



Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

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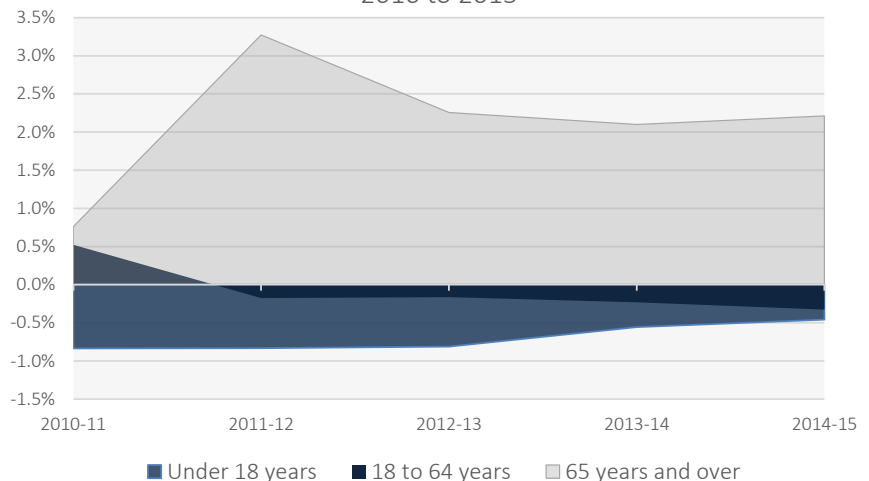
Detailed State and County Population Estimates Released: Pennsylvania Growing Older; Youth Far More Diverse than Previous Generations

PENN STATE HARRISBURG – The Keystone State's population continues to grow older and more racially and ethnically diverse at mid-decade, according to the 2015 Detailed State and County Population Estimates released today by the U.S. Census Bureau. The July 1, 2015 estimate of the population provides the fifth state and county-level estimates based on age, sex, race and Hispanic origin released since the 2010 Census.

As of July 1, 2015, more than one-in-six Pennsylvania residents were aged 65 years and over. The number of Pennsylvanians reaching age 65 years and over was nearly 2.2 million, ranking the commonwealth fifth nationally. Since 2010, the population aged 65 years and over has grown by 220,369 people; more than twice that of the total population which increased by 99,616. Thanks in large part to the aging of the Baby Boomers, Pennsylvania's population aged 65 years and over has grown by 11.2 percent far outpacing (fourteen times) the overall population growth of the state (0.8 percent). In terms of percent of the population aged 65 plus, Pennsylvania (17.0 percent) ranked sixth among the states in 2015, coming in more than two percentage points higher than the nation (14.9 percent) overall.

The median age, which offers a look at the central tendency of the population's age structure, increased from 40.1 years to 40.7 years in the commonwealth. Pennsylvania's median age ranked sixth highest among the states and was nearly three years older than that of the nation (37.8 years). Forty-three states, experienced an increase in the median age between 2010 and 2015. Figure 1. shows the annual growth rates between 2010 and 2015 for the age cohorts: under 18 years, 18 to 64 years and 65 years and over for Pennsylvania. The only age cohort to increase each year through the five-year period was the age 65 years and over, which showed more rapid growth between 2011 and 2012 as the first Boomers turned 65.

Figure 1. Annual Growth Rate by Age Cohort, Pennsylvania: 2010 to 2015



Race and Hispanic Origin

The White alone, non-Hispanic group remained the largest race group in Pennsylvania with a population of just over 9.9 million. This represented more than three-quarters (77.4 percent) of the state's population as of July 1, 2015. In terms of population change, however, the commonwealth's White Alone, non-Hispanic population was the sole racial or ethnic group to shrink. At mid-decade, non-Hispanic single race Whites declined by 200,646, or 2.0 percent since 2010.

Each minority group in the Keystone State experienced growth since 2010 (see Table 1.). Pennsylvania's minority population increased by 300,262, or 11.6 percent over the five-year period, reaching 2,893,909 people. The minority population in the commonwealth accounts for 22.6 percent of the total population, up from 20.4 percent in 2010. Three-quarters of the expansion of the minority population was from the Hispanic (50.8 percent) and Asian population (24.9 percent). Between 2010 and 2015, the Hispanic population in the commonwealth increased by 152,682 or 21.2 percent during the period. The Asian population rose by 74,748 and had a growth rate that just topped that of Hispanics at 21.3 percent.

Overall, the minority growth rate was slightly higher in Pennsylvania than the nation as a whole (11.6 percent versus 10.8 percent). The state's growth rate among minority populations ranked 27th among the states and District of Columbia. Minority is defined as the total population minus the White Alone, not Hispanic population.

Race/Ethnic Group	July 1, 2015		April 1, 2010EB		Change 2010EB to 2015	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Numeric	Percent
Total Population	12,802,503	100.0%	12,702,887	100.0%	99,616	0.8%
White Alone	9,908,594	77.4%	10,109,240	79.6%	-200,646	-2.0%
Minority	2,893,909	22.6%	2,593,647	20.4%	300,262	11.6%
Black or African American Alone	1,373,592	10.7%	1,333,580	10.5%	40,012	3.0%
Asian Alone	426,212	3.3%	351,464	2.8%	74,748	21.3%
Two or More Races	200,011	1.6%	168,816	1.3%	31,195	18.5%
Hispanic	872,386	6.8%	719,704	5.7%	152,682	21.2%

* Note – All race groups are for the specified race group alone, non-Hispanic. People whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic may be of any race. This is the case throughout this Research Brief.

Generational Changes and Diversity

Millennials - those born between 1982 and 2000 – have overtaken the Baby Boomers (1946 to 1964) nationally; however, Pennsylvania Boomers still hold an ever so slight edge (less than 50,000 people) on their younger counterparts. According to the new estimates, for each Millennial in the Keystone State there is 1.02 Boomers. A ratio of 1.00 would indicate an equal number of Millennials and Boomers in the population. Taken together, the two generations make up just over half (50.2 percent) of the state's population – Boomers 25.3 percent and Millennials (24.9 percent).

While the two generations are nearly identical in size, Millennials and Boomers are much different when it comes to racial and ethnic diversity. In 2015, well over one-quarter (28.5 percent) of those in the Millennial generation were a member of a minority group. In contrast, minority populations accounted for 15.0 percent of the Baby Boomer cohort (see Figure 2.). Figure 3. shows a breakout by the state's major racial and ethnic minority groups.

Figure 2. Minority Composition Millennials/Boomers, PA: 2015

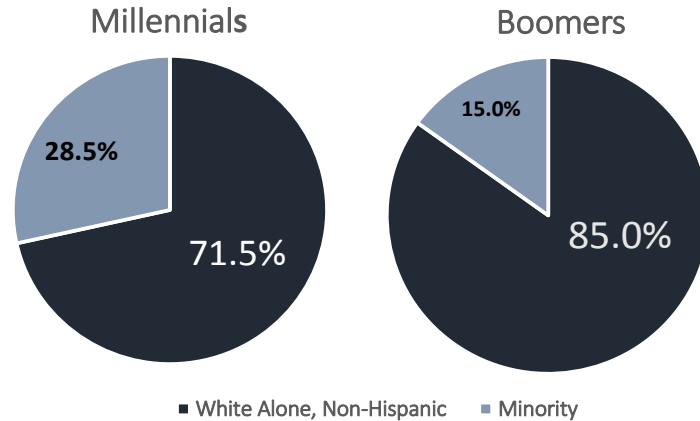
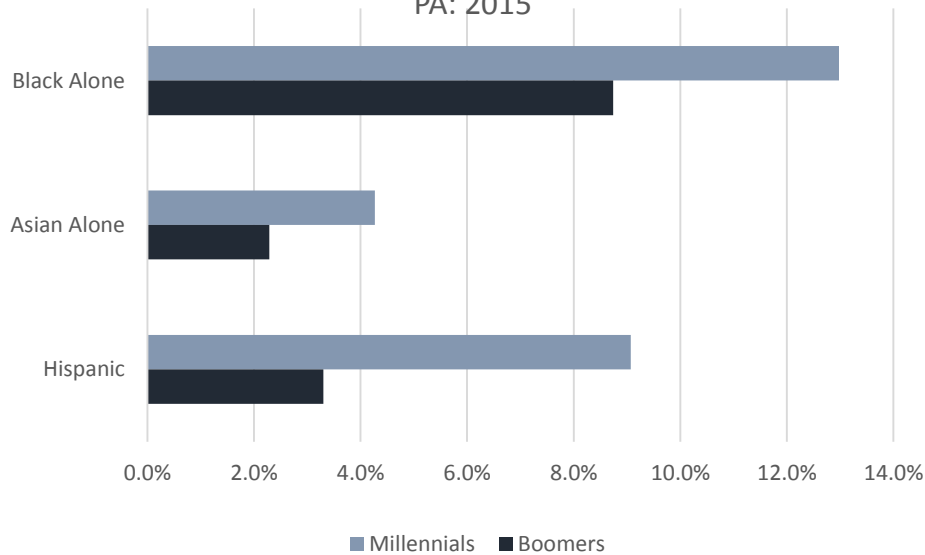


Figure 3. Minority Populations for Millennials/Boomers, PA: 2015

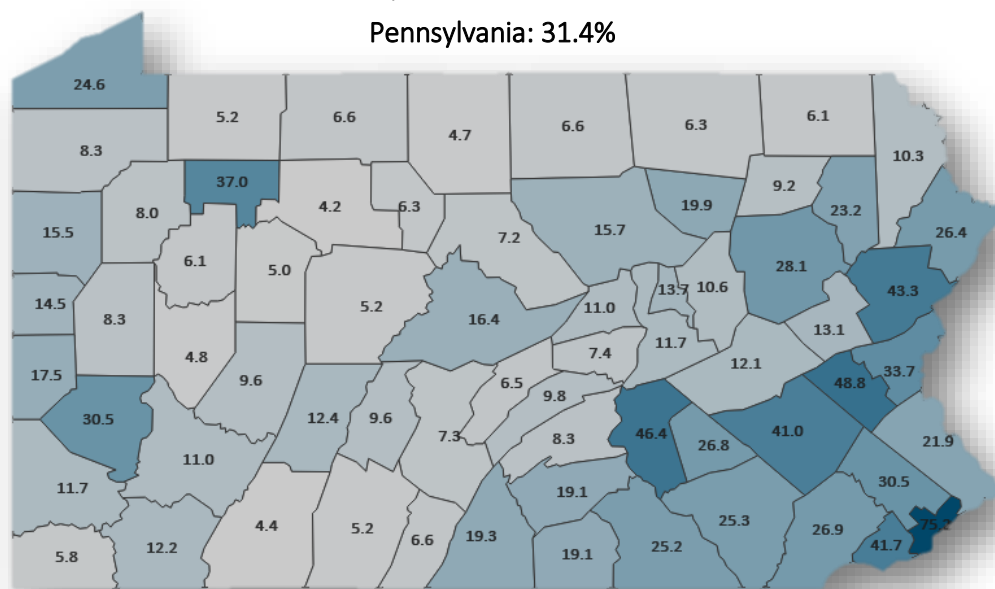


County Highlights

- Philadelphia had the largest minority population percentage among all Pennsylvania’s counties by far, with 64.6 percent, which was up from 63.0 percent in 2010. For the population under 20 years old in Philadelphia, the minority percentage was 75.2 percent (see Figure 4.)
- Overall, ten county’s minority populations surpassed 20.0 percent: Philadelphia, Lehigh, Dauphin, Monroe, Delaware, Berks, Forest, Montgomery, Northampton and Allegheny counties.
- In 42 of Pennsylvania’s 67 counties, the percentage of the population identifying themselves as part of a minority group was less than 10.0 percent in 2015. However, the minority population grew in every county since 2010.
- Among the 29 Pennsylvania counties with a minority population of at least ten-thousand, Luzerne County (34.7 percent) experienced the largest percent increase. Cumberland (30.1 percent), Lebanon (29.3 percent), Lackawanna (26.3 percent) and Centre (22.5 percent) rounded out the top five.

- Lehigh County has the largest percentage (22.4 percent) of its total population reporting Hispanic ethnicity. Berks County followed with 19.4 percent. Since 2010, these two counties gained 15,295 and 13,138 Hispanic residents, respectively. In Monroe, Philadelphia, Northampton, Lebanon, Pike and Lancaster counties 10.0 percent or more of the population reported Hispanic ethnicity.
- Montgomery County had the largest percent Asian population in 2015 with 7.6 percent, which was more than twice the statewide percentage of 3.3 percent.
- In most Pennsylvania counties (62 of 67), the percent minority population under 20 years old was greater than the total minority population percent. Figure 4. shows the percent of the population under 20 years that was a member of a minority racial/ethnic group in 2015.

Figure 4. Percent of Minority Population under 20 years,
Pennsylvania Counties: 2015



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, 2015 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.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates Division, 2015 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.