Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

May 28, 2003

Pennsylvania German Population Featured in Census Bureau's Summary File 4 Release
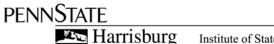
MIDDLETOWN, Pa – The Pennsylvania State Data Center at Penn State Harrisburg reports that the U.S. Census Bureau has today released the Census 2000 Summary File 4 (SF4) data for Pennsylvania. This release presents population, housing and socio-economic data down to the census tract level. The Summary File 4 data release is compiled from responses to the long-form questionnaire and features topics from the short-form questionnaire.

Summary File 4 data is repeated or iterated for the total population and 335 additional population groups: 132 race groups, 78 American Indian and Alaska Native tribe categories, 39 Hispanic or Latino groups and 86 ancestry groups. Data is available for population groups that have at least 50 unweighted sample cases in a specific geographic area. Like the Summary File 2 release, tables will be excluded from Summary File 4 when a group's total population falls below a specific threshold of 100. As a result, not all racial groups, ethnicities and ancestries may be available for Pennsylvania.

An example of an ancestry group in Pennsylvania would be the Pennsylvania German population. This group is also known as the Pennsylvania Dutch, derived from the word 'Deutsch', which means 'German'. The Pennsylvania German population is a large source of tourism for the Commonwealth. A great deal of their merchandise can be found across Pennsylvania in fairs, markets, stores and other retail outlets. The following counties did not meet the population thresholds for the Pennsylvania German ancestry in 2000: Beaver, Cameron, Elk, Forest, Fulton, Greene, Juniata and Sullivan. As a result, data was not available for this ancestry group in those counties.

A total of 130,781 Pennsylvanians, 1.1 percent of the state's population, reported a Pennsylvania German ancestry in 2000 (Table 1). Lehigh County (6.2 percent) had the highest percentage of its population reporting this ancestry. Carbon County (5.3 percent) and Northampton County (4.8 percent) had the next highest percentage of its populations reporting a Pennsylvania German ancestry. Eighteen of the 67 counties in Pennsylvania reported populations of Pennsylvania German ancestry greater than 2,000 persons.

There were 54,780 households reporting any Pennsylvania German ancestry in Pennsylvania in 2000. This represents 0.1 percent of all the households in the Commonwealth in 2000. Of all the Pennsylvania households reporting a Pennsylvania German ancestry in 2000, there were 40,465 households reporting ownership of their own home while 14,315 households reported that they were renting their home.

The median family income of the Pennsylvania population reporting a Pennsylvania German ancestry was $44,115 in 1999 (Table 2). The median family income of all Pennsylvanians was $49,184 in 1999. This represents a $5,069 difference between the two population groups. For additional information, please contact the Pennsylvania State Data Center's State Capital Office at 717.772.2710.

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.

Editors: For additional data, contact the Pennsylvania State Data Center's State Capital Office at 717.772.2710 or for faculty comment on this topic, contact Penn State Harrisburg's Public Information Office at 717.948.6029.

Table 1. Population by Pennsylvania German Ancestry: Pennsylvania Counties, 2000					
Area Name	Population Reporting a Pennsylvania German Ancestry	Percent of Total Population	Area Name	Population Reporting a Pennsylvania German Ancestry	Percent of Total Population
Pennsylvania	130,781	1.1	Lawrence County	355	0.4
Adams County	458	0.5	Lebanon County	2,643	2.2
Allegheny County	1,363	0.1	Lehigh County	19,245	6.2
Armstrong County	720	1.0	Luzerne County	4,029	1.3
Bedford County	440	0.9	Lycoming County	1,588	1.3
Berks County	15,690	4.2	McKean County	325	0.7
Blair County	1,347	1.0	Mercer County	736	0.6
Bradford County	710	1.1	Mifflin County	682	1.5
Bucks County	5,212	0.9	Monroe County	2,601	1.9
Butler County	353	0.2	Montgomery County	7,750	1.0
Cambria County	1,701	1.1	Montour County	553	3.0
Carbon County	3,109	5.3	Northampton County	12,872	4.8
Centre County	1,070	0.8	Northumberland County	2,045	2.2
Chester County	3,079	0.7	Perry County	620	1.4
Clarion County	475	1.1	Philadelphia County	1,857	0.1
Clearfield County	833	1.0	Pike County	186	0.4
Clinton County	873	2.3	Potter County	169	0.9
Columbia County	2,324	3.6	Schuylkill County	4,336	2.9
Crawford County	945	1.0	Snyder County	515	1.4
Cumberland County	1,867	0.9	Somerset County	1,675	2.1
Dauphin County	3,060	1.2	Susquehanna County	375	0.9
Delaware County	2,003	0.4	Tioga County	311	0.8
Erie County	585	0.2	Union County	467	1.1
Fayette County	796	0.5	Venango County	337	0.6
Franklin County	553	0.4	Warren County	445	1.0
Huntingdon County	311	0.7	Washington County	320	0.2
Indiana County	751	0.8	Wayne County	191	0.4
Jefferson County	680	1.5	Westmoreland County	2,357	0.6
Lackawanna County	434	0.2	Wyoming County	390	1.4
Lancaster County	5,253	1.1	York County	2,928	0.8

PENNSTATE
Harrisburg   Institute of State and Regional Affairs
1855

Table 2. Pennsylvania German Ancestry by Median Family Income: Pennsylvania Counties, 2000			
Area Name	**Median Family Income in 1999 (Dollars)**	**Area Name**	**Median Family Income in 1999 (Dollars)**
Pennsylvania	44,115	Lawrence County	31,667
Adams County	39,375	Lebanon County	40,385
Allegheny County	63,438	Lehigh County	46,861
Armstrong County	32,500	Luzerne County	38,785
Bedford County	44,688	Lycoming County	34,814
Berks County	48,570	McKean County	33,125
Blair County	29,297	Mercer County	35,875
Bradford County	41,667	Mifflin County	33,375
Bucks County	49,269	Monroe County	40,163
Butler County	37,778	Montgomery County	53,099
Cambria County	26,346	Montour County	35,500
Carbon County	45,582	Northampton County	46,155
Centre County	39,107	Northumberland County	38,199
Chester County	58,527	Perry County	37,750
Clarion County	33,750	Philadelphia County	41,058
Clearfield County	38,839	Pike County	51,250
Clinton County	29,444	Potter County	33,750
Columbia County	39,565	Schuylkill County	41,452
Crawford County	26,786	Snyder County	38,917
Cumberland County	60,972	Somerset County	35,682
Dauphin County	46,630	Susquehanna County	35,000
Delaware County	51,648	Tioga County	28,667
Erie County	40,000	Union County	45,000
Fayette County	43,083	Venango County	41,875
Franklin County	47,045	Warren County	29,000
Huntingdon County	41,500	Washington County	33,611
Indiana County	28,750	Wayne County	32,083
Jefferson County	33,333	Westmoreland County	36,217
Lackawanna County	50,208	Wyoming County	37,344
Lancaster County	45,231	York County	51,875

PENNSTATE
Harrisburg   Institute of State and Regional Affairs