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**RESEARCH BRIEF**

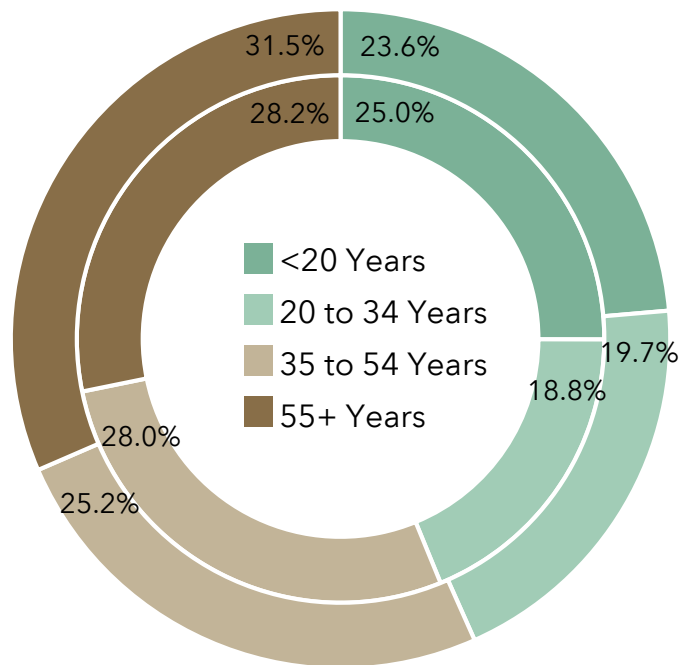
## 2016 State and County Detailed Population Estimates: Growth in the Aging, Asian, and Hispanic Populations

HARRISBURG - Pennsylvanians are getting older and more diverse according to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2016 State and County Detailed Population Estimates released today. The release features age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin data down to the county level and allows state and county agencies to better understand their changing populations.

### ***An Aging Pennsylvania***

Pennsylvania followed the national trend of an increasing median age from 2010 to 2016, although Pennsylvania's median age in 2016 (40.7 years) exceeded that of the United States' (37.9 years) by a considerable amount. Pennsylvania tied with Connecticut for sixth-highest median age in 2016 among states in the U.S. preceded by Maine (44.6 years), New Hampshire (43.0 years), Vermont (42.7 years), West Virginia (42.2 years), and Florida (42.1 years). States with the lowest median age in 2016 included Utah (30.8 years), Alaska (33.9 years) and Texas (34.5 years). The nation's capital, the District of Columbia, also had a very low median age (33.9 years).

The 55 years and over population, consisting of Baby Boomers and to a lesser extent the Silent and Greatest Generations, grew by 12.5 percent from 2010 to 2016, the largest increase among all of the generational cohorts. Persons age 19 years or younger (Post-Millennials) decreased by 5.0 percent from 2010 to 2016 while persons age 20 to 34 (Millennials) grew by 5.6 percent during that time. Middle-age adults 35 to 54 years or over (Gen-Xers) shrank by 9.6 percent from 2010 to 2016. This caused a shift in the age composition of Pennsylvania as those 55 years of age and over grew from 28.2 percent of Pennsylvania's total population in 2010 to 31.5 percent of the population in 2016 (Figure 1).

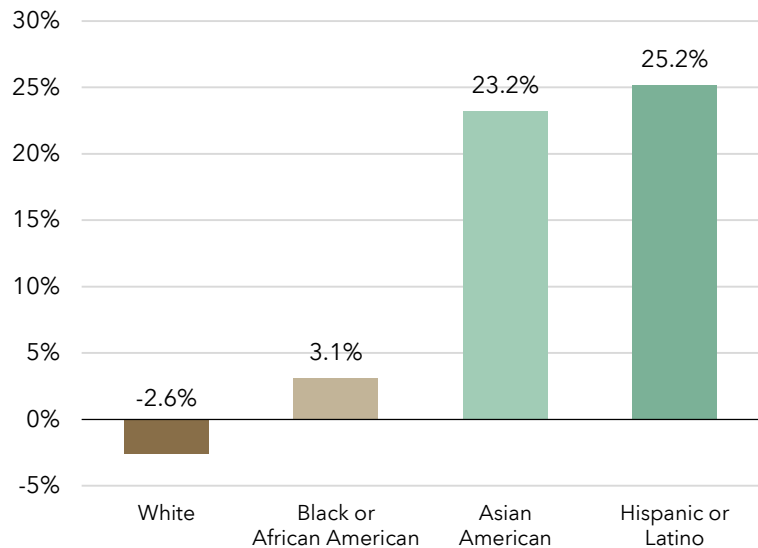


**Figure 1.** Age composition by generational cohort of Pennsylvania in 2010 (inner) and 2016 (outer).

### A Diversifying Pennsylvania

The non-Hispanic White alone population was the only racial or ethnic subpopulation to decrease from 2010 to 2016 (Figure 2). Non-Hispanic whites decreased by 2.6 percent from 2010 to 2016, and the non-Hispanic Black or African-American alone population increased by just 3.1 percent during the same period. The non-Hispanic Asian alone population and the Hispanic and Latino population of any race saw significant increases from 2010 to 2016 of 23.2 percent and 25.2 percent respectively.

The increasing non-Hispanic Asian alone and Hispanic or Latino populations coupled with the decreasing non-Hispanic White alone population caused shifts in the racial composition of Pennsylvania's population. From 2010 to 2016, the non-Hispanic White alone population decreased from 79.6 percent of the total population to 77.0 percent while the Asian alone (non-Hispanic) increased from 2.8 percent to 3.4 percent and the Hispanic or Latino population increased from 5.7 percent to 7.0 percent of the total population.



**Figure 2.** Percent change by racial or ethnic subpopulation in Pennsylvania from 2010 to 2016.

### Generational Diversification of Pennsylvania

The non-Hispanic White alone and non-Hispanic Black or African American alone populations experienced decreases in their youth (19 years or younger) and older adult (35 to 54 years) cohorts and growth in their 55 years and over population from 2010 to 2016 (Figure 3). The youth cohort of the White alone (non-Hispanic) population decreased by 9.6 percent while the older adult cohort decreased by 13.6 percent. For the Black alone (non-Hispanic) population, those age cohorts decreased by 6.6 percent and 5.7 percent respectively.

The non-Hispanic Asian alone population and the Hispanic or Latino population of all races increased among every age cohort from 2010 to 2016. The largest increases were for the aging cohort (55 years and over) for which the Hispanic or Latino population increased by 50.0 percent and the non-Hispanic Asian alone population increased by 42.2 percent.

*References of White, Black, and Asian in figures refer to those non-Hispanic and single-race alone. Hispanic or Latino includes all races.*

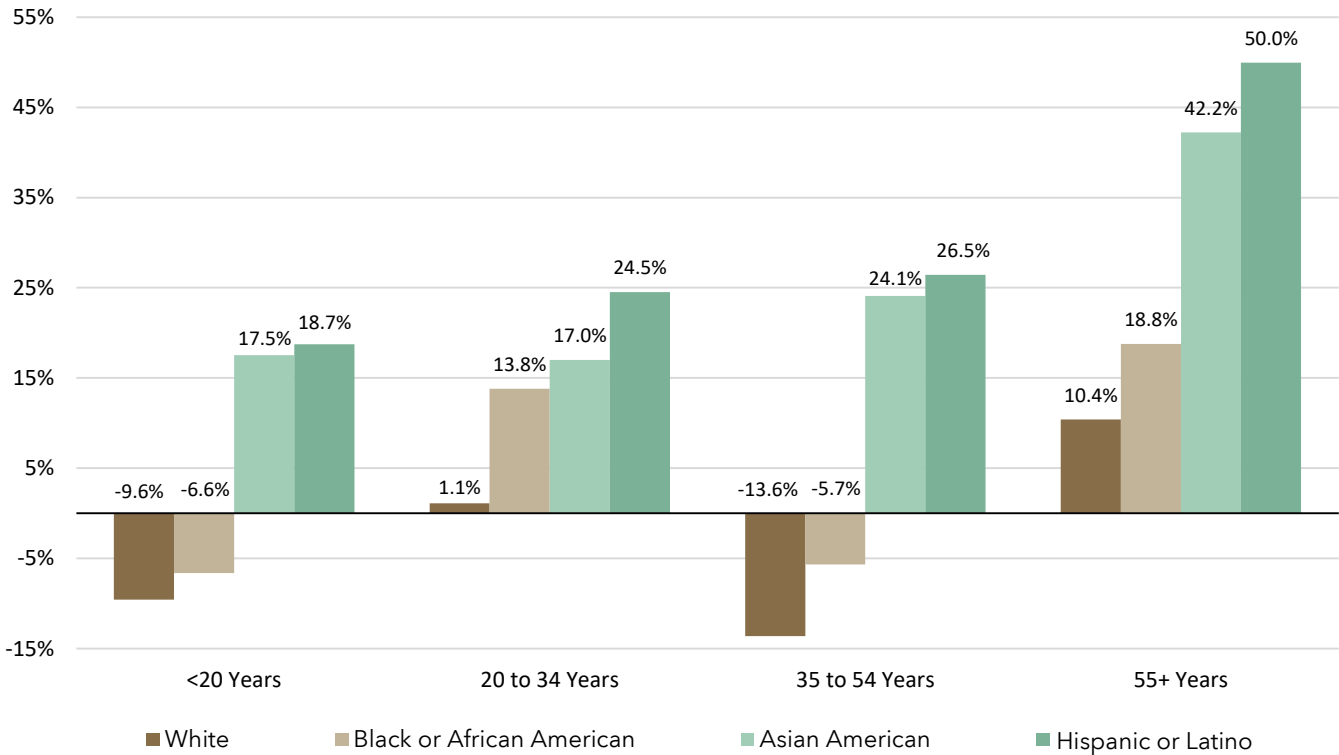


Figure 3. Percent change in age cohort by race from 2010 to 2016 in Pennsylvania.

The aging non-Hispanic White alone population of Pennsylvania increased in its percent of the total population from 2010 to 2016 from 25.0 percent to 27.4 percent. Aging Pennsylvanians in general increased their share of the total population from 28.2 percent in 2010 to 31.5 percent in 2016. By 2016, the aging cohort of each race had increased in proportion (Figure 4).

Persons age 55 years and over accounted for 35.5 percent of non-Hispanic white Americans, 22.9 percent of non-Hispanic African Americans, 18.5 percent of Asian Americans, and 11.9 percent of Hispanic or Latino Americans. The youth and older adult cohorts share of the total population decreased by 1.4 percent and 2.8 percent respectively from by 2016.

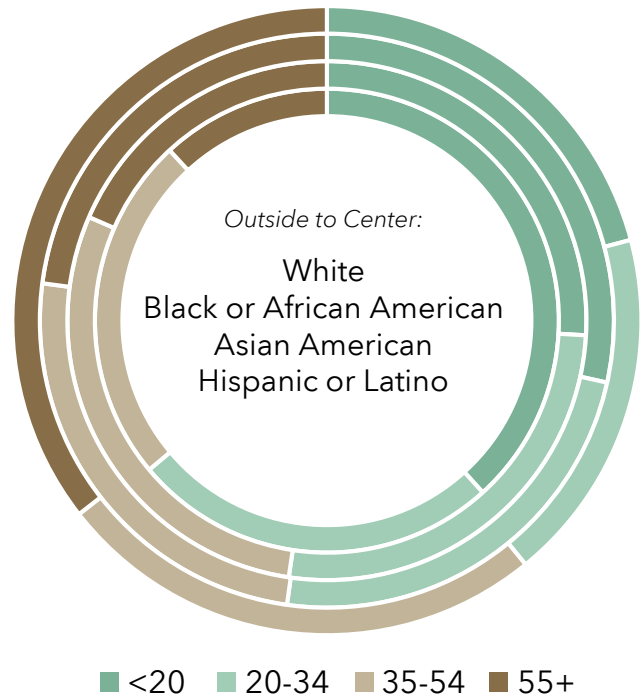


Figure 4. Distribution of Pennsylvania's population by racial/ethnic subgroup and age cohort.

References of White, Black, and Asian in figures refer to those non-Hispanic and single-race alone. Hispanic or Latino includes all races.

### **County-Level Changes in Age, Race, and Origins**

The median age increased in 64 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties and statewide it increased from 40.1 in 2010 to 40.7 in 2016. Sullivan and Cameron Counties had the highest median ages at 53.1 years and 51.0 years respectively. Forest and Pike Counties experienced some of the highest increases in the median age of their populations with an increase of 4.2 years (9.8 percent) in Forest County and an increase of 4.1 years (9.4 percent) in Pike County. The counties with the lowest median age in Pennsylvania included Centre (31.6 years) and Philadelphia (34.1 years). The median age decreased the most in Allegheny County where it fell by 0.6 years (1.5 percent) from 2010 to 2016.

Fifty-six of Pennsylvania's counties had a percent increase of 10.0 percent or more in their aging population. Sullivan and Cameron Counties had the highest proportion of persons aged 55 years and over. Approximately 46.7 percent of Sullivan's population was 55 years of age or older in 2016, up from 40.8 percent in 2010 while Cameron's increased from 38.3 percent to 43.3 percent. Centre County's population had the smallest share of those 55 years and over in 2010 (21.0 percent) and 2016 (24.2 percent) followed by Philadelphia (2010: 22.7 percent, 2016: 24.4 percent).

Lehigh County ranked highest in 2016 with its share of Hispanic or Latino residents at 23.3 percent (up from 18.8 percent in 2010). Berks County also had a high share of Hispanic or Latino residents with 20.0 percent of its total population in 2016 identifying as Hispanic or Latino (up from 16.4 percent in 2010). Luzerne (57.2 percent), Lebanon (42.6 percent), and Cumberland (42.2 percent) had the fastest growing Hispanic or Latino populations in the state of counties that had 10,000 or more Hispanic or Latino residents of all races (22 counties).

### **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, 2016 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, 2016 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. The Pennsylvania State Data Center is part of the U.S. Census Bureau's National State Data Center Program.

Questions? Contact the Pennsylvania State Data Center at **717.948.6336** or online at [pasdc.hbg.psu.edu](http://pasdc.hbg.psu.edu).

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