



Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

June 13, 2013

Detailed State and County Population Estimates Released for Pennsylvania: State's Elderly Population Surpasses Two Million; Minority Population Continues Growth

PENN STATE HARRISBURG – The number of Pennsylvanians aged 65 years and over has surpassed two million for the first time, according to the 2012 Detailed State and County Population Estimates released today by the U.S. Census Bureau. The July 1, 2012 estimate of the population provides the second county-level estimates data based on age, sex, race and Hispanic origin to be released since the 2010 Census.

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 number of Pennsylvanians aged 65 years and over has reached 2,042,861. The commonwealth's elderly population grew 4.3 percent since 2010 and accounted for 16.0 percent of the Pennsylvania's total population in 2012. Nationally, Pennsylvania ranks fourth in the percentage of persons 65 and over, behind only Florida, Maine and West Virginia.

Among Pennsylvania counties, fifty-two counties had a higher percentage of elderly residents than the commonwealth overall. Four Pennsylvania counties: Sullivan (25.7 percent), Cameron (22.5 percent), Potter (20.6 percent) and Forest (20.5 percent) had persons aged 65 years and over account for more than 20.0 percent of the county's overall population. Table 1 shows the number and percent of the population 65 years and over for all Pennsylvania counties.

On the other end of the age spectrum, 15.8 percent of Pennsylvania's population was between the ages of 5 and 17 years in 2012. Often an indicator of the school age population, the number of Pennsylvanians aged 5 to 17 years declined by 42,934 (2.1 percent) since 2010. Pennsylvania ranked seventh nationally among the states and District of Columbia in terms of the percent decline in the population aged 5 to 17 years between 2010 and 2012. Nationally, only 21 states had an increase in the 5 to 17 year old age cohort during the time period.

Only five Pennsylvania counties experienced an increase in the population aged 5 to 17 years since 2010. The five counties include: Clinton (0.9 percent), Franklin (0.6 percent), Snyder (0.6 percent), Centre (0.4 percent), and Lebanon (0.4 percent). The remaining Pennsylvania counties all had a decrease in the population aged 5 to 17 years between 2010 and 2012. Cameron County (-11.5 percent) had the largest percent decrease among this age cohort during the time period, followed by Pike (-9.1 percent), Forest (-7.7 percent), Monroe (-7.2 percent) and Susquehanna (-7.0 percent).

The median age in Pennsylvania increased from 40.1 in 2010 to 40.5 in 2012. In 2012, the median age of the commonwealth was more than three years older than the nation as a whole (37.4 years). Sullivan County had the highest median age in 2012 at 50.6 years, followed by Cameron (49.3 years), Wayne (46.3 years), Warren (46.0 years) and Elk (46.0 years) counties. Centre County, due in large part to Penn State University, had the lowest median age among Pennsylvania counties at 29.7 years, followed by Philadelphia (33.5 years), Lancaster (38.5 years), and Indiana (38.6 years) counties.

Race and Hispanic Origin

Pennsylvania's racial and ethnic composition continues to grow more diverse. The minority population in Pennsylvania increased by 115,664, or 4.5 percent, since the 2010 Census. According to the 2012 Population Estimates, the commonwealth's minority population has eclipsed the 2.7 million mark. Minority is defined as the total population minus the White Alone, not Hispanic population. Conversely, the White Alone, not Hispanic population declined by 54,507, or -0.5 percent during the same time period. The growth in Pennsylvania's minority population was slightly higher than the nation as a whole (4.5 percent versus 4.3 percent).

Philadelphia County had the largest minority population percentage among all of Pennsylvania's counties, with 63.4 percent. Dauphin, Monroe, Lehigh and Delaware counties followed, each with 30.0 percent or more of their population consisting of a minority group. All but one Pennsylvania county have seen population growth in its minority population since 2010. Greene County, in the southwestern tip of Pennsylvania, experienced no change in its minority population during the time period. Among Pennsylvania counties with a minority population of at least ten-thousand, Luzerne County (14.2 percent) experienced the largest percent increase in the minority population. Lebanon (11.8 percent), Cumberland (9.5 percent), Lackawanna (9.5 percent) and Lehigh (8.7 percent) rounded out the top five in terms of minority population percent gain among counties with at least ten-thousand minorities.

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, 2012 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. Later this month, housing unit estimates for the state and counties will be released from the Census Bureau.

Table 1. Pennsylvania County Population Estimates, Percent 65 Years and Over: July 1, 2012

County	July 1, 2012 Population Estimate	Population 65 Years and Over		County	July 1, 2012 Population Estimate	Population 65 Years and Over	
		Number	Percent			Number	Percent
Pennsylvania	12,763,536	2,042,861	16.0%	Juniata	24,904	4,691	18.8%
Adams	101,482	17,326	17.1%	Lackawanna	214,477	39,152	18.3%
Allegheny	1,229,338	208,167	16.9%	Lancaster	526,823	82,655	15.7%
Armstrong	68,409	13,237	19.3%	Lawrence	89,871	17,336	19.3%
Beaver	170,245	32,459	19.1%	Lebanon	135,251	23,844	17.6%
Bedford	49,324	9,659	19.6%	Lehigh	355,245	54,383	15.3%
Berks	413,491	62,527	15.1%	Luzerne	321,027	59,088	18.4%
Blair	127,121	23,509	18.5%	Lycoming	117,168	19,756	16.9%
Bradford	62,792	11,598	18.5%	McKean	43,127	7,579	17.6%
Bucks	627,053	97,956	15.6%	Mercer	115,655	22,118	19.1%
Butler	184,970	29,633	16.0%	Mifflin	46,773	9,127	19.5%
Cambria	141,584	27,356	19.3%	Monroe	168,798	23,337	13.8%
Cameron	4,939	1,111	22.5%	Montgomery	808,460	127,286	15.7%
Carbon	65,006	12,150	18.7%	Montour	18,356	3,517	19.2%
Centre	155,171	18,452	11.9%	Northampton	299,267	49,216	16.4%
Chester	506,575	69,628	13.7%	Northumberland	94,428	17,943	19.0%
Clarion	39,646	6,739	17.0%	Perry	45,701	6,709	14.7%
Clearfield	81,184	14,814	18.2%	Philadelphia	1,547,607	189,106	12.2%
Clinton	39,517	6,575	16.6%	Pike	56,899	10,571	18.6%
Columbia	66,887	11,108	16.6%	Potter	17,577	3,614	20.6%
Crawford	87,598	15,264	17.4%	Schuylkill	147,063	27,428	18.7%
Cumberland	238,614	38,794	16.3%	Snyder	39,672	6,427	16.2%
Dauphin	269,665	39,033	14.5%	Somerset	76,957	15,028	19.5%
Delaware	561,098	82,189	14.6%	Sullivan	6,461	1,659	25.7%
Elk	31,550	6,206	19.7%	Susquehanna	42,696	8,051	18.9%
Erie	280,646	42,131	15.0%	Tioga	42,577	7,930	18.6%
Fayette	135,660	25,170	18.6%	Union	44,952	6,916	15.4%
Forest	7,667	1,573	20.5%	Venango	54,272	10,231	18.9%
Franklin	151,275	26,293	17.4%	Warren	41,146	8,139	19.8%
Fulton	14,772	2,738	18.5%	Washington	208,716	37,833	18.1%
Greene	38,085	6,174	16.2%	Wayne	51,955	10,090	19.4%
Huntingdon	45,943	8,056	17.5%	Westmoreland	363,395	71,311	19.6%
Indiana	88,218	14,317	16.2%	Wyoming	28,125	4,858	17.3%
Jefferson	44,764	8,403	18.8%	York	437,846	65,587	15.0%

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, 2012 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. For faculty comment on this topic, please contact Penn State Harrisburg's Public Information Office at 717.948.6029.