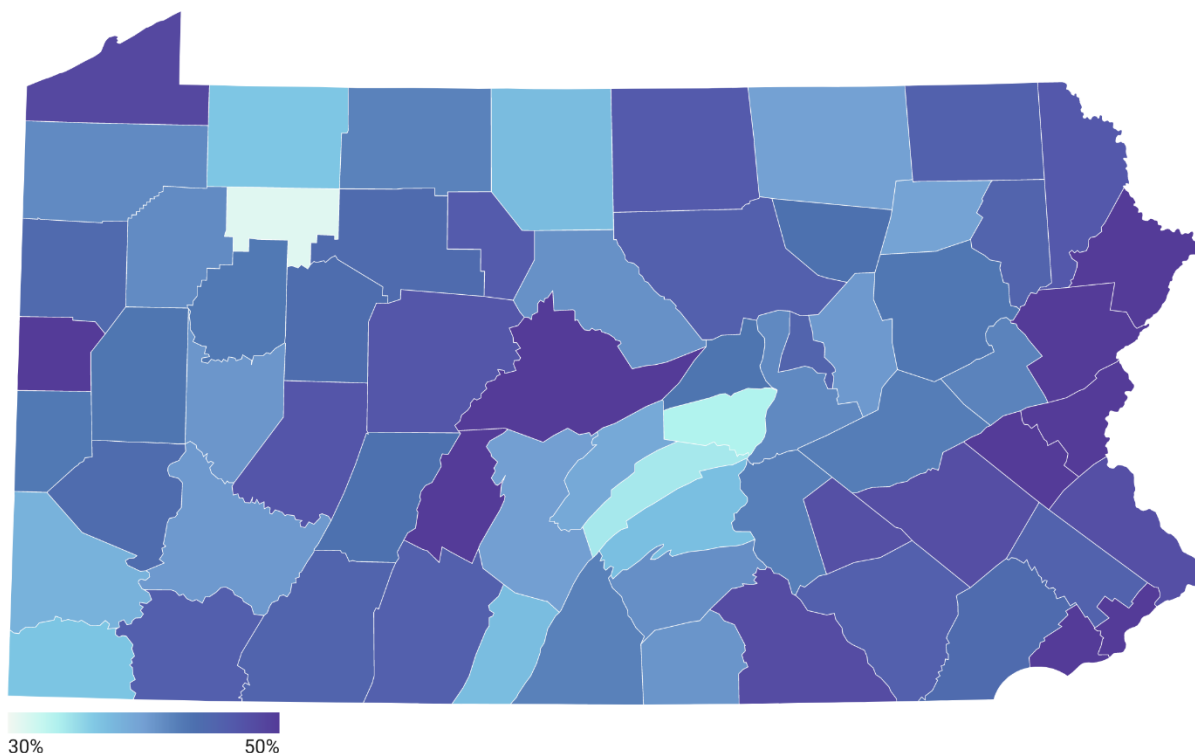## New 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Now Available

DEC. 8, 2022 — Today the U.S. Census Bureau released new statistics from the 2017-2021 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates. The data reveal that approximately 47.0 percent (690,000) of renter households in Pennsylvania spent more than 30.0 percent of their income on housing costs during the 2017-2021 period, compared to 40.0 percent of renter households nationally.

Households spending more than 30.0 percent on housing costs, including rent or mortgage payments, utilities, and other fees, are considered housing cost burdened according to the Department of Housing and Urban Development's [definition](#) of affordable housing.

Unaffordable Renting Costs in PA

Percent of renters paying 30 percent or more of household income on gross rent according to the 2017-2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.

30%   50%

Map: PA State Data Center • Source: U.S. Census Bureau • Created with Datawrapper

Click [here](#) to view an interactive map and get the underlying data.

The counties with the highest percentage of renters experiencing a housing cost burden were Centre (58.0%), Pike (57.4%), Lawrence (52.5%), Monroe (51.9%), and Philadelphia (51.9%).

Median Income

The U.S. median household income for the 2017-2021 ACS 5-year period was $69,021. In Pennsylvania the median household income for the same period was $67,587. Median household income, [adjusted for inflation to 2021 dollars](), in Pennsylvania increased 9.0 percent from $61,978 in 2012-2016, the most recent nonoverlapping 5-year period. However, the rise in median income was not proportionate across all counties in Pennsylvania.

Between 2012-2016 and 2017-2021, 43 counties experienced a statistically significant increase in median household income, 1 county experienced a decrease, and 22 counties did not have a statistically significant change*. The largest increases were in Chester, Bucks and Philadelphia counties and the only decline was in Bradford County.

Additional highlights from the newly released estimates:

Poverty

- The Pennsylvania poverty rate decreased from 13.3 percent in 2012-2016 to 11.8 percent in 2017-2021.

- From 2012-2016 to 2017-2021, 30 counties (44.8%) had a statistically significant decrease in poverty rates.

- In Pennsylvania, the poverty rate for those under age 18 decreased from 19.1 percent in 2012-2016 to 16.4 percent in 2017-2021.

- Compared to 2012-2016, 21 Pennsylvania counties had a statistically significant decline in poverty rate for those under age 18.

- No Pennsylvania counties had a statistically significant increase in poverty rates for the total population or for those under age 18.

Families and Living Arrangements

- The percentage of Pennsylvania households with one or more people under 18 declined from 28.6 percent in 2012-2016 to 27.8 percent in 2017-2021.

- The percentage of Pennsylvania households with one or more people age 65 and over increased from 30.0 percent in 2012-2016 to 32.6 percent in 2017-2021.

- In Pennsylvania, among grandparents living with their own grandchildren under age 18, the percentage of grandparents responsible for their grandchildren declined from 36.8 percent in 2012-2016 to 34.1 percent in 2017-2021.

Additional Annual Releases

The Census Bureau is set to release ACS 5-year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) files and Variance Replicate Estimates (VRE) on January 26, 2023. The Census Bureau will also release new Selected Population Tables and American Indian and Alaska Native Tables from the 2017-2021 ACS 5-year estimates in 2023. To view the complete release schedule, visit the data year 2021 release schedule page. For more information on the topics included in the ACS, visit the Subjects Included in the Survey page. To access the full set of statistics released today, visit data.census.gov.

Statistics from sample surveys are subject to sampling and nonsampling error. All comparisons made in the highlights have been tested and found to be statistically significant at the 90% confidence level, unless otherwise noted. Consult the tables on data.census.gov for specific margins of error. For more information on using margins of error, visit the Code Lists, Definitions, and Accuracy page.

Changes in survey design from year-to-year can affect results. For more information on changes affecting the 2021 statistics, refer to our User Notes.

These statistics would not be possible without participation from ACS respondents throughout the country.