



Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

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2006 Detailed State Population Estimates Released: Hispanic and Minority Groups Account for All of Pennsylvania's Population Growth

MIDDLETOWN, Pa –The U.S. Census Bureau recently released July 1, 2006 estimates of the population based on sex, age, race and Hispanic origin. The release includes detailed population estimates for Pennsylvania at the state level. The data illustrates the commonwealth's changing demographics, showing that minorities and persons of Hispanic origin now account for all of the state's population growth. Overall, the populations of several age groups, including persons 25-44 and children under the age of 18 have declined. The state's total population has increased to 12,440,621, from 12,405,348 in 2005 (a 0.2 percent increase) and 12,281,054 in 2000 (a 1.3 percent increase).

Race and Hispanic Origin

The Hispanic population in Pennsylvania (526,976) continued to increase in 2006. The number of persons of Hispanic or Latino Origin increased 5.1 percent from 2005 to 2006, and grew by 33.7 percent over the last 6 years. In comparison, the non-Hispanic population increased just 0.1 percent last year and 0.2 percent since 2000. Hispanics account for 83.2 percent of all population growth in Pennsylvania between 2000 and 2006. However, Hispanics make up just 4.2 percent of the total population in the commonwealth. Hispanic or Latino origin is considered an ethnicity by the U.S. Census Bureau and persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

The White population is the only race group in Pennsylvania that is losing population, with the non-Hispanic White population decreasing by 0.2 percent between 2005 and 2006 (-16,827). Since 2000, the non-Hispanic White alone population has fallen by 130,160 persons (-1.3 percent). Between 2005 and 2006, non-Hispanic Black and Asian (Alone) populations grew by 11,529 and 11,066 persons, respectively. In the last six years, Pennsylvania's non-Hispanic Black (+67,756) and Asian (+65,555) populations increased by 5.6 percent and 29.4 percent, respectively. Also, non-Hispanic Asians, Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders, and persons of two or more races have grown by more than 69.5 percent since 2000. Despite population loss, the White alone race group still comprises 85.7 percent of the total population in the commonwealth. (Table 1)

Age and Sex

Several age groups have declined in population over the last six years. Pennsylvania's elderly population (65 years or older) has dropped by 33,842 persons (-1.8 percent) since 2000. The 25-44 age group experienced the largest population loss (-283,936 or -8.1 percent) while children (under 18) declined by 117,348, or -4.0 percent during this period.

Pennsylvania remains one of the oldest states in the nation, ranking 3rd in percentage of persons 65 and over (15.2 percent) in 2006. The median age of all Pennsylvanians has increased from 38.0 to 39.5 since 2000. As of July 1, 2006, the commonwealth's male (6,047,537) and female (6,393,084) populations stood at 48.6 percent and 51.4 percent of the total population, respectively. Among the elderly, the ratio shifts to 40.7 percent male, 59.3 percent female.



Table 1. Annual Estimates of the Population by Race Alone and Hispanic or Latino Origin for Pennsylvania: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2005

Race (Alone), and Hispanic or Latino Origin	Population Estimates		April 1, 2000	July 1, 2005 to July 1, 2006 Percent Change	July 1, 2005 to July 1, 2006 Numeric Change	April 1, 2000 Estimates Base to July 1, 2006 Percent Change	April 1, 2000 Estimates Base to July 1, 2006 Numeric Change
	July 1, 2006	July 1, 2005	Estimates Base				
TOTAL	12,440,621	12,405,348	12,281,054	0.3%	35,273	1.3%	159,567
One race	12,318,444	12,287,477	12,183,596	0.3%	30,967	1.1%	134,848
White	10,660,136	10,655,425	10,675,010	0.0%	4,711	-0.1%	-14,874
Black	1,336,278	1,322,449	1,258,949	1.0%	13,829	6.1%	77,329
AIAN	24,077	23,305	19,782	3.3%	772	21.7%	4,295
Asian	292,507	281,096	225,454	4.1%	11,411	29.7%	67,053
NHPI	5,446	5,202	4,401	4.7%	244	23.7%	1,045
Two or more races	122,177	117,871	97,458	3.7%	4,306	25.4%	24,719
NOT HISPANIC OR LATINO ORIGIN	11,913,645	11,903,871	11,886,966	0.1%	9,774	0.2%	26,679
One race	11,804,796	11,798,520	11,798,799	0.1%	6,276	0.1%	5,997
White	10,216,147	10,232,974	10,346,307	-0.2%	-16,827	-1.3%	-130,160
Black	1,279,378	1,267,849	1,211,622	0.9%	11,529	5.6%	67,756
AIAN	17,670	17,259	15,289	2.4%	411	15.6%	2,381
Asian	288,345	277,279	222,790	4.0%	11,066	29.4%	65,555
NHPI	3,256	3,159	2,791	3.1%	97	16.7%	465
Two or more races	108,849	105,351	88,167	3.3%	3,498	23.5%	20,682
HISPANIC OR LATINO ORIGIN	526,976	501,477	394,088	5.1%	25,499	33.7%	132,888
One race	513,648	488,957	384,797	5.0%	24,691	33.5%	128,851
White	443,989	422,451	328,703	5.1%	21,538	35.1%	115,286
Black	56,900	54,600	47,327	4.2%	2,300	20.2%	9,573
AIAN	6,407	6,046	4,493	6.0%	361	42.6%	1,914
Asian	4,162	3,817	2,664	9.0%	345	56.2%	1,498
NHPI	2,190	2,043	1,610	7.2%	147	36.0%	580
Two or more races	13,328	12,520	9,291	6.5%	808	43.5%	4,037

Note: The April 1, 2000 Population Estimates base reflects changes to the Census 2000 population from the Count Question Resolution program and geographic program revisions.

Abbreviations: Black = Black or African American; AIAN = American Indian and Alaska Native; NHPI = Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander

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.

Source: Source: Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau.

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