



Research Brief

THE COMMONWEALTH'S OFFICIAL SOURCE OF POPULATION AND ECONOMIC STATISTICS

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How is Pennsylvania Measuring Up?

MIDDLETOWN, Pa—Not only is Pennsylvania one of the states leading the nation in response rates to Census 2000, 55 counties in the Commonwealth also register a higher response rate than the national average, the Pennsylvania State Data Center, at Penn State Harrisburg reports.

The national response rate was 55 percent as of April 3, 2000, while Pennsylvania's rate was at 60 percent. Ohio lead the nation at 62 percent. Following at 61 percent were Iowa and Nebraska. Closing in were Pennsylvania and Michigan both at 60 percent. The response rate is the percent of forms of the total residential address pool that have been mailed back to the Census Bureau

The majority of Pennsylvania counties had response rates above the national average. In addition, 37 of Pennsylvania's counties fell in above the state average.

Cumberland, Lancaster and Northampton lead the Commonwealth in response rates at 68 percent each. Carbon, Lebanon and Lehigh followed at 67 percent each. Pike county, which has experienced phenomenal growth over the past decade, ranked last with only 38 percent of households responding.

The two large urban areas fall at both ends of the spectrum. Philadelphia had a 45 percent response rate, tying with Wayne County as second last in the state. Allegheny County, however, had 61 percent of households return their forms. The City of Pittsburgh itself registered at 51 percent.

Response rates are updated daily on the Census Bureau web site (URL: www.census.gov click on initial response rates) for each state, county and municipality.

Beginning April 27th, the Census Bureau will begin sending out enumerators to visit households that have not returned their census forms. This is a very expensive undertaking, \$25 million for every 1 percent of non-responding households. Therefore, it is very important to continue to encourage households to return their census forms.

The Pennsylvania State Data Center is the Commonwealth's official source of population and economic statistics and services. 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.

Editors: Questions relating to the Decennial Census may be directed to Diane E. Shoop, Director of the Pennsylvania State Data Center, at 717-948-6096.

Source of Information: U.S. Census Bureau

Census 2000 Response Rates
As of April 3, 2000: Pennsylvania Counties

County	Rate	Rank	County	Rate	Rank
National	55		McKean County	58	46
Pennsylvania	60		Mercer County	65	12
Adams County	62	27	Mifflin County	62	33
Allegheny County	61	34	Monroe County	52	62
Armstrong County	62	28	Montgomery County	64	18
Beaver County	65	11	Montour County	64	19
Bedford County	59	42	Northampton County	68	3
Berks County	66	7	Northumberland County	63	24
Blair County	66	8	Perry County	60	41
Bradford County	61	35	Philadelphia County	45	65
Bucks County	64	14	Pike County	38	67
Butler County	63	21	Potter County	54	60
Cambria County	62	29	Schuylkill County	64	20
Cameron County	58	44	Snyder County	63	25
Carbon County	67	4	Somerset County	56	54
Centre County	59	43	Sullivan County	50	63
Chester County	60	38	Susquehanna County	55	57
Clarion County	55	56	Tioga County	55	58
Clearfield County	60	39	Union County	63	26
Clinton County	53	61	Venango County	57	50
Columbia County	63	22	Warren County	56	55
Crawford County	56	51	Washington County	61	37
Cumberland County	68	1	Wayne County	45	66
Dauphin County	61	36	Westmoreland County	66	10
Delaware County	62	30	Wyoming County	58	47
Elk County	64	15	York County	65	13
Erie County	66	9			
Fayette County	46	64			
Forest County	57	48			
Franklin County	62	31			
Fulton County	56	52			
Greene County	60	40			
Huntingdon County	54	59			
Indiana County	58	45			
Jefferson County	57	49			
Juniata County	63	23			
Lackawanna County	62	32			
Lancaster County	68	2			
Lawrence County	64	16			
Lebanon County	67	5			
Lehigh County	67	6			
Luzerne County	64	17			
Lycoming County	56	53			

Census 2000 Response Rates
April 3, 2000: U.S.

State	Rate	Rank	State	Rate	Rank
National	55		Texas	50	43
Alabama	49	44	Utah	56	24
Alaska	42	51	Vermont	49	46
Arizona	51	39	Virginia	58	14
Arkansas	52	35	Washington	54	31
California	57	15	West Virginia	53	34
Colorado	58	7	Wisconsin	56	25
Connecticut	58	8	Wyoming	56	26
Delaware	54	29			
District of Columbia	48	47			
Florida	52	36			
Georgia	52	37			
Hawaii	50	40			
Idaho	57	16			
Illinois	56	20			
Indiana	58	9			
Iowa	61	2			
Kansas	58	10			
Kentucky	55	27			
Louisiana	48	48			
Maine	52	38			
Maryland	58	11			
Massachusetts	59	6			
Michigan	60	4			
Minnesota	58	12			
Mississippi	46	50			
Missouri	56	21			
Montana	57	17			
Nebraska	61	3			
Nevada	54	30			
New Hampshire	56	22			
New Jersey	57	18			
New Mexico	50	41			
New York	53	32			
North Dakota	55	28			
North Carolina	49	45			
Ohio	62	1			
Oklahoma	50	42			
Oregon	56	23			
Pennsylvania	60	5			
Puerto Rico	33	52			
Rhode Island	57	19			
South Carolina	47	49			
South Dakota	58	13			
Tennessee	53	33			