



Only In America



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I love research. These are bits and pieces of little known facts and stats that you usually won't read or hear about from our primary media sources. Each one has been gathered from reliable sources across America, and the information is truthful. Some statements may seem so outrageous you may find them really hard to believe; some statistics may make you go inside yourself and ponder how does this impact me and/or my family; and some may elicit multiple emotional responses within you that cause you to shake your head and think...What were they thinking? Here's my "Dirty Dozen" for July.

One in 20 patients admitted to U.S. hospitals picks up an infection they didn't have when they arrived. Those infections cause the deaths of 100,000 people a year. ~Associated Press

Our updated hospital safety ratings now include 2,031 hospitals. But we still find cause for concern. The average score for all hospitals was 49 on our 100-point scale. 'When it comes to health care, average is never good enough, and this average is not even close,' says John Santa, M.D. director of the Consumer Reports Health Ratings Center. ~Consumer Reports

Sixty-four percent of American adults say sports figures have a greater influence on society than clergy or other faith leaders. 19% say religious leaders have more influence than athletes. ~The Barna Group

Facebook's first annual earnings report showed \$1.1 billion in pretax profits, but the social networking firm will likely pay zero federal and state taxes. Instead, thanks to some clever bookkeeping, the company is expected to receive a \$429 million tax refund. ~Businessweek.com

Sixty-nine percent of Internet buyers do research before purchasing a product, and almost 80% change their purchasing decisions based on negative product reviews. ~The Wall Street Journal

A Christian mothers' group is complaining that Geico's latest ad features Maxwell, a talking pig, ignoring the flirtatious advances of a young woman as they sit in a parked car. The group, One Million Moms, said it is 'disgusting to see how the company takes lightly the idea of bestiality.' ~The Week

Almost half of working-age Americans skipped necessary medical care last year because it was too expensive. Most of those 80 million people were uninsured or underinsured, but 28% with good insurance still did without treatment because of cost. ~CNN.com

College sports coaches are the highest paid state employees in 41 states, receiving checks that surpass the salaries of governors, university presidents, and doctors and lawyers working in state agencies. ~Deadspin.com

No Republican or conservative has been invited to make the commencement speech this year at any of the 50 top U.S. liberal arts colleges, as ranked by U.S. News and World Report. ~Los Angeles Times

Americans think a family of four needs an annual minimum of \$58,000 "just to get by," according to a new Gallup poll. That's twice the 2012 poverty threshold for a family of four, which was about \$24,000 a year. ~CNBC.com

Every U.S. president since Richard M. Nixon has been faced with scandal in his second term, with an administration's vulnerability to scandal peaking in its fifth year. ~CSMonitor.com

Nearly 60% of the tuna sold at restaurants and grocery stores in the U.S. is not tuna, a DNA study by the group Oceana found. Most of the mislabeled tuna was in fact an extremely oily fish called escolar. The same study found that red snapper was misrepresented 87% of the time. ~Los Angeles Times