

# POWER OF EVIDENCE

[WWW.URBAN.ORG](http://WWW.URBAN.ORG)

Public policies work best when they are rooted in facts. The Urban Institute brings data-driven expertise and objective analysis to today's critical social and economic policy debates. Our scholars conduct research and offer evidence-based solutions that improve lives, strengthen communities, and increase the effectiveness of public policy across a rapidly urbanizing world.



**POLICY CENTERS**

- Health Policy Center
- Housing Finance Policy Center
- Income & Benefits Policy Center
- Center on International Development & Governance
- Justice Policy Center
- Labor, Human Services, & Population Policy Center
- Metropolitan Housing & Communities Policy Center
- Center on Nonprofits & Philanthropy
- Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center

400<sup>+</sup>

EMPLOYEES

150

TOPICS

300<sup>+</sup>

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS  
A YEAR

**DRIVEN BY DATA**

Policymakers, practitioners, and the public rely on the Urban Institute for evidence, not ideology. Our researchers are empowered to explore today's challenges, uncover new facts and findings, and offer recommendations shaped by years of scholarship and real-time analysis.

*“The Urban Institute prides itself on maintaining the highest standards and producing insightful, nonpartisan research that can be totally relied upon. For policymakers at any level, the availability of research of this quality is invaluable.”*

**—ERSKINE BOWLES**

President emeritus, University of North Carolina,  
and Urban Institute trustee

# BEYOND THE BELTWAY

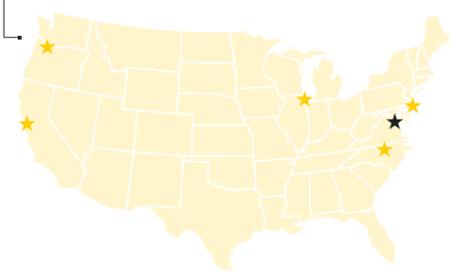
## A Sampling of Urban's Impact

Our scholars blend academic rigor with on-the-ground collaboration, teaming with policymakers, community leaders, practitioners, and the private sector to diagnose problems and spark solutions in communities across the country and around the globe.

★ CITY ■ COUNTY

### RETHINKING PUBLIC HOUSING

As the federal government replaced severely distressed Chicago public housing projects with new, mixed-income communities, Urban assessed the outcomes for the deeply poor families living there. Our findings changed how public housing agencies support people who might fall through the cracks. We also developed innovative models for coordinating services in public and mixed-income housing, now being tested in five cities.



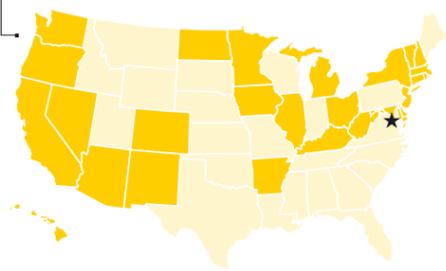
### FINDING SOLUTIONS FOR PRISONER REENTRY

Urban researchers were the first to size up the floods of prisoners returning to their communities and to use hard evidence to identify practical solutions for a safer return. Today our work includes a data-driven initiative for cooperation between jails and community partners, designed to increase public safety and reentry success and, ultimately, to foster system-wide change.



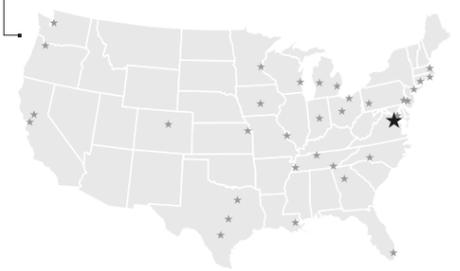
### EVALUATING HEALTH CARE REFORM

After playing a crucial role in Massachusetts and federal health reform legislation, Urban scholars are studying the Affordable Care Act's implementation, analyzing many data sources to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of Medicaid expansion, health insurance Marketplaces, and subsidies.



### DEMOCRATIZING DATA

Urban researchers were among the first to analyze data to strengthen local and state policy. Today we help local decisionmakers effect change on issues from crime rates to foreclosures to school performance. We also lead the National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership, a network of local organizations in 35 cities enabling open data and data-based decisions that strengthen communities.



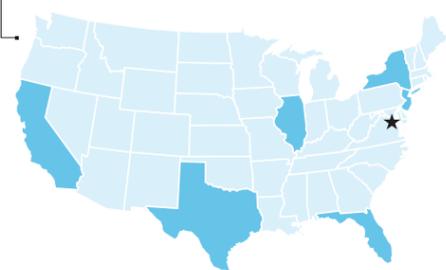
### SHAPING FISCAL POLICY IN DC

Urban research has supported efforts to improve the city's public schools, protect homeowners from unnecessary foreclosures, prevent crime, and expand opportunities for work and earnings. Recently, our experts served on the DC Tax Revision Commission and its staff and provided a forum for public debate of its recommendations, now largely in law.



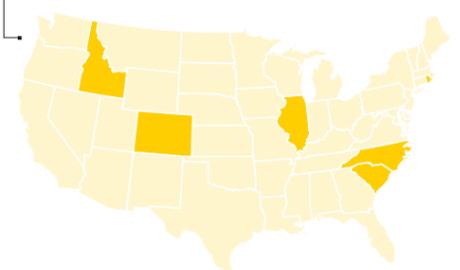
### UNDERSTANDING IMMIGRANTS

Urban researchers are gathering demographic information and identifying national trends and implications of America's rapidly changing population. Having examined where children of immigrants live, what languages they speak, their access to child care, and whether they are struggling with poverty, today we help policymakers ready their communities to benefit from accelerating demographic change.



### SUPPORTING WORKING FAMILIES

Building on decades of research to evaluate the safety net and to understand the needs of working families, Urban's experts are helping streamline access to work-support programs so low-income families have a better shot at economic security, healthy outcomes, and stable homes.



### REBUILDING COMMUNITIES

After Hurricane Katrina, Urban insights helped rebuild New Orleans's social and economic infrastructure. Today we are exploring innovative solutions to the city's water-management challenges and applying the lessons learned to assess disaster mitigation and preparation post-Hurricane Sandy. And, our experts in economic resilience are offering evidence-based solutions for communities and families struggling to recover in a lagging economy.



### BOLSTERING THE NONPROFIT SECTOR

Urban scholars study the nonprofit sector's economic impact, its vital role in strengthening communities, the public policies that affect it, and its relationship with governments at all levels. We are mapping community assets and identifying the emerging fourth sector of public-sector for-profits. With searchable data, national surveys, and performance management tools, our research helps nonprofits become more efficient and effective.



### STRENGTHENING EMERGING DEMOCRACIES

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, Urban researchers provided practical help with the evolving roles of local governments, citizen participation, and performance measurement. Today, in the face of rapid urbanization and climate pressures, we work on the ground in places like Kenya, Kosovo, Indonesia, Uganda, Sierra Leone, and El Salvador, helping donor agencies and local governments become more effective.



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*“I know that I can call on the Urban Institute for always-accurate, always-relevant research about the most important issues of the day. Whether it’s a question about health or tax policies, the well-being of families and neighborhoods, the social safety net, or trends in work and earnings, Urban’s information is credible, nonpartisan, and remarkably accessible.”*

**—JUDY WOODRUFF**

Coanchor and managing editor, *PBS NewsHour*,  
and Urban Institute trustee

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Visit [www.urban.org](http://www.urban.org) to learn more about recent research, upcoming events and programs, and opportunities to connect with our experts.

*“As a founding donor of the Urban Institute, the Ford Foundation continues to turn to this vital partner to help solve complex challenges and influence social change.”*

**—DARREN WALKER**

President, Ford Foundation

*“The Urban Institute has a proud 20th-century history of data-rich, timely policy analysis. It now has 21st-century accessibility to accompany those efforts.”*

**—DOUGLAS HOLTZ-EAKIN**

President, American Action Forum, and former director, Congressional Budget Office