over. By age 85 and over, the sex ratio dropped to 41, representing more than 2 women for every man.
- * In 2000, 56 percent of people 65 and over were married, 32 percent were widowed, and 7 percent were divorced. Less than 5 percent had never married.
- * In 2000, 28 percent of the population 65 and over lived alone in households. This percentage varied by age, from 22 percent for the 65-to-74 year old group to 39 percent for those 85 and over.
- * About 11 percent of the total population and 10 percent of those 65 and over were foreign born. The majority of the foreign-born older population (62 percent) entered the United States prior to 1970.

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