

New American Community Survey 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 2014-2018 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates. These estimates provide data for all Pennsylvania counties, municipalities, and other geographic areas regardless of population size.

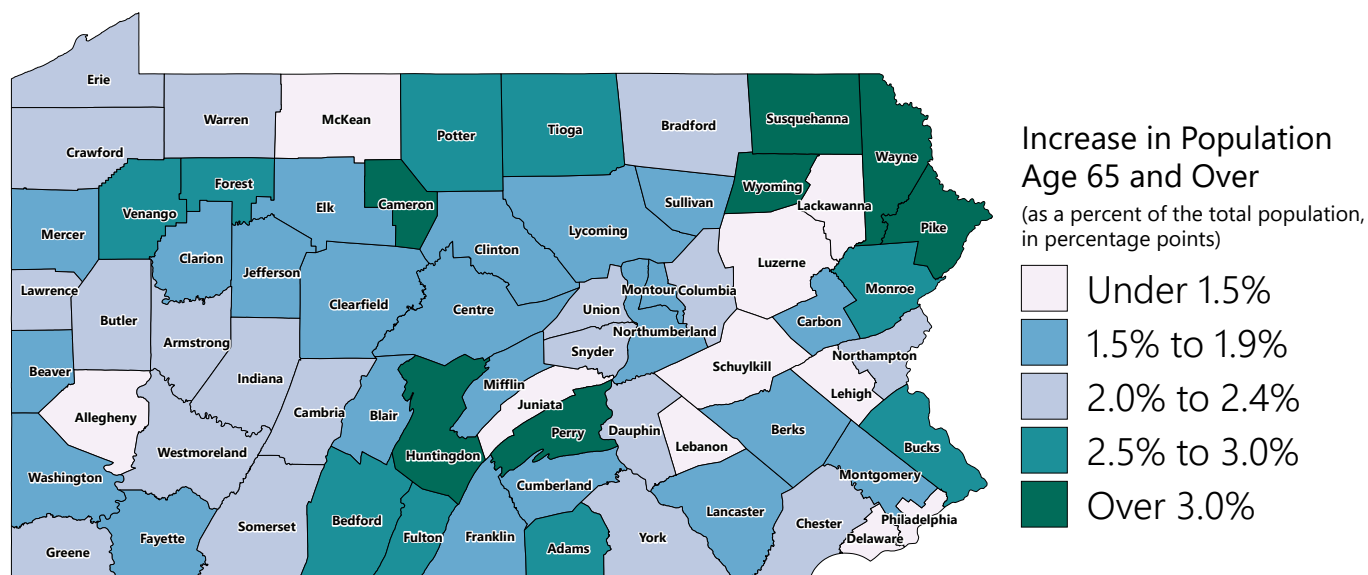
The newest estimates can be compared with other non-overlapping releases (e.g., the 2009-2013 ACS Five-Year Estimates) to show change over time. For the purposes of this report, we focus on trends in the age 65 and older population. The percentage of Pennsylvania’s population age 65 and older was 17.4%, significantly higher than in 2009-2013 (15.7%).

Key trends in comparison of 2014-2018 and 2009-2013 estimates:

- The percentage of residents age 65 and older significantly increased in all Pennsylvania counties.
- The labor force participation rate for the population age 75 and older increased in 52 counties.
- Twenty-two counties had median household incomes for the population age 65 and older above the state median.

County-Specific Trends

Of the twenty-eight Pennsylvania counties in 2014-2018 where the percentage of the population age 65 and older was 20% or higher, the largest was Sullivan County (27%), followed by Cameron (26.2%), Wayne (22.9%) and Potter (22.8%). In 2009-2013 only three counties had 20% or more residents age 65 and older, Sullivan, Cameron and Potter. The counties with the lowest percentage of the population age 65 and older in both estimate periods were Philadelphia, Centre and Chester. Counties with the largest change (in percentage points, as a percentage of the total population) from 2009-2013 to 2014-2018 included Cameron (4.4%), Pike (3.7%), Susquehanna (3.6%) and Wayne (3.5%).



When looking at the sex distribution among the age 65 and older population, a larger percentage were female; 43.4% male and 56.6% female in the state in 2014-2018. Forest County was the only county where this is not the case (53.2% male and 46.8% female). The largest difference in the sex distribution is seen in Philadelphia County (39.8% male and 60.2% female), followed by Montour County (40.3% male and 59.7% female).

In 2014-2018 the labor force participation rate for the population age 65 to 74 years in Pennsylvania increased to 26.4% from 25.8% in 2009-2013. For the population age 75 and older, the participation rate increased from 5.8% in 2009-2013 to 6.7% in 2014-2018. The largest change in labor force participation rate for the population age 65 and older was in Elk County (6.3%), followed by Montour (5.4%) and Fayette (4.1%). Eight counties saw declines in the labor force participation rate for the population age 65 and older. The largest decline was in Adams County (2.4%), followed by Susquehanna (1.9%) and Wayne (0.9%). The labor force participation rate for the population age 65 to 74 increased in forty-seven counties; with the largest increase in Elk and Montour counties (8.1% each). The labor force participation rate for the population age 75 and older increased in fifty-two counties; with the largest increase in Forest County (4.2%).

Trends in Income and Poverty

The percent of the population age 65 and older below the poverty level in Pennsylvania declined to 8.1% in 2014-2018 from 8.3% in 2009-2013. The largest declines during this time period were in Forest (4.8%), and Somerset and Fulton counties (2.7% each). The largest increase in the percent of the population age 65 and older below poverty were in Union (3.1%), Clinton (2.7%) and Carbon (2.2%) counties.

The median household income for the population age 65 and older in Pennsylvania was \$40,464 in 2014-2018. Twenty-two counties had median household incomes for the population age 65 and older above the state median. Median incomes were highest in Chester (\$59,838), Bucks (\$54,924), Montgomery (\$54,903) and Delaware (\$50,861). In 2009-2013, Pike County had the second highest median income in the state but dropped to sixth highest in 2014-2018.

Counties with the lowest median income 2014-2018 were Philadelphia (\$30,894), Northumberland (\$31,364) and Potter (\$31,489). Philadelphia, Potter and Jefferson had the lowest median incomes in 2009-2013.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau. American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 2014-2018 & 2009-2013.

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.

Questions? Contact the Pennsylvania State Data Center at **717.948.6336** or online at pasdc.hbg.psu.edu.