

New American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates Released

HARRISBURG - The U.S. Census Bureau today released its annual installment of new demographic and socio-economic data for every community in United States – the 2015-2019 American Community Survey (ACS) Five-Year Estimates. These estimates provide data for all Pennsylvania counties, municipalities, and other geographic areas regardless of population size.

With this year’s release, users can now compare estimates across three distinct periods of time. The newest estimates can be compared with other non-overlapping releases (i.e., 2010-2014 and 2005-2009) to show change over time.

County-Level Trends in Marital Status

We compared changes in marital status at the county level using the 2005-2009, 2010-2014, and 2015-2019 five-year estimates. In this report “consistent increases” indicate that a rate or percentage increased during each consecutive five-year period while “consistent decreases” indicate that a rate or percentage decreased during each consecutive five-year period.

Forty-seven counties had consistent increases in the percentage of individuals who never married [Figure 1A]. Thirty-nine counties had consistent decreases in the percentage of individuals who were currently married, but not separated [B].

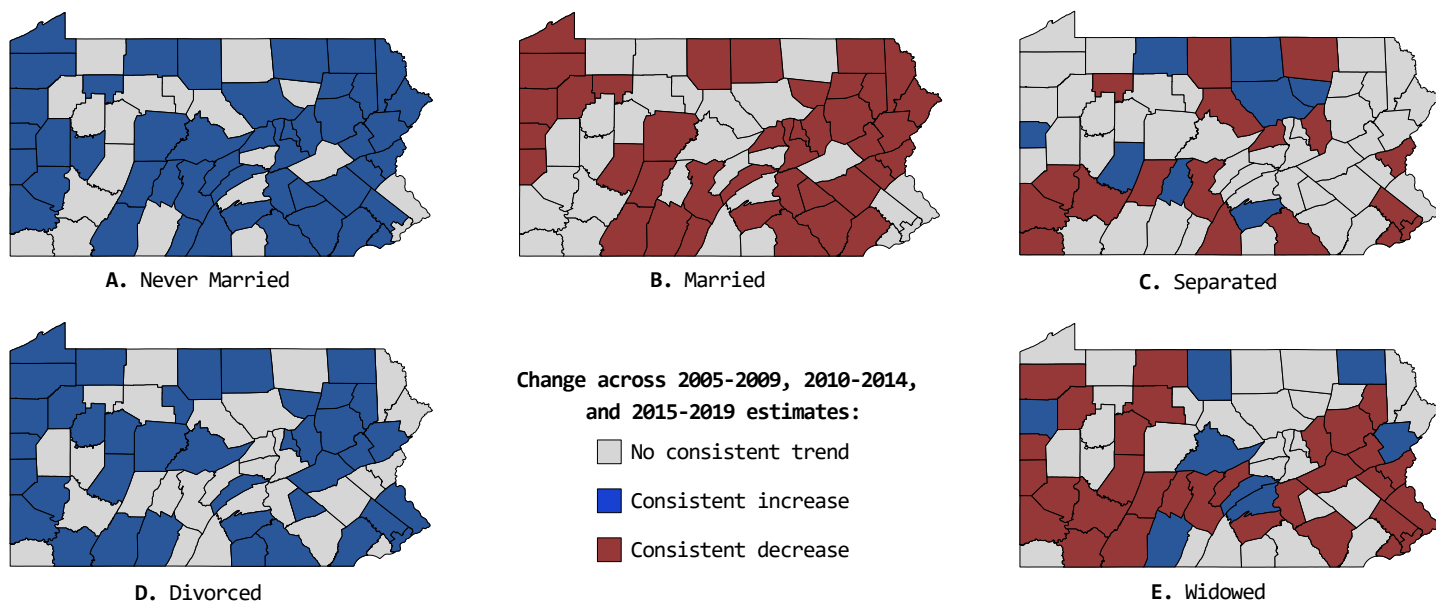


Figure 1. Change in marital status as a percentage of the total population. “Consistent” change indicates that a change in percentage points was observed from 2005-2009 through 2010-2014 and 2010-2014 through 2015-2019.

Eight counties had consistent increases in the percentage of individuals who were married but separated, while 18 counties had consistent decreases [C]. Thirty-nine counties had consistent increases in the percentage of individuals who were divorced [D]. Eight counties had consistent increases in the percentage of individuals who were widowed while 31 had consistent decreases [E].

The following table include other marital status trends in Pennsylvania counties:

Table 1. Highest increases (in percentage points) among counties with consistent increases in marital status category (Note: there were no counties with consistent increases among those “Now Married”)

Rank	Never Married		Separated		Divorced		Widowed	
1	Forest	+15.0	Sullivan	+1.0	Sullivan	+5.3	Juniata	+1.3
2	Montour	+7.8	Tioga	+0.7	Cameron	+4.9	Potter	+1.2
3	Monroe	+5.5	McKean	+0.5	Juniata	+3.6	Bedford	+1.0
4	Wayne	+5.3	Blair	+0.4	Lawrence	+2.6	Mercer	+0.9
5	Huntingdon	+5.0	Cumberland	+0.3	Mercer	+2.4	Monroe	+0.8

Table 2. Highest decreases (in percentage points) among counties with consistent decreases in marital status category (Note: there were no counties with consistent increases among those “Never Married” or “Divorced”)

Rank	Now Married		Separated		Widowed	
1	Forest	-12.9	Forest	-2.5	Philadelphia	-2.1
2	Montour	-9.2	Union	-1.4	Luzerne	-1.8
3	Juniata	-7.7	Clinton	-0.7	Washington	-1.7
4	Monroe	-7.1	Bradford	-0.6	Schuylkill	-1.7
5	Wayne	-6.9	Philadelphia	-0.5	McKean	-1.6

Table 3. Top and bottom five counties ranked by marital status according to the latest five-year estimates (2015-2019).

Rank	Never Married		Now Married		Separated		Divorced		Widowed	
1	Philadelphia	50.7%	Perry	57.1%	Philadelphia	3.3%	Cameron	15.5%	Cameron	9.5%
2	Centre	46.6%	Bedford	56.5%	Tioga	2.7%	Sullivan	13.7%	Sullivan	9.2%
3	Forest	45.3%	Fulton	56.5%	Sullivan	2.6%	Venango	13.3%	Potter	9.0%
4	Delaware	36.9%	Butler	56.1%	McKean	2.6%	Forest	12.7%	Mercer	8.8%
5	Union	36.8%	Armstrong	55.9%	Erie	2.5%	Clearfield	11.9%	Fayette	8.7%
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63	Venango	24.5%	Columbia	45.7%	Chester	1.4%	Delaware	8.5%	Lehigh	6.1%
64	Perry	24.2%	Erie	45.3%	Clinton	1.2%	Lancaster	8.4%	Montgomery	6.0%
65	Armstrong	24.1%	Centre	40.9%	Montour	0.9%	Montgomery	8.2%	Lancaster	6.0%
66	Warren	23.9%	Forest	33.0%	Cameron	0.8%	Chester	8.2%	Chester	5.1%
67	Bedford	22.8%	Philadelphia	30.6%	Centre	0.8%	Centre	7.3%	Centre	4.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates (2015-2019, 2010-2014, 2005-2009).

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 pasdc@psu.edu.