



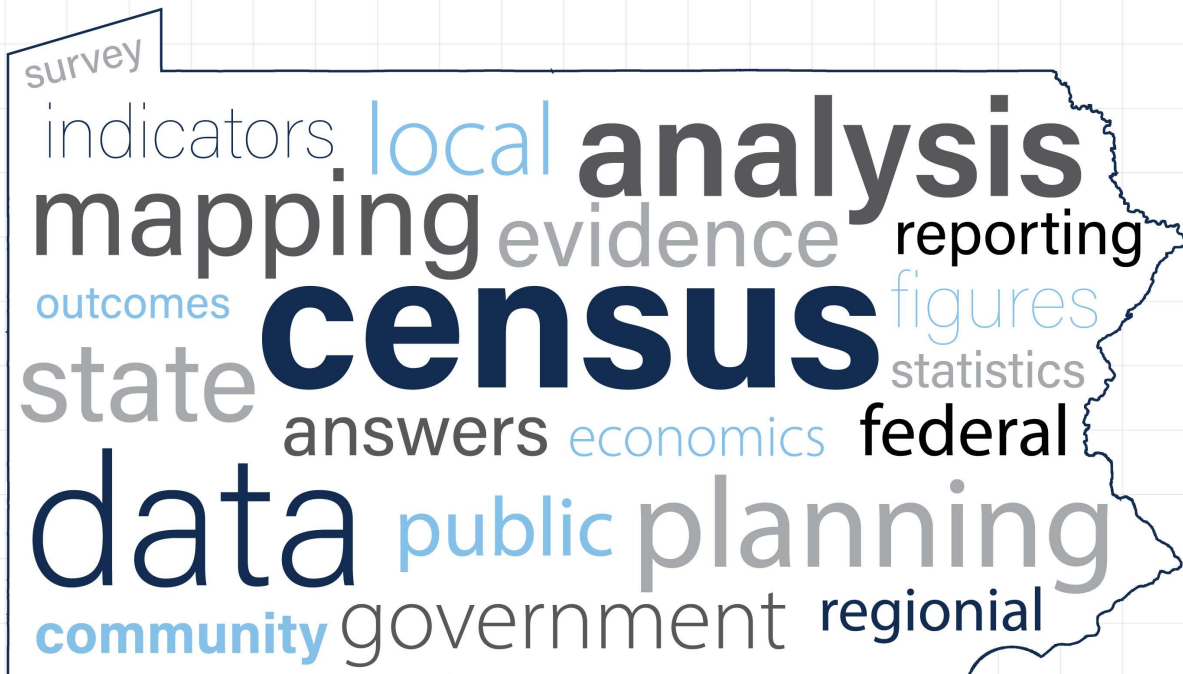
April 2018

RESEARCH BRIEF

2018 Pennsylvania Data User Conference

HARRISBURG - Data users from across the Commonwealth are set to gather at Penn State Harrisburg for the Pennsylvania State Data Center's Annual Data User Conference on May 8, 2018. The Pennsylvania Data User Conference serves as the state's most comprehensive single-day forum for research and developments in data and data analysis.

Sessions at this year's conference will focus on how organizations can use primary and secondary data to drive decisions. Presenters at this year's conference will highlight the use of data in policy analysis, technological innovation, health care and other areas. Conference attendees will also be updated on the latest from the U.S. Census Bureau, including preparations for Census 2020, Census Geographic Programs and the 2017 Economic Census.



Keynote and Plenary Sessions

In the Keynote Address, Jennifer Smith, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs will discuss the department's use of data in policy development and decision making. Ms. Smith began her career in Pennsylvania's Office of the Budget in 2004. She served in a variety of positions in the Office of the Budget, eventually becoming the Bureau Director for Planning and Management in 2012. In November of 2015, Ms. Smith accepted the position of Deputy Secretary for the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs and now serves as Secretary.

The Plenary Address will be given by Dr. Jennifer C. Gibbs, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice at Penn State Harrisburg, together with Tara Reis, a Criminal Justice undergraduate student in her senior year. Together, they will be presenting findings from a Penn State Poll conducted in Spring 2016 to measure Pennsylvanians' opinions towards gun control. Around 600 adult residents of Pennsylvania were surveyed via telephone on their positions toward gun control, reasons for their position, and why they think others hold opposing positions. A summary of the findings will be presented, with a particular focus on differences in opinion among social groups. Implications for policy will also be discussed.

Breakout Sessions

The 2018 conference will offer breakout sessions on 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.

- Advancing Population and Personalized Healthcare through Big Data and Machine Learning
 - *Dr. Conrad Tucker, Director of the Design Analysis Technology Advancement (D.A.T.A) Laboratory*
- An Aging Pennsylvania: Impacts on Workforce, Revenue, and Retirement
 - *Mike Johnson, graduate student in the Applied Demography Master's program at Penn State University*
- Transitioning to a Modern Data Platform
 - *Michael Ghen, Data Analyst Manager on Benefits Data Trust's Data Science team*
- Employment Outcomes for Individuals with Autism in PA
 - *Paul Turcotte, Data Director for the ASERT Collaborative Eastern Region at the AJ Drexel Autism Institute*

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 April 27 and receive the early-bird registration rate of \$150.

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 information, contact the Pennsylvania State Data Center at 717.948.6336 or online at pasdc.hbg.psu.edu.