

# Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source of Population and Economic Statistics

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## **Census Bureau Releases Long Form-Type Data for Large U.S. Cities and Counties**

MIDDLETOWN, Pa – The Pennsylvania State Data Center at Penn State Harrisburg reports that the U.S. Census Bureau has released detailed data from the Census 2000 Supplemental Survey (C2SS). The survey includes detailed information on housing, language, income and other statistics.

The C2SS data is available for almost all cities and counties with populations of 250,000 or more as well as 211 congressional districts. National and state data is also being released.

In Pennsylvania, information for the cities of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh will be available as well as the following counties: Allegheny, Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Erie, Lancaster, Lehigh, Luzerne, Montgomery, Northampton, Philadelphia, Westmoreland and York.

The data was collected from a survey of 700,000 households and used the American Community Survey (ACS) methodology and questionnaire. It is the largest survey ever conducted by the Census Bureau outside a decennial census. If Congress approves funding, the ACS will eliminate the need for a long form questionnaire for Census 2010 and will produce current data on communities and population groups on a yearly basis.

## **Distinctions Between C2SS Data and Census 2000**

So that confusion may be avoided, some distinctions must be drawn between the C2SS data released today and Census 2000 data. The C2SS data is not derived from the decennial census and should not be used as a population count. The data is not a substitute for the Census 2000 long form. The Summary File 3 data from Census 2000 was based on 19 million households and will be released in 2003. The C2SS data is also not a substitute for unemployment rates, official income and poverty estimates or other current survey estimates.

The C2SS data will be used by the Department of Health and Human Services to reward states for high performance under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program and by other federal agencies for purposes such as the planning of veterans hospitals and improving labor force estimates for states and smaller areas.

The C2SS data will indicate how some aspects of the country have changed during the 1990s at the national and state level. Census Bureau demographers, however, recommend that

comparisons not be made at the substate level between C2SS estimates and 1990 Census data due to methodological differences. The omission of group quarters populations is of those differences.

### **Pennsylvania Data From the C2SS Survey**

- The C2SS indicates that 4 percent of the people living in Pennsylvania in 2000 were foreign born. Of the 96 percent who were native, 82 percent were born in Pennsylvania.
- Of those Pennsylvanians age five and over, 8 percent spoke a language other than English at home. Of this 8 percent, 35 percent spoke Spanish.
- In 2000, 89 percent of the population of Pennsylvania was living in the same residence one year earlier (this data is collected from persons who were at least one year old in 2000). Of the 11 percent who did move within the past year, 7 percent moved within the county, 2 percent moved from one county to another county within Pennsylvania, 2 percent moved to Pennsylvania from another state and 0.5 percent moved to Pennsylvania from abroad.
- In 2000, 77 percent of Pennsylvania workers drove to work alone, 10 percent carpooled, 6 percent took public transportation and 3 percent worked at home.
- The average commute time to work for Pennsylvanians was 24 minutes.
- The median household income in Pennsylvania was \$39,560 and the average income from Social Security was \$11,854.
- The median monthly housing cost for mortgaged owners in Pennsylvania was \$993, and for nonmortgaged owners it was \$307.

### **Accessing C2SS Data**

C2SS data can be accessed through the Census Bureau's American FactFinder database at [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov). The Pennsylvania State Data Center will provide C2SS data as it is released at [pasdc.hbg.psu.edu](http://pasdc.hbg.psu.edu).

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.

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Editors: For additional data, contact the Pennsylvania State 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 at 717.948.6029.

Source: United States Bureau of the Census

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