

New American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Released

HARRISBURG – On January 29, 2026, the U.S. Census Bureau released its annual installment of new demographic and socio-economic data for every community in the United States – the 2020-2024 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates. These estimates provide data for all Pennsylvania geographic areas regardless of population size. The newest estimates can be compared with previous non-overlapping releases (e.g., the 2015-2019 ACS 5-Year Estimates) to explore change over time.

Education Highlights

The 2020-2024 ACS 5-Year Estimates show that the percentage of adults age 25 and older with a bachelor’s degree or higher increased significantly in Pennsylvania (31.4% in 2015-2019 to 35.2% in 2020-2024). Fifty of Pennsylvania’s counties noted a significant increase in educational attainment in the same group.

Among Pennsylvania counties, Montour experienced the largest increase in educational attainment among adults age 25 and over with a bachelor’s degree or higher [Figure 1], from 31.6% (2015-2019) to 38.7% (2020-2024). Other counties with a greater than 5 percentage point increase included Philadelphia (29.7% to 35.4%), Clearfield (15.1% to 20.2%), and Lancaster (27.3% to 32.4%).

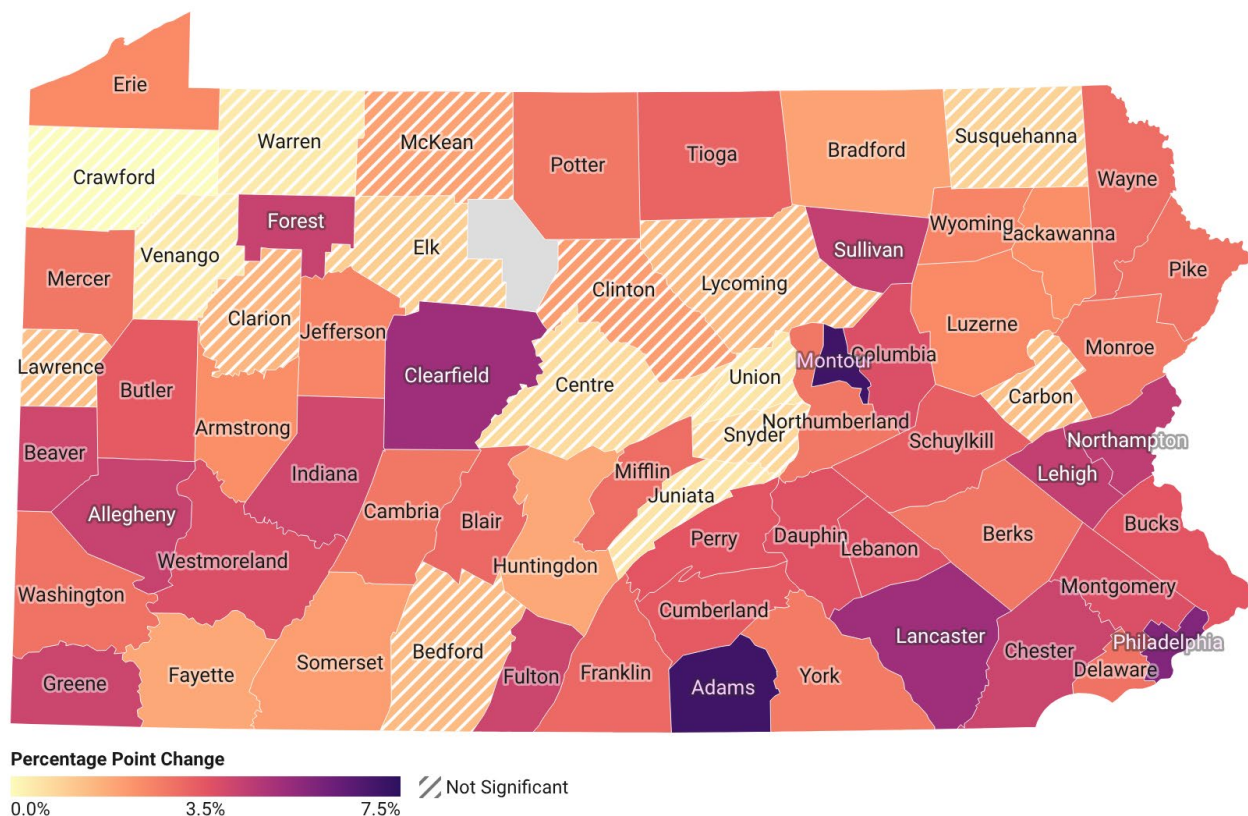


Figure 1. Change in educational attainment among adults age 25 and over with a bachelor’s degree or higher. Click [here](#) to view interactive chart.

No county experienced a decline in the percentage of adults age 25 and older with a bachelor’s degree or higher. Comparison data is not available for Cameron.

Attainment by Field of Bachelor's Degree

In Pennsylvania counties with more than 20,000 college graduates age 25 and over with a bachelor's degree or higher (2020-2024), the distribution of degrees by field changed from 2015-2019 to 2020-2024:

- **Education:**
 - Across Pennsylvania the share of college graduates with an education degree declined by 1.4 percentage points, from 14.5% (2015-2019) to 13.1% (2020-2024)
 - Mercer experienced the greatest decline (23.9% to 18.9%)
 - York was the only county to experience an increase (16.7% to 17.8%)
- **Science and Engineering:**
 - Most counties saw an increase in this field. Among those with a percentage point change of 2.0 or greater from 2015-2019 to 2020-2024 were:
 - Monroe (27.3% to 31.4%)
 - Washington (29.0% to 37.2%)
 - Delaware (33.0% to 35.7%)
 - Schuylkill (25.7% to 28.0%)
 - Berks (30.1% to 32.4%)
- **Arts, Humanities, and Other:**
 - Counties with the largest percentage point increase from 2015-2019 to 2020-2024 included:
 - Dauphin (21.4% to 24.5%)
 - Franklin (21.0% to 23.4%)
 - Lackawanna (22.0% to 24.4%)
 - Meanwhile, counties with the largest percentage point decrease included:
 - Monroe (26.8% to 23.2%)
 - Centre (23.4% to 21.5%)

Additional Releases

The Census Bureau is set to release ACS 5-year Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) files and Variance Replicate Estimates on March 5, 2026. To view the complete release schedule, visit the [2024 ACS data release schedule](#).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2015-2019 & 2020-2024.

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 via email at pasdc@psu.edu.