



Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

February 27, 2003

Pennsylvania State Data Center Announces 2003 Spring Lecture Series

MIDDLETOWN, Pa - Please join the Pennsylvania State Data Center for our Spring 2003 Lecture Series. The lectures will be held from noon to 1:00 p.m. at the Penn State Downtown Center, located at 234 North Third Street, directly across from the Capitol Building in downtown Harrisburg.

These lectures are free and open to the public. To ensure adequate seating, we ask that you please pre-register by phoning 717.948.6677 or email PaSDC-Reserve@psu.edu.

Thursday, April 10

Policing Persons with Mental Illness: The Pennsylvania Experience

James Ruiz, Ph.D.

New Orleans Police Department, Ret.
Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice
School of Public Affairs
Penn State Harrisburg

Dr. Ruiz will describe the existence or lack of policies for police officers responding to calls involving persons with mental illness. He will also give an overview of police departments who have guiding measures in place to provide assistance to departments wishing to update their policies. In addition, Dr. Ruiz will provide a measure of the frequency of calls involving persons with mental illness. He also will provide information regarding those calls that resulted in violent outcomes. Lastly, Dr. Ruiz will assess police officers' perception of dangerousness and violence regarding calls involving persons with mental illness.

James Ruiz is an Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice in the School of Public Affairs, Penn State Harrisburg. He received his Ph.D. in Criminal Justice at Sam Houston State University in December 2000. He served with the New Orleans Police Department from 1967 to 1985.

Thursday, April 24

The State of the Commonwealth: 2000

Jennifer Schultz

Pennsylvania State Data Center

The State of the Commonwealth: 2000 report analyzes economic, social, population and housing trends in Pennsylvania based on the results of Census 2000. The report was written by Gretchen Cornwell, Ph.D., with the Population Research Institute at The Pennsylvania State University, and

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Jennifer Shultz and Sue Copella of The Pennsylvania State Data Center at Penn State Harrisburg, and published by The Pennsylvania State Data Center. Topics covered include: population, age, race and ethnicity, household and family structure, employment, income, poverty and housing. The session will provide a review of the topics covered in the report with summary statistics and policy implications.

Jennifer Shultz is a Research Associate with the Pennsylvania State Data Center, Institute of State and Regional Affairs at Penn State Harrisburg. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from the Pennsylvania State University. Ms. Shultz has worked for the Data Center since 1991 in various positions and was coauthor of the previous report on this topic, *The State of the Commonwealth: 1998*.

Thursday, May 8

A Profile of Prescription Drug Coverage and Other Health-Related Issues: Results of the Statewide Survey of Older Pennsylvanians - 2001

Barbara Sims, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice and
Faculty Director of the Center for Survey Research
Institute of State and Regional Affairs
Penn State Harrisburg

In the fall of 2001, the PACE/PACENET Program within the Pennsylvania Department of Aging contracted with Penn State Harrisburg's Center for Survey Research to conduct a statewide survey of older Pennsylvanians. Through a statewide RDD (Random Digit Dialing) telephone survey, the study measured the extent and nature of prescription drug coverage for this particular population and explored differences within certain socio-economic and demographic groups related to coverage. The purpose of this presentation is to present the major findings from the PACE study, which yielded 1,195 completed interviews with Pennsylvania's population, age 65 and over.

Dr. Sims joined Penn State Harrisburg's School of Public Affairs in 1997 after completion of her Ph.D. in Criminal Justice at Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas. She is an Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice and also serves as faculty advisor to the Penn State Harrisburg Criminal Justice Club. In her capacity as Faculty Director of the Center for Survey Research, Dr. Sims has worked on several public opinion surveys. Dr. Sims received Penn State Harrisburg's James A. Jordan Teaching Award in the Spring of 2002.

The Pennsylvania State Data Center is the commonwealth's official source for 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.

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.

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