

CENSUS HISTORY

The first census took place in 1790 to determine the number of seats each state would have in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The census also was created to gain a better understanding of where people lived and to establish patterns of settlement as the nation grew.

WASHINGTON COUNTY			
Historical Population Counts* 1800 - 2017			
United States, Pennsylvania, and Washington County			
Year	United States	Pennsylvania	Washington County
1800	5,308,483	602,375	28,298
1810	7,239,881	810,091	36,289
1820	9,638,453	1,049,458	40,038
1830	12,866,020	1,348,233	42,784
1840	17,069,453	1,724,033	41,279
1850	23,191,876	2,311,786	44,939
1860	31,443,321	2,906,215	46,805
1870	38,558,371	3,521,951	48,483
1880	50,155,783	4,282,891	55,418
1890	62,947,714	5,258,113	71,155
1900	75,994,575	6,302,115	92,181
1910	91,972,226	7,665,111	143,680
1920	105,710,620	8,720,017	188,992
1930	122,775,046	9,631,350	204,806
1940	131,669,275	9,900,180	210,852
1950	150,697,361	10,498,012	209,628
1960	179,323,175	11,319,366	217,271
1970	207,326,000	11,800,766	210,876
1980	226,542,250	11,864,720	217,074
1990	248,709,873	11,881,643	204,584
2000	281,421,906	12,281,054	202,897
2010	308,745,538	12,702,379	207,820
2017**	325,719,178	12,805,537	207,298

*Populations taken from U.S. Census Historical Data

**2017 data is estimated from U.S. Census American Community Survey (yearly, trending, sampling survey which replaced the Long Form).

Census Today

The 2020 United States Census (Census 2020) will be the twenty-fourth census conducted by the United States Government.

The data helps the private sector as well as state and federal governments determine funding distributions for various programs, helps potential homeowners research demographic information about communities, and corporations use the data for market research to determine locations for commercial enterprises.

These are just a few examples of how population data is used.

National Census Day – April 1, 2020

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