



Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

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Census Bureau Releases July 1, 2004 Population Estimates, Pennsylvania School-Age Population Declines

MIDDLETOWN, Pa –The Pennsylvania State Data Center at Penn State Harrisburg reports that the number of school-age children (ages 5 to 17) has declined in Pennsylvania. This data is from the July 1, 2004 state population estimates released today by the Census Bureau. The number of school-age children ages 5 to 17 has declined by 16,722 from 2003 to 2004, a decrease of 0.8 percent. From April 1, 2000 (Census Day) to July 1, 2004, the number in this age group declined by 76,533, or 3.5 percent. From July 1, 2003 to July 1, 2004 the number of children under age 5 has increased by 7,005, a 1.0 percent increase. However, the population of children under age 5 decreased by 8,679, or 1.2 percent from April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2004.

A look at the total population for Pennsylvania shows that the population increased by 35,531 from 2003 to 2004, a 0.3 percent increase and by 125,238 from 2000 to 2004, a 1.0 percent increase. The population age 18 and over increased by 45,248 from 2003 to 2004, a 0.5 percent increase and by 210,450 from 2000 to 2004, a 2.2 percent increase. The population age 65 and over decreased from 2003 to 2004 by 3,988 persons, a 0.2 percent decrease. This age group also declined from 2000 to 2004 by 22,662, or 1.2 percent. The number of people age 85 and over increased by 12,467 from 2003 to 2004, a 4.5 percent increase. From 2000 to 2004, the number of people age 85 and over increased by 53,319, or 22.4 percent. (See Tables 1 and 2 for additional information on Pennsylvania's estimated population by age)

Table 1: Population by Selected Age Groups, Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania	April 1st, 2000 Census Day	April 1st, 2000 Estimates Base	July 1, 2003 Population Estimate	July 1, 2004 Population Estimate
Total	12,281,054	12,281,054	12,370,761	12,406,292
Total under 5	727,804	727,804	712,120	719,125
Total 5 to 17	2,194,417	2,194,417	2,134,606	2,117,884
Total 18 and Over	9,358,833	9,358,833	9,524,035	9,569,283
Total 65 and Over	1,919,165	1,919,165	1,900,491	1,896,503
Total 85 and Over	237,567	237,567	278,419	290,886

Table 2: Number and Percent Change by Selected Age Groups, Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania	Number Change, Estimates Base to 2004	Percent Change, Estimates Base to 2004	Number Change, 2003 to 2004	Percent Change, 2003 to 2004
Total	125,238	1.0	35,531	0.3
Total under 5	-8,679	-1.2	7,005	1.0
Total 5 to 17	-76,533	-3.5	-16,722	-0.8
Total 18 and Over	210,450	2.2	45,248	0.5
Total 65 and Over	-22,662	-1.2	-3,988	-0.2
Total 85 and Over	53,319	22.4	12,467	4.5

Pennsylvania's estimated population on July 1st, 2004 was 12,406,292, which maintained Pennsylvania's ranking as the 6th largest state in the nation behind California, Texas, New York, Florida and Illinois. Table 3 shows Pennsylvania's rankings nationally in selected age groupings. An analysis of the population age 65 and over shows that Pennsylvania is no longer the second oldest state in the nation behind Florida in terms of the percent of the population age 65 and over. West Virginia, at 15.33 percent, barely beats out Pennsylvania at 15.29 percent as the second oldest state in the nation.

Table 3: Pennsylvania Rankings for Selected Age Groups

Pennsylvania	Resident Population	Ranking Among U.S. States	Percent of Total Resident Population	Percent Ranking Among U.S. States
Total	12,406,292	6	-	-
Under 5 years	719,125	7	5.8	44
Total Age 5 to 17	2,117,884	6	17.1	37
18 years and over	9,569,283	5	77.1	9
65 years and over	1,896,503	5	15.29	3
85 years and over	290,886	4	2.3	4

The Census Bureau develops state population estimates using administrative records in "a demographic-change model." The method follows each birth cohort according to its exposure to mortality, fertility and migration. It estimates population change from the most recent census using data on births, deaths and migration. The April 1, 2000 estimates base are derived from the Count Question Resolution Program and geographic program revisions.

For additional data tables on the July 1, 2004 population estimates release, please visit our Web site at: PaSDC.hbg.psu.edu, click on **PA STATS** and then Estimates and Projections.

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.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Branch

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