December 7, 2017	**RESEARCH BRIEF**

New American Community Survey Data Available:
2016 Five-Year Estimates Released

HARRISBURG – The U.S. Census Bureau today released its annual installment of new demographic and socio-economic data for every community in United States – the 2012-2016 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates. These estimates provide data for all Pennsylvania counties, municipalities, and other geographic areas down to the census block-group level regardless of population size. These estimates can be compared with other non-overlapping releases (i.e. the 2007-2011 ACS 5-Year Estimates) to show change over time.

MEDIAN INCOME

The median household income during 2012 to 2016 revealed increases in 36 of Pennsylvania's counties since the 2007-2011 estimates. Counties with the largest dollar increases in their median household incomes were largely concentrated in northern Pennsylvania like Bradford (+$5,704), Clinton (+$4,825), Tioga ($3,515), and Sullivan (+$3,600) after adjusting for inflation. South Central Pennsylvania's counties experienced some of the highest numeric losses including York (-$2,614), Dauphin (-$2,343), and Cumberland (-$2,485). Figure 1 shows the difference in county and state median household incomes during 2012 and 2016.
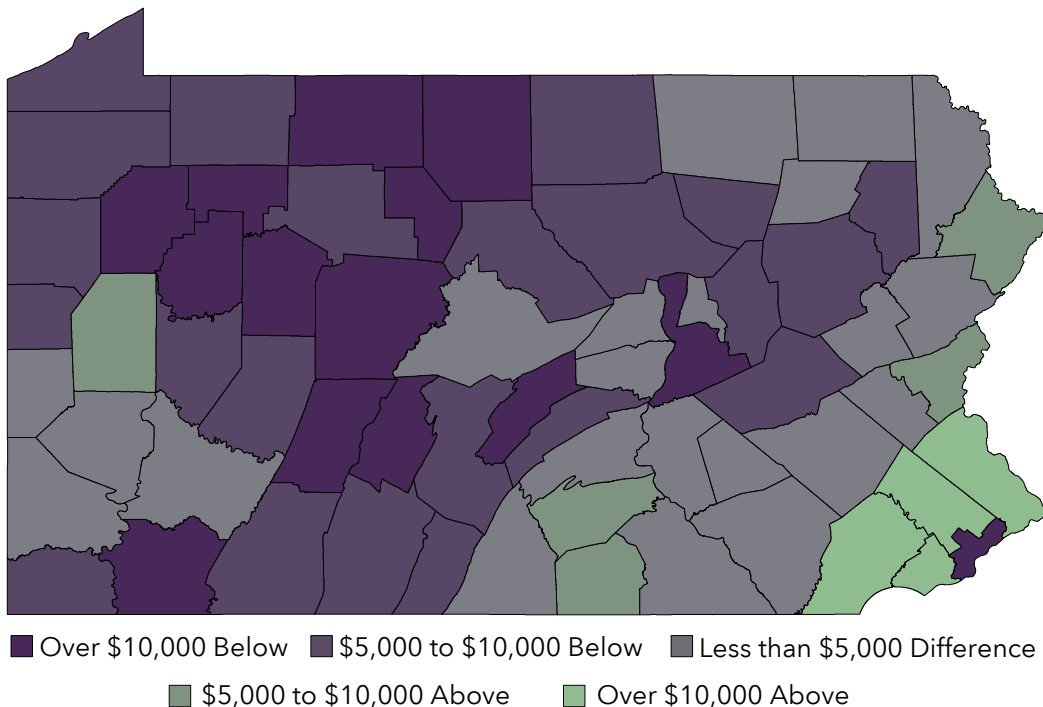

Legend:
- Over $10,000 Below
- $5,000 to $10,000 Below
- Less than $5,000 Difference
- $5,000 to $10,000 Above
- Over $10,000 Above

Figure 1. Difference in county and state median household Income in 2016 dollars.

Southeastern Pennsylvania remained the region of the state with the highest median household incomes during 2012 to 2016. Chester ($88,995), Montgomery ($81,902), Bucks ($79,559), and Delaware ($66,576) Counties had the highest median household incomes across the state. Forest County ($36,594) had the lowest median household income followed closely by Philadelphia ($39,770).

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

The percent of the population age 25 years and over without a High School diploma (or equivalency) decreased among all counties since the 2007-2011 estimates with the exception of Pike and Snyder Counties. Nearly one in five residents in Forest County have less than a High School diploma, the highest proportion in the state during 2012 to 2016. Forest County was followed by Juniata (17.6 percent) and Philadelphia (17.4 percent) Counties.

The share of the population with a Bachelor's degree or higher also climbed in most counties since the 2007-2011 estimates except for Clearfield County. Allegheny and Butler Counties had the highest increases in the share of their population with a Bachelor's degree or higher at 4.6 and 4.0 points, respectively, which placed Allegheny County as the fourth highest county in the state during 2012 to 2016. Chester (50.2 percent), Montgomery (47.5 percent), Centre (42.4 percent) had the highest shares of their population with Bachelor's degrees or higher during 2012 to 2016 [Figure 2].
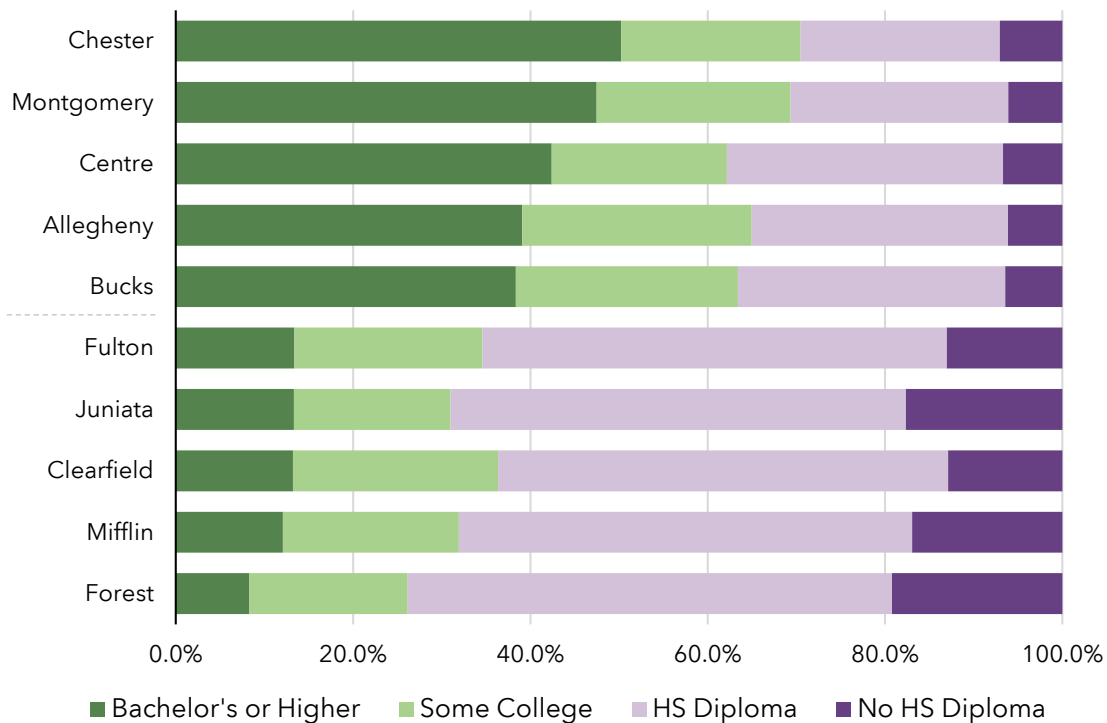

Figure 2. Educational Attainment for top and bottom five counties by percent of population with a Bachelor's degree or higher.

SINGLE-MOTHER FAMILIES

Single-mother families accounted for 38.2 percent of all families from 2012 to 2016 in Philadelphia, the highest in the state. Union County's single-mother families had the highest rate of poverty at 46.6 percent, up from just 24.7 percent during 2007 to 2011. Five other counties in Pennsylvania had poverty rates of 35.0 percent or higher among its single-mother families: Cameron, Clarion, Clinton, Fayette, and Greene.

Sullivan County had the lowest share of single-mother families at just 9.7 percent of all families during 2012 to 2016, followed by Forest (9.8 percent) and Juniata (11.1 percent). Single-mother families had the lowest poverty rates in Sullivan (11.4 percent) and Forest (11.5) Counties.

HEALTHCARE INSURANCE

Eight counties in Pennsylvania had 90.0 percent or more of their 18 to 64-year-old residents having only private insurance with Chester (94.4 percent), Bucks (94.1 percent), and Montgomery (93.6 percent) highest among them during 2012 to 2016. Four counties had at least one in four residents age 18 to 64 years with only public insurance: Philadelphia (26.4 percent), Fayette (22.5 percent), Clearfield (21.0 percent), and Mifflin (20.0 percent).

Figure 3 lists the distribution of insurance types among the five highest and lowest counties in terms of private insurance coverage. Private insurance sources include employer-based and direct-purchase, which includes plans from private companies and those included on the healthcare exchanges. Public sources include Medicaid, Medicare, and Military-based (VA, TRICARE, etc.).
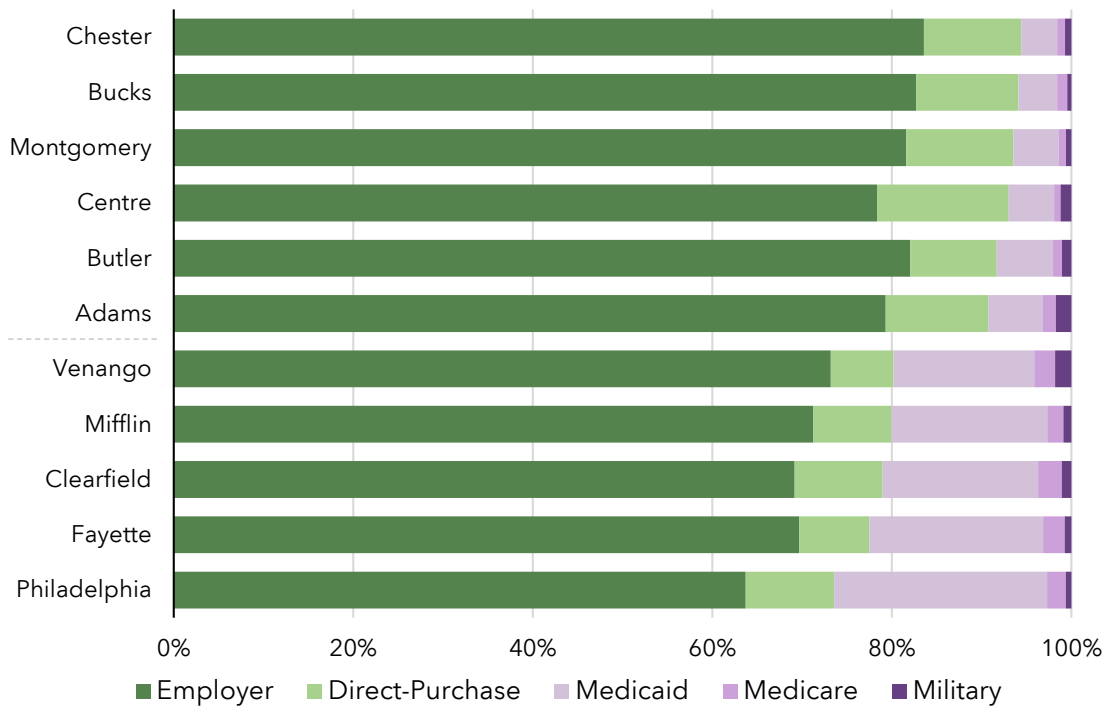

Figure 3. Distribution of coverage types for top and bottom five counties by percent of the population with private insurance.

Of the top five counties by rate of residents insured by only private coverage, Centre County has the highest portion of persons age 18 to 64 years with direct-purchase insurance only at nearly 15.0 percent. Of those counties with the lowest rates of private healthcare insurance coverage, Philadelphia County stands out with nearly one in four residents age 18 to 64 years with Medicaid-based insurance as their sole source of insurance.

MIGRATION

Migration from other states into Pennsylvania decreased in 48 counties from the 2007-2011 estimates to the 2012-2016 estimates. Migration from other states as a share of total migration decreased the most in Tioga (-8.9 points), Wayne (-8.3 points), Indiana (-7.8 points), and Montour (-7.4 points) Counties. Migration from other states as a share of total migration was highest in Pike and Union Counties during 2012 to 2016 at 38.4 and 31.9 percent, respectively.

Migration from abroad increased in 41 of Pennsylvania counties since the 2007-2011 estimates. Migration from abroad as a share of total migration increased the most in Snyder County at 4.2 points followed by Bucks with a 3.0 point increase. Centre County had the highest share of its total migration from abroad (7.2 percent) followed by Philadelphia (6.6 percent).

MORE ABOUT ACS 5-YEAR ESTIMATES

ACS 5-Year estimates are derived from 60 months of data collection to provide a large enough sample size to ensure the most reliable estimates for smaller geographic areas. Currently, four modes of data collection are utilized: Internet, Mailout/Mailback, Computer Assisted Telephone Interview, and Computer Assisted Personal Interview. The 2012-2016 ACS Estimates aggregate the sample responses from Pennsylvania households collected from January 1, 2012 to December 31, 2016 and represent the average estimate of a population characteristic over the entire time period.

Estimates from the 2012-2016 ACS 5-Year product are available for all geographic areas in Pennsylvania, including the geographies that are included in the one-year releases. The 2016 ACS 5-Year Estimates are different from, and should not be directly compared to the 2016 ACS 1-Year Estimates. As is the case with all surveys, statistics from sample surveys are subject to sampling and non-sampling error. Margins of error have been omitted in this Research Brief for clarity, but are available for all ACS estimates from factfinder.census.gov.