Data Available from the Pennsylvania State Data Center and the U.S. Census Bureau

The Pennsylvania State Data Center (PaSDC) has provided data products and services to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for three decades. In addition to custom data reports, the PaSDC produces many publications including the Pennsylvania Abstract and the County Data Book series. The PaSDC also provides statistical and thematic mapping services. Below is a list of custom data requests to which the PaSDC recently responded and information on where the data can be found. Also included is information on recent and forthcoming publications. Census Bureau data can be extracted and customized by the PaSDC to fit your particular need. For a custom report, please contact the PaSDC at 717.948.6336 or email PaSDC@psu.edu.

Q: The U.S. Census Bureau recently released 2015 county population estimates, which county was the fastest growing and which had the greatest loss in population?

A: Cumberland County in south-central Pennsylvania was the fastest growing county in the state. From April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2015, Cumberland County’s total population increased at a growth rate of 4.6 percent. Right behind Cumberland County was Centre County, home to Penn State University; which grew at 4.3 percent. On the other end of the spectrum, nearly two-thirds of the counties in the state experienced a population loss of greater than 1,000 residents. Most of these counties were located in Western Pennsylvania. Cambria County had the largest estimated decrease in population with a loss of 7,263 (5.1 percent).

For more about the 2015 County Population Estimates check out our recent Research Brief! Visit: http://pasdc.hbg.psu.edu/ Click on Data, then Research Briefs

Did you know:
The largest rainbow trout (Oncorhynchus mykiss) caught in Pennsylvania was 15lbs 6.25oz. The fish was captured in 1986 from the Jordan Creek in Lehigh County.

Check out the 2016 Pennsylvania Facts Brochure for more fun facts!

Q: How can I learn more about Census Bureau programs, data releases and data dissemination tools?

A: The PaSDC’s annual Data User Conference is a great way to learn about demographic data from the U.S. Census Bureau’s demographic experts. This year’s conference, “Data Driven Decisions”, will center on how organizations make use of primary and secondary data in decision making. Sessions by university researchers and state agency personnel will discuss topics such as the impacts of generational wealth transfer in rural Pennsylvania and using survey data to uncover Pennsylvanians feelings toward the police.

The conference also provides an excellent opportunity for data users to receive training on the latest data access tools and share the latest information on Pennsylvania’s demographics. The conference will be held on May 12, 2016 at Penn State Harrisburg in Middletown, PA.

Online registration for the conference is now available at http://pasdcconference.org/

Recent PaSDC Research Briefs

Southeast and South-Central Counties Among State’s Fastest Growing
https://pasdc.hbg.psu.edu/sdc/pasdc_files/researchbriefs/2015_County_Estimates_RB.pdf

Women’s History Month: A Snapshot of African American Women in the Keystone State
https://pasdc.hbg.psu.edu/sdc/pasdc_files/researchbriefs/Women_History_Mnth_RB.pdf
**Q:** Who are the top ten employers in Pennsylvania?

**A:** In the second-quarter of 2015, the Federal Government was the top employer in the Keystone State. State Government related employment came in second. Wal-Mart Associates Inc., the City of Philadelphia, and the Trustees of The University of Pennsylvania completed the top five. Six through ten include: Penn State University; Giant Food Stores, LLC; School District of Philadelphia; UPMC Presbyterian Shadyside; United Parcel Service, Inc. This data originates from the PA Department of Labor and Industry’s Center for Workforce Information and Analysis and can be found in the PaSDC’s Pennsylvania Abstract.

The Pennsylvania Abstract contains a wealth of reference material on population, socio-economics, the economy, business and government, and other topics. With more than 200 tables of easy-to-find information, the Abstract is filled with the most current and available data for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and each of its 67 counties. The 2015 Edition of the Abstract includes Microsoft Excel data files with the CD-ROM product.

**Q:** How many Pennsylvanians were covered by Medicaid in 2014?

**A:** According to the 2014 Current Population Survey, there were a total of 2.1 million Pennsylvanians receiving health care coverage through Medicaid in the commonwealth in 2014. Nearly 4-in-10 (39.8 percent) Pennsylvania children were on Medicaid, 12.4 percent of adults aged 18 to 64 years and 4.1 percent of older Pennsylvanians. Among children, Black or African Americans had the largest rate of Medicaid provided health insurance with 70.1 percent, followed by Hispanic children at 67.5 percent. Asian children had the lowest rate (28.8 percent) of Medicaid enrollment in 2014.

The Current Population Survey (CPS) is one of the oldest, largest, and most well-recognized surveys in the United States. It is immensely important, providing information on many of the things that define us as individuals and as a society – our work, our earnings, and our education.

In addition to being the primary source of monthly labor force statistics, the CPS is used to collect data for a variety of other studies that keep the nation informed of the economic and social well-being of its people.

Visit: [http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/about.html](http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps/about.html) for more information.

**Q:** I am using the American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) data, and I see a geographic area called PUMA. What are Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMAs)?

**A:** Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMAs) are non-overlapping areas that partition each state into areas containing about 100,000 residents. PUMAs were developed to be the most detailed geographic area available in the Public Use Microdata Samples (PUMS). Because the State Data Centers (SDCs) and their partner organizations helped define these areas for the Census Bureau, they should be meaningful to many data users.

PUMA boundaries are updated with each decennial census in cooperation with the SDCs. The Bureau produces PUMS files so that data users can create custom tables of ACS data. For more information, visit the Public Use Microdata Areas page. American Community Survey PUMS files began using the new 2010 PUMA boundaries for PUMS data released in and after 2013.

**Custom Reports** - The PaSDC can provide more than just data; we are able to create charts, graphs, and maps. Oftentimes a visual presentation of data is ideal: our custom projects, including thematic maps, can display data variables from the 2010 Census, the American Community Survey, Population Estimates, and the Economic Census, at a variety of geographic levels. To have a customized map or report created for a specific data item of interest, contact PaSDC at 717-948-6336 or PaSDC@psu.edu for more information.

**HOW TO OBTAIN PaSDC REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS**

Custom report generation and publications from the PaSDC may be obtained by calling the PaSDC at 717.948.6336, emailing PaSDC@psu.edu or by visiting our Web site PaSDC.hbg.psu.edu.

Tipsheet is a monthly release of the Pennsylvania State Data Center. The Pennsylvania State Data Center is the Commonwealth’s official source of population and economic statistics. It is based at Penn State Harrisburg’s Institute of State and Regional Affairs. The Pennsylvania State Data Center is part of the U.S. Census Bureau’s National State Data Center Program. For additional information or data, contact the Pennsylvania State Data Center at 717-948-6336.