



Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

August 22, 2013

2013 Annual Data User Conference to Discuss Data Visualization, Municipal Financial Distress 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 2013 Annual Data User Conference on September 19, 2013. 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, *Making a Difference with Data*, will center on the importance of demographic and socioeconomic data in the areas of planning and decision making for various statewide and community initiatives. A unique array of sessions by researchers, geographers and state leaders will discuss topics like the utilization of data technologies and resources and their application to public policy and community development.

Conference attendees will also be brought up-to-date on the latest from the U.S. Census Bureau, including the release of the 2012 Economic Census data, the new Geographic Support System Initiative (GSS-I) for the 2020 Census, and the sample size changes with the American Community Survey.

Data Visualization in a Digital Workplace

Effective data visualization is an important tool in the decision making process. In the Keynote Address, Lee Ann S. Labecki of KPMG will discuss the increasing importance of data visualization in today's workplace and the value of understanding the cognitive processes that underlie effective digital dashboard development and design.

Ms. Labecki is a seasoned policy and research professional with nearly three decades of public and private sector executive management experience. Prior to joining KPMG, Ms. Labecki was Director of the Office of Research, Evaluation, and Strategic Policy Development at the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency. She has authored and co-authored numerous articles for professional trade journals and has been a guest speaker at national, state, and local conferences and workshops.

Financially Distressed Municipalities and Impacts of Shale Drilling

Shippensburg University researcher, Dr. Patricia Patrick, is set to present her analysis of municipalities experiencing financial distress between 2007 and 2010. The various demographic, economic and financial data and the criteria established by the Municipalities Financial Recovery Act that categorize municipalities as financially distressed will be presented. Dr. Patrick will also discuss the findings, including urban/rural differences and trends in the number of distressed municipalities over the period.

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(Note – Dr. John M. Trussel of the University of Tennessee Chattanooga also participated in the analysis).

Dr. Mark Price of the Keystone Research Center and Michael Wood of the Pennsylvania Budget and Policy Center will discuss the first part in a series of reports on the impacts of Marcellus Shale drilling. The presentation will examine the social and human service impacts of drilling by exploring its effects on housing, emergency services, crime, health care services and much more. The session will delve further into the matter by also discussing the steps that local governments have taken to mitigate such impacts.

Other In-depth Breakout and Training Sessions

The 2013 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:

- Pennsylvania Housing Availability and Affordability Report
 - *Scott Davis, Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency*
- Using Local Data for Community Health Planning
 - *Francine Axler, Public Health Management Corporation*
 - *Michael Wood, Public Health Management Corporation*
 - *Morris Fansler, Main Line Health*
- Geographic Support System Initiative (GSS-I)
 - *Kevin Holmes, U.S. Census Bureau Philadelphia Office*
- Primary Data Collection: Ideas to Execution
 - *Stephanie Wehnau, Center for Survey Research*
 - *Nicole Sturges, Center for Survey Research*
- The 2012 Economic Census
 - *Andrew Hait, U.S. Census Bureau*

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 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 August 30, 2013 and receive the early-bird registration rate of \$120. Speakers and sessions are still being finalized; 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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