

More people moving in than out

Rural Pennsylvania Experiencing Positive Migration

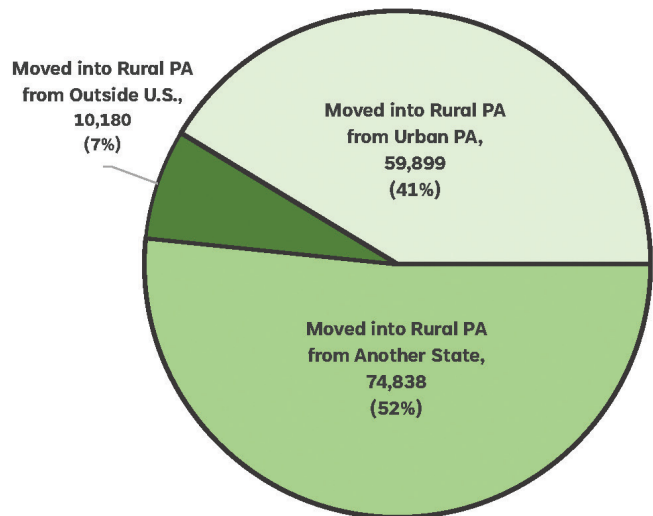
In 2021, more people moved into rural Pennsylvania than moved out of rural Pennsylvania, according to an analysis conducted by the Center for Rural Pennsylvania. From the available data, the reason why people moved in wasn't clear. However, it may have been for job opportunities, to be closer to family, or any number of other quality of life considerations. Regardless of the reasons, this positive net in-migration is important for rural population sustainability.

For the analysis, the Center used data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample. These data showed that 144,917 people moved into rural Pennsylvania in 2021 and 123,346 moved out, for a positive net migration of 21,571 people.

Further analysis by the Center found that 52 percent of those moving into rural Pennsylvania came from another state. The top three of which were New York, New Jersey, and Maryland. Forty-one percent were from urban Pennsylvania and 7 percent came from outside the U.S.

Among those moving out of rural Pennsylvania, 53 percent went to another state, primarily Florida, New York, Maryland, North Carolina, and South Carolina, and 47 percent moved from rural Pennsylvania to urban Pennsylvania.

In-Migration to Rural Pennsylvania, 2021



Data source: U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample.

Urban-to-Rural and Rural-to-Urban

The Center found that, among people moving into rural Pennsylvania, 86 percent came from urban areas in Pennsylvania and the U.S. Fourteen percent came from rural areas outside of Pennsylvania. These figures exclude those who moved into rural Pennsylvania from outside the U.S.

There was a similar pattern for those who moved out of rural Pennsylvania as 75 percent of people moving out of rural Pennsylvania moved to urban areas (Pennsylvania and U.S.) and 25 percent went to rural areas.

Who is Moving in?

The largest group moving into rural Pennsylvania were working age adults. These were defined as individuals who were between 18 and 64 years old and in the labor force. From this group, the Center excluded those individuals who were enrolled in college (undergraduate and graduate) as well as those individuals living in group quarters, such as prisons, nursing homes, and long-term care hospitals.

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Chairman's Message

The feature article on Page 1 has some great news to share about Pennsylvania's rural population. In 2019 and 2021, there were increases in the number of working age adults who moved into rural Pennsylvania.

Why is that great news? Because Pennsylvania has not been growing its population naturally. As the Rural Snapshot on Pages 4 and 5 shows, Pennsylvania birth rates have been going down and death rates have been going up. That means there are fewer people in the working adult age group.

The analyses on which both articles are based are important because they address two issues that have been constant sources of concern for many years: out-migration from our state's rural areas and decreasing population due to natural population change. These have been weighty topics among communities, educational institutions, employers, nonprofits, and policy makers. We know that outmigration and declining population are issues that are negatively affecting the labor force, volunteerism, civic engagement, and much more.

While it's encouraging to see the recent uptick in in-migration to our state's rural areas, we must still be mindful and proactive in addressing our workforce needs in the face of overall rural population decline.

In late May, the Center will be sponsoring a public hearing in Williamsport to learn more about the strategies that workforce development organizations, economic development organizations, and employers are taking to recruit and retain the rural workforce, considering the overall decline in our rural population.

This hearing will also highlight recent research that addresses ways that communities can help reverse population decline by engaging in revitalization efforts and attracting new residents to rural areas. More information on the hearing will be available shortly, and as always, the Center will provide the hearing agenda, testimony, recording, and recap at www.rural.pa.gov.

On behalf of the board, I thank Sen. Katie Muth for her service to the board over the past 4 years. We're grateful for her contributions and participation. In turn, I welcome Sen. Judy Schwank to the board. We know that Sen. Schwank's long-standing work on rural issues and her background in education and local government will be a great asset to the board, and to the work of the Center.

Sen. Gene Yaw



In April, Center staff presented Sen. Muth (third from left) with a plaque to thank her for her service on the board.

Center Board Welcomes Senator Judy Schwank



In March, the Center welcomed Senator Judy Schwank to the Center's Board of Directors.

"The board is delighted to welcome Sen. Schwank," Sen. Yaw said. "Sen. Schwank's expertise in rural and agricultural policy, as well as her leadership in issues that affect women and children, will be a strong asset to the Center, and will help the Center to promote and sustain the vitality of Pennsylvania's rural and small communities."

Sen. Schwank represents Pennsylvania's 11th Senatorial District in Berks County, which includes the City of Reading and many of its surrounding boroughs and townships.

"It's a great honor to be joining the Center for Rural Pennsylvania's Board of Directors," Sen. Schwank said. "Rural communities in Berks County and throughout the Commonwealth have diverse and unique needs. That's why the Center for Rural Pennsylvania's work is so valuable to lawmakers in the General Assembly. It provides us with the tools and information we need to ensure the needs of Pennsylvania's rural communities are being reflected in public policy. I'm eager to take on this new role."

Sen. Schwank is currently the Democratic Caucus Administrator and the Democratic Chair of the Senate Agricultural and Rural Affairs Committee. She also serves on the Aging and Youth, Appropriations, Game and Fisheries, and Health and Human Services committees.

Sen. Schwank is also a member of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education's Board of Governors, and Co-Chair of the Pennsylvania Women's Health Caucus and the Jewish Legislative Caucus.

Rural PA Experiencing Positive Migration *(continued from Page 1)*

In 2021, approximately 53,300 working adults moved into rural Pennsylvania and 49,700 moved out. This left rural Pennsylvania with a net gain of nearly 3,600 people.

The second largest group to move into rural Pennsylvania were college students (undergraduate and graduate students), followed by those under age 18. According to Census data, in 2021, 31,900 college students moved into rural Pennsylvania and 22,700 moved out. This left rural Pennsylvania with a net gain of about 9,200 students. Among youth, about 24,700 moved into rural Pennsylvania and more than 19,500 moved out, for a net gain of about 5,100.

Working Adults

Because working age adults were the largest group moving into rural Pennsylvania, the Center took a closer look at this group. Among those moving into rural Pennsylvania:

- their average age was 34.7;
- 40 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher; and
- their median personal income was \$37,077.

Among working adults who moved out of rural Pennsylvania:

- their average age was 34.6;
- 49 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher; and
- their median personal income was \$41,197.

Don't Blame Out-Migration for Rural Population Loss

The analysis indicates that, overall, rural Pennsylvania is not losing people due to out-migration. In 2021, more people moved into rural Pennsylvania than moved out. The positive net-migration suggests that there are other demographic factors causing rural Pennsylvania to lose population—namely rural Pennsylvania having more deaths than births every year since 2008.

Here's More Information

Visit the Center's website for the fact-sheet, *Rural Pennsylvania is Experiencing Positive Net Migration*.



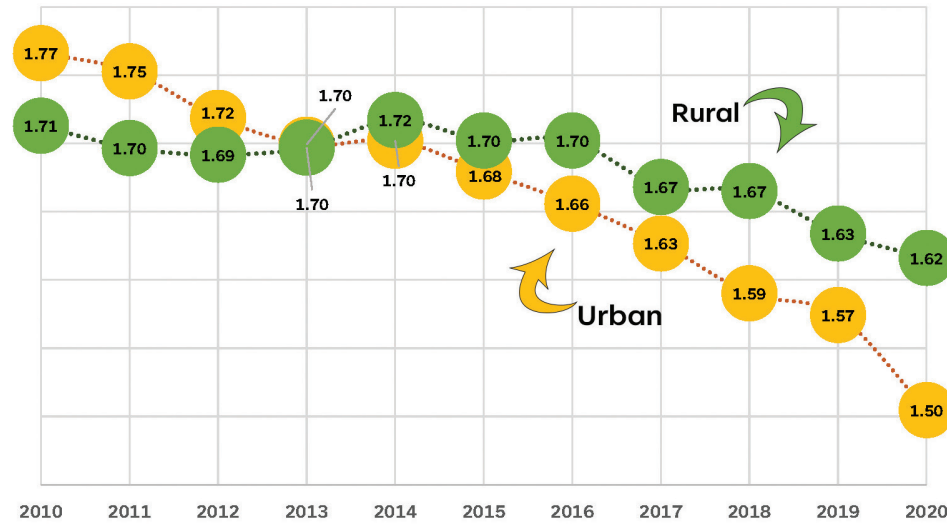
Rural SNAPSHOT

Natural Population Change

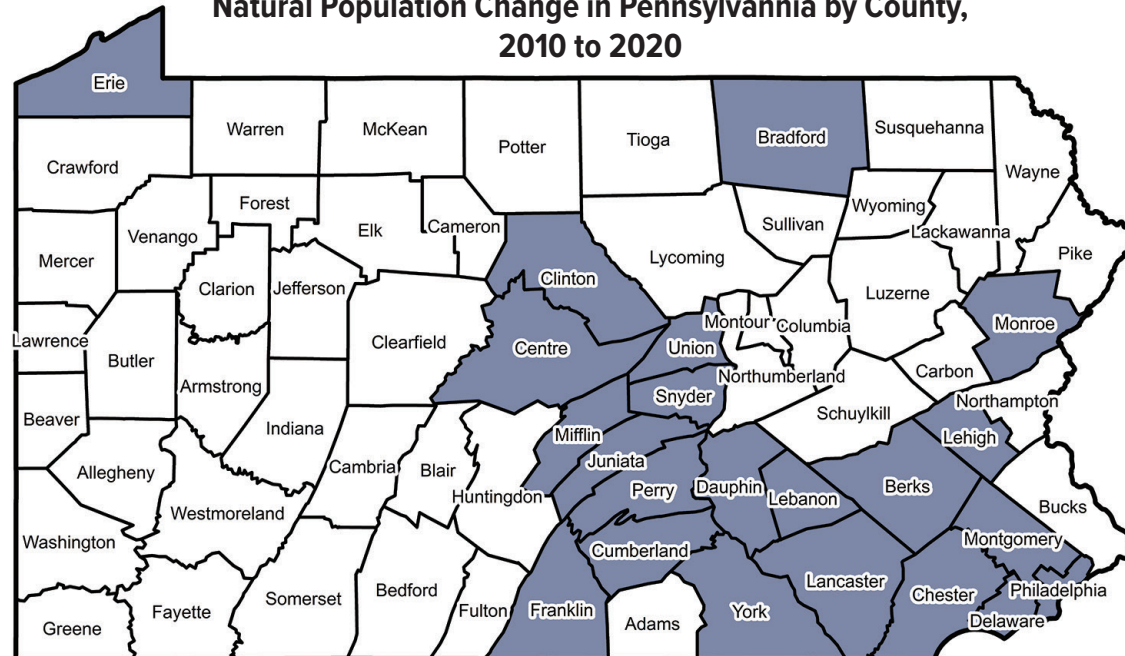
This snapshot looks at natural population change, which is the difference between births and deaths, in Pennsylvania from 2010 to 2020. The data source is the Pennsylvania Department of Health. For more information, visit the Center's website for the fact sheet, *Natural Population Change in Rural Pennsylvania, 2010 to 2020*.

Total Fertility Rates in Rural and Urban Pennsylvania, 2010 to 2020

Note: The replacement level fertility rate is 2.1.



Natural Population Change in Pennsylvania by County, 2010 to 2020

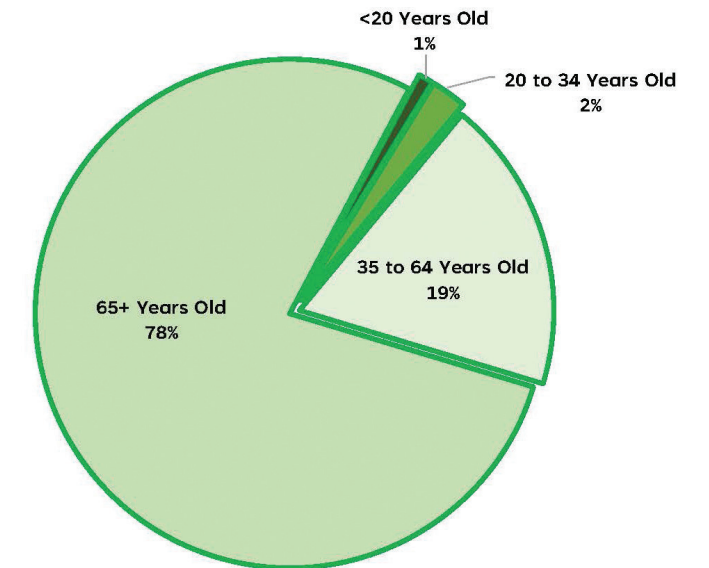


Statewide, there were 69,098 More Births than Deaths, 2010 to 2020

□ More Deaths than Births ■ More Births than Deaths

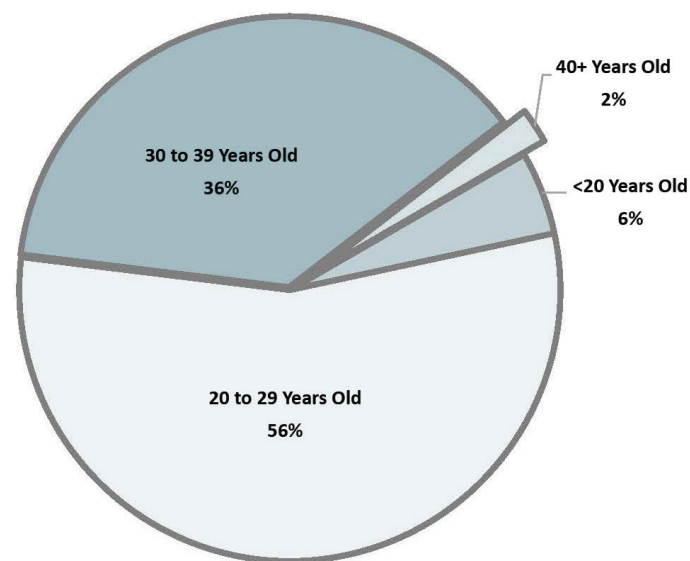
Rural Deaths by Age Group, 2010-2020

Aggregate deaths by age cohort 2010 to 2020.



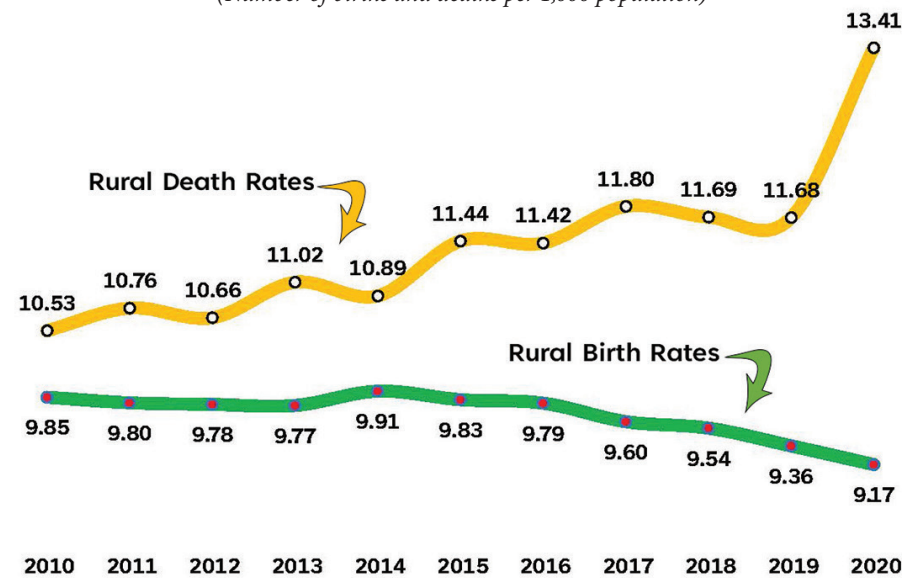
Age of Rural Pennsylvania Mothers that Gave Birth, 2010 to 2020

Aggregate age of mothers by age cohort from 2010 to 2020



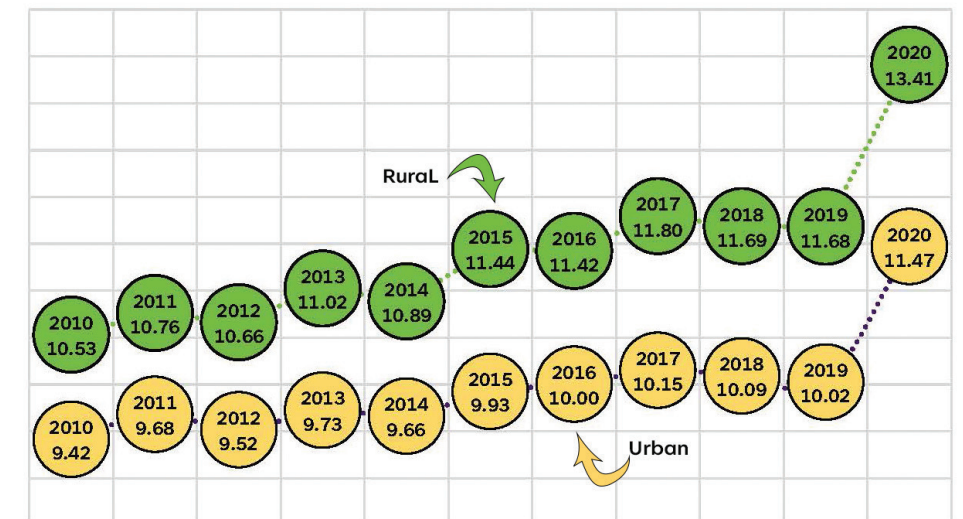
Birth and Death Rates in Rural Pennsylvania, 2010 to 2020

(Number of births and deaths per 1,000 population)



Death Rate in Rural and Urban Pennsylvania, 2010 to 2020

Number of deaths per 1,000 rural and urban residents.



Pennsylvania's Hispanic Population

A significant data trend across the U.S. is increased racial and ethnic diversity. In Pennsylvania, a small but noteworthy part of that trend has been the increase in the Hispanic population. Data from the American Community Survey, 5-year estimates for 2007-2011 and 2017-2021, indicate a 43 percent increase in the rural Pennsylvania Hispanic population from 2011 to 2021.

Overall, the rural Pennsylvania Hispanic population grew from 2.4 percent of the total rural population in 2011 to 3.5 percent in 2021. Over the same period, the rural Pennsylvania non-Hispanic population decreased by 3 percent. Except for those of multiple races or ethnicities (whose increase is due, in part, to methodology changes in the Census survey), the rural Pennsylvania Hispanic population increased more than any other racial or ethnic group.

Nearly half of Pennsylvania's 67 counties experienced a 50 percent or greater increase in their Hispanic population between 2011 and 2021. Hispanic Pennsylvanians represent more than 10 percent of the population in 10 counties, two of which are rural (Monroe and Pike counties). And, while all 10 counties are in the eastern half of

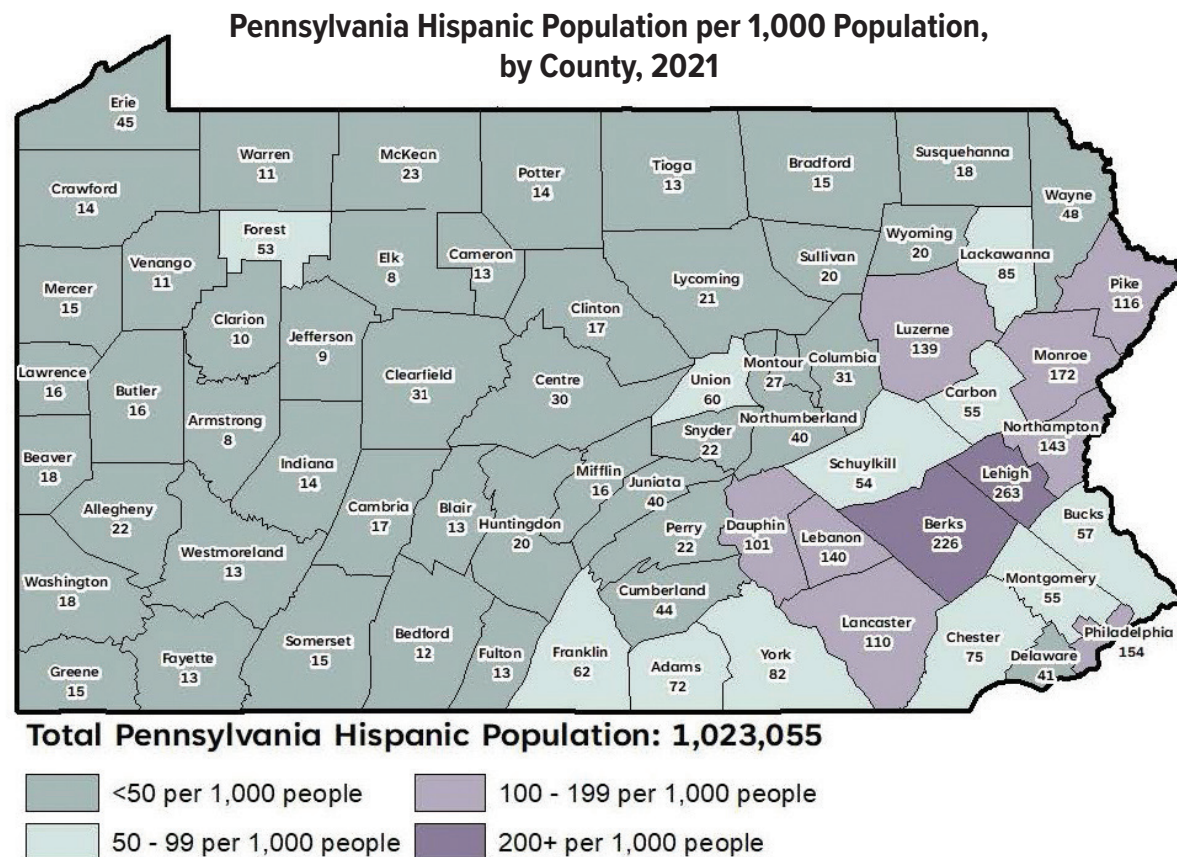
Pennsylvania, every Pennsylvania county saw Hispanic population increases over the past decade.

The Hispanic population is slightly younger, on average, than the non-Hispanic population, although consistent with national population trends, the total population of those aged 18 or under has been declining over time for both groups. Rural Hispanic adults were less likely to have a high school diploma or equivalent but were significantly more likely to be part of the labor force than rural non-Hispanic adults.

The median income for rural Hispanic families was approximately \$60,000 and is significantly higher than the median urban Hispanic family income of \$45,000.

Rural Hispanic families were less likely to live in poverty than urban Hispanic families, but still nearly twice as likely to live in poverty than rural non-Hispanic families.

For more information, visit the Center's website for the fact sheet, *Rural Pennsylvania's Hispanic Population, 2011 to 2021*.



Data source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2017-2021 American Community Survey.

JUST THE FACTS: TRAIN DERAILMENTS

The recent train derailment along the Ohio/Pennsylvania border has once again shown how devastating these accidents can be to the surrounding areas. Using data from the Federal Railroad Administration's Office of Safety Analysis from January 2018 to November 2022, the Center found that there were 197 train derailments, 30 percent of which occurred in a rural county. Only two of the 197 train derailments were passenger trains.

Across the U.S., there were 6,376 train derailments. Pennsylvania ranked 10th in the number of derailments, with Texas, Illinois, and California having the highest number of derailments.

From 2018 to 2022, there were no reported fatalities or injuries from a train derailment in Pennsylvania. Across the U.S., there were four fatalities (three in Montana and one in Texas), and 179 injuries. Montana and Georgia had the most injuries.

Train derailments caused more than \$33.4 million in damage to both equipment and rails in Pennsylvania from 2018 to 2022. Rural county derailments were fewer but more costly than those in urban counties. Across the U.S.,

the total cost for derailment damages was nearly \$1.24 billion, with a median damage cost of \$44,456.

Trains routinely transport hazardous materials from one place to another. From 2018 to 2022, there were 45 derailments (23 percent) involving train cars carrying hazardous materials in Pennsylvania. Of these derailments, 15 (33 percent) resulted in a train car being damaged. However, during this period, no hazardous materials were released and there were no residential evacuations.

The Center estimated that there are nearly 7,050 miles of active railroad tracks in Pennsylvania (both passenger and freight). Fifty-one percent of these track miles are in rural counties and 49 percent are in urban counties. An estimated 706,400 rural residents live within one-half mile of a railroad track. This represents 21 percent of Pennsylvania's 3.38 million rural residents. In urban counties, an estimated 3.15 million residents live within one-half mile of a railroad track, representing 33 percent of Pennsylvania's 9.61 million urban residents.

For more information, visit the Center's website for the fact sheet, *Train Derailments in Rural and Urban Pennsylvania*.

Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority Accepting Applications for Broadband Infrastructure Grant Program

The Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority is accepting applications for the Pennsylvania Broadband Infrastructure Program, which will provide \$200 million in funding to businesses, nonprofits, local governments, and economic development organizations.

The Pennsylvania Broadband Infrastructure Program, funded through the Capital Projects Fund, will fund line extension and development projects, as well as large-scale regional infrastructure projects. Upon completion, projects must deliver service that meets or exceeds symmetrical download and upload speeds of 100 Megabits per second, with prioritization being given to fiber-optic deployment. Projects must include a viable sustainability strategy to maintain, repair, and upgrade networks to ensure their continued operation.

The application deadline is July 10, and the guidelines are posted on the Authority's website at <https://dced.pa.gov/programs-funding/broadband-in-pennsylvania/pennsylvania-broadband-development-authority>.

Pennsylvania Broadband Development Authority Executive Director Brandon Carson said, "This is the first grant program the Authority is offering, and we look forward to seeing the impact it makes as we work to close the Commonwealth's digital divide."

The Authority expects to award grants by the end of 2023. Funded projects must reach substantial completion, defined as services being delivered to end users, by December 31, 2026. The program will be administered in accordance with U.S. Treasury guidelines and Act 96 of 2021.



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Resources

Growing Greener Plus Grants Program

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) is now accepting applications for the Growing Greener Plus Grants Program. Eligible applicants are counties, municipalities, municipal authorities, county conservation districts, watershed organizations, councils of governments, educational institutions and other organizations dedicated to water clean-up and preservation. Priority areas for Growing Greener grants include projects that reduce nonpoint source pollution – especially nitrogen, phosphorous and sediment pollution from agricultural and storm-water runoff, as well as acid mine drainage-related iron, aluminum, acidity and sediment pollution. DEP is particularly interested in design and construction projects that implement effective Best Management Practices (BMPs) that reduce or eliminate pollutant loadings and lead to local water quality improvements. Applications and all supporting documents must be submitted online through the Commonwealth's Electronic Single

Application website, www.esa.dced.state.pa.us/Login.aspx. The application deadline is June 23.

Free Land-Linking Database Membership Opportunity at PA Farm Link

PA Farm Link is waiving its land-linking database membership fee (a \$100 value) from April 2023 to June 2023 thanks to the generous sponsorship by Horizon Farm Credit. The land-linking databases are used by beginning farmer and current landowners who are seeking potential matches while maintaining an anonymous profile to showcase the farming arrangement. All database members' information is confidential and will remain so until all parties consent to contact exchange in the event of a match. Every database member has the choice to be promoted one time on PA Farm Link's social media pages. This can be a simple description or a detailed illustration of the profile. Sign up through PA Farm Link's website at <https://pafarmlink.org/> or call 717-705-2121 for more information.

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