

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 2018-2022 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates. These estimates provide data for all Pennsylvania counties, municipalities, and other geographic areas regardless of population size. The newest estimates can be compared with other non-overlapping releases (e.g., the 2013-2017 ACS Five-Year Estimates) to show change over time.

Trends in Language Spoken at Home

Among Pennsylvanians aged 5 and older, 88.2% spoke only English at home, compared to 78.3% nationally. This is a decrease from 89.0% in 2013-2017, the most recent nonoverlapping five-year period. Among those that spoke a language other than English in 2018-2022, Spanish (44.7%), Chinese (which includes all dialects) (6.5%), and Yiddish (Pennsylvania Dutch or other West Germanic) (5.1%) were the three most spoken languages at home.

Among specific age groups that spoke a language other than English at home:

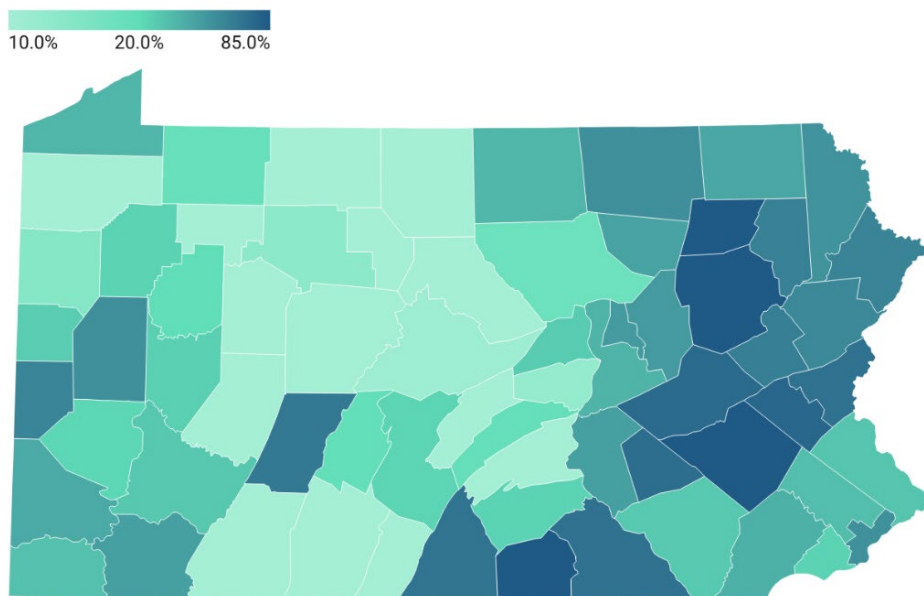
- In 2018-2022, 50.2% of those ages 5-17 spoke Spanish. Of these Spanish speakers, 76.6% spoke English “very well.” In comparison, in 2013-2017, 49.3% of those ages 5-17 spoke Spanish, and 79.8% of these Spanish speakers spoke English “very well.”
- In 2018-2022, 45.6% of those ages 18-64 spoke Spanish. Of these Spanish speakers, 56.9% spoke English “very well.”
- In 2018-2022, 31.6% of those age 65 and older spoke Spanish. Of these Spanish speakers, 41.0% spoke English “very well.”

In twenty-two Pennsylvania counties more than 50.0% of those aged 5-17 that spoke a language other than English at home, spoke Spanish in 2018-2022.

The largest percentage was in Luzerne County (90.6%), followed by Berks (89.8%), Wyoming (86.7%), Adams (85.0%) and Lehigh (78.0%). Three counties had no population in this age cohort that spoke Spanish: Cameron, Forest, and McKean.

Population ages 5 to 17 speaking Spanish at home

As a percent of ages 5 to 17 population that spoke a language other than English at home



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

Click [here](#) for interactive map

Trends in Income and Poverty

The overall Pennsylvania poverty rate for the 2018-2022 period was 11.8%, down from 13.1% from 2013-2017, the most recent nonoverlapping five-year period. Poverty rates decreased in fifty-seven counties compared to 2013-2017 with the largest declines in Clinton and Juniata (-4.1%), Clarion (-3.8%) and Indiana (-3.6%). The largest increase in the poverty rate during this period was in Forest County (+5.1%) followed by Mifflin (+3.2%) and Bradford (+0.9%).

The statewide poverty rate for children under age 18 declined from 18.6% in 2013-2017 to 16.2% in 2018-2022. The rate for those aged 18 to 64 also declined from 12.6% in 2013-2017 to 11.2% in 2018-2022. The poverty rate for Pennsylvanians aged 65 and older increased by 0.7% during this period to reach 8.9% in 2018-2022.

The poverty rate for families declined 0.9% from 2013-2017 to 2018-2022. The rate for single female headed families declined by 2.9% from 27.4% in 2013-2017 to 24.5% in 2018-2022. The rate for single female headed families with children under 5 saw a larger decline of 9.8% during this period to reach 34.2% in 2018-2022.

Foreign-Born

During the 2018-2022 period, there were nearly 942,000 foreign-born people in Pennsylvania: 7.3% of the state's total population. The foreign-born population rose by more than 100,000 between the 2013-2017 and 2018-2022 periods, an increase of 11.9%. Over half (55.5%) of all foreign-born people in Pennsylvania were naturalized U.S. citizens in 2018-2022 and nearly 70.0% entered Pennsylvania before 2010.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2018-2022 & 2013-2017.

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.hbg.psu.edu.