



# Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

September 27, 2007

## **PaSDC Releases the *Pennsylvania Abstract, A Statistical Factbook: 2007*, the Most Comprehensive Source Available for Facts and Figures about the Commonwealth**

MIDDLETOWN, Pa – The most comprehensive collection of facts and figures about the Commonwealth is now available for 2007. The *Pennsylvania Abstract, A Statistical Factbook: 2007*, is published annually by the Pennsylvania State Data Center and provides the most accurate, up-to-date information about Pennsylvania. In addition to hundreds of data items compiled from state and federal agencies, the *Abstract* contains maps, and graphics that are regularly employed by the business community, planners, policy-makers, marketers, and researchers. Some of the data items found in this year's *Abstract* include:

### **American Community Survey**

Data from the American Community Survey (ACS) is included in the *Abstract* for the third year. The ACS is a major part of the reengineered 2010 Census and will replace the census long form currently collected every 10 years. The survey will provide current demographic, socio-economic and housing information about America's communities every year – information that until now was only available once a decade.\*

### **Sample ACS data found in the 2007 *Pennsylvania Abstract*:**

In 2005, ACS reported 5,422,362 housing units in Pennsylvania with an average household size of 2.46 and a median housing value of \$131,900. The survey also showed that 929,560 White alone Pennsylvanians lived in poverty, followed by 353,255 Black alone, and more than 150,000 persons of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity. \*\* Among Pennsylvanians 25 years or older (8,180,457), more than 3.1 million had earned a high school diploma, while more than 1.3 million had been awarded a bachelor's degree. Of the population 18 years and over in Pennsylvania, more than 1 million are civilian veterans having served in WWII, the Korean War, Vietnam or the Gulf War.

### **Population, Births, Deaths, Health, Marriage and Divorce**

In addition to the American Community Survey, tables and maps in the *Abstract* contain a wide range of demographic data, including population, births, deaths, health, marriage, and divorce.

Among the data found in this year's edition:

Between 2000 and 2006, Pennsylvania experienced 902,068 births and 806,419 deaths, resulting in a net natural increase of 95,649 persons. Overall, population increased by 159,567. Chester County experienced the greatest numeric population increase, gaining 48,611 residents, while Philadelphia County saw the largest decrease in residents (-69,156). In 2005, Pennsylvania's birth rate was 11.7 births for every 1,000 persons, while marriage and divorce rates stood at 5.8 and 2.9 per 1,000 persons, respectively. Heart disease continues to be the leading cause of death

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in Pennsylvania in 2005 (35,896), though the number of deaths has consistently declined since 2002 (-6.3 percent).

### **Other Data**

The 2007 *Pennsylvania Abstract* isn't limited to demographic data, it includes such diverse categories as Commerce and Manufacturing, Employment, and Education, Grants and Libraries. Data items from those sections include the following:

### **Commerce, Manufacturing, and Employment**

Pennsylvania's Gross Domestic Product continues to climb, reaching 510.2 billion dollars in 2006. Manufacturing still ranks as one of the state's top industries, employing more than 663,000 Pennsylvanians in 2005. But, as the number of jobs falls in manufacturing (-18,942 between 2003 and 2005), they are being replaced by the health care and social assistance industry, which employs more than 800,000 people. The unemployment rate for Pennsylvania dropped from 5.0 in 2005 to 4.7 in 2006. Forest County had the highest unemployment rate at 6.8 while Franklin County ranked the lowest with 3.2.

### **Education, Grants and Libraries**

For the 2004-2005 school year, 142,647 students graduated from high school in Pennsylvania with 105,592 (74.0 percent) planning to attend college. The high school dropout rate in Pennsylvania is 1.9 percent. In Fall 2005 more than 220,000 students were enrolled in private colleges and universities, followed by state-related commonwealth universities with 149,490 students and community colleges with 122,856 students.

This year's abstract also includes data on:

- Agriculture, Natural Resources and Conservation
- Social Services
- State and Local Government Taxes
- Law Enforcement, Crime and Correction Facilities
- Communications, Utilities, Energy, and Transportation

*Pennsylvania Abstract, A Statistical Factbook: 2007*, is an easy to use reference book that contains everything you need to know about Pennsylvania, and more. To order your copy today, visit our website at [PaSDC.hbg.psu.edu](http://PaSDC.hbg.psu.edu) and click "eStore," call 717.948.6336, or email [PaSDC@psu.edu](mailto:PaSDC@psu.edu). Available in hardcopy or on CD-ROM (PDF).

Source: *Pennsylvania Abstract, A Statistical Factbook: 2007, 2006*

Notes: \* At the time of this printing, ACS data was only available for populations greater than 65,000 persons. Group quarter population (nursing homes, dorms, prisons, etc.) is not part of the 2005 data included in the Abstract.

\*\* People who identify their origin as Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino may be of any race.

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.