



# Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

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## **2012 Annual Data User Conference to Discuss the Latest from the U.S. Census Bureau, Economic Development and Much More**

**PENN STATE HARRISBURG** – Data users from across the Commonwealth are set to gather at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg/Hershey for the Pennsylvania State Data Center's 2012 Annual Data User Conference on September 20, 2012. The Annual Data User Conference serves as Pennsylvania's most comprehensive single-day forum for research and development in demographic data.

This year's conference entitled, *Constant Streams of Data*, will delve into the variety of datasets available from the U.S. Census Bureau and beyond. Experts from around the state will address a variety of topics, ranging from Pennsylvania's changing population and demographics to an analysis of the latest research available on the impact of the Marcellus Shale development and production.

Conference attendees will be brought up-to-date on the upcoming Economic Census, the recent releases from the Population Estimates and American Community Survey and more. Also, as with past conferences, this year's event will feature a full slate of training sessions, covering the latest on the Census Bureau's online data dissemination tool - American FactFinder.

### **Penn State University Researchers to Deliver Keynote Address**

David L. Passmore and Rose M. Baker of Penn State will be on hand to discuss economic impact analysis, specifically the input-output technique. The address will examine the ways input-output analysis has been applied in several assessments relating to the Marcellus Shale and discuss methods to improve the use of economic impact assessments in public policy analysis.

Baker and Passmore have completed approximately 125 economic impact studies that have covered every major industry and almost every county in Pennsylvania. Together, the pair also author a monthly newspaper column for Pennsylvania Business Central.

### **Data Driven Criminal Justice Policy**

Kristopher "Bret" Bucklen the Chief of Research, Evaluation, and Projections for the Bureau of Planning, Research, and Statistics in the Pennsylvania Department of Corrections will serve as the conference's plenary speaker. Mr. Bucklen's talk will explore data driven ways to increase public safety and reduce prison population in Pennsylvania. Along the way, his presentation will provide an overview of the Justice Reinvestment work in Pennsylvania, and describe how data and research are transforming the state's criminal justice system, enhancing public safety, and saving taxpayer dollars.

Mr. Bucklen oversees all aspects of research, program evaluation, and related activities undertaken within the Department of Corrections. Prior to his current position, he was employed in the Pennsylvania Management Associate (PMA) Program under the Governor's Office of Administration, where he worked for the Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole, the Department of Corrections, the State Police, the Commission on Crime and Delinquency, and the Justice Network (JNET) Project

### **In-depth Breakout and Training Sessions**

The 2012 Annual Data User Conference offers breakout sessions from state agency professionals, academic researchers, and U.S. Census Bureau staff to cover various data-related topics. Many of the day's speakers will be available throughout the day to address questions and discuss topics relating to their area of expertise. Breakout session topics include:

- Data for Community Comprehensive Plans
  - *Dennis Puko, Pennsylvania Department of Community & Economic Development*
- The Impact of Demographics on Revenue and Expenditure Projections
  - *Matthew Knittel, Independent Fiscal Office*
- The State of Working Pennsylvania
  - *Mark Price, Keystone Research Center*
- Understanding Statistics About State and Local Governments
  - *Paul Reyes & Brigitte Wehrs, U.S. Census Bureau*
- The Economic Census
  - *Andrew Hait, U.S. Census Bureau*

Similar to past conferences, this year's event provides data users the opportunity to get up-to-speed on the latest data dissemination technologies and procedures available to locate and make use of the new data products. PaSDC staff as well as representatives from the U.S. Census Bureau will be on-hand to provide information to attendees for upcoming changes in the data world, including updates and training on American FactFinder. Training sessions include:

- Update on the American Community Survey
  - *Whittona Burrell, U.S. Census Bureau*
- American FactFinder Enhancements and Training
  - *John R. Maurer, Pennsylvania State Data Center*

### **Registering for the Conference**

Participants may register for the conference online using our secure transaction server. Online registration for the Annual Data User Conference is now available at <http://pasdcconference.org>. Attendees may also register over the phone by calling the Pennsylvania State Data Center at (717) 948-6336. Register before September 1st and receive the early-bird registration rate of \$120. Speakers and sessions are still being added; check the conference web site often for the most up-to-date details.

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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