

Census 2020 Response Rates

HARRISBURG – All counting efforts for the 2020 Census are set to end on September 30, 2020. This includes the collection of responses via online, mail, or telephone forms as well as Non-Response Follow Up (NRFU) operations, the Bureau’s door-to-door campaign that targets households which have not yet responded to the Census. This brief explores response rates to the 2020 Census as of late August 2020 in Pennsylvania and its counties.

Statewide Response Rates

Pennsylvania held a response rate of 67.5 percent as of August 27, 2020 – the most current data as of the date of this analysis. Pennsylvania’s 2020 response rate still lags behind the final 2010 Census response rate of 70.2 percent. Pennsylvania currently ranks 17 among the other states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico for its current response rate during the 2020 Census despite ranking sixth during the 2010 Census.

County-Level Response Rates

Pennsylvania’s highest-ranking counties by their Census 2020 response rate as of August 27, 2020 included Bucks (77.0%), Chester (76.4%), Lancaster (76.4%), Montgomery (76.1%), and Cumberland (75.7%). The counties with the highest response rates in 2010 included Cumberland (77.3%), Lancaster (77.2%), York (76.9%), Adams (76.7%), and Northampton (76.5%).

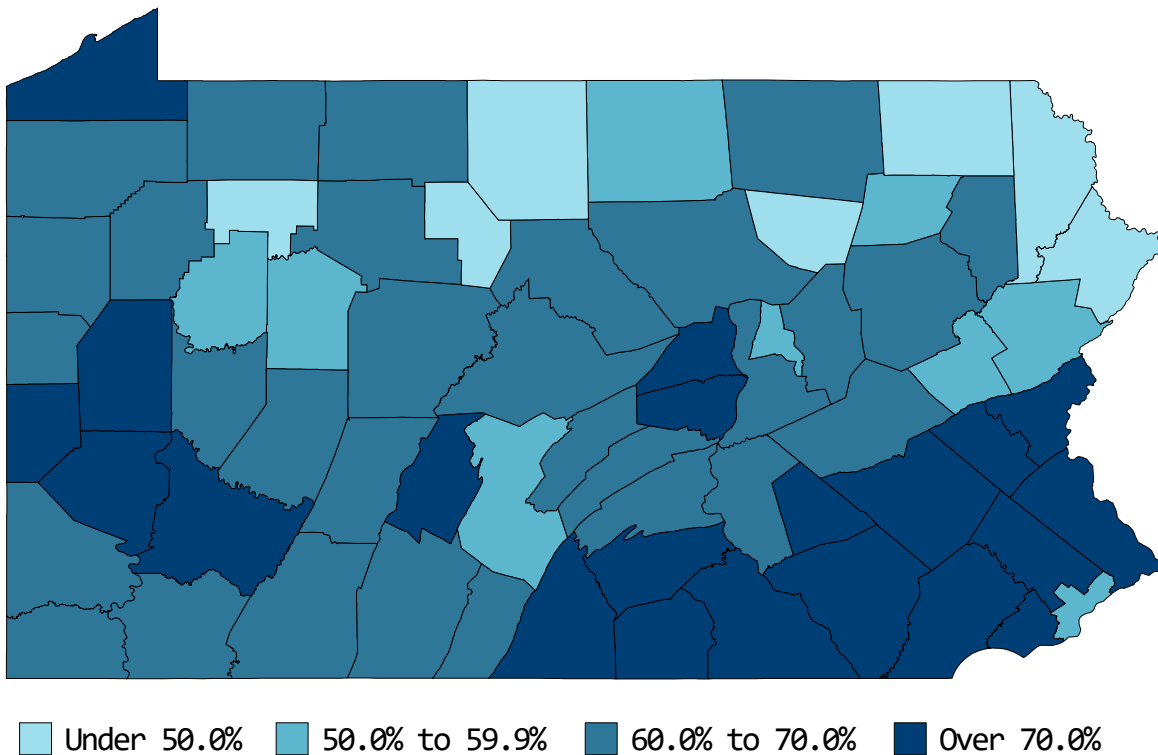


Figure 1. Current Census 2020 Response Rate as of 08/27/2020 (in percentage points).

Pennsylvania’s lowest-ranking counties by their Census 2020 response rate as of August 27, 2020 included Forest (26.4%), Sullivan (31.4%), Pike (39.6%), Cameron (42.6%), and Wayne (46.6%). These same counties had the lowest response rates in 2010; Forest (22.1%), Pike (30.9%), Sullivan (36.1%), Wayne (50.4%), and Cameron (53.0%).

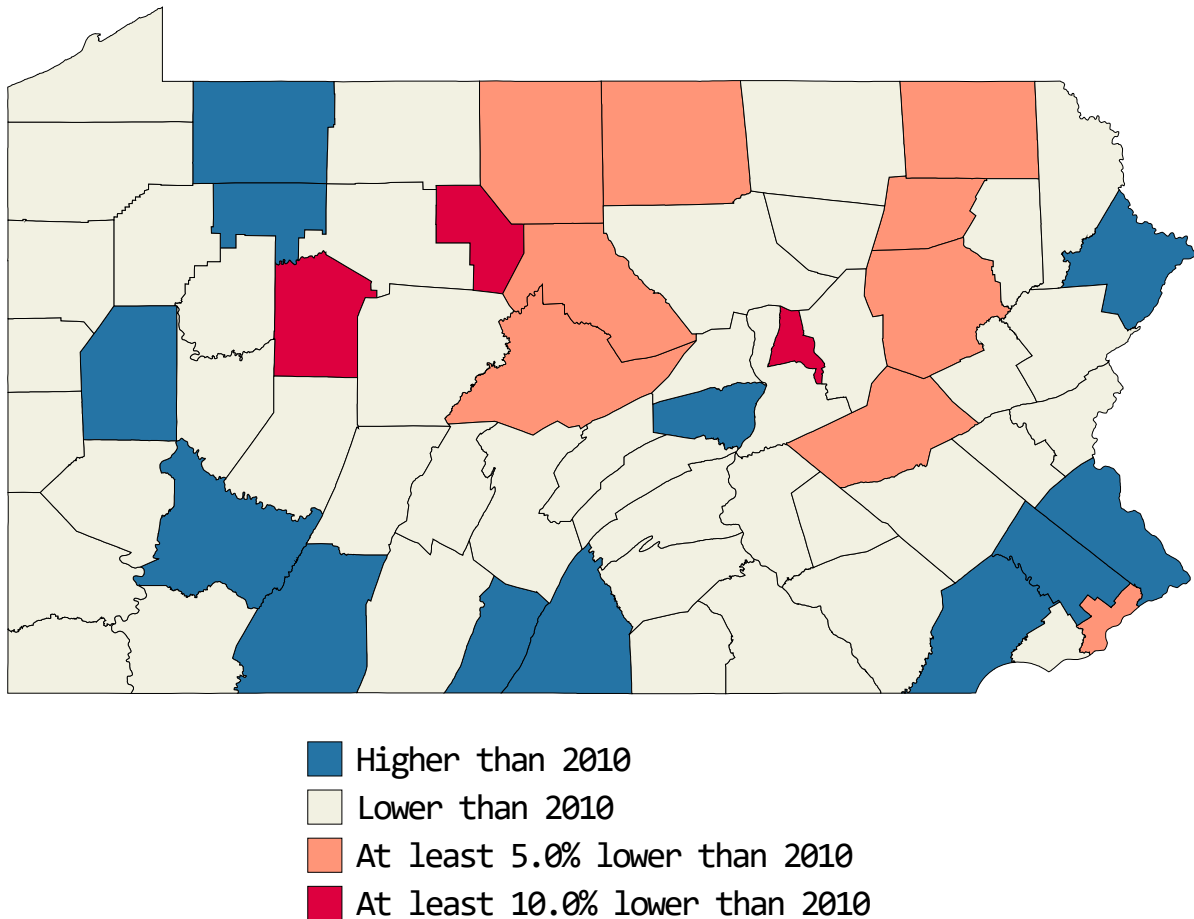


Figure 2. Difference between 2010 Final Response Rate and 2020 Current Response Rate as of 08/27/2020 (in percentage points).

A majority of counties (55) had lower response rates as of August 27, 2020 when compared to their 2010 Census response rate. A dozen counties had differences of 5 percentage points or greater, including: Cameron, Clinton, Jefferson, Luzerne, Montour, Philadelphia, Potter, Schuylkill, Susquehanna, Tioga, and Wyoming. Of those, Cameron, Jefferson, and Montour had rates that were 10 percentage points lower than their 2010 response rate.

More Response Rate Resources

[U.S. Census Bureau Response Rate Toolkit](#)

[Census Hard to Count Maps 2020: Mapping Response Rates](#)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Final Response Rates and 2020 Census Responses Rates as of August 27, 2020.

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.



PennState
Harrisburg

Pennsylvania
State Data Center

Penn State Harrisburg
777 W. Harrisburg Pike, Middletown, PA 17057
717-948-6336 | pasdc@psu.edu
pasdc.hbg.psu.edu | [@pasdc_psu](https://twitter.com/pasdc_psu)