



# Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

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## **2015 Annual Data User Conference Looks Ahead to the 2020 Census, Explores the Role of Data in the State's Criminal Justice System**

**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 2015 Annual Data User Conference on September 17. 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, "Finding Value in Data", will focus on how to define and highlight the value in the volumes of data all around us. Sessions by researchers, geographers and state agency personnel will discuss topics, such as the data mining process, using data visualizations in news reporting, accessing health needs assessment related data online and much more.

Conference attendees will also be brought up-to-date on the latest from the U.S. Census Bureau, including the release of local-level 2012 Economic Census data, an update on the Geographic Support System Initiative (GSS-I), and new cost saving initiatives the Bureau hopes to employ for the 2020 Decennial Census.

### **New Census Initiatives and the 2020 Census**

Believe it or not, the Census Bureau is already well into planning the next decennial census. Mid-decade and forward toward 2020 marks a critical juncture for investments in research and development that will produce an accurate and cost-effective count. The Bureau's 2020 Partnership and Outreach Staff Chief, Mary A. Bucci, will deliver the Keynote Address providing the details on the Bureau's efforts in these areas.

Specifically, Ms. Bucci will discuss the growing roll of technology in data collection and data product production, the use of information previously given to the government to reduce non-response follow-up workload, and changes to map and address list updating procedure.

Mary has been with the Census Bureau since May of 2010 as the Branch Chief for Outreach and Promotion for the decennial census. Mary managed the assessment of the 2010 Integrated Communications Program as well as served as a project management lead and team lead for 2020 research and testing projects. Mary came to the Bureau with over 15 years of experience as a manager in city, state and local governments. She has her Master's



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in Business Administration from Simmons College Graduate School of Management and did her undergraduate work at University of Massachusetts, Boston as well as Harvard's Extension School.

### **Informed Planning and Decision Making at PCCD**

Robert Orth, Assistant Professor with Indiana University of Pennsylvania and a Research Specialist Consultant to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD) will deliver the conference's plenary address. Mr. Orth will provide an overview of the Commission, and then discuss some of the various programs that have used data to inform the decision-making and planning efforts.

In his dual role with the University and PCCD, Robert works closely with several of the Commonwealth's criminal justice agencies to provide statistical research, evaluation, data analysis and visualization services. Mr. Orth holds a Master of Public Administration from Pennsylvania State University and is currently a Ph.D. candidate in Administration and Leadership Studies at Indiana University of Pennsylvania. His research interests focus on post-treatment recidivism among drug and alcohol-dependent offenders.

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

The 2015 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:

- Health Statistics Website Demonstration
  - *Brian Wright, Pennsylvania Department of Health*
- Data Viz in the News
  - *Nick Malawskey, PennLive/Harrisburg Patriot*
- From the Prison to the Community: Using Inter-Agency Data Exchanges to Evaluate the Impact of Incarceration on Returning Citizens
  - *Dr. Nicolette Bell, Pennsylvania Department of Corrections*
- Geographic Support System Initiative (GSS-I) Update
  - *Kevin Holmes, U.S. Census Bureau Philadelphia Office*
- Reentry Data and Reentry of Data: Practical Issues from a Long-Term Evaluation
  - *Fred Klunk, Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole*
  - *Jesse Zortman, Pennsylvania Board of Probation and Parole*
- Local Data from the 2012 Economic Census
  - *Andrew Hait, U.S. Census Bureau*

### **Registering for the Conference**

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 31, 2015 and receive the early-bird registration rate of \$140. 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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