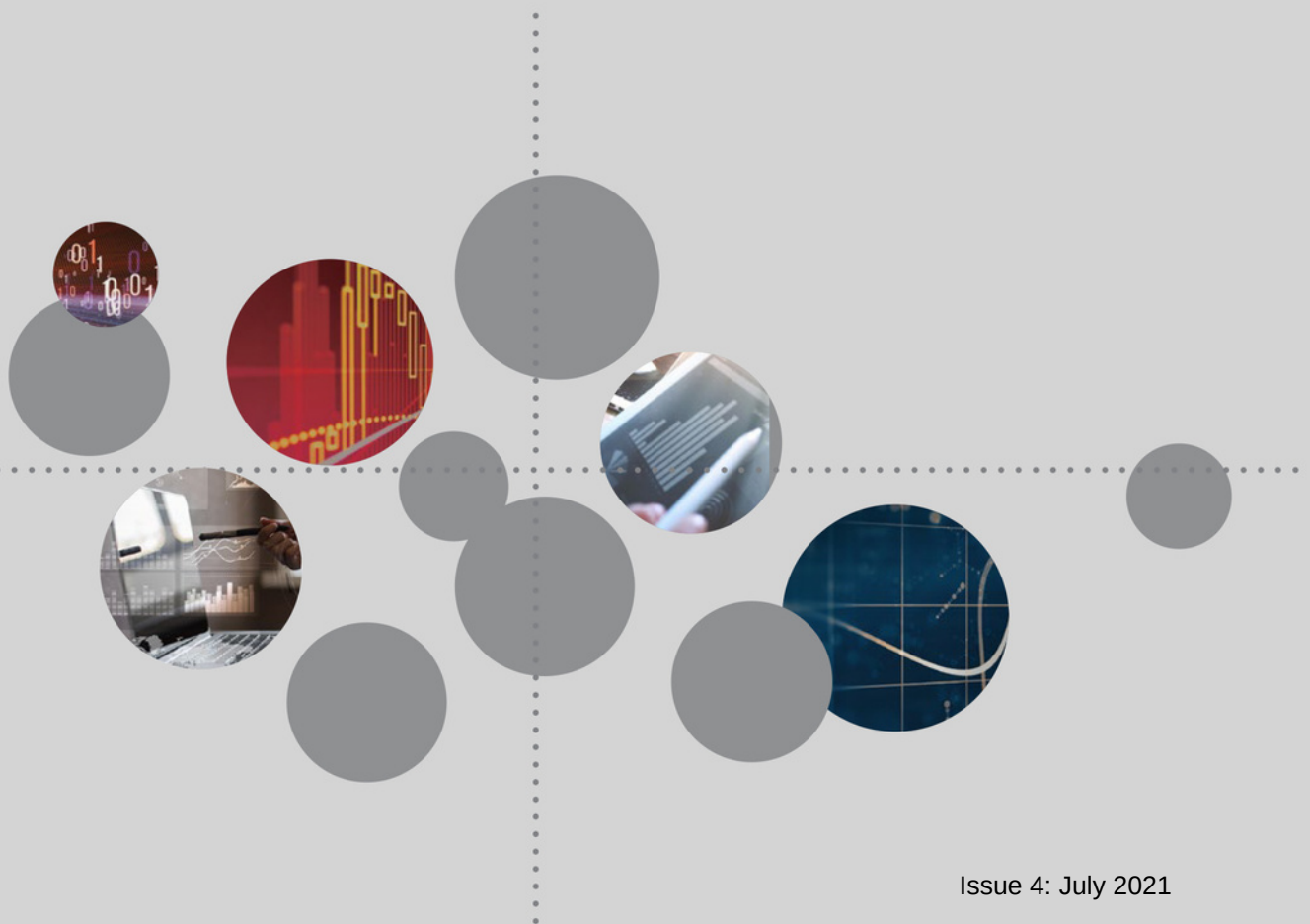


# Policy Tracker

**The Institute**

*Turning Information into Insight*

THE INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Issue 4: July 2021



# VACCINATION

## FAST FACTS

### Vaccination:

#### RURAL AREAS TRAIL BEHIND

For the most part, rural areas nationwide are trailing behind urban regions in terms of vaccination rates.



#### COST + VACCINE PERCEPTION

Evidence has pointed to concern that cost will be associated with the vaccine. This is particularly worrisome among the uninsured population and people who do not have established relationships with healthcare providers, suggesting that education and outreach about the vaccine's safety and its no-cost status are critical.

## Vaccination Continues, but Disparities Emerge in Willingness to be Vaccinated

Supply of COVID-19 vaccines no longer lags behind demand, but herd immunity remains out of reach. Cases have begun to rise in states with lower rates of vaccination, underscoring the need for continued efforts to get as many people vaccinated as possible. Carefully tailored efforts are essential in order to reduce vaccine disparities and improve vaccination rates among vulnerable populations.

### Hesitancy Rates

The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services' Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE) has formulated predictions of hesitancy rates within states, counties, and subdivisions. Data from the Household Pulse Survey (May 26 to June 7, 2021) informed these predictions. [1]

For the most part, rural areas nationwide are trailing behind urban regions in terms of vaccination rates. Hesitancy may contribute to this disparity, but the real causes are likely more complex. In the five counties compared, more than half of adult residents are fully vaccinated (with Lackawanna County in the lead, at 63.9 percent as of June 10th).

Upon examination of hesitancy rates, however, hesitancy in Lackawanna and Luzerne counties is on par with Wayne County (predominantly rural). Furthermore, estimated hesitancy is lower in Carbon and Wyoming counties (also predominantly rural). Perhaps it is noteworthy that these are the most racially homogeneous counties of the five analyzed. Alternately, the most racially diverse counties are reportedly the most hesitant to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

### People of Color Remain at Risk

These regional data reflect statewide and national trends. As of June 2021, people in Black and Hispanic communities are receiving fewer vaccines per capita than they are receiving COVID-19 diagnoses. The opposite is true for white people. In Pennsylvania, the rate of white residents receiving at least one vaccine dose is approximately 1.6 times the rate of Black people with at least one dose. These rates for the Hispanic and Asian populations are 1.4 and 3.2, respectively.[2] These gaps are slowly narrowing, but populations of color remain at risk as new variants evolve and access to equitable healthcare remains shaky.

### Who is Hesitant

The Kaiser Family Foundation tracks intentions to vaccinate among various demographic groups. Individuals who report that they will definitely not get a vaccine are largely white (and in many cases reside in rural areas), and those who will wait and see have primarily been Black and Hispanic. These individuals prefer to "wait until it has been available for a while to see how it is working for other people" – reflecting a distrust toward the medical profession. Similar attitudes regarding the flu vaccine are reflected here, as well.[3]

### Perceived Cost of Vaccines

Furthermore, evidence has pointed to concern that cost will be associated with the vaccine. This is particularly worrisome among the uninsured population and people who do not have established relationships with healthcare providers, suggesting that education and outreach about the vaccine's safety and its no-cost

| County     | Estimated hesitant or unsure | Estimated strongly hesitant |
|------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Lackawanna | 16.70%                       | 7.60%                       |
| Luzerne    | 16.70%                       | 7.60%                       |
| Carbon     | 14.80%                       | 7.00%                       |
| Wayne      | 16.60%                       | 7.90%                       |
| Wyoming    | 14.60%                       | 6.80%                       |

*Data Source: U.S. Department of Health & Human Services*



# VACCINATION

## FAST FACTS

### RURAL AREAS TRAIL BEHIND

Allowing patients to define healthcare success is a means of fostering trust.



### MOVING FORWARD

Policymakers should leverage innovative use of resources to foster patient-provider relationships, educate communities about essential health concerns like COVID-19 and available vaccinations, and improve access to high-quality, comprehensive care to enhance regional initiatives.

## Vaccination Continues, but Disparities Emerge in Willingness to be Vaccinated (cont.)

status are critical.[4] Delivery of such information will likely need to evolve over time, to reflect changes in community need and vaccine availability. Effective communication initiatives are culturally appropriate, with language-friendly materials. Effective vaccine services are geographically accessible, with flexible hours for scheduling or walk-in options.

### The Black Population

Still, there remain opportunities to better connect with Black patients in particular. The history of racism and inequities in healthcare and mistreatment to people of color contribute to current negative perceptions. For example, Black patients are likelier than white patients to report feeling that their healthcare providers do not believe them and do not offer appropriate treatment as a result.

Pittsburgh's Black Equity Coalition offers one example for minimizing racial disparities in health and healthcare – particularly regarding COVID-19. In partnership with organizations such as the Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center, the coalition has advocated for the public release of relevant data in the forms of a dashboard and an open portal. Data was also used to inform media outreach efforts.[5] In the opposite corner of the state, Lackawanna County's Kick COVID-19 Community Corps is a grassroots partnership of 20 community agencies. The collaborative shares unified information regarding available vaccines, prioritizing vulnerable groups. Educational materials are available in multiple languages, and a multi-lingual video series includes leaders from diverse groups within the region.[6]

[1] "Vaccine Hesitancy for COVID-19: State, County, and Local Estimates," ASPE, June 17, 2021, <https://aspe.hhs.gov/reports/vaccine-hesitancy-covid-19-state-county-local-estimates>

[2] Nambi Ndugga, Olivia Pham, Latoya Hill, Samantha Artiga, and Noah Parker, "Latest Data on COVID-19 Vaccinations by Race/Ethnicity, KFF, July 8, 2021, <https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/issue-brief/latest-data-on-covid-19-vaccinations-race-ethnicity/>.

[3] Grace Sparks, Ashley Kirzinger, and Mollyann Brodie, "KFF COVID-19 Vaccine Monitor: Profile of the Unvaccinated," KFF, June 11, 2021, <https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/poll-finding/kff-covid-19-vaccine-monitor-profile-of-the-unvaccinated/>.

[4] Samantha Artiga and Jennifer Kates, "Addressing Racial Equity in Vaccine Distribution," KFF, December 30, 2020, <https://www.kff.org/racial-equity-and-health-policy/issue-brief/addressing-racial-equity-vaccine-distribution/>.

### Healthcare Equity

Though not specific to disparities in service provision, Geisinger Health System is attempting to shift the healthcare focus away from consumerism and toward patient experience. Through the ProvenExperience program, patients are guaranteed refunds if they are dissatisfied with their care.[7] Allowing the patient to define success in this way is a means of fostering trust.

When the Harris County Public Health Department in Texas incorporated equity into its strategic plan, officials used local funding to establish a dedicated coordinator staff position and relied on academic partnerships to provide data and assessment services. Results included policy framework, training, and a resource library.[8] On a somewhat broader scale, Rhode Island's Department of Health has successfully braided local, state, and federal funding to develop geographic "Health Equity Zones." Focus on communities in need, the use of local assessments, meaningful engagement, and other guiding principles have yielded outcomes such as improved legislation and greater collective impact.[9]

Each of these cases demonstrates innovative use of resources to foster patient-provider relationships, educate communities about essential health concerns like COVID-19 and available vaccinations, and improve access to high-quality, comprehensive care. Policymakers should leverage such examples to enhance regional initiatives.

[5] Kathy Pettit and Bob Gradeck, "Black Equity Coalition Deploys Data to Reduce COVID-19's Impact on the Black Community in Allegheny County," NNIP, May 27, 2021, [https://www.neighborhoodindicators.org/library/stories/black-equity-coalition-deploys-data-reduce-covid-19%E2%80%99s-impact-black?cm\\_ven=ExactTarget&cm\\_cat=NNIP%2B-%2B06.08.2021&cm\\_pla=All%2BSubscribers&cm\\_ite=blurb%2B1%2Bheader%2B-%2BBlack%2BEquity%2BCoalition%2Bdeploys%2Bdata%2Bto%2Breduce%2BCOVID-19%E2%80%99s-impact%2Bin%2BAllegheny%2BCounty&cm\\_ainfo=&utm\\_source=urban-newsletters&utm\\_medium=news-NNIP&utm\\_term=NNIP](https://www.neighborhoodindicators.org/library/stories/black-equity-coalition-deploys-data-reduce-covid-19%E2%80%99s-impact-black?cm_ven=ExactTarget&cm_cat=NNIP%2B-%2B06.08.2021&cm_pla=All%2BSubscribers&cm_ite=blurb%2B1%2Bheader%2B-%2BBlack%2BEquity%2BCoalition%2Bdeploys%2Bdata%2Bto%2Breduce%2BCOVID-19%E2%80%99s-impact%2Bin%2BAllegheny%2BCounty&cm_ainfo=&utm_source=urban-newsletters&utm_medium=news-NNIP&utm_term=NNIP).

[6] "To the Curb," Lackawanna County, June 2021, <https://www.lackawannacounty.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/To-the-Curb-June-2021.pdf>.

[7] "How Geisinger Health System's Refund Promise Puts Patient Experience at the Center of the Enterprise," NGPX, 2021, <https://patientexperience.whresearch.com/blog/geisinger-health-system-patient-experience-refund-center-of-enterprise>.

[8] "Harris County Institutionalizes Health Equity through Organizational Transformation," HealthEquityGuide.org, April 6, 2018, <https://thehealthequityguide.org/case-studies/harris-county-institutionalizes-health-equity-through-organizational-transformation/>.

[9] "Rhode Island Brads Funding to Create Health Equity Zones," HealthEquityGuide.org, November 12, 2019, <https://thehealthequityguide.org/case-studies/rhode-island-brads-funding-to-create-health-equity-zones/>.





FAST  
FACTS

## STATE BRIEFINGS

- Harrisburg Approves State Budget
- Competing Proposals Address Election Administration
- COVID-19 Pandemic Disaster Emergency Declaration Ends
- Proposals Address Sexual Violence
- Bill Seeks to Expand Access to Land for Recreation
- Pennsylvania Joins Compact Recognizing Nurse Licensure across State Lines
- Lawmakers Explore Protections for Residents of Healthcare Facilities

## FEDERAL BRIEFING

- Lawmakers Focus on Infrastructure

## State Legislative Briefing

A curated briefing of state legislative proposals and recent legislative actions

### Harrisburg Approves State Budget

On June 30th, Governor Wolf signed a \$40.8 billion state budget. This year's budget, which included a significant infusion of federal COVID aid, brought level or increased funding for seniors, violence prevention, early education, state police, and roads and bridges without major tax increases. \$2.5 billion was allocated for a rainy day fund to hedge against future revenue declines. The budget also allocated \$416 million in new funding to education, including the new Level Up initiative -- \$100 million to support the 100 lowest-wealth school districts in the Commonwealth, and a \$200 million increase to funds allocated through the fair funding formula.

However, the final budget agreement stopped short of using fair funding formulas on all existing education funding, as Governor Wolf had previously proposed, with only about 15 percent of state funding to school districts allocated in this way. Under existing law, only new education funds since 2016 are run through the fair funding formula. Also not included in the budget was a proposed investment in the Nellie Bly scholarship fund, SB 377, which would fill the gap in college expenses not covered by Pell and state grants for qualifying students attending institutions in the PASSHE system.

### Competing Proposals Address Election Administration

A Democrat-backed proposal introduced in June provides for pre-canvassing of ballots, outlines requirements for ballot drop boxes, requires risk-limiting audits, and provides for "curing" of unsigned or incomplete mail-in and absentee ballots. The House State Government Committee is set to consider this proposal, HB 1703, as well as alternative bills with narrower scopes, HB 1706 and HB 1704, which both address pre-canvassing and date of application for absentee ballots.

These actions come in the wake of Governor Wolf's veto of HB 1300, a comprehensive, Republican-backed election bill which would set limits on the use of ballot drop boxes, move forward the deadlines for registering to vote prior to an election and returning mail-in ballots, and set new measures to address fraud, conspiracy, or disturbances at polling places.

### COVID-19 Pandemic Disaster Emergency Declaration Ends

Upon certification of the May 18th election, in which voters approved constitutional amendments giving the General Assembly broader power over disaster emergency declarations, the pandemic disaster emergency came to an end. However, numerous regulatory waivers approved since March 2020 have been extended through September 30, 2021.

### Proposals Address Sexual Violence

Two Senate bills address sexual violence education. SB 730 includes additional provisions for sexual violence education at institutions of higher education, including education programs, follow-up, reporting, and community partnerships. SB 785 would provide a model policy for school districts in addressing dating violence. Both bills were referred to the Senate Education Committee.

A separate House bill, HB 1699, would require institutions of higher education to provide notification of rights, accommodations, and protections to victims of dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, and stalking, regardless of where such incidences occur.



FAST  
FACTS

### STATE BRIEFINGS

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### FEDERAL BRIEFING

- Lawmakers Focus on Infrastructure

## State Legislative Briefing (cont.)

A curated briefing of state legislative proposals and recent legislative actions

### Bill Seeks to Expand Access to Land for Recreation

HB 1694, recently introduced and referred to the House Tourism and Recreational Development Committee, would encourage landowners to make land and waterways available for public recreation by limiting associated liability.

### Pennsylvania Joins Compact Recognizing Nurse Licensure across State Lines

Governor Wolf signed SB 115 on July 1st, which makes Pennsylvania a party to the 35-state Nurse Licensure Compact. Member states recognize nurse licensure across state lines, which may help in making Pennsylvania a more attractive place for nursing graduates and ensure availability of healthcare workforce.

### Lawmakers Explore Protections for Residents of Healthcare Facilities

HB 649, passed and signed in 2021, provides for access to congregate care facilities by residents' essential caregivers. Another bill, HB 1428, passed by the House in June, sets limits on the use of electronic devices to monitor patients in healthcare facilities.

## Federal Legislative Briefing

A curated briefing of federal legislative proposals and recent legislative actions

### Lawmakers Focus on Infrastructure

Attention in Washington has largely focused on passing an infrastructure bill. President Biden and a bipartisan group of senators agreed on a framework in which work will continue on a bipartisan bill to include funding for physical infrastructure such as roads, bridges, broadband, utilities, and public transportation. A parallel process, expected to follow party lines via the Senate's reconciliation process, will be used to consider funding for projects under a more expansive definition of infrastructure including housing, healthcare, and family supports.

On July 1st, the House of Representatives approved a \$715 billion 5-year bill addressing transportation, drinking water, and climate change. This includes \$343 billion for roads, \$109 billion for mass transit (a 140 percent increase over current levels), and \$168 billion for wastewater and drinking water. The bill also emphasized electric vehicle infrastructure and building resilient infrastructure to withstand the impacts of climate change. This bill differs in some ways from the framework agreed upon by the president and Senate leaders in its emphasis on climate change and several new programs and initiatives. Uncertainty remains on how the physical infrastructure bills in the two chambers will be melded, as well as if the bill will include new revenues or spending offsets to pay for the investments. It is expected that work will continue to reach an agreement before the August recess.



FAST  
FACTS

## COVID-Related Housing Insecurity:

### 10%+ OF HOUSEHOLDS IN COMMONWEALTH

Late on rent or mortgage  
payments.



### 18% OF HOUSEHOLDS IN COMMONWEALTH

Believe it is “somewhat  
likely” they will have to leave  
their home within the next  
two months due to eviction  
or foreclosure.

## COVID-related Housing Insecurity: Foreclosures, Evictions, and Public Policy

At the start of the pandemic, The Urban Institute published a report stating supporting renters during COVID-19 is critical to stability in the housing market (April 2020).[1] Throughout the past year and a half, tenants and homeowners who lost their jobs or had to take a pay cut struggled to or were unable to pay their monthly housing payment. If evicted from their homes or foreclosed on, families and people were more at risk of contracting COVID-19. The National Bureau of Economic Research sums up all aspects of problems related to household expenses as “housing precarity.”

Over 10 percent of households in the Commonwealth are late on rent or mortgage payments and more than 18 percent believe it is at least somewhat likely they will have to leave their home within the next two months due to eviction or foreclosure. About 7 percent of these people said it was very likely to occur.[2] At the national level, as of March 2021, there are 2.2 million homeowners in forbearance. More than half of them, or 1.2 million homeowners, entered forbearance in June 2020 or earlier, signifying there is a large group of homeowners who are continuously struggling to pay for their home.[3]

In order to stave off a flood of evictions and foreclosure, various government organizations and governments at various levels enacted protective policies to keep people housed. The Federal Housing Authority, enacted the first federal-level eviction ban in the country as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Soon after the aforementioned moratorium expired, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention enacted an eviction ban, albeit different and, some have said, more cumbersome and less universal than the FHA's. This moratorium is set to expire July 31, 2021, after an additional month extension. Some tenants reported uncertainty with steps needed in order to be protected under the moratorium.

Regardless of the use of the CDC declaration, some tenants were still evicted. There are many people who rent a unit under an informal tenant-landlord agreement (no lease or contract); these are not protected by the CDC ban, nor were they covered by previous federal moratoria.

Homeowners who have a federally backed mortgage and are experiencing direct or indirect hardship as a result of the pandemic are eligible for a COVID hardship forbearance. [4] Other forbearances are available for those backed by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, and non-federally backed loans may have other options from their respective servicers. Homeowners could apply for the program up until the end of June 2021.

In regard to homeowners with mortgages, there was a combined 65-percent decrease in the count of Act 91 notices sent out in the two-county region and a 63-percent drop statewide as a result of these policies. The region's share of statewide notices remained largely unchanged at 4.6 percent of the 15,205 foreclosure notices delivered across the state. [5]

Including the aforementioned eviction moratoria, various policies and programs were put in place for renters and homeowners at the federal, state, and local levels during COVID-19. Pennsylvania started accepting applications to the first round of the Emergency Rental Assistance Program in July 2020 as a part of the CARES Act. This round of renters' assistance using CARES funding ended in the beginning of November 2020. The second round opened up in March 2021. In order to have qualified for the program in 2020, a renter must have been at or below 100 percent of the average median income; must have shown job and/or income loss since March 1, 2020; must have been past due by at least 30 days; and finally, the funds must have been used for rent accrued from March 1, 2020, to December 30, 2020.



FAST  
FACTSCOVID-Related  
Housing Insecurity:CHALLENGES IN  
RENTAL ASSISTANCE

Caps on rental assistance

Requirements to receive  
or apply for fundingCOVID-related Housing Insecurity: Foreclosures,  
Evictions, and Public Policy (cont.)

Other aspects of the program caused additional issues with applying for emergency rental assistance. There were caps on rental assistance, as well as requirements to receive or even apply for funding. One of the landlord requirements was forgiveness of other outstanding rent above the \$750 cap. Tenants had to provide evidence they had lost their jobs or had lost at least 30 percent of their income since March 2020.[6] Reports said many landlords opted out of applying due to the requirements they had to meet, including the debt forgiveness, and many renters were unable to prove documented unemployment through pay stubs from employers that had shut down temporarily or were permanently shuttered.[7] Furthermore, many banks were initially unsure if they would participate, as the program was structured in a way that made funds difficult to access. With the second iteration of the program, some of the issues with the program requirements were resolved. Landlords were able to request help on behalf of their tenants and the funds could potentially cover utilities and, in some counties, internet.[8]

Federal funds from the CARES Act were also used to aid struggling homeowners. The Pandemic Mortgage Assistance Program assisted mortgage holders who were behind on their mortgage payments. The requirements for the mortgage program were the same as those for the renters' apart from length of delinquency and they had to be the owner occupant of a one- or two-unit home. The program had the same timeline as the first round of the ERAP program and aid was capped at \$1,000 per month. The Commonwealth also implemented a ban on utility shutoffs during the last year. This utility moratorium ended on March 30, 2021.

There is an additional program to help homeowners that was recently passed at the federal level and will eventually be distributed to states after a plan of usage of funds is submitted. The Homeowner Assistance Fund was enacted in March 2021 as a part of the American Rescue Plan.[9] Eligible entities such as states must submit their completed HAF plan or date by which their plan will be finished. Pennsylvania is set to receive over \$350 million when the Department of the Treasury funds are distributed.

## Impact of policies on COVID infections and deaths[10]

|   |                 | Infections | Deaths  |
|---|-----------------|------------|---------|
| Counties with policies in place           | Eviction        | -3.80%     | -11.00% |
|   | Utility shutoff | -4.40%     | -7.40%  |
| If policies were in place in every county | Eviction        | -14.20%    | -40.70% |
|   | Utility shutoff | -8.70%     | -14.80% |

Source: National Bureau of Economic Research



FAST  
FACTS

COVID-Related  
Housing Insecurity:

AFFORDABLE HOUSING



Many areas are seeing a loss of affordable housing due to overbidding, migration from other regions, and loss of small landlords. Furthermore, economic restructuring and continued labor market uncertainty has affected people's ability to pay for housing.

## COVID-related Housing Insecurity: Foreclosures, Evictions, and Public Policy (cont.)

This fund aims to prevent mortgage delinquencies, foreclosures, utility shutoffs, and displacement of homeowners experiencing financial hardship after January 21, 2020. It can be put toward mortgage payments, homeowner's insurance, utility payments, and other not-yet-specified purposes. The fund will prioritize homeowners who are experiencing the most financial damage.

These policies were extremely impactful. The previously mentioned study of counties with eviction and utility shutoff bans in place found that those counties had 11 percent and 7 percent fewer deaths from COVID, respectively, indicating that addressing housing insecurity may result in improved public health outcomes.

There have been other deleterious effects on housing attributable to direct or indirect COVID-related financial insecurity beyond evictions and foreclosures. Many areas are seeing a loss of affordable housing due to overbidding, migration from other regions, and loss of small landlords. Furthermore, economic restructuring and continued labor market uncertainty has affected people's ability to pay for housing. As a result, housing policy will continue to be an important area of concern to ensure families have stable, safe, and healthy housing.

[1] Urban Institute. 2020. ["The Future Is Shared": Why Supporting Renters during COVID-19 Is Critical for Housing Market Stability](#). 14 April. Housing Matters: an Urban Institute Initiative.

[2] US Census Bureau. Household Pulse Survey: Week 31.

[3] Haughwout, A., Lee, D., Scally, J., and van der Klaauw, W. 2021. [Keeping Borrowers Current in a Pandemic](#). 19 May. Federal Reserve Bank of New York: Liberty Street Economics.

[4] CFPB. 2021. [Help for Homeowners: Learn about Forbearance](#). Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

[5] Data from maps of Act 91 Notices by County from PHFA

[6] Spotlight PA. 2020. [Pa. misses deadline to spend \\$108M in rent, mortgage relief from CARES Act](#). 18 December. PennLive.com.

[7] Spotlight PA. 2020.

[8] Itzcovitz, Rose. 2021. [Program offers rent help for tenants, landlords](#). 15 April. WNEP.

[9] US Treasury Dept. 2021. [Homeowners Assistance Fund](#).

[10] NBER. 2021. [Housing Precarity & the COVID-19 Pandemic: Impacts of Utility Disconnection and Eviction Moratoria on Infections and Death across US Counties](#).



# AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

## FAST FACTS

### ARP Funding

#### \$60 Billion

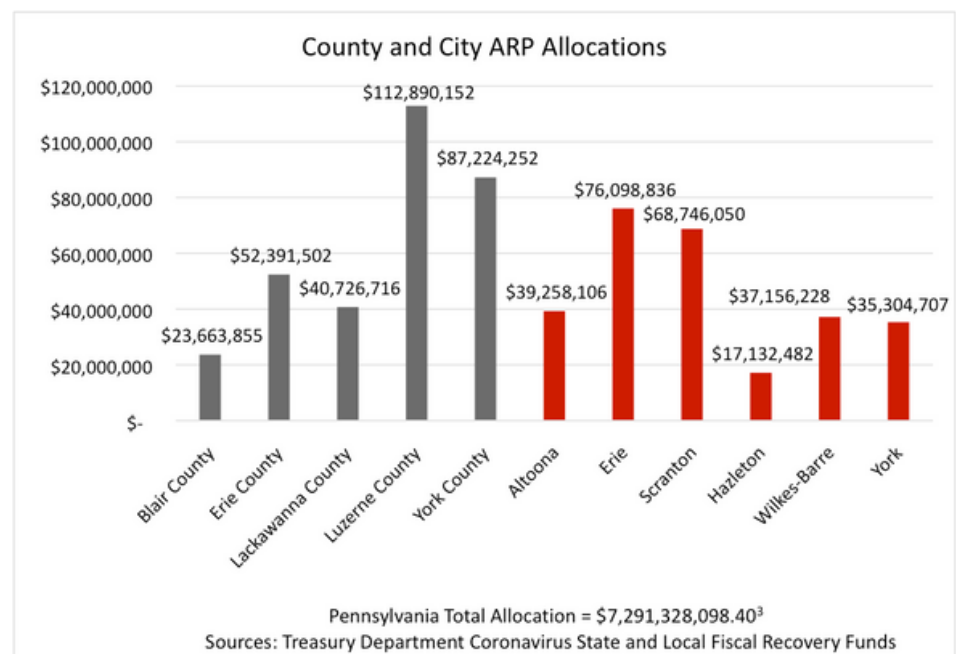
- What County governments received based on each county's population
- With the additional stipulation that urban counties could not receive less than they would under the Community Development Block Grant formula.
- This use of the Community Development Block Grant formula as the floor for allocations contributes to Luzerne County's higher per capita payout.
- The use of this formula resulted in highly varied fund allocations for school districts across Lackawanna and Luzerne counties, with Scranton and Hazleton areas receiving the highest allocations, respectively.

## ARP Funding Allocates over \$315 Million to Counties and Cities in NEPA

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) allocates over \$300 billion to state and local governments to fund fiscal recovery as the United States overcomes the lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. These dollars can be used to support public health costs, to correct the negative economic impacts of the pandemic, to replace lost public-sector revenues, to provide pay for workers, and/or to invest in infrastructure.[1]

Of the almost \$200 billion allocated to state governments, about \$25 billion will be allocated equally among the states. About \$700 million will be used specifically to assist the District of Columbia, and the remaining \$169 billion will be divided among the states and D.C. based upon their unemployment rates in the quarter ending December 2020 against the federal unemployment rate over the same period.[2] Using this formula, Pennsylvania receives \$7.2 billion in fund allocations.[3]

County governments received over \$60 billion based on each county's population, using 2019 census data, with the additional stipulation that urban counties could not receive less than they would under the Community Development Block Grant formula.[4] This use of the Community Development Block Grant formula as the floor for allocations contributes to Luzerne County's higher per capita payout. Metropolitan cities, as defined in the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, received funds totaling over \$45 billion.[5] The allocations were decided using the Community Development Block Grant formula which uses census and related data to determine the extent of poverty, population, overcrowding, age, and population growth lag as factors.[5] This formula results in Lackawanna County receiving about \$40 million and Luzerne County being allocated over \$112 million in relief funds.[6] The City of Scranton will receive about \$68 million, with Hazleton receiving just over \$17 million and Wilkes-Barre receiving about \$37 million.[7]





# AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

## FAST FACTS

### ARP Funding

#### \$60 Billion

- What County governments received based on each county's population
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- This use of the Community Development Block Grant formula as the floor for allocations contributes to Luzerne County's higher per capita payout.
- The use of this formula resulted in highly varied fund allocations for school districts across Lackawanna and Luzerne counties, with Scranton and Hazleton areas receiving the highest allocations, respectively.

## ARP Funding Allocates over \$315 Million to Counties and Cities in NEPA (cont.)

The American Rescue Plan also provided states with money in the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund.<sup>8</sup> Pennsylvania received nearly \$5 billion to be put toward rebuilding the educational system, with the funds being distributed in proportion to the local education agency's share of Title I-A funds for the FY 2020-2021.<sup>8</sup> Title I-A funds are federal dollars allocated to school districts to aid financially disadvantaged students.<sup>9</sup> Funds in schools where less than 40 percent of students live in poverty can be used for targeted assistance, while schools with over 40 percent of the student population in poverty can use the funds schoolwide.<sup>9</sup> The use of this formula resulted in highly varied fund allocations for school

| Location          | Population | Dollars per Capita |
|-------------------|------------|--------------------|
| Pennsylvania      | 12,801,989 | \$ 569.55          |
| Blair County      | 121,829    | \$ 194.24          |
| Erie County       | 269,728    | \$ 194.24          |
| York County       | 449,058    | \$ 194.24          |
| Lackawanna County | 209,674    | \$ 194.24          |
| Luzerne County    | 317,417    | \$ 355.65          |
| Scranton          | 77,054     | \$ 892.18          |
| Hazleton          | 24,857     | \$ 689.24          |
| Wilkes-Barre      | 40,867     | \$ 909.20          |
| Altoona           | 43,987     | \$ 892.49          |
| Erie              | 97,263     | \$ 782.40          |
| York              | 44,022     | \$ 801.98          |

Source: United States Census American Community Survey

districts across Lackawanna and Luzerne counties, with Scranton and Hazleton areas receiving the highest allocations, respectively.<sup>[8]</sup>

| Luzerne County School District ARP ESSER Fund Distributions |                            |                   |                    |
|---|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| School District   | Allocation                 | Population        | Dollars per Capita |
| Hazleton Area   | \$ 34,460,376.00           | 71,716            | \$ 480.51          |
| Wilkes-Barre Area   | \$ 29,579,627.00           | 58,875            | \$ 502.41          |
| Wyoming Valley West   | \$ 14,944,432.00           | 41,281            | \$ 362.02          |
| Greater Nanticoke Area                                      | \$ 7,325,145.00            | 18,947            | \$ 386.61          |
| Hanover Area  | \$ 6,806,869.00            | 15,218            | \$ 447.29          |
| Pittston Area   | \$ 6,697,254.00            | 28,021            | \$ 239.01          |
| Berwick Area  | \$ 6,515,337.00            | 21,903            | \$ 297.46          |
| Wyoming Area  | \$ 4,996,331.00            | 18,887            | \$ 264.54          |
| Dallas  | \$ 3,338,085.00            | 20,705            | \$ 161.22          |
| Crestwood   | \$ 2,910,130.00            | 19,973            | \$ 145.70          |
| Lake-Lehman   | \$ 2,158,819.00            | 17,008            | \$ 126.93          |
| Northwest Area  | \$ 1,904,155.00            | 8,722             | \$ 218.32          |
| Bear Creek Community CS                                     | \$ 1,649,713.00            | -                 | -                  |
| <b>Pennsylvania Total</b>                                   | <b>\$ 4,996,953,151.00</b> | <b>12,801,989</b> | <b>\$ 390.33</b>   |

Sources: Pennsylvania Department of Education ARP ESSER Fund Allocations<sup>8</sup>  
United States Census American Community Survey<sup>10</sup>

| Lackawanna County School Districts ARP ESSER Fund Distributions |                            |                   |                    |
|---|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| School District   | Allocation                 | Population        | Dollars per Capita |
| Scranton  | \$ 35,767,473.00           | 76,651            | \$ 466.63          |
| Carbondale Area   | \$ 5,810,131.00            | 10,312            | \$ 563.43          |
| Mid Valley  | \$ 4,083,031.00            | 14,803            | \$ 275.82          |
| Riverside   | \$ 3,694,881.00            | 11,732            | \$ 314.94          |
| Dunmore   | \$ 3,245,092.00            | 13,111            | \$ 247.51          |
| Valley View   | \$ 2,965,631.00            | 17,687            | \$ 167.67          |
| North Pocono  | \$ 2,915,292.00            | 20,070            | \$ 145.26          |
| Abington Heights  | \$ 2,339,515.00            | 23,542            | \$ 99.38           |
| Old Forge   | \$ 1,893,232.00            | 7,965             | \$ 237.69          |
| Lakeland  | \$ 1,762,851.00            | 11,972            | \$ 147.25          |
| Lackawanna Trail  | \$ 1,676,905.00            | 8,166             | \$ 205.35          |
| Forest City Regional  | \$ 1,652,649.00            | 5,851             | \$ 282.46          |
| Howard Gardner MI CS  | \$ 834,924.00              | -                 | -                  |
| Fell Charter ES   | \$ 428,388.00              | -                 | -                  |
| <b>Pennsylvania Total</b>                                       | <b>\$ 4,996,953,151.00</b> | <b>12,801,989</b> | <b>\$ 390.33</b>   |

Sources: Pennsylvania Department of Education ARP ESSER Fund Allocations<sup>8</sup>  
United States Census American Community Survey<sup>10</sup>

[1] "Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds," U.S. Department of the Treasury, accessed June 22, 2021, <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-funds>.

[2] "Allocation Methodology to State Governments," U.S. Department of the Treasury, accessed June 22, 2021, <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/Allocation-Methodology-for-States-508A.pdf>.

[3] "Allocations for States," U.S. Department of the Treasury, accessed June 22, 2021, <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/fiscalrecoveryfunds-statefunding1-508A.pdf>.

[4] "Allocation Methodology to Counties," U.S. Department of the Treasury, accessed June 22, 2021, <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/Allocation-Methodology-for-Counties-508A.pdf>.

[5] "Allocation Methodology to Metropolitan Cities," U.S. Department of the Treasury, accessed June 22, 2021, <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/Allocation-Methodology-for-Metropolitan-Cities-508A.pdf>.

[6] "Allocations for Counties," U.S. Department of the Treasury, accessed June 22, 2021, [https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/fiscalrecoveryfunds-countyfunding\\_2021.05.10-1a-508A.pdf](https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/fiscalrecoveryfunds-countyfunding_2021.05.10-1a-508A.pdf).

[7] "Allocations for Metropolitan Cities," U.S. Department of the Treasury, accessed June 22, 2021, <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/fiscalrecoveryfunds-metrocitiesfunding1-508A.pdf>.

[8] "American Rescue Plan (ARP) Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund," Pennsylvania Department of Education, accessed June 22, 2021, <https://www.education.pa.gov/Schools/safeschools/emergency-planning/COVID-19/CARESAct/March2021/Pages/default.aspx>.

[9] "Title I," Pennsylvania Department of Education, accessed June 22, 2021, <https://www.education.pa.gov/Teachers%20-%20Administrators/Federal%20Programs/TitleI/Pages/default.aspx>.

# CENSUS

## FAST FACTS

### Census Congressional Reapportionment:

#### LOSS OF 1 OR MORE SEATS

Pennsylvania has lost one or more seats following every census and apportionment process since 1930.



#### \$1.5 TRILLION

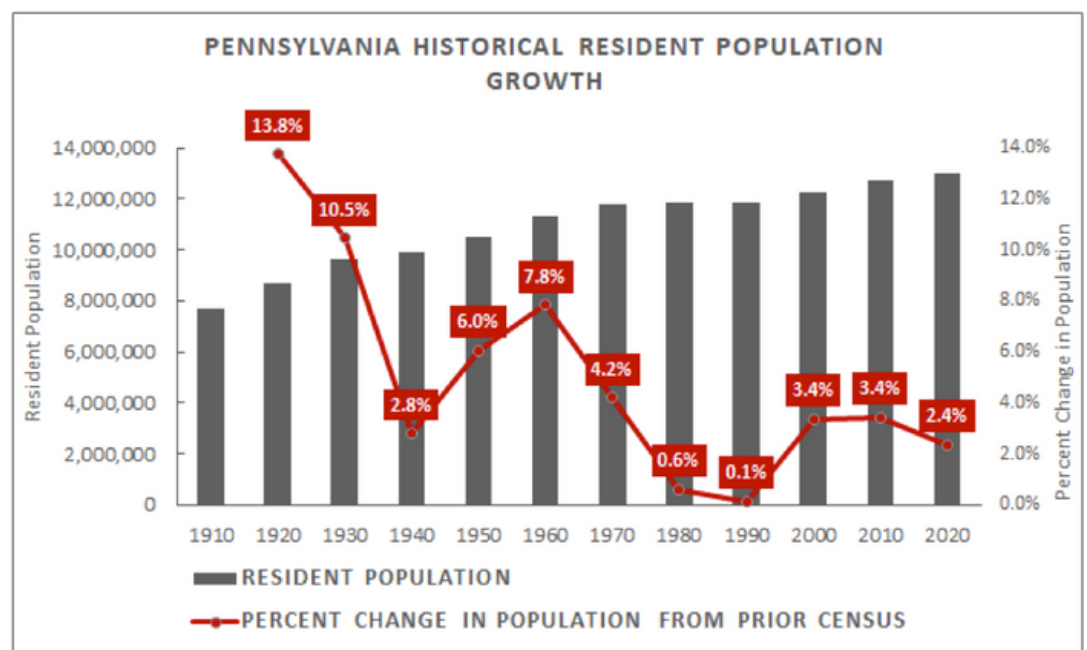
Census data also helps determine how this federally funding gets distributed annually to each state.

## How the 2020 Census Will Impact Pennsylvania's Representation and Federal Funding

Pennsylvania is set to lose one of its seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and one of its Electoral College votes following results from the 2020 U.S. census. In April, the 2020 state population counts released by the U.S. census show that while Pennsylvania's population increased to over 13 million in 2020, from 12.7 million in 2010, the rate of growth declined to 2.4 percent. Pennsylvania's population growth has slowed over time, and it has not experienced growth of more than 5 percent since the 1960 U.S. census. Compared to other states, Pennsylvania's overall population density rank has declined from 8th in the nation in 1910 to 11th as of 2010, and it maintained this ranking in 2020.

### Losing a Congressional Seat

Population counts from the decennial census determine how many of the 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives are assigned to each state. According to the Constitution, each state is given one seat, and the process of apportionment is used to distribute the remaining 385 seats among the 50 states. The population counts used for apportionment include the state's resident population, plus those in the military and federal workers and their families living overseas who are allocated back to their home state.



Based on the apportionment process, Pennsylvania is losing one U.S. congressional seat, declining from 18 to 17 representatives. Pennsylvania has lost one or more seats following every census and apportionment process since 1930. In total, Pennsylvania has lost 19 congressional seats since the 1920 census, dropping by more than half from its peak of 36 seats to its current total of 17 seats. Despite this loss, Pennsylvania will still remain among the top five states for Electoral College votes. Along with Illinois, Pennsylvania will have a total of 19 total Electoral College votes, behind California (54 votes), Texas (40), Florida (30), and New York (28).



# CENSUS

## FAST FACTS

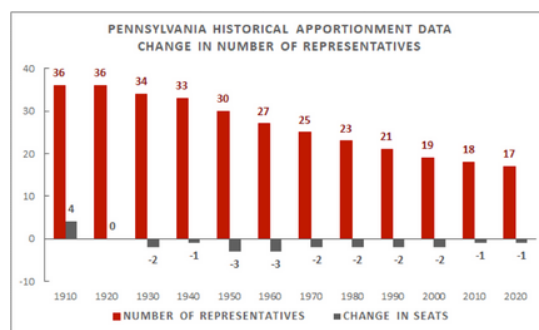
### Census and Federal Funding:

#### FEDERAL SPENDING IN PENNSYLVANIA

In Pennsylvania, nearly \$63 billion in federal spending was received in for the year 2017 from data derived by the census. Three-quarters of the total consisted of Medicare and Medicaid spending.



## How the 2020 Census Will Impact Pennsylvania's Representation and Federal Funding (cont.)



Overall, seven House seats will shift to other states as a result of the 2020 census. Besides Pennsylvania, other states losing one seat include: California, Illinois, Michigan, New York, Ohio, and West Virginia. Six states are gaining seats, including: Colorado, Florida, Montana, North Carolina, Oregon, and Texas, which is adding two seats. The results reflect a broader shift in the population to the south and west regions of the country. According to census data, the population in the south region grew by 10.2 percent in the last 10 years, and the west region grew by 9.2 percent. In comparison, the northeast region grew by 4.1 percent and the midwest by 3.1 percent. Overall, the total resident population of the U.S. grew by 7.4 percent to over 331 million, which was the second-slowest rate of growth since the 1940 U.S. census, which included the Great Depression.

These shifts in population typically require the redrawing of electoral districts based on local area population counts. The Census Bureau is scheduled to release more detailed demographic data used in the redistricting process by September 30th, and the revised districts will take effect for the 2022 election. In Pennsylvania, the state's congressional map is drawn

by the General Assembly and must be approved by the governor. Pennsylvania revised its congressional districts twice following the 2010 census, after the original map was struck down by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court in 2018. When both parties failed to reach an agreement on the redistricting boundaries, the court imposed its own version and the revised map split the 18 districts evenly between Democratic and Republican lawmakers. With the loss of an additional seat, the Republican-led majority in the state House and Senate and Democratic Gov. Wolf will need to come to an agreement on the revised 17 congressional districts, or the state Supreme Court may intervene again.

In addition to impacting the number of congressional seats allotted to each state, census data also helps determine how over \$1.5 trillion in federal funding is distributed annually to states and local governments for various services and infrastructure. According to the Counting for Dollars initiative at the George Washington Institute for Public Policy, data derived from the census was used to distribute funds from 316 federal programs in 2017. These programs include: Medicare, Medicaid, Head Start, the Women, Infants, and Children nutrition program (WIC), the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), federal direct student loans, and highway construction grants, among others. In Pennsylvania, nearly \$63 billion in federal spending was received in FY 2017 from data derived by the census, according to the Counting for Dollars analysis. Three-quarters of the total consisted of Medicare and Medicaid spending. Since many programs allocate funds based on annual population estimates that use the census data as the baseline, the data collected from the 2020 U.S. census will have an impact on federal funding for the next 10 years.

| Census-Guided Federal Spending in Pennsylvania, FY 2017 |                  |                  |                  |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Total   | Medicare         | Medicaid         | Other Programs   |
| \$62,986,239,000  | \$29,656,325,000 | \$17,742,316,000 | \$15,587,598,000 |
| Percent of Total  | 47%              | 28%              | 25%              |

Source: George Washington Institute of Public Policy, Counting for Dollars 2020

# The Institute

*Turning Information into Insight*

## THE INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC POLICY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



### Policy Tracker

#### The Institute Contributors

##### Lead Editor

Andrew Chew, AICP

Senior Research & Policy Analyst

##### Research Interns

Aarathi Kallur

Abigail Walsh

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Funding for the Policy Tracker has been generously provided by:



#### The Institute Staff

Teri Ooms

Executive Director

Megan Stachowiak

Research Analyst

Sarah Bender

Research Assistant

Kara McGrane

Research Assistant

Jill Avery-Stoss

Research, Data and Intern Coordinator