



Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

August 15, 2005

Census Bureau Releases 2004 State and County Population Estimates by Sex, Age, Race and Hispanic Origin for Pennsylvania

MIDDLETOWN, Pa – The U.S. Census Bureau has released July 1, 2004 estimates of the population based on sex, age, race and Hispanic origin. The release includes detailed estimates for Pennsylvania at the state and county levels. In 2004, Pennsylvania's estimated population rose to 12,406,292, an increase of 125,238 persons since 2000.

Age and Sex

Since 2000, Pennsylvania's elderly population (65 years or older) has continually declined, dropping by 22,663 persons. The state's elderly population again decreased this year, from 1,900,491 in 2003 to 1,896,503 in 2004. Sullivan County had the highest percentage of elderly persons in the commonwealth, with 22.5 percent of its estimated 2004 population being 65 years or older, while Allegheny is estimated to have the largest numeric population of elderly (215,799). The estimated population of persons under the age of 18 also declined, down from 2,922,221 in 2000 to 2,837,009 in 2004; this age group now comprises 22.9 percent of the population.

As of July 1, 2004, the commonwealth's male (6,013,662) and female (6,392,630) populations stood at 48.5 percent and 51.5 percent of the total population, respectively. Philadelphia County had both the largest estimated number and highest estimated percentage of women in the commonwealth in 2004. An estimated 785,846 women lived in Philadelphia in 2004, accounting for 53.5 percent of the county's total population.

Race and Hispanic Origin

The population in the White Alone (86.2 percent), Black or African American Alone (10.5 percent) and Asian Alone (2.2 percent) racial groups accounted for 98.9 percent of the total estimated population in Pennsylvania in 2004. There were 475,552 persons of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity in the commonwealth in 2004, 3.9 percent of Pennsylvania's total population.* (Table 1)

At the county level, Philadelphia has the highest percentages of both Black or African American Alone (51.0 percent of the state's total Black Alone population) and Asian Alone (28.5 percent of the state's Asian Alone population) estimated populations in 2004. Philadelphia County remains the most populous county in Pennsylvania. Philadelphia is also home to the highest percentage of persons claiming the Hispanic or Latino Ethnicity (31.3 percent of the state's Hispanic population). The White Alone population remained the largest single racial group in every county in the commonwealth.

Methodology

The Census Bureau used a distributive cohort component method to develop the July 1, 2004 state estimates of the resident population by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin, for all of the nation's states and counties. Using previously developed resident state population estimates by age and sex, and resident national population estimates by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin, the Census Bureau estimated the age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin distributions for each state by estimating post-censal change in the corresponding populations with a cohort component model. The distributions were then applied to the original state age-sex and national characteristics estimates.

Table 1: Annual Estimates of the Population by Race and Hispanic or Latino Origin for Pennsylvania: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2004					
Race and Hispanic or Latino Origin	Population estimates			April 1, 2000	
	July 1, 2004	Percentage of Population	July 1, 2003	Estimates base	Percentage of Population
BOTH SEXES	12,406,292		12,370,761	12,281,054	
One race	12,291,612	99.1	12,260,563	12,183,596	99.2
White	10,693,313	86.2	10,686,275	10,675,010	86.9
Black	1,304,439	10.5	1,291,526	1,258,949	10.3
AIAN	21,900	0.2	21,374	19,782	0.2
Asian	266,757	2.2	256,396	225,454	1.8
NHPI	5,203	0.0	4,992	4,401	0.0
Two or more races	114,680	0.9	110,198	97,458	0.8
<i>Race alone or in combination:(1)</i>					
White	10,793,117	87.0	10,781,892	10,758,723	87.6
Black	1,373,946	11.2	1,357,574	1,315,098	10.7
AIAN	56,155	0.5	55,433	53,316	0.4
Asian	295,266	2.4	283,863	250,001	2.0
NHPI	10,432	0.1	10,093	9,170	0.1
NOT HISPANIC OR LATINO ORIGIN	11,930,740	96.2	11,916,676	11,886,966	96.8
One race	11,827,456	95.3	11,817,299	11,798,799	96.1
White	10,288,227	82.9	10,301,368	10,346,307	84.2
Black	1,256,065	10.1	1,243,385	1,211,622	9.9
AIAN	16,276	0.1	16,036	15,289	0.1
Asian	263,641	2.1	253,391	222,790	1.8
NHPI	3,247	0.0	3,119	2,791	0.0
Two or more races	103,284	0.8	99,377	88,167	0.7
<i>Race alone or in combination:(1)</i>					
White	10,377,849	83.6	10,387,330	10,421,808	84.9
Black	1,317,023	10.6	1,301,284	1,260,792	10.3
AIAN	47,358	0.4	47,007	45,980	0.4
Asian	290,654	2.3	279,464	246,121	2.0
NHPI	7,889	0.1	7,680	7,082	0.1

**Table 1 (Continued): Annual Estimates of the Population by Race and Hispanic or Latino Origin for Pennsylvania:
April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2004**

Race and Hispanic or Latino Origin	Population estimates			April 1, 2000	
	July 1, 2004	Percentage of Population	July 1, 2003	Estimates base	Percentage of Population
HISPANIC OR LATINO ORIGIN	475,552	3.8	454,085	394,088	3.2
One race	464,156	3.7	443,264	384,797	3.1
White	405,086	3.3	384,907	328,703	2.7
Black	48,374	0.4	48,141	47,327	0.4
AIAN	5,624	0.0	5,338	4,493	0.0
Asian	3,116	0.0	3,005	2,664	0.0
NHPI	1,956	0.0	1,873	1,610	0.0
Two or more races	11,396	0.1	10,821	9,291	0.1
<i>Race alone or in combination:(1)</i>					
White	415,268	3.3	394,562	336,915	2.7
Black	56,923	0.5	56,290	54,306	0.4
AIAN	8,797	0.1	8,426	7,336	0.1
Asian	4,612	0.0	4,399	3,880	0.0
NHPI	2,543	0.0	2,413	2,088	0.0

* Note: People who identify their origin as Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino may be of any race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division
Release Date: August 11, 2005

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.