



Research Brief

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U.S. Census Bureau Releases 2006-2010 American Community Survey Estimates: First ACS 5-Year Data Tabulated to 2010 Census Geographic Areas

PENN STATE HARRISBURG – The U.S. Census Bureau today released new demographic and socio-economic data for every community in the United States, including all counties, municipalities, and other geographic areas down to the census block group level. The release of the 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates mark the first time ACS estimates have been benchmarked to controls based on the 2010 Census. The data contained in today's release has also been tabulated to 2010 Census geographic areas, making it possible to combine with 2010 Census data to produce data profiles for Pennsylvania counties and municipalities.

In Pennsylvania, new detailed socio-economic data was released for all 67 counties, state legislative districts, school districts, municipalities and several other geographic areas. The release of the 2006-2010 ACS 5-Year Estimates mark the second five-year data product generated from the American Community Survey.

Poverty Status of Families with Related Children

According to the new data, during the period 2006-2010, more than three times as many Pennsylvania children living below the federal poverty threshold resided in single parent families, as opposed to married-couple families. A total of 161,886, or 33.5 percent, of single parent families with related children lived in poverty, compared to 49,307, or 4.9 percent of married-couple families with related children in 2006-2010. The overwhelming majority of children in poverty living in single parent households lived in female-headed single parent families (86.7 percent vs. 13.3 for male-headed single parent families). Overall, a total of 211,193, or 14.2 percent, of Pennsylvania families with related children had incomes below the federal poverty level during the period 2006-2010.

Philadelphia County had both the highest number and percent of families with related children living below the poverty level with 47,485, or 29.0 percent (see Table 1.). Fayette County followed in terms of the highest proportion of families with children living in poverty with 27.6 percent in 2006-2010. Bucks County (5.1 percent) had the lowest percent of families with related children living in poverty, followed by Chester (5.5 percent), Montgomery (5.6 percent) and Cumberland (6.4 percent) Counties.

Table 1. Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Family Type and Presence of Related Children, Pennsylvania Counties: 2006-2010

Rank	County	Families with Related Children		
		For Whom Poverty Status is Determined	Income in the Past 12 Months Below Poverty Level	Percent with Income Below Poverty Level
-	Pennsylvania	1,482,438	211,193	14.2%
1	Philadelphia	163,715	47,485	29.0%
2	Fayette	15,487	4,269	27.6%
3	Venango	6,182	1,325	21.4%
4	Crawford	9,892	2,048	20.7%
5	Clearfield	9,022	1,854	20.5%
6	Tioga	4,986	1,021	20.5%
7	Greene	4,347	873	20.1%
8	Cambria	15,365	2,920	19.0%
9	McKean	5,077	949	18.7%
10	Potter	2,069	379	18.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Labor Force Status of Married-couple Families

During the period 2006-2010, more than half (54.6 percent) of married-couple families in the Commonwealth had both husband and wife in the labor force. That percentage increased to 68.8 percent when the couple's own child was present. Husbands were more likely than wives to be in the labor force when only one partner was in the labor force: In 20.4 percent of married-couple families only the husband was in the labor force compared to 7.4 percent where wives were the sole partner in the labor force.

In 2006-2010, Montgomery County lead all counties in the percentage of married-couple families that had both the husband and wife in the labor force with 61.3 percent, followed by York (59.4 percent) and Adams (58.9 percent) Counties. Forest had the fewest married-couple families where both spouses were in the labor force with 33.7 percent, followed by Fayette (41.3 percent) and Sullivan (43.1 percent) Counties. Less than half of married-couple families had both partners in the labor force in twenty-two Pennsylvania counties.

Median Household Income

Chester County had the highest median household income (\$84,741), followed by Montgomery (\$76,380) and Bucks (\$74,828) Counties. Cumberland County (\$60,219) had the highest median household income outside of Southeastern Pennsylvania. Fayette County had the lowest median household income (\$34,796), followed by Forest (\$35,150) and Sullivan (\$36,250) Counties. All income estimates from the 2006-2010 ACS have been inflation-adjusted to 2010 dollars.

Other Selected Data, 2006-2010

- Employees residing in Pike County had the longest commute during the period 2006-2010, averaging 42.1 minutes to travel time to work. Workers in Cameron County had the shortest at 15.3 minutes. Overall, Pennsylvania workers spent 25.5 minutes on average commuting to work.

- In 2006-2010, 14.7 percent of Pennsylvanians age 65 and over were in the labor force; 14.0 percent of who were employed. Fifteen of Pennsylvania's 67 counties had elderly employment rates at or above the statewide rate.
- Forest County had the highest divorce rate among Pennsylvania counties in 2006-2010 at 13.0 percent. Twenty-three counties had divorce rates of over 10.0 percent during the same time period.

More about ACS 5-Year Estimates

The 2006-2010 ACS estimates are based on an annual, nationwide household sample of about 250,000 addresses per month, or 2.5 percent of the population per year (12.5 percent over 60 months). Data is available for all geographic areas in Pennsylvania, including the geographies that were included in three-year and one-year releases. The estimates aggregate the sample responses from Pennsylvania households collected from January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2010 and represent the average estimate of a population characteristic over the entire time period.

The 2006-2010 ACS 5-Year Estimates are different from, and should not be directly compared to the 2010 ACS one-year estimates or the ACS three-year estimates, released previously, which relate to specific time periods only. Five-year estimates are released annually for all geographies, continuing with next year's release of the 2007-2011 ACS 5-Year Estimates. As is the case with all surveys, statistics from sample surveys are subject to sampling and nonsampling error. Margins of error have been omitted in this Research Brief for clarity, but are available for all ACS estimates on factfinder.census.gov.

The ACS is part of the reengineered decennial census, and is the premier source of annual small-area estimates available on a wide range of important social and economic characteristics for all communities in the country. Together, data collected by the ACS and the 2010 Census help federal officials determine where to distribute more than \$400 billion each year. Responses to the survey, like the decennial census, are strictly confidential and protected by law.

The Pennsylvania State Data Center is the commonwealth's expert in demographics and Census datasets. To request custom American Community Survey data tables or maps, contact the Pennsylvania State Data Center at 717.772.2710.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates
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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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