



Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

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Annual Data User Conference coming to Harrisburg September 20

MIDDLETOWN, Pa – Pennsylvania's most comprehensive forum for the latest research and developments in demographic data is coming to Harrisburg in September. The **Annual Data User Conference**, hosted by the Pennsylvania State Data Center based at Penn State Harrisburg, will be at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg/Hershey September 20, 2005.

The annual, day-long event includes multiple breakout and training sessions designed to inform data users of the most up-to-date technologies and procedures for locating and utilizing Pennsylvania data. Experts will address many topics, ranging from information resources to public policy implications and economic/community development issues.

The conference is also an opportunity for those attending to become familiar with the American Community Survey (ACS), a major part of the Census Bureau's re-engineered 2010 census plan. ACS, which has already begun a phased rollout, will replace the census long form currently collected every 10 years and provide yearly socio-economic data.

The keynote speaker for the conference will be Dr. Martin Shields, director of the Center for Economic and Community Development and assistant professor of agricultural and regional economics at Penn State. Dr. Shields will discuss Update on *PA: The Road to 2005, The Economy, Jobs, Income, Population, and Forecasts*. This publication is the 17th in an annual series intended as a ready reference for business, banks, development groups, public officials, educators, and concerned citizens.

The opening speaker, Dr. Linda Jacobsen, is Director of Domestic Programs at the Population Reference Bureau in Washington, D.C. The bureau is a leader in providing timely and objective information on U.S. and international population trends and their implications. Dr. Jacobsen will discuss an upcoming bulletin that the Population Reference Bureau is publishing on the American Community Survey.

This year's breakout sessions topics include:

- Agricultural Statistics
- The 2002 Economic Census
- Census Bureau: The Other Nine Years
- American Community Survey: An Overview
- Conducting an Industry Cluster: An Economic Development Project

- CPS - Current Population Survey of Rural Pennsylvania
- Historical Census Data: Finding the Past
- Migration: The Coming and Going of Pennsylvanians.

Training sessions include:

- Using American Fact Finder
- American Community Survey
- Emerging GIS Applications and Technologies

The Early Bird registration fee for the conference is \$120. After August 26th, the regular fee of \$149 will be assessed. Participants may register for the conference online with a credit card or check using our secure transaction server. Online registration is fast, easy, and secure.

This year, paid registrants can exhibit for free. For more information, to register, or to view our conference brochure, visit our website and click on the “Annual Data User Conference” icon at:

<http://pasdc.hbg.psu.edu/>

or contact Mike DeFrank at 717.948.6310, or email PaSDC@psu.edu.

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.