

# EXISTING SIGNIFICANT COMMUNITY DATA

## Geographic Description

The following is an excerpt from the *Schuylkill County, Land Use and Growth Management Profile, 2005 Land Use & Growth Management Report*, Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development:

*Schuylkill County is a rural, fourth class county established in 1811 from parts of Berks and Northampton Counties and is named for the Schuylkill River. Schuylkill is Dutch for "hidden stream." Schuylkill County's land area is 778 square miles. It is bordered on the north by Luzerne, Columbia and Northumberland Counties; to the west by Dauphin and Lebanon Counties; to the south by Berks and Lehigh Counties; and, to the east by Carbon County. It is comprised of 67 municipalities – 30 boroughs, 36 townships, and one city. The City of Pottsville is the county seat and the largest population center. With a population of 15,549 persons, it represents roughly 10 percent of the County's total population (150,336). Tamaqua Borough is the County's second largest municipality, with 7,174 residents.*

*Schuylkill County was formed in 1811 and evolved in importance during the 19th and 20th centuries because of its vast anthracite coal wealth. Schuylkill County is located in the heart of Pennsylvania's anthracite coal region. With the discovery of coal in the early 1800s, the Schuylkill River became a focal point for commercial development.*

*At the industry's height, Schuylkill rivaled Lackawanna county as the State's largest producer of anthracite coal. The County's largest coal seam is located in a two- to six mile-wide band that extends from Tower City Borough in the southwestern corner of the County to Coaldale Borough in its northeastern end. Portions of this coal belt are actively mined today. Schuylkill County's population peaked in 1930 at*

AREA AND POPULATION DENSITY	
Land Area in Square Miles, 2000	779
Population Per Square Mile	193
MUNICIPALITIES BY POPULATION SIZE	
Municipalities, 2006	67
With Population 10,000 and Above	1.5%
With Population of 5,000-9,999	6.0%
With Population of 2,500-4,999	25.4%
With Population of 1,000-2,499	31.3%
With Population of 500-999	20.9%
With Population Less Than 500	14.9%
RURAL MUNICIPALITIES	
# Rural Municipalities	54
# Urban Municipalities	13

2007 Community Needs Assessment—Final Report. Report prepared by Schuylkill Community Action, March 2008. Project made possible by Susquehanna Bancshares (formerly Community Banks) and Schuylkill Community Action.

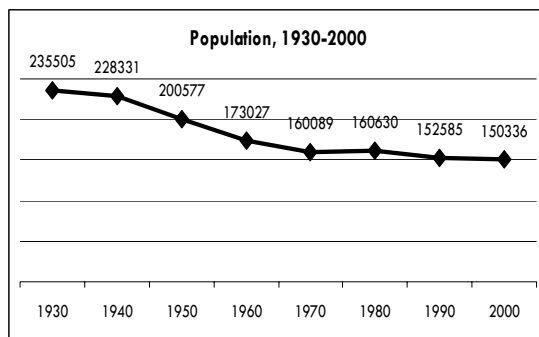


## General Demographics

235,000 persons. Since that time, the County has steadily lost population, which is presently at 150,336. These population losses have been most keenly felt in the County's coal patch communities, such as Mahanoy City Borough, Shenandoah Borough, and Port Clinton Borough. The decline of the coal industry and restructuring of the manufacturing economy have both influenced the population patterns seen in Schuylkill County today.

## GENERAL POPULATION PROFILE

The population has continued to decline from 235,505 in 1930 to 150,336 in 2000.



Source: USA Counties, <http://censtats.census.gov>

Mahanoy Township (+10.8 percent). Mahanoy (+333), West Penn (+238), Wayne (+152), and South Manheim (+128) townships each gained more than 100 residents. Tamaqua and McAdoo boroughs topped Schuylkill County municipalities in percent population decline during this period, while Pottsville City (-785), Tamaqua Borough (-420), and Shenandoah Borough (-328) led the 16 minor civil divisions that have lost more than 100 residents since 2000.

Source: Selected Demographic Characteristics of Schuylkill County, Prepared by the Pennsylvania State Data Center, July 5, 2007

## Components of Population Change

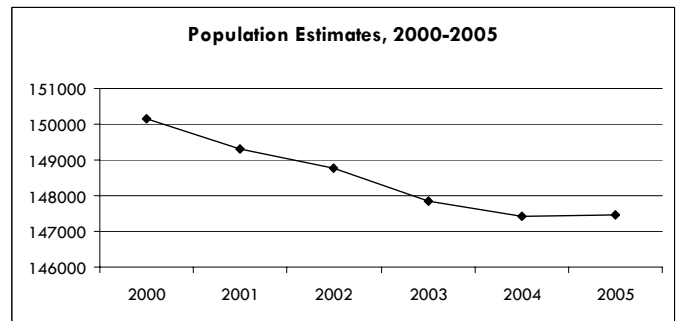
Between July 1, 2005 and July 1, 2006, Schuylkill County gained 409 people (+0.3

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## Population Trends and Annual Estimates

As of July 1, 2006, the population of Schuylkill County was 147,405, the 22<sup>nd</sup> largest county in Pennsylvania. Since 2000, the county's population has declined by 2,929, or 1.9 percent, compared to 1.3 percent growth for the Commonwealth as a whole. Municipal population estimates, up to 2005, show that just 23 of the county's minor civil divisions experienced positive growth between 2000 and 2005. Tremont Township (+30.4 percent) experienced the fastest growth by far during that period, followed by

The population is estimated to continue declining.

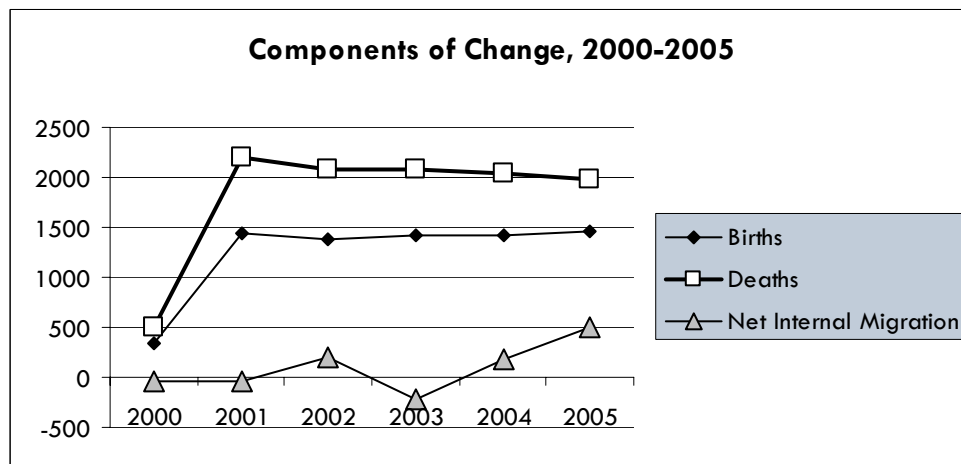


Source: US Census Bureau

General Demographics

percent), the first estimated population increase in the county since census 2000. According to 2005 municipal population estimates, Tremont township (+6.5 percent) Deer Lake Borough (4.2 percent) and West Penn Township (+3.3 percent) led county municipalities in percent increase while West Penn (+129), North Manheim (+99) and South Manheim (+57) townships gained the most residents. Pottsville City (-97) experienced the largest population decrease during this period.

Source: Selected Demographic Characteristics of Schuylkill County, Prepared by the Pennsylvania State Data Center, July 5, 2007



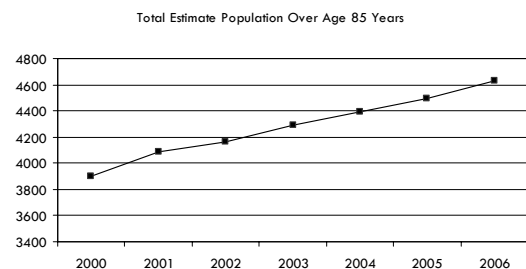
**Population by Age Trends**

The median age in Schuylkill County as of Census 2000 was 40.9 years. Just under 20 percent of the county’s population was 65 years of age or older. The highest proportion of persons 65 or older was in Coaldale and Shenandoah Boroughs (28.5 percent), while the lowest was in Foster Township (6.5 percent). Source: Selected Demographic Characteristics of Schuylkill County, Prepared by the Pennsylvania State Data Center, July 5, 2007

Schuylkill County’s percentage of population aged 65 and over in 2005 (19.5%) exceeds that of the state rate (15.4%).

Source: Schuylkill County, Health Profile 2007, Pa Dept. Of Health, Bureau of Health Statistics and Research

It is estimated that the County’s population age 85 and older will continue to increase.



7/1/2006 County Characteristics Resident Population Estimates File for Internet Display Source: Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau Release Date: August 9, 2007

**Population by Race/Ethnicity**

As of 2000, the county’s population

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### General Demographics

was still majority White (96.6 percent). Blacks or African Americans were the next largest group (2.1 percent) while persons of Hispanic or Latino origin accounted for 1.1 percent of the population.

The largest minority populations by far were located in Foster and West Mahanoy Townships where Whites comprised just 53.2 and 69.5 percent of the

populations, respectively. In both townships, the next largest group was Black or African American (Foster 43.2 percent) (West Mahanoy 27.0 percent). Persons of Hispanic or Latino origin accounted for 17.7 percent of Foster Township's population and 5.1 percent of West Mahanoy

Township's population. Source: Selected Demographic Characteristics of Schuylkill County, Prepared by the Pennsylvania State Data Center, July 5, 2007

## General Demographics

<b>Hispanic Population and Race Distribution for Non-Hispanic Population</b>							
		<b>1980</b>		<b>1990</b>		<b>2000</b>	
		<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
<b>Total Population</b>		160,630	100.00%	152,585	100.00%	150,336	100.00%
<b>Total Hispanics</b>		480	0.30%	677	0.44%	1,671	1.11%
<b>White*</b>		159,364	99.21%	150,486	98.62%	144,290	95.98%
<b>Black*</b>		286	0.18%	805	0.53%	3,049	2.03%
<b>American Indian and Eskimo*</b>		71	0.04%	103	0.07%	97	0.06%
<b>Asian*</b>		318	0.20%	491	0.32%	622	0.41%
<b>Hawaiian and Pacific Islander*</b>		-	-	-	-	18	0.01%
<b>Other*</b>		111	0.07%	23	0.02%	46	0.03%
<b>Two or More Races*</b>		-	-	-	-	543	0.36%

Source: Census 2000 analyzed by the Social Science Data Analysis Network (SSDAN).

Although the total population declines, the Hispanic, Black, and Asian populations are increasing.

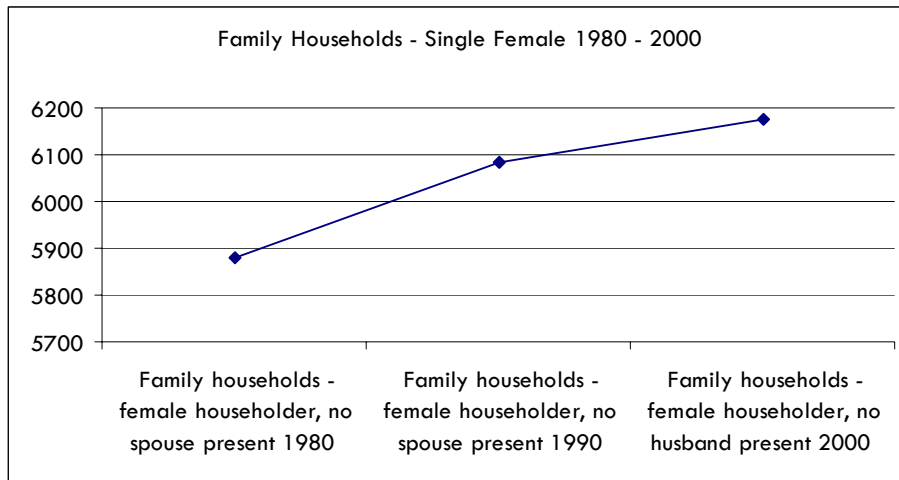
### Households, Household Type, Average Family Size, Family Relationships

In 2000, 95.2 percent of Schuylkill County's population resided in households, the remaining 4.8 percent were housed in group quarters. The Census Bureau reports that there were 60,530 households in the county in 2000. More than 40,000, or 66.3 percent, were family households with an average family size of 2.93. In 2000, 51.4 percent were married couple households, 19.9 percent were married couple households with own children (under 18), and 4.8 percent were comprised of single females with (own) children. **Schuylkill County was ranked second among all Pennsylvania counties in its percentage of single-male headed family households** (6.9 percent, 2,778 families), and 19<sup>th</sup> in terms of percent single-female headed family households (14.3 percent, 5,746 families). Schuylkill County was ranked 57<sup>th</sup> in its percentage of married couple families (78.8 percent, 31,713 families).

The highest proportion of single female parent households was in Landingville Borough (7.4 percent). As of 2000, 56.4 percent of the county's population 15 years and over was married (except separated), just 7.8 percent were divorced. Some 2,184 grandparents lived in households with their own grandchildren and 39.2 percent of them were responsible for caring for those grandchildren. Source: Selected Demographic Characteristics of Schuylkill County, Prepared by the Pennsylvania State Data Center, July 5, 2007

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### General Demographics



Households are changing at the same rate as the population. Households are declining, however, so is the general population. However, **family households headed by a single female – is the only type of household that is increasing.** Most households with children are married couple households.

Source: USA Counties,  
<http://censtats.census.gov>