



Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

April 21, 2011

Advanced Group Quarters Data Released for Pennsylvania: Nursing Home Population Decreases 23.1 Percent

PENN STATE HARRISBURG – The Census Bureau recently released the first look at group quarters population data for Pennsylvania from the 2010 Census. According to the Advanced Group Quarters Summary File, a total of 426,113 Pennsylvanians lived in a group quarter as of April 1, 2010. The Commonwealth's group quarters population decreased 1.7 percent (7,188 total persons) over the past decade.

The group quarters population is defined as those persons not living in housing units. The Census Bureau recognizes two categories of group quarters, institutional and non-institutional. Institutional population includes people living under formally supervised care or custody such as a correctional facility or nursing home. Non-institutional population includes persons living in college dormitories or military barracks.

The Advanced Group Quarters Summary File is limited to total population counts for seven types of group quarters. A more detailed breakdown of Pennsylvania's group quarters population, including age, gender, race and ethnicity will be available via the 2010 Census Summary File 1, which will be released on a state-by-state basis over the summer. Data users can find the Advanced Group Quarters Summary File table for Pennsylvania and its counties online at <http://pasdc.hbg.psu.edu>, click on Census 2010.

Pennsylvania's Prison Population

The population of correctional institutions in Pennsylvania increased 27.8 percent since the 2000 Census. This increase represents a numeric increase of 21,267 persons. The total correctional institution population in Pennsylvania is 97,820 persons. Philadelphia County, which has the largest share of Pennsylvania's prison population, also had the largest numeric increase in correctional institution population from 2000 to 2010 in the Commonwealth with an increase of 3,291 persons. The construction of a new state correctional institution in 2004 catapulted Forest County (2,179) into second. Clearfield (2,081), Wayne (2,046), and Fayette (2,033) counties round out the top five counties in terms of largest numeric increase of prisoners.

Large percentage increases in correctional institute population can be directly related to those counties that had state or federal institutions open in their counties during the past decade.

Population of Pennsylvania Nursing Homes

The number of Pennsylvanians residing in a nursing home declined 23.1 percent (26,338 total persons) over the past ten years. The Commonwealth's nursing home population totals 87,775 persons. Of the 59

Pennsylvania counties reporting a decline in their nursing home population, Fulton County (-82.5 percent) had the largest percent decline, followed by Huntingdon (-59.5 percent) and Crawford (-50.7 percent) counties.

Eight Pennsylvania counties saw a decline of more than a thousand nursing home residents between 2000 and 2010. Allegheny (-3,159) led all counties, followed by Philadelphia (-2,287), Cumberland (-1,621) and Lancaster (-1,359) counties (see Table 1).

Table 1. Pennsylvania Counties Experiencing the Largest Nursing Home Population Decline (Numeric Decrease) April 1, 2000 to April 1, 2010				
Geographic Area	Nursing Home Population		Change, 2000 to 2010	
	Census 2010	Census 2000	Number	Percent
Pennsylvania	87,775	114,113	-26,338	-23.1%
Allegheny County	7,942	11,101	-3,159	-28.5%
Philadelphia County	7,877	10,164	-2,287	-22.5%
Cumberland County	1,870	3,491	-1,621	-46.4%
Lancaster County	4,311	5,670	-1,359	-24.0%
Dauphin County	1,377	2,664	-1,287	-48.3%
Delaware County	4,131	5,389	-1,258	-23.3%
Chester County	2,572	3,691	-1,119	-30.3%
Erie County	1,962	3,005	-1,043	-34.7%
Westmoreland County	2,131	3,046	-915	-30.0%
Butler County	1,299	2,206	-907	-41.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000; Census 2010 Advanced Group Quarters Summary File

More about the Advanced Group Quarters Data

The data released today is an advanced release of group quarters population data from the soon-to-be released 2010 Census Summary File 1. The data shows population counts for seven types of group quarters. State and local officials responsible for evaluating the accuracy of their official 2010 Census count can use the advanced group quarters data to determine whether or not the group quarters populations within their boundaries have been appropriately enumerated.

The Pennsylvania State Data Center is the commonwealth’s expert in demographics and Census datasets. To request custom Census 2010 data tables or maps, contact the Pennsylvania State Data Center at 717.772.2710.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000; Census 2010 Advanced Group Quarters Summary File.

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.