Research Brief

The Commonwealth's Official Source for Population and Economic Statistics

June 25, 2015

**Detailed State and County Population Estimates Released for Pennsylvania:
Aging of Boomers Increase Older Ranks; Population Growing More Diverse**

PENN STATE HARRISBURG – One-in-six Pennsylvania residents are now aged 65 years and over, according to the 2014 Detailed State and County Population Estimates released today by the U.S. Census Bureau. The July 1, 2014 estimate of the population provides the fourth state and county-level estimates data based on age, sex, race and Hispanic origin to be released since the 2010 Census.
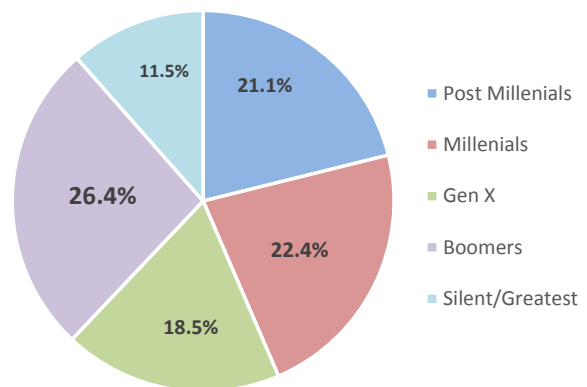
The Detailed State and County Population Estimates are calculated using administrative records to estimate components of population change, such as births, deaths, domestic and international migration.

As of July 1, 2014, the number of Pennsylvanians reaching age 65 years and beyond eclipsed 2.1 million, ranking the commonwealth fifth nationally. Since 2010, the population aged 65 years and over has grown by 175,103 people; more than twice that of the total population which increased by 84,325. In just four years, the population aged 65 years and over has grown by 8.9 percent far outpacing the overall population growth of the state (0.7 percent). In terms of percent of the population aged 65 plus, Pennsylvania (16.7 percent) ranked sixth among the states in 2014, coming in more than 2 percentage points higher than the nation (14.5 percent) overall.

Generational Look at the Age Structure

The age structure of Pennsylvania's population has steadily grown older over the past few decades. The primary driver of this change has been the aging of the state's largest generational cohort – the Baby Boomers[1]. The leading edge of the more than 3.3 million Pennsylvanians born between 1946 and 1964 have reached their golden years. In 2014, the commonwealth's Boomers accounted for more than a quarter (26.4 percent) of the state's residents (see Figure 1). Just as with the cohort aged 65 years and over, Pennsylvania ranked sixth among the states. As more and more Boomers reach older age status the
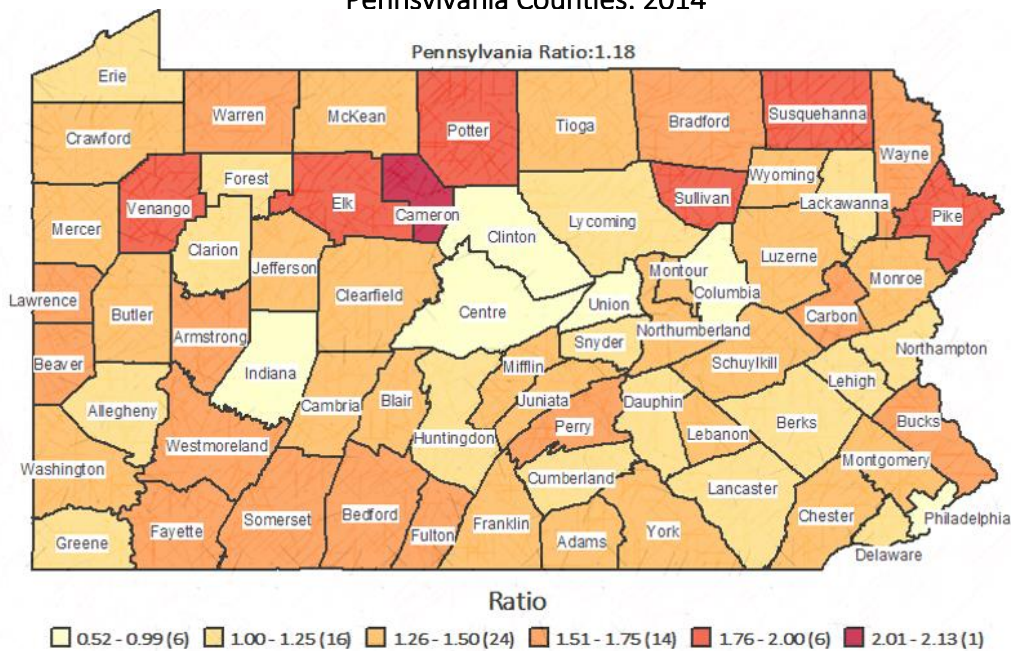

Figure 1. Pennsylvania Generations: 2014

- Post Millenials — 21.1%
- Millenials — 22.4%
- Gen X — 18.5%
- Boomers — 26.4%
- Silent/Greatest — 11.5%

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[1] In this Research Brief the population aged 50 to 69 years is used to reflect the Baby Boom cohort as the presentation of the Estimates data by five-year age cohort prevents an exact match to the 1946 to 1964 birth years. See detailed generation definitions on page four of this brief.

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tilting of the state's age structure toward the older age cohorts will continue.

On the other end of the age scale, the commonwealth's next largest generational cohort - the Millennials (age 18 to 34 years) - included some 2.8 million plus residents and accounted for 22.4 percent of the population in 2014. The ratio of Boomers in the population to Millennials was 1.18 in 2014. A ratio of 1.00 would indicate an equal number of Boomers and Millennials in the population. Pennsylvania's value of 1.18 ranked 9th nationally, signifying a notable difference between the two generations in comparison to other states. Maine (1.50), New Hampshire (1.36) and West Virginia (1.32) had the highest Boomer-to-Millennial ratios, while Utah (0.69), North Dakota (0.86) and Texas (0.87) had the lowest ratios in 2014.

Figure 2. shows the Boomer-to-Millennial ratio for Pennsylvania counties. The map shows that Cameron County (2.13) led all counties in the Boomer-to-Millennial ratio, followed by Sullivan (1.92), Pike (1.87), Susquehanna (1.83) and Elk County (1.81). As a general geographic pattern, counties along the northern tier and the laurel highlands revealed the highest ratios throughout the state. Only six counties had Boomer-to-Millennial ratios below 1.00, indicating more Millennials than Boomers in the population. For the most part, this is the result of being home to a significant number of colleges and university students.

Figure 2. Boomer-to-Millennial Ratio,
Pennsylvania Counties: 2014

Race and Hispanic Origin
All minority groups in the Keystone State experienced growth since 2010, while the White alone, non-Hispanic population was the sole race and ethnic group to decline in population between 2010 and 2014 (see Table 1.). Pennsylvania's minority population increased by 235,173, or 9.1 percent during the time period, reaching 2,828,820 people. The minority population in the commonwealth now accounts for 22.1 percent of the total population, up from 20.4 percent in 2010. The growth in the Hispanic population accounted for half (50.7 percent) of the expansion in the minority population. Between 2010 and 2014, the Hispanic population in the commonwealth increased by

119,119; a growth rate of 16.6 percent over the four-year period. The number of Hispanics in Pennsylvania now exceeds 830,000.

Table 1. Pennsylvania's Population Change by Race/Ethnic Group: April 1, 2010EB to July 1, 2014						
	1-Jul-14		1-Apr-2010EB		Change 2010EB to 2014	
Race/Ethnic Group	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total Population	**12,787,209**	**100.0%**	**12,702,884**	**100.0%**	**84,325**	**0.7%**
White Alone	9,958,389	77.9%	10,109,237	79.6%	-150,848	-1.5%
Minority	2,828,820	22.1%	2,593,647	20.4%	235,173	9.1%
Black Alone	1,365,794	10.7%	1,333,580	10.5%	32,214	2.4%
Asian Alone	409,249	3.2%	351,464	2.8%	57,785	16.4%
Two or More Races	193,512	1.5%	168,816	1.3%	24,696	14.6%
Hispanic (of any race)	838,823	6.6%	719,704	5.7%	119,119	16.6%

* Note – All race groups are for the specified race group alone, non-Hispanic. People whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic may be of any race.

Other non-Hispanic race groups with notable changes in population since 2010 include the Asian race group, which added 57,785 people (16.4 percent growth rate) and those identifying themselves as Two or More Races, which added 24,696 (14.6 percent growth rate). Overall the minority population growth rate was slightly higher in Pennsylvania than the nation as a whole (9.1 percent versus 8.6 percent). Minority is defined as the total population minus the White Alone, not Hispanic population.
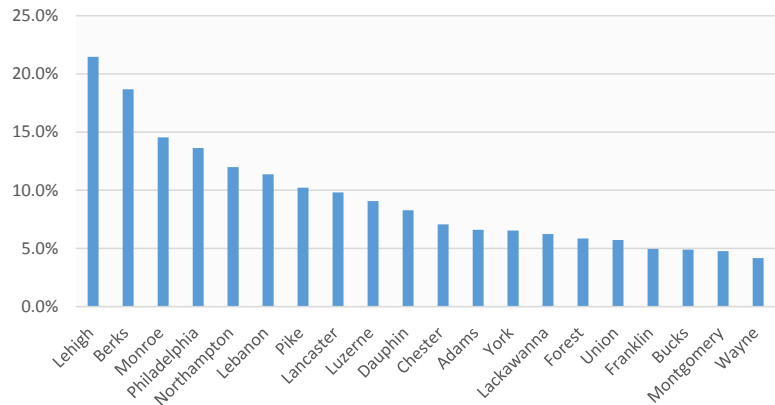
Despite the growing level of diversity in the state, Non-Hispanic, single-race Whites remained the largest race group in Pennsylvania with a population of more than 9.9 million. This represented more than three-quarters of Pennsylvanians 77.9 percent of the population as of July 1, 2014. In terms of population change, however, the commonwealth's White Alone, not Hispanic population declined by 150,848, or 1.5 percent since 2010.

County Race and Ethnic Data
- Philadelphia's minority population has surpassed the one million mark for the first time in 2014. The commonwealth's largest city also had the largest minority population percentage among all Pennsylvania's counties by far, with 64.2 percent, which was up from 63.0 percent in 2010.

- Overall, seven counties had more than a quarter of their population reporting a minority group: Philadelphia, Lehigh, Dauphin, Monroe, Delaware, Berks and Forest counties.

- In 42 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties, the percentage of the population identifying themselves as part of a minority group was less than 10.0 percent in 2014. However, the minority population grew in all but one county – Cambria – since 2010.

- Among the 29 Pennsylvania counties with a minority population of at least ten-thousand, Luzerne County (26.4 percent) experienced the largest percent increase. Cumberland (23.7 percent), Lebanon (22.9 percent), Lackawanna (21.1 percent) and Schuylkill (18.8 percent) rounded out the top five

- Lehigh County has the largest percentage (21.5 percent) of its total population reporting Hispanic ethnicity. Berks County followed with 18.7 percent. Since 2010, these two counties gained 11,210 and 9,898 Hispanic residents, respectively. In Monroe, Philadelphia, Northampton, Lebanon and Pike counties 10.0 percent or more of their populations reported Hispanic ethnicity. Figure 2. shows the top twenty Pennsylvania counties in percent Hispanic population.

Figure 2. Percent Persons Reporting Hispanic Ethnicity, PA Counties: 2014

Race/Ethnicity by Age

The newly released estimates also illustrate the racial and ethnic difference that exists between the generational groups in Pennsylvania. Moving from the older generations to the younger, it is easy to see the increasing level of diversity for each group (see Figure 3). Starting with the oldest generation, the Silent/Greatest Generation (70 years and over), the data reveals that only one out of every ten members of this cohort reported being a minority in 2014. From the Silent/Greatest Generation, the level of diversity increases as you move down though the younger generations. Boomers reported 14.9 percent minority, Gen Xer's 22.8 percent, Millennials 27.6 percent and finally topping out at 31.2 percent for the Post Millennial generation group.

Generation Definitions

Post Millennial
Born: After 1997
Age in 2014: Under 18

Millennials
Born: 1980 to 1996
Age in 2014: 18 to 34

Gen X
Born: 1965 to 1979
Age in 2014: 35 to 49

Boomers
Born: 1945 to 1964
Age in 2014: 50 to 69

Silent/Greatest
Born: Before 1945
Age in 2014: 70 and over

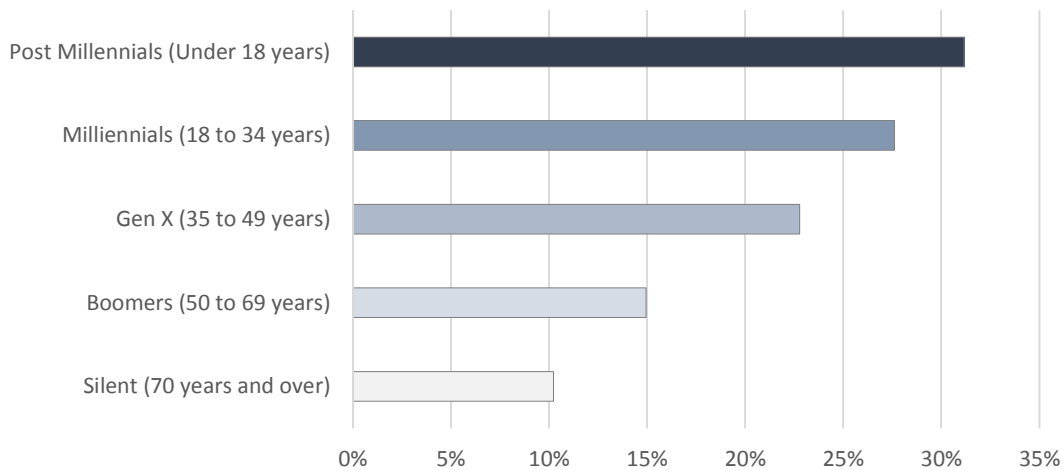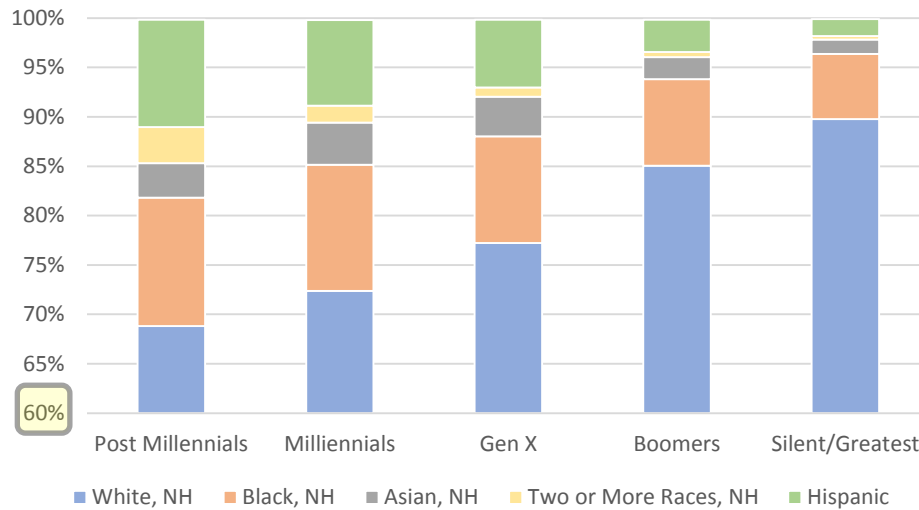Figure 3. Percent Minority Population by Generation, PA: 2014

Figure 4 shows the racial and ethnic composition of the population by generation in Pennsylvania in 2014. Again, the increasing level of diversity moving from older generations to younger is evident.

Figure 4. Race/Ethnicity by Generation, PA: 2014

* Note – All race groups are for the specified race group alone, non-Hispanic. People whose ethnicity is identified as Hispanic may be of any race.

More on Population Estimates

The U.S. Census Bureau's Population Estimates are created using records of births, deaths, and migration to account for yearly population changes since the last Decennial Census. Specifically, the Census Bureau used a distributive cohort component method to develop the July 1, 2014 estimates of the resident population by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin, for all of the nation's states and counties. Using previously developed resident national population estimates by age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin, the Census Bureau estimated the age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin distributions for each state by estimating post-censal change in the corresponding populations with a cohort component model. The same method was then used to develop the county-level estimates.

Customized tables showing Pennsylvania's population by county may be obtained by contacting the Pennsylvania State Data Center at 717.948.6336 or by emailing at PaSDC@psu.edu.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates Division, 2014 Detailed State and County Population Estimates.

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.

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

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