

2020 Census Redistricting Data: Racial & Ethnic Diversity in Pennsylvania

HARRISBURG – The U.S. Census Bureau has released the official 2020 Census P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data file, including user-friendly file formats available through the Bureau’s site. This brief explores changes in Pennsylvania’s racial and ethnic diversity from 2010 to 2020.

Introduction

Pennsylvania’s population is more racially and ethnically diverse according to the 2020 Census. The Census used the required two separate questions (one for Hispanic or Latino origin and one for race) to collect the races and ethnicities of the population — following the standards set by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Building upon research over the past decade, the two separate question design was improved, and data processing and coding procedures were updated for the 2020 Census.

The improvements and changes enabled a more thorough and accurate depiction of how people self-identify, revealing that the population is much more multiracial and more diverse than what was measured in the past.

The Census Bureau is confident that differences in the overall racial distributions are largely due to improvements in the design of the two separate questions for race data collection and processing, as well as some demographic changes over the past 10 years. Additional information on the race and ethnicity data from the Census can be found [here](#).

Racial & Ethnic Trends in Pennsylvania

The white population in Pennsylvania remained the largest race or ethnicity group in 2020, with 9,750,687 people identifying as white alone. Overall, 10,451,170 people reported white alone or in combination with another group. However, the white alone population decreased by 6.3% since 2010.

The county with the largest percentage of white population in 2020 was Bedford County (95.8%). Bedford was followed by Jefferson (95.5%), Elk and Armstrong (95.4%) and Potter (95.2%) counties. The counties with the smallest percentage of white population in 2020 included Philadelphia (36.3%), Dauphin (63.2%), Delaware (63.7%) and Lehigh (65.3%). The largest increase in white residents from 2010 to 2020 was in Butler County (+ 0.9%) while the largest decrease was in Monroe County (- 15.4%).

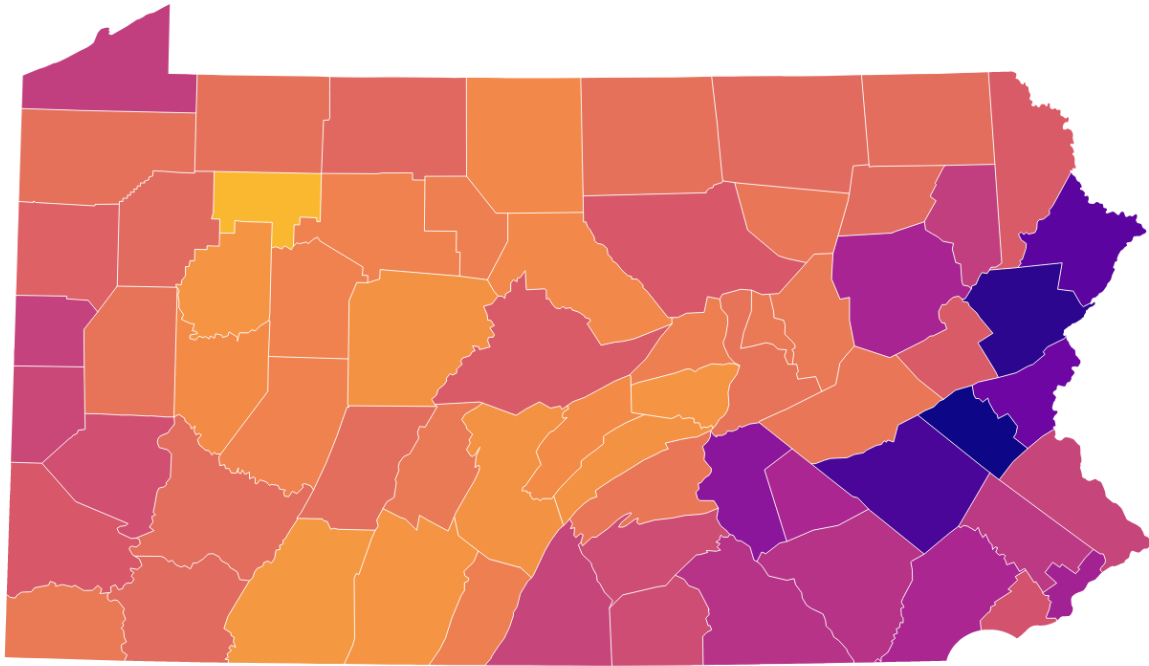
The Two or More Races population (also referred to as the Multiracial population) has changed considerably since 2010. The Multiracial population was measured at 237,835 people in 2010 and is now 774,484 people in 2020, a 226% increase. The “in combination” multiracial populations for all race groups accounted for most of the overall changes in each racial category.

Lehigh County had the largest percentage of Multiracial population in 2020 (10.1%). This population more than doubled from 2010 when Lehigh had the second largest percentage behind Dauphin County. In 2020, counties with the largest percentages of Multiracial population were also in the eastern portion of the state; Monroe (+ 9.6%), Berks (+ 9.0%), Pike (+ 8.6%) and Northampton (+ 8.2%). The counties with

the smallest percentage of Multiracial population include Forest (1.9%), Somerset (2.9%), and Bedford, Clarion and Snyder with 3.0% each.

Pennsylvania's Multiracial Population by County

"Two or More Races" as a
Percent of Total Population



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

Click [here](#) to view interactive map.

Pennsylvania cities with the largest Multiracial population in 2020 were Reading (18.6%), Hazleton (17.6%), Allentown (15.5%), Lebanon (15.0%) and Lancaster (14.4%). Hazleton had the largest growth in the Multiracial population from 2010 to 2020.

Pennsylvania's Hispanic or Latino population, which includes people of any race, was 1,049,615 in 2020. The Hispanic or Latino population grew 45.8%, while the population that was not of Hispanic or Latino origin declined 0.2% since 2010.

Counties with the largest percentage of Hispanic residents in 2020 were Lehigh (25.9%), Berks (23.2%), Monroe (17.0%), Philadelphia (14.9%) and Luzerne (14.4%). Those with the smallest percentage of Hispanic residents include Armstrong (0.7%) and Jefferson and Elk with 0.9% each. Counties with the largest growth in the Hispanic population from 2010 to 2020 include Cameron (352.6%), Luzerne (118.2%), Schuylkill (97.6%), Butler (88.8%) and Cumberland (85.7%).

Pennsylvania cities with the largest Hispanic populations are the same as those with the largest Multiracial population; Reading (69.0%), Hazleton (63.1%), Allentown (54.2%), Lebanon (46.2%), and Lancaster (40.2%). Aliquippa city had the largest growth in the Hispanic population from 2010 to 2020. Arnold city was the only Pennsylvania city to see a decline in its Hispanic population during this time.

The Census Bureau uses several measures to analyze the racial and ethnic diversity of the country. The Diversity Index (DI) to measure the probability that two people chosen at random will be from different racial and ethnic groups. The 2020 U.S. Diversity Index was 61.1%, up from 54.9% in 2010. Pennsylvania's 2020 DI was 44.0%, up from 35.3% in 2010. The five Pennsylvania counties with the greatest DI in 2020 were Philadelphia (70.5%), Dauphin (58%), Monroe (56.4%), Lehigh (55.7%), and Delaware (54.8%). The five Pennsylvania counties with the lowest DI in 2020 were Potter (10.6%), Armstrong (9.5%), Elk (9.5%), Jefferson (9.4%), and Bedford (8.9%). You can find additional information about the Diversity Index [here](#).

Other Resources from PaSDC & the Census Bureau

County and municipal level [visualizations](#) are available on our website for analyzing additional statistics.

If you need to analyze data for all Pennsylvania counties or municipalities, we have provided an excel [file](#) with the 2020 and 2010 populations and the percent change. If you are looking for historical data, our updated product provides population for counties and municipalities from 1960 to 2020 with percent change included. This is an electronic product only and can be purchased on our [eStore](#).

The Census Bureau used a new method of privacy protection for the 2020 Census, Differential Privacy. To learn more about privacy protections for the 2020 Census Redistricting Data, please see this Census [Fact Sheet](#). There is additional information about the [Census Disclosure Avoidance Modernization](#) on their website.

As governments begin reviewing their official 2020 Census data, the Count Question Resolution Program provides a method to request a review of Census results to ensure that population and housing units were correctly allocated. In December of 2021, the Census Bureau will notify tribal, state and local government officials of their eligibility for the program and governments can begin filing challenges through the program in January of 2020. For additional information about this program, visit the [Count Question Resolution Program](#) page on the Census website.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 and 2020 P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data file.

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Questions? Contact the Pennsylvania State Data Center at 717.948.6336 or online at pasdc.hbg.psu.edu.

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