



Research Brief

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Detailed State and County Population Estimates Released for Pennsylvania: State's Hispanic Population Tops 750,000

PENN STATE HARRISBURG – The U.S. Census Bureau today released the July 1, 2011 estimates of the population based on age, sex, race and Hispanic origin for Pennsylvania. Today's release provides the first such county estimates data to be released by the Census Bureau since the 2010 Census and includes detailed estimates for Pennsylvania at the state and county level.

The county population estimates are calculated using administrative records to estimate components of population change, such as births, deaths, domestic and international migration. The estimates reflect changes to the 2010 Census population counts resulting from legal boundary updates as of January 1 of the estimates year, other geographic program changes and Count Question Resolution (CQR) actions.

Age and Sex

Pennsylvania continues to grow older: the median age increased to 40.4 in 2011 from 40.1 in 2010. In 2011, the median age of the Commonwealth was more than three years older than the nation as a whole (37.3 years). Among Pennsylvania counties, Sullivan County had the highest median age in 2011 at 50.3 years, followed by Cameron (48.9 years), Wayne (46.7 years) and Elk (45.6 years) counties. Overall, fifty-two Pennsylvania counties had a higher median age than the statewide median in 2011. Centre County, due in large part to Penn State University, had the lowest median age among Pennsylvania counties at 28.4 years, followed by Philadelphia (33.5 years), Indiana (37.8 years), and Lancaster (38.4 years) counties.

The number of Pennsylvanians aged 65 years and over has now reached a total of 1,981,565. The elderly population accounted for 15.6 percent of the state's total population in 2011. Nationally, Pennsylvania ranks fourth in the percentage of persons 65 and over. Forty-nine Pennsylvania counties had a higher percentage of elderly residents than the Commonwealth overall.

As of July 1, 2011, the Commonwealth's male (6,214,562) and female (6,528,324) populations stood at 48.8 percent and 51.2 percent of the total population, respectively. Among the elderly, the ratio shifts to 42.2 percent male and 57.8 percent female.

Philadelphia County had both the largest estimated number and highest estimated percentage of women in the Commonwealth in 2011. An estimated 811,210 women lived in Philadelphia in 2011, accounting for 52.8 percent of the county's total population. The county with the largest proportion of men was Forest County, which was estimated to have 67.0 percent of its population male. The large proportion of men in Forest County is the result of the location of a State Correctional Institution within a county with a total population of only 7,589.

Race and Hispanic Origin

The number of Pennsylvania Hispanics (750,431) surpassed the three-quarters of a million mark for the first time in 2011. The number of persons of Hispanic or Latino Origin increased by 30,771, or 4.3 percent, from 2010 to 2011. In comparison, the non-Hispanic population grew by only 9,736, or 0.1 percent, during the same time period. Hispanics account for 76.0 percent of all population growth in Pennsylvania between 2010 and 2011. However, Hispanics made up just 5.9 percent of the total population in the Commonwealth in 2011. Hispanic or Latino origin is considered an ethnicity by the U.S. Census Bureau and persons of Hispanic origin may be of any race.

Lehigh County led all Pennsylvania counties with 19.5 percent of its residents reporting Hispanic or Latino Origin in 2011. Berks (16.8 percent), Monroe (13.5 percent), Philadelphia (12.6 percent) and Northampton (10.8 percent) counties each had more than ten percent of its population indicating Hispanic ethnicity. Thirty-six Pennsylvania counties had Hispanic populations that made up less than two percent of the county's total population.

The racial composition of Pennsylvania continues to grow more diverse. The White Alone population is the slowest growing race group in Pennsylvania, increasing just 0.1 percent between 2010 and 2011. During this period, Black and Asian (Alone) populations grew by 11,833 and 10,454 persons, respectively, while the White population increased by 9,266. Despite slower growth than other racial groups, the White Alone population still comprised 83.8 percent of the total population in the Commonwealth in 2011.

Table 1. shows the total number and percent of each county's minority population in 2011. Minority population is defined as the percentage of the county's total population minus White Alone, Not Hispanic population.

More on Population Estimates

The U.S. Census Bureau's Population Estimates are created using records of births, deaths, and migration to account for yearly population changes since the last Decennial Census. Specifically, the Census Bureau used a distributive cohort component method to develop the July 1, 2011 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 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 same method was then used to develop the county-level estimates. In June, total population estimates for sub-county areas (municipalities) will be released from the Census Bureau, along with housing unit estimates for the state and counties.

Table 1. Pennsylvania County Population Estimates, Percent Minority: July 1, 2011

County	July 1, 2011 Population Estimate	White Alone Not Hispanic Population	Minority Population	Minority Population, Percent	County	July 1, 2011 Population Estimate	White Alone Not Hispanic Population	Minority Population	Minority Population, Percent
Pennsylvania	12,742,886	10,092,308	2,650,578	20.8%	Juniata	24,400	23,320	1,080	4.4%
Adams	101,434	91,561	9,873	9.7%	Lackawanna	214,166	191,305	22,861	10.7%
Allegheny	1,227,066	987,695	239,371	19.5%	Lancaster	523,594	442,535	81,059	15.5%
Armstrong	68,568	66,870	1,698	2.5%	Lawrence	90,535	84,164	6,371	7.0%
Beaver	170,414	153,857	16,557	9.7%	Lebanon	134,311	116,022	18,289	13.6%
Bedford	49,739	48,439	1,300	2.6%	Lehigh	352,947	249,699	103,248	29.3%
Berks	412,778	315,015	97,763	23.7%	Luzerne	320,651	280,666	39,985	12.5%
Blair	127,099	121,256	5,843	4.6%	Lycoming	116,747	107,076	9,671	8.3%
Bradford	62,917	60,659	2,258	3.6%	McKean	43,222	40,704	2,518	5.8%
Bucks	626,854	542,573	84,281	13.4%	Mercer	116,205	105,730	10,475	9.0%
Butler	184,848	176,850	7,998	4.3%	Mifflin	46,858	45,311	1,547	3.3%
Cambria	143,728	133,567	10,161	7.1%	Monroe	169,882	119,160	50,722	29.9%
Cameron	5,010	4,896	114	2.3%	Montgomery	804,210	633,177	171,033	21.3%
Carbon	65,154	60,842	4,312	6.6%	Montour	18,296	17,162	1,134	6.2%
Centre	154,722	135,087	19,635	12.7%	Northampton	298,476	240,405	58,071	19.5%
Chester	503,897	412,262	91,635	18.2%	Northumberland	94,558	88,910	5,648	6.0%
Clarion	40,013	38,629	1,384	3.5%	Perry	46,042	44,372	1,670	3.6%
Clearfield	81,445	76,581	4,864	6.0%	Philadelphia	1,536,471	569,215	967,256	63.0%
Clinton	39,208	37,507	1,701	4.3%	Pike	56,852	46,899	9,953	17.5%
Columbia	67,476	63,431	4,045	6.0%	Potter	17,453	16,960	493	2.8%
Crawford	88,740	84,666	4,074	4.6%	Schuylkill	147,513	137,032	10,481	7.1%
Cumberland	237,892	212,171	25,721	10.8%	Snyder	39,819	38,130	1,689	4.2%
Dauphin	268,977	187,678	81,299	30.2%	Somerset	77,405	73,795	3,610	4.7%
Delaware	559,494	396,194	163,300	29.2%	Sullivan	6,479	6,103	376	5.8%
Elk	31,751	31,084	667	2.1%	Susquehanna	43,192	41,859	1,333	3.1%
Erie	280,985	242,957	38,028	13.5%	Tioga	42,419	40,864	1,555	3.7%
Fayette	136,097	126,230	9,867	7.2%	Union	44,847	38,189	6,658	14.8%
Forest	7,589	5,708	1,881	24.8%	Venango	54,683	52,654	2,029	3.7%
Franklin	150,811	135,598	15,213	10.1%	Warren	41,441	40,367	1,074	2.6%
Fulton	14,801	14,312	489	3.3%	Washington	208,282	194,335	13,947	6.7%
Greene	38,623	36,270	2,353	6.1%	Wayne	53,004	48,663	4,341	8.2%
Huntingdon	45,875	41,983	3,892	8.5%	Westmoreland	364,471	344,812	19,659	5.4%
Indiana	89,298	83,915	5,383	6.0%	Wyoming	28,406	27,280	1,126	4.0%
Jefferson	44,976	43,907	1,069	2.4%	York	436,770	375,183	61,587	14.1%

Customized tables showing Pennsylvania’s population by county may be obtained by contacting the Pennsylvania State Data Center at 717.948.6336 or by emailing at PaSDC@psu.edu.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates Division, 2011 Detailed State and County Population Estimates.

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.

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.