



Research Brief

* THE COMMONWEALTH'S OFFICIAL SOURCE OF POPULATION AND ECONOMIC STATISTICS *

March 19, 2001

Recently released PL 94-171 Data Shows Pennsylvania's Diversity

MIDDLETOWN, PA- The Pennsylvania State Data announces the release of Census 2000 data for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. While the main purpose of this release is for redistricting, this data can also be used to gain a perspective on the racial diversity in the commonwealth. For the first time in history, respondents were given the opportunity to mark "one or more" race categories. Surprisingly, only 1.2 percent of the population (142,224 persons) answered the two or more race option when completing their questionnaire. A large percentage of the state's population seem to consider themselves of one race.

The breakdown for people who identified themselves as belonging to only one race is as follows:

Table 1: One Race Category

Race Category	Number	Percent of total population
White	10,484,203	85.4
Black or African American	1,224,612	10.0
American Indian or Alaskan Native	18,348	0.1
Asian	219,813	1.8
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	3,417	-
Some Other Race	188,437	1.5



Hispanics, considered an ethnicity, may be of any race and totaled 394,088 persons (3.2 percent). The United States Hispanic or Latino population came in at over 35 million persons, or about 13 percent of the national population figure.

Of the over 132,000 persons indicating two races, the most common category was White and Black or African American with 35,533 persons (0.3 percent of the total population). The second most common was White and Some other race with 30,643 persons (0.2 percent) and the third most common was White and American Indian/Alaskan Native with 18,962 persons (0.2 percent).

Table 2: Two Race Category

Two Race Category	Number	Percent of total population
White; Black or African American	35,533	0.3
White; American Indian and Alaska Native	18,962	0.2
White; Asian	16,933	0.1
White; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	1,343	-
White; Some other race	30,643	0.2
Black or African American; American Indian and Alaska Native	7,211	0.1
Black or African American; Asian	2,486	-
Black or African American; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	911	-
Black; Some other race	10,469	0.1
American Indian and Alaska Native; Asian	1,016	-
American Indian and Alaska Native; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	76	-
American Indian and Alaska Native; Some other race	919	-
Asian; Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander	1,126	-
Asian; Some other race	4,346	-
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander; Some other race	635	-

Those reporting three or more races totaled slightly less than 10,000 persons or 0.1 percent of the total population.

Making comparisons to 1990 race data is difficult. In 1990 a person could only mark one race category. As stated earlier, in 2000 respondents could mark “one or more” race categories for the first time in history. Another change from 1990 to 2000 was that the Asian and Pacific Islander categories were split into two separate race categories rather than being placed together. The other significant race change in this past census was the combining of American Indian, Eskimo and Aleut into the category “American Indian or Alaskan Native.”

For more information on race, age and population demographics, you may view the PL 94-171 data on our Web site at www.pasdc.hbg.psu.edu. If you wish more detailed geographic information than what is posted on the Web site, please call 717.948.6336 or email PaSDC@psu.edu.

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: For additional data, contact the Data Center’s State Capital Office at 717.772.2710, or for faculty comment on this topic, contact Penn State Harrisburg’s Public Information Office, 717. 948.6029.

Source of Information:

The Pennsylvania State Data Center

The United States Bureau of the Census

PENNSTATE



Harrisburg

Institute of State and Regional Affairs