

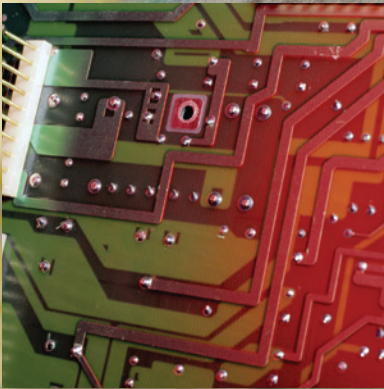
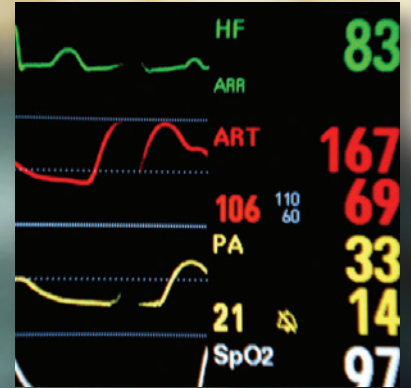
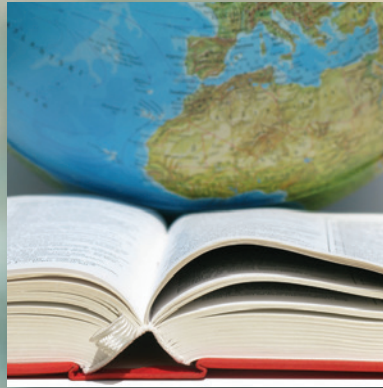
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Turning Information into Insight

A partnership among Geisinger Commonwealth School of Medicine, Johnson College, Keystone College, King's College, Lackawanna College, Luzerne County Community College, Marywood University, Misericordia University, Penn State Scranton, Penn State Wilkes-Barre, The Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education, University of Scranton, Wilkes University and the business community

2023 Indicators Report

NEPA REGIONAL
INDICATORS



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The Institute is a non-profit data, analytics, and research organization dedicated to empowering business and community leaders with research based strategies for informed decision making. We conduct independent, non-biased research to identify the opportunities, issues and challenges unique to the region and find innovative solutions to help solve the problems facing our communities. The Institute also offers a wide array of research, data, and support services to help organizations improve, sustain, and be successful in their missions.

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- Community Development
- Education
- Energy
- Government
- Health & Health Care
- Housing
- Industry
- Infrastructure
- Land Use
- Planning
- Public Safety
- Tourism And Arts & Culture
- Transportation
- Workforce Development

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Jill Avery-Stoss, Chief Operating Officer

Jolene Carey-Pace, Ed.D, Research Analyst

Mark Shaffer, Research Analyst

Sarah Bender, Research Assistant

Ethan Van Gorden, Research Assistant

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WHAT WE BELIEVE

At The Institute, we believe that empowering leaders with the research-based strategies and solutions they need to make informed decisions will lead to a stronger regional economy and a better quality of life for residents. For over a decade, The Institute has worked behind the scenes to support initiatives that advance regional competitiveness and revitalize communities.

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS RESEARCH UNDERWRITERS

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our generous stakeholders who share our vision for a better, stronger Northeastern Pennsylvania and whose financial support makes our community based research and events like The Indicators possible..

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Northeastern Pennsylvania Regional Dashboard

NEPA by the Numbers

Data Highlights from Lackawanna, Luzerne & Wayne Counties

Population Trends

Population Change since 2010

Lackawanna: + 0.7 %

Luzerne: + 1.5 %

Wayne: - 3.2 %

Statewide: + 2.4 %

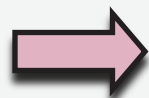
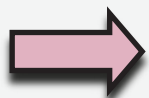


10 Year Net Migration

Lackawanna: - 4,755

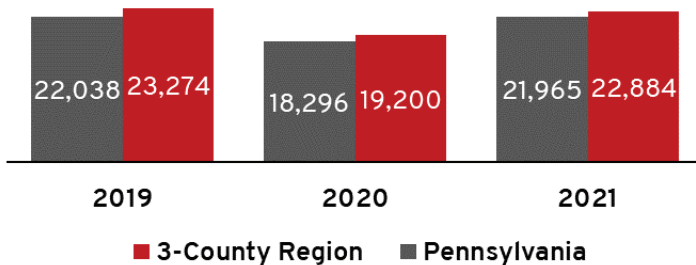
Luzerne: - 73

Wayne: + 2,754



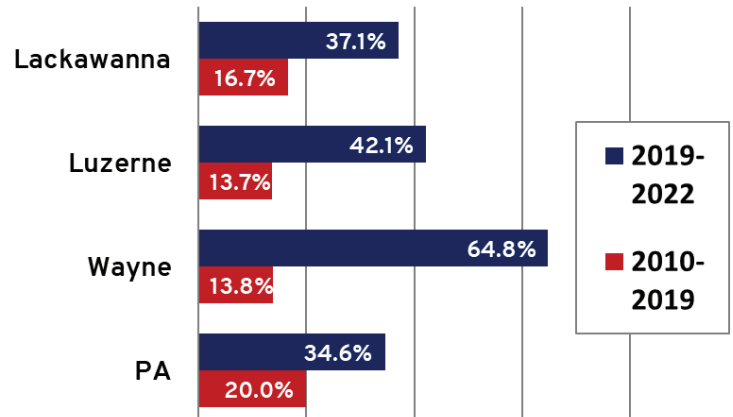
Infrastructure

Traffic Trends: Daily Vehicle Miles per Highway Mile



Housing

Typical Home Price: Percent Change



Health & Environment

Regional Drug Overdose Deaths: 2021

318 (46% more than 2019)

Without Health Insurance, Statewide: 2021

5.5 % (Compared with 10.2% in 2010, 5.8% in 2019)



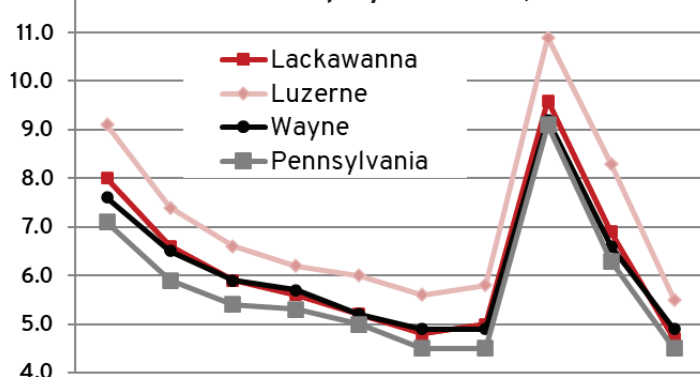
Regional Air Quality

Zero Unhealthy Air Quality Days Since 2010

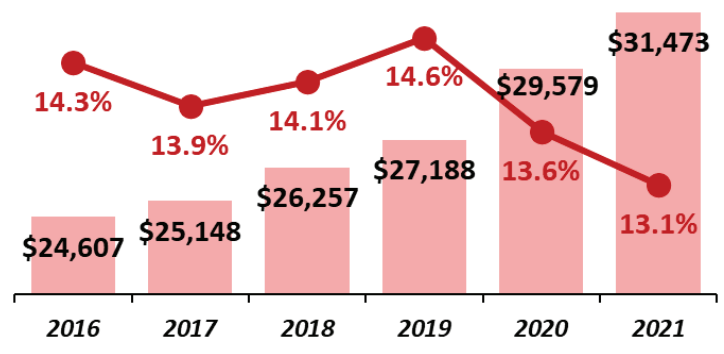
The Regional Economy

The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in spiking unemployment and declines in GDP and tourism spending, though there were signs of a strong recovery in 2021. In 2020, poverty declined and aggregate income rose, largely the result of expanded assistance programs and direct payments.

Annual Unemployment Rate, 2013 - 2022



Regional Poverty Rate & Aggregate Income (in Millions)



2021 Regional GDP

\$30.3 Billion

Up 5.4% from 2019



2021 Tourism Spending

\$2.08 Billion

31% of pre-pandemic level

Northeastern Pennsylvania Regional Dashboard

Across the Region

A Data Snapshot of the Broader Region & Selected Cities

Population Trends

	2010	2020	Percent Change		2010	2020	Percent Change
Bradford County	62,622	59,967	↓ -4%	Carbondale City	8,891	8,828	↔ -1%
Carbon County	65,249	64,749	↔ -1%	Scranton City	76,089	76,328	↔ 0%
Columbia County	67,295	64,727	↓ -4%	Hazleton City	25,340	29,963	↑ 18%
Monroe County	169,842	168,327	↔ -1%	Nanticoke City	10,465	10,628	↔ 2%
Pike County	57,369	58,535	↔ 2%	Pittston City	7,739	7,591	↔ -2%
Schuylkill County	148,289	143,049	↓ -4%	Wilkes-Barre City	41,498	44,328	↑ 7%
Sullivan County	6,428	5,840	↓ -9%	Stroudsburg Borough	5,567	5,927	↑ 6%
Susquehanna County	43,356	38,434	↓ -11%	Pottsville City	14,324	13,346	↓ -7%
Wyoming County	28,276	26,069	↓ -8%	Honesdale Borough	4,480	4,458	↔ 0%

Industry & Employment

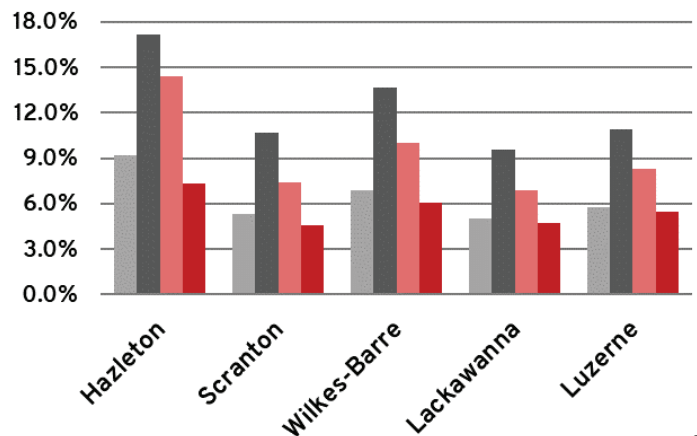
Largest Industry by Employment by County

As of Q3 2022 by 3-digit NAICS code. Data Source: JobsEQ

- Paper Manufacturing:** Wyoming
- Warehouses:** Luzerne, Schuylkill
- Hospitals:** Bradford
- Nursing Homes:** Sullivan
- Medical Care & Outpatient Care:** Lackawanna
- Education:** Susquehanna, Pike
- Accommodations:** Monroe, Wayne
- Food Service:** Carbon, Columbia



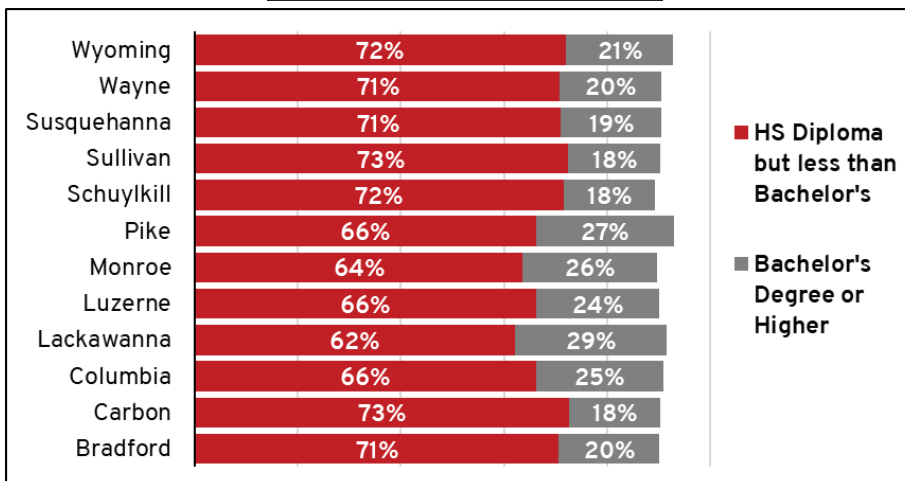
Annual Unemployment Rates: 2019–2022



Data Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Education & Health

Educational Attainment: 2021



Population without Health Insurance

	2021	Number	Percent
Bradford		4,227	7.1%
Carbon		2,857	4.5%
Columbia		2,647	4.1%
Lackawanna		9,685	4.6%
Luzerne		18,523	5.8%
Monroe		11,881	7.1%
Pike		2,902	5.0%
Schuylkill		7,632	5.6%
Sullivan		371	6.4%
Susquehanna		2,448	6.3%
Wayne		3,237	6.8%
Wyoming		1,215	4.6%

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS 5-Year Estimates

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Demographics

Demographics



“Decennial census counts indicate that populations in Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties and the state increased compared with previous censuses, though Wayne County's population declined.”

DEMOGRAPHICS

The first section of the Indicators report covers demographics – the size and composition of the three counties’ populations, and the dynamics driving population change. The section reports the latest data on population, age distribution, birth rates, ethnic diversity, and the change in household size, as well as other important characteristics of the region’s demographic makeup.

The Decennial U.S. Census is the most accurate measure of population for a given geographic area. It is conducted once every ten years and has also been used in Pennsylvania’s redistricting process. The 2020 Census effort was completed amid very difficult conditions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Population and some demographic data have been released from the Census and is included in this report; however, not all demographic breakdowns from the 2020 Census have been published as of spring 2023. Indicators on age and household size are not yet available from this dataset. Other data utilized in this section includes the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey and Population Estimates, both of which publish data annually.

The official Census populations in both Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties decreased from 1990 to 2000 but increased slightly from 2000 to 2010 and at a slightly more rapid pace between 2010 and 2020. Wayne County’s population increased significantly between 1990 and 2000, increased at half that rate in 2010 before dropping in 2020. The region as a whole saw a net increase of more than 4,400 residents during the last decade, following an increase of about 7,900 residents in the prior decade, driven largely by growth in Wayne County. Statewide, the population steadily increased from 1990 to 2020, reaching 13 million for the first time in 2020. These rates of growth were lower than the growth rates nationwide and in other states. As a result of these changes, Pennsylvania lost one seat from its Congressional delegation.

There are three components of population change – births, deaths, and migration. According to the latest data (2020), birth rates in Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wayne Counties have fluctuated from year to year but remain lower than in the Commonwealth as a whole. Migration data is sourced from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). There was significant variation in the trends between the three counties: Lackawanna County saw negative net migration from 2010 until 2019 but then saw a moderate gain in 2020. Luzerne County’s migration patterns have varied substantially. For most of the period analyzed, the county saw varying degrees of outward and inward migration. However, in 2020 Luzerne County saw a significant net gain, larger than all but one of the outward migration years. Aside from two down years in 2015 and 2016, Wayne County has maintained consistent inward net migration.

The inward migration followed a nationwide trend of migration out of large, high cost-of-living metro areas, but it is unclear whether this shift will be permanent or temporary. The most recent data available, from 2021, showed that the population decreased 0.1 percent in Lackawanna County, increased 0.1 percent in Luzerne County, increased 0.5 percent in Wayne County, and dropped 0.3 percent statewide. Any sustained increase in population will have important impacts on government, economy, housing, and public services, making this an important area of data to monitor.

There are also important implications in the makeup of the region’s population. Older adults comprise a larger share of the population locally compared with the Commonwealth. This pattern has not changed drastically over the last several years. The relatively low ratio of children to senior citizens indicates potential challenges to the region’s future workforce because there will be fewer residents to fill jobs as many Baby Boomers continue to exit the workforce. This, however, is a national challenge. Part-time and remote employment of older adults needs to be a consideration for employers. Furthermore, the longer lifespans of many of today’s older adults means there will be an increased need for support services on their behalf.

Although Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wayne Counties’ total populations have largely been White/Caucasian, the percentages of residents who are Non-Hispanic White/Caucasian alone have declined since 2000, with substantial declines noted between 2010 and 2021. The growth of the Hispanic/Latino population has been considerable, with the share of population most recently estimated at 16.0 percent in Luzerne County, 9.5 percent in Lackawanna County, and 5.2 percent in Wayne County. The percentages of Asian Americans and African Americans in all three counties have also grown since 2000, along with those identifying as some other or two or more races.

Population & Migration Birth Rates

POPULATION

Decennial census counts indicate that populations in Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties and the state increased compared with previous censuses. From 2010 to 2020, Lackawanna County's population grew by 0.7 percent, Luzerne County's population grew by 1.5 percent, and Pennsylvania's population grew by a slightly faster rate – 2.4 percent. This decade's growth amounts to about 6,000 more individuals in the two-county region than the previous census. It represents a more rapid growth than the modest population increases seen from 2000 to 2010. Meanwhile, Wayne County saw a population decline that broke with the previous two decades of growth, dropping 3.2 percent (approximately 1,700 people) between 2010 and 2020. Estimates for 2021 showed slight growth in Luzerne and Wayne Counties and a minimal decline in Lackawanna County.

	1990	2000	2010	2020
Lackawanna	219,039	213,295	214,437	215,896
Luzerne	328,149	319,250	320,918	325,594
Wayne	38,786	47,722	52,822	51,155
Pennsylvania	11,881,643	12,281,054	12,702,379	13,002,700

U.S. Census Bureau 1990, 2000, 2010 and 2020 Census

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Lackawanna	214,176	213,725	212,829	211,863	211,004	210,451	210,269	209,674	215,896	215,663
Luzerne	321,147	319,637	319,150	318,059	317,172	317,808	317,859	317,417	325,594	326,053
Wayne	52,254	52,204	52,064	51,823	51,339	51,192	51,395	51,361	51,155	51,431
Pennsylvania	12,767,118	12,776,309	12,788,313	12,784,826	12,782,275	12,787,641	12,800,922	12,801,989	13,002,700	12,964,056

U.S. Census Bureau July Population Estimates & 2020 Census

MIGRATION

During the decade ending in 2020, Lackawanna County saw a negative net migration of 4,755 residents. Luzerne County saw a much smaller net outflow of 73 residents, despite some degree of net in-migration between 2010 and 2012. The sharpest net outflow for both counties took place from 2012 to 2016 but Luzerne County saw some positive inflow years since then. Lackawanna County saw its first positive year in a decade in 2020 and Luzerne County saw its largest inflow among all years analyzed. Aside from 2015 and 2016, Wayne County has seen a consistent inflow of migration with a net gain of 2,754 over the decade.

Year/Total	Inflow	Outflow	Net Gain/Loss
2010-2011	5,353	5,367	-14
2011-2012	6,440	7,127	-687
2012-2013	5,649	6,386	-737
2013-2014	5,411	6,198	-787
2014-2015	4,258	5,377	-1,119
2015-2016	5,203	6,238	-1,035
2016-2017	7,394	7,724	-330
2017-2018	5,980	6,205	-225
2018-2019	5,794	5,897	-103
2019-2020	6,580	6,298	282
Total	58,062	62,817	-4,755

Source: Internal Revenue Service

Year/Total	Inflow	Outflow	Net Gain/Loss
2010-2011	8,198	7,644	554
2011-2012	9,475	9,213	262
2012-2013	8,976	9,160	-184
2013-2014	7,676	8,368	-692
2014-2015	6,212	6,355	-143
2015-2016	8,076	8,849	-773
2016-2017	11,381	11,118	263
2017-2018	9,419	9,106	313
2018-2019	8,871	9,249	-378
2019-2020	10,183	9,478	705
Total	88,467	88,540	-73

Source: Internal Revenue Service

Year/Total	Inflow	Outflow	Net Gain/Loss
2010-2011	N/A	N/A	-
2011-2012	3,481	2,904	577
2012-2013	3,058	2,277	781
2013-2014	2,336	2,268	68
2014-2015	1,658	1,710	-52
2015-2016	2,182	2,323	-141
2016-2017	3,109	2,678	431
2017-2018	2,424	2,159	265
2018-2019	2,418	2,035	383
2019-2020	2,804	2,362	442
Total	23,470	20,716	2,754

Source: Internal Revenue Service

BIRTH RATES

Lackawanna County's birth rate has fluctuated; it consistently fell from 2016 through 2018 until increasing in 2019 only to drop to its lowest point of 18.6 in 2020. In Luzerne County, there were gradual increases in the birth rate, which was 20.7 in 2018 – before dropping in 2019 and 2020 to 19.5. Wayne County's birth rate varied year to year but ultimately peaked at 18.3 in 2020. The statewide birth rate has declined each year since 2016 and has fallen by 13 percent since 2000.

	2000	2010	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Lackawanna	19.1	20.1	20.5	19.0	18.7	19.1	18.6
Luzerne	18.2	19.3	20.0	20.5	20.7	20.3	19.5
Wayne	22.9	17.6	18.2	16.0	16.4	16.2	18.3
Pennsylvania	23.0	22.0	21.4	21.1	20.8	20.6	19.9

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health

Age Distribution



“The relatively low ratio of children to senior citizens indicates potential challenges to the region’s future workforce because there will be fewer residents to fill jobs.”

AGE DISTRIBUTION

Looking at the age distribution shows the shift of the baby boomer generation between age groups. In 2000, the majority share of the population was 35 to 44 years old. In 2010, the largest share of the population was 45 to 54 years old, and since 2017 it has been the 55 to 64 demographic. This is true of all three counties and statewide, as the baby boomers comprise a significant demographic group.

Although this group was the largest, 2021 estimates showed relative parity between several age groups. In Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties, for instance, age groups of 25 to 34, 35 to 44, and 45 to 54 ranged from 12 percent to 12.7 percent and the 55 to 64 age group comprised around 14 percent of the population. Statewide, it was even closer with people aged 55 to 64 again comprising 14 percent of the population, people aged 25 to 34 comprising 13.1 percent of the population, and the 45 to 54 and 35 to 44 age groups comprising about 12 percent and 12.4 percent respectively.

Meanwhile, Wayne County has a notably older population distribution than the other counties. Here the demographic of people aged 55 to 64 years is 16.6 percent of the population, compared to a range of 11.4 percent to 12.7 percent for the three younger age groups (25-34, 35-44, and 45-54). In Wayne County, the second largest demographic is the 65 to 74 cohort. The combined demographic of people aged 55 to 74 years makes up over 31 percent of the population in Wayne County, whereas it comprises just over 25 percent of the other geographies’ populations.

Across all geographies, the share of population aged 60 or older has trended upward, especially when compared to the year 2000. This age group accounts for about 27 percent of the populations in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties and 26 percent statewide. By comparison, the group represented about 24 percent of the regional population in 2000, and less than 20 percent statewide. In 2000, Wayne County had a smaller over-60 population, at under 23

percent. It now has a significantly larger over-60 population, at 33 percent.

Age Distribution: Lackawanna County							
Age	2000	2010	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Under 5	5.3%	5.4%	5.3%	5.3%	5.2%	5.1%	5.0%
5 to 9	6.1%	5.5%	5.7%	5.6%	5.7%	5.7%	5.7%
10 to 14	6.5%	5.8%	5.9%	6.0%	6.1%	6.1%	6.1%
15 to 19	6.8%	6.9%	6.3%	6.3%	6.5%	6.5%	6.5%
20 to 24	6.0%	6.9%	6.1%	6.0%	5.9%	5.9%	6.0%
25 to 34	11.7%	11.3%	12.5%	12.5%	12.2%	12.2%	12.2%
35 to 44	14.7%	12.3%	11.2%	11.3%	11.7%	11.8%	12.0%
45 to 54	13.8%	14.9%	13.2%	12.9%	12.5%	12.4%	12.2%
55 to 59	5.2%	7.0%	7.3%	7.2%	7.1%	7.1%	6.8%
60 to 64	4.5%	6.3%	6.8%	6.9%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%
65 to 74	9.3%	8.4%	10.8%	11.0%	11.4%	11.5%	11.8%
75 to 84	7.5%	6.7%	5.8%	5.9%	5.8%	5.9%	5.9%
85 and over	2.7%	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%	2.7%	2.7%	2.6%

U.S. Census Bureau July Population Estimates, 2000 & 2010 Census

Age Distribution: Wayne County							
Age	2000	2010	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Under 5	5.6%	4.1%	4.2%	4.2%	3.9%	3.9%	3.8%
5 to 9	6.7%	5.0%	4.3%	4.4%	4.6%	4.6%	4.6%
10 to 14	7.2%	5.9%	4.9%	4.7%	4.9%	4.9%	4.7%
15 to 19	6.5%	6.1%	5.2%	5.2%	4.9%	4.9%	4.8%
20 to 24	4.1%	4.5%	5.3%	5.1%	4.9%	4.9%	4.9%
25 to 34	11.0%	10.1%	11.0%	11.2%	11.2%	11.2%	11.4%
35 to 44	15.9%	12.8%	10.9%	11.0%	11.3%	11.3%	11.6%
45 to 54	14.4%	16.9%	14.1%	13.7%	13.1%	13.1%	12.7%
55 to 59	5.9%	7.9%	8.5%	8.3%	8.3%	8.2%	7.9%
60 to 64	5.2%	7.6%	7.9%	8.1%	8.5%	8.6%	8.7%
65 to 74	9.5%	10.8%	14.1%	14.4%	14.7%	14.8%	15.1%
75 to 84	5.9%	6.1%	6.8%	7.2%	7.4%	7.4%	7.5%
85 and over	2.1%	2.1%	2.6%	2.6%	2.3%	2.3%	2.3%

U.S. Census Bureau July Population Estimates, 2000 & 2010 Census

Age Distribution: Luzerne County							
Age	2000	2010	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Under 5	5.0%	5.2%	5.1%	5.2%	5.3%	5.3%	5.3%
5 to 9	5.8%	5.4%	5.3%	5.3%	5.5%	5.5%	5.5%
10 to 14	6.4%	5.8%	5.6%	5.6%	5.8%	5.8%	5.8%
15 to 19	6.5%	6.9%	6.1%	6.2%	6.2%	6.2%	6.2%
20 to 24	5.4%	6.4%	6.2%	6.1%	5.9%	5.9%	6.0%
25 to 34	12.2%	11.0%	12.6%	12.7%	12.6%	12.6%	12.7%
35 to 44	15.0%	12.9%	11.4%	11.4%	11.7%	11.8%	12.0%
45 to 54	14.0%	15.2%	13.8%	13.5%	13.0%	12.9%	12.6%
55 to 59	5.4%	7.0%	7.3%	7.2%	7.2%	7.2%	7.1%
60 to 64	4.6%	6.4%	6.8%	6.9%	7.0%	7.0%	7.0%
65 to 74	9.4%	8.6%	10.8%	10.9%	11.3%	11.4%	11.6%
75 to 84	7.5%	6.4%	5.7%	5.9%	5.8%	5.8%	5.8%
85 and over	2.7%	3.0%	3.1%	3.1%	2.6%	2.6%	2.5%

U.S. Census Bureau July Population Estimates, 2000 & 2010 Census

Age Distribution: Pennsylvania							
Age	2000	2010	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Under 5	5.9%	5.7%	5.5%	5.5%	5.4%	5.4%	5.3%
5 to 9	6.7%	5.9%	5.7%	5.7%	5.6%	5.7%	5.7%
10 to 14	7.0%	6.2%	5.9%	5.9%	6.0%	6.1%	6.0%
15 to 19	6.9%	7.1%	6.4%	6.3%	6.3%	6.3%	6.3%
20 to 24	6.1%	6.9%	6.5%	6.3%	6.2%	6.1%	6.1%
25 to 34	12.7%	11.9%	13.2%	13.3%	13.3%	13.2%	13.1%
35 to 44	15.9%	12.7%	11.6%	11.7%	11.9%	12.2%	12.4%
45 to 54	13.9%	15.3%	13.3%	12.9%	12.5%	12.4%	12.1%
55 to 59	5.0%	6.9%	7.3%	7.2%	7.0%	7.1%	6.9%
60 to 64	4.2%	5.9%	6.8%	6.9%	7.1%	7.1%	7.1%
65 to 74	7.9%	7.8%	10.0%	10.2%	10.6%	10.9%	11.3%
75 to 84	5.8%	5.4%	5.2%	5.4%	5.5%	5.4%	5.5%
85 and over	1.9%	2.4%	2.6%	2.6%	2.5%	2.3%	2.3%

U.S. Census Bureau July Population Estimates, 2000 & 2010 Census

Racial & Ethnic Diversity

RACIAL & ETHNIC DIVERSITY

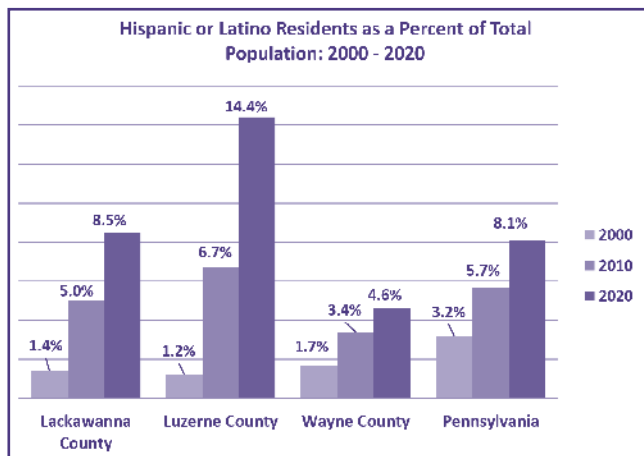
Ethnic diversity has increased in the three counties as well as the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In all geographic areas, the percentages of non-white residents have grown considerably. Between the 2010 and 2020 censuses, the shares of residents identifying as white non-Hispanic fell from 90 percent to 81 percent in Lackawanna County, from 88 percent to 77 percent in Luzerne County, and from 92 percent to 88 percent in Wayne County.

As of 2021, the percentage of Asian American residents in Lackawanna County has more than quadrupled since 2000. Luzerne and Wayne Counties saw their shares of Asian American residents double. The proportion of African American residents in Lackawanna County has grown from 1.2 percent in 2000 to 3.5 percent in 2021. African Americans comprised 4.6 percent of the Luzerne County population in 2021 – up from 1.6 percent in 2000. Wayne County’s proportion of African American residents doubled between 2000 and 2021, from 1.5 percent to more than three percent. These counties have also experienced large increases in their percentages of multiracial residents compared with 2000 and 2010.

The size of the Hispanic/Latino communities in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties and Pennsylvania have also increased significantly since 2000. In 2000, Hispanic residents accounted for 1.4 percent of Lackawanna County’s population. By the 2020 Census, that share reached 8.5 percent and continued to grow in 2021. Luzerne County’s Hispanic/Latino population accounted for 1.2 percent of residents in 2000, 14.4 percent in 2020, and 16 percent in 2021. The change is present but not as pronounced in Wayne County, with the Hispanic population growing from 1.7 percent in 2000 to 4.6 percent in 2020. This trend began in the first decade of the new millennium, and the rate of growth of the Hispanic population in the region has not appeared to slow substantially from 2010 to 2021. The region’s Hispanic and Latino population growth has been faster than the statewide growth. As of the most recent census, Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties had larger shares of Hispanic residents than Pennsylvania as a whole. The population comes from a number of Latin and South American countries and the Caribbean.



“The percentage of Asian-American residents in Lackawanna County has more than quadrupled since 2000, and Luzerne and Wayne Counties saw their shares of Asian American residents double.”



Race and Ethnicity				
Lackawanna				
	2000	2010	2020	2021
White, Non-Hispanic	95.9%	89.7%	81.2%	82.1%
Black/African-American , Non-Hispanic	1.2%	2.2%	3.4%	3.5%
Asian, Non-Hispanic	0.7%	1.7%	3.1%	3.1%
Two or more races, Non-Hispanic	0.5%	1.2%	3.3%	1.6%
Hispanic/Latino (of any race)	1.4%	5.0%	8.5%	9.5%
Some other race, Non-Hispanic	0.1%	0.1%	0.4%	0.2%
Luzerne				
	2000	2010	2020	2021
White, Non-Hispanic	96.0%	88.2%	76.9%	76.6%
Black/African-American , Non-Hispanic	1.6%	3.0%	4.3%	4.6%
Asian, Non-Hispanic	0.6%	1.0%	1.2%	1.3%
Two or more races, Non-Hispanic	0.5%	1.0%	2.8%	1.4%
Hispanic/Latino (of any race)	1.2%	6.7%	14.4%	16.0%
Some other race, Non-Hispanic	0.0%	0.1%	0.3%	0.1%
Wayne				
	2000	2010	2020	2021
White, Non-Hispanic	95.7%	92.0%	87.6%	89.3%
Black/African-American , Non-Hispanic	1.5%	3.0%	3.2%	3.3%
Asian, Non-Hispanic	0.4%	0.5%	0.8%	0.8%
Two or more races, Non-Hispanic	0.6%	0.9%	3.3%	1.1%
Hispanic/Latino (of any race)	1.7%	3.4%	4.6%	5.2%
Some other race, Non-Hispanic	0.0%	0.1%	0.3%	0.3%
Pennsylvania				
	2000	2010	2020	2021
White, Non-Hispanic	84.1%	79.5%	73.5%	74.8%
Black/African-American , Non-Hispanic	9.8%	10.4%	10.5%	10.9%
Asian, Non-Hispanic	1.8%	2.7%	3.9%	3.9%
Two or more races, Non-Hispanic	0.9%	1.4%	3.5%	1.8%
Hispanic/Latino (of any race)	3.2%	5.7%	8.1%	8.4%
Some other race, Non-Hispanic	0.1%	0.1%	0.4%	0.2%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Decennial Census (2000-2020), 2021 Census Bureau Population Estimates

Change in Household Size

Single Parent Families



“Across all geographies analyzed at least 70 percent of single parent households are headed by women.”

HOUSEHOLD SIZE

The average household size has fluctuated for Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties. It has decreased every year since 2015 in Lackawanna County and since 2016 in Luzerne County before increasing in 2020 and 2021. The state’s average household size meanwhile has continued a slight declining trend. For Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, the household size remains below the statewide average of 2.4. Wayne County’s average household size has typically hovered above the statewide average but has fallen closer with its recent decline, from a peak of 2.54 in 2018 to 2.45 currently.

	Household Size						
	2000	2010	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Lackawanna	2.38	2.37	2.35	2.30	2.29	2.31	2.36
Luzerne	2.34	2.34	2.41	2.38	2.33	2.35	2.35
Wayne	2.50	2.38	2.49	2.54	2.52	2.50	2.45
Pennsylvania	2.48	2.45	2.47	2.44	2.42	2.42	2.40

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 1-year estimates (Lackawanna, Luzerne, PA), 5-year estimates (Wayne and 2020). Decennial census for 2010 and 2000

SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES

The shares of single parent households with children under age 18 decreased in all three geographies as of 2019. However, this is due to a data classification change that now excludes unmarried couples with children from this category (for example, a mother or father who lives with their own children and an unmarried partner). The updated estimates provide a more accurate view of single parents raising children without another adult in the household. Nonetheless, in most cases the decline continued. In all three counties, the total percentages of single parent households (both male-headed and female-headed) were lower than the statewide total of 5.6 percent.

Across all geographies, at least 70 percent of single parent households are headed by women, and Lackawanna County has a higher share of female-headed single parent households than Pennsylvania as a whole.

	Female Single Parent Households with Children Under 18						
	2000	2010	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Lackawanna	5.6%	6.4%	6.5%	7.2%	6.0%	ND	4.5%
Luzerne	5.4%	6.7%	7.6%	6.7%	6.5%	ND	3.7%
Wayne	5.1%	4.6%	4.8%	3.8%	2.6%	ND	3.0%
Pennsylvania	6.2%	6.5%	6.0%	5.9%	4.9%	ND	4.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2010 & 2020 Decennial Census, American Community Survey 1-year estimates (Lackawanna, Luzerne, PA), 5 year estimates (Wayne)

	Male Single Parent Households with Children Under 18						
	2000	2010	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Lackawanna	1.5%	2.2%	2.2%	3.4%	1.7%	ND	1.0%
Luzerne	1.8%	2.4%	1.8%	2.8%	0.8%	ND	1.4%
Wayne	2.4%	2.2%	1.8%	2.1%	1.2%	ND	0.8%
Pennsylvania	1.9%	2.2%	2.1%	2.3%	1.2%	ND	1.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2010 & 2020 Decennial Census, American Community Survey 1-year estimates (Lackawanna, Luzerne, PA), 5-year estimates (Wayne)

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Ratio of Children to Elders

GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN

While county-level data is difficult to analyze (due to many years of insufficient sample sizes for Lackawanna County), the number of grandparents raising grandchildren in Pennsylvania has fluctuated significantly over the period examined. Statewide, the number of grandparents raising grandchildren fell from 2013 to 2017 but saw two straight years of increases in 2018 and 2019. In 2021, that number significantly dropped again, falling 15.5 percent.

Luzerne County saw fluctuation in the number of grandparents raising grandchildren but the numbers since 2018 have generally been higher than those from earlier in the decade. Most incidents of grandparents raising grandchildren occurred in 2018 and 2019 and despite a seven percent drop, 2021 saw the fourth largest share in the last ten years. Wayne County fluctuated similarly, but these circumstances peaked in 2016 and 2017 and have steadily decreased since, falling 16 percent. Data for Lackawanna County is limited, but from 2016 to 2018, the estimated number averaged 1,312.



“A ratio of children to seniors below 1.0 suggests that the replacement rate to maintain steady population is not being met (before accounting for the effects of migration).”

	Grandparents Raising Grandchildren									
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Lackawanna	ND	ND	ND	ND	1,771	959	1,207	ND	ND	ND
Luzerne	2,406	2,183	2,398	2,311	2,280	2,117	3,204	2,572	ND	2,397
Wayne	312	329	388	358	434	431	418	394	ND	365
Pennsylvania	91,564	92,964	91,531	88,495	81,884	76,005	81,392	82,556	ND	69,758

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 1-year estimates (Lackawanna, Luzerne, PA), 5-year estimates (Wayne)

RATIO OF CHILDREN TO SENIORS

The ratio of children to seniors is one measure of the population dynamics of a region. A ratio of children to seniors below 1.0 suggests that the replacement rate to maintain steady population is not being met (before accounting for the effects of migration). However, a falling ratio can also indicate that as adults live longer into advanced age, seniors simply represent a larger share of the population compared to other age cohorts. The ratio of children to seniors has shown a downward trend from 2010 to 2019 in all analyzed areas but Luzerne County, which saw an increase from 2018 to 2019. By 2021, Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties saw modest increases while Wayne County saw a continued decline. The statewide ratio has declined since 2010.

	Ratio of Children to Seniors					
	2010	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Lackawanna						
Children (14 and under)	35,733	35,346	35,492	35,634	ND	37,212
Seniors (65 and older)	37,895	41,103	41,876	42,709	ND	43,621
Ratio	0.94	0.86	0.85	0.83	ND	0.85
Luzerne						
Children (14 and under)	52,308	50,913	51,419	51,506	ND	53,871
Seniors (65 and older)	57,595	62,355	63,359	62,864	ND	64,549
Ratio	0.91	0.82	0.81	0.82	ND	0.83
Wayne						
Children (14 and under)	7,911	7,067	7,013	6,886	ND	6,900
Seniors (65 and older)	10,028	11,571	11,809	12,078	ND	12,292
Ratio	0.79	0.61	0.59	0.57	ND	0.56
Pennsylvania						
Children (14 and under)	2,274,324	2,194,100	2,184,406	2,173,913	ND	2,197,402
Seniors (65 and older)	1,959,307	2,276,543	2,332,369	2,388,218	ND	2,464,903
Ratio	1.16	0.96	0.94	0.91	ND	0.89

U.S. Census Bureau July Population Estimates, 2000 & 2010 Census

Seniors Living Alone



“In the three counties combined, there have been over 34,000 seniors living alone in each of the past four years.”

SENIORS LIVING ALONE

The number of older adults aged 65 years or older living alone fluctuated in the periods examined. Lackawanna County saw two straight years of decline after the estimate spiked in 2017 and rose again to a new high in 2021. Luzerne County saw the second straight year of moderate growth as of 2019 only to decline in 2021. Statewide and in Wayne County, the number of seniors living alone has been steadily growing. In the three counties combined, there have been over 34,000 seniors living alone in each of the past four years.

Older Adults Living Alone						
	2000	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Lackawanna	13,529	13,620	12,504	11,953	ND	14,639
Luzerne	20,846	18,605	19,130	19,260	ND	18,938
Wayne	2,233	2,748	2,757	2,804	ND	2,968
Pennsylvania	555,374	642,359	650,681	660,578	ND	683,353

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2010 & 2020 Decennial Census, American Community Survey 1-year estimates (Lackawanna, Luzerne, PA), 5 year estimates (Wayne)



Jobs & Economy

Jobs & Economy



“Measurements of income, GDP, and the unemployment rate show the strength of economic recovery, but the total number of employees is still not at the level it was pre-pandemic.”

JOBS & ECONOMY

The Jobs and Economy section of this report summarizes important economic indicators in Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wayne Counties and in Pennsylvania as a whole. The last 15 years have been an era of economic change, including the downturn of the housing market, subsequent ‘Great Recession,’ uneven recovery, and the continuing economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. There has also been increased automation in many industries, as well as shifts toward transportation, distribution, and e-commerce. All these factors have impacted the region, so understanding economic indicators is of tremendous importance. The trends in the data tell a descriptive story.

This section includes data on unemployment rate and labor force, per capita and aggregate personal income, household income and income by source, percentage of individuals living below the poverty level, employment by occupation, number of employees, average annual pay, distribution of jobs by industry sector, job growth, number of employees, number of establishments, deed transactions, gross domestic product (GDP), exports, federal funding, and student loan debt.

Many of the economic statistics in this year’s report reflect the recovery from the statewide shutdown in 2020. Unemployment spiked to levels unprecedented in living memory, but these declines in employment and income were short-lived relative to other economic downturns. Measurements of income, GDP, and the unemployment rate show the strength of the recovery, but the total number of employees is still not at the level it was pre-pandemic.

This recovery has resulted in a tight labor market, with many of the same workforce challenges that were present before the pandemic. In 2021 and 2022, the unemployment rate continued to drop, hitting pre-COVID levels. Yet, the labor force participation rate also declined in Lackawanna County, Luzerne County, and statewide compared with 2019. A declining population of working-age adults coupled with a falling labor force participation rate is a double bind for hiring as a smaller percentage of a shrinking workforce is available for hire. Meeting workforce needs must include a variety of strategies, including talent attraction and retention as well as elimination of barriers to workforce participation. These barriers relate to availability and affordability of childcare, transportation, and accessibility for individuals with health issues or disabilities.

The trajectory of this recovery is critical, as Northeastern Pennsylvania has generally experienced unemployment rates higher than national and statewide rates – along with relatively slow economic growth despite areas of strength such as the health care sector and the transportation and logistics industry. Wages in the region have lagged historically as well. The percentage of individuals living below the poverty level is a major issue impacting the region. Poverty levels are closely linked with unemployment and underemployment; when households lose their livelihood, people have difficulty providing their families with basic necessities. Additionally, low wage jobs contribute to both poverty and the number of households with income above the poverty line but insufficient as a living wage (the income required for a modest but dignified life). Thus, there is great demand on social services and charitable organizations that are themselves competing for limited government and philanthropic funding. The region entered the last recession with poverty rates roughly on par with statewide rates, but since then, local poverty rates have generally been higher than the statewide rates. While poverty fell across the board in 2020 due to direct payments for pandemic relief, they returned to pre-pandemic levels in Wayne County and statewide. In Lackawanna County, poverty rose in 2021 but remains below pre-COVID levels, an encouraging but tentative sign.

Unemployment Rate & Labor Force

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE & LABOR FORCE

In all the years analyzed, Pennsylvania’s annual unemployment rate was lower than that of any of the three counties. Luzerne County’s rates were the highest and Wayne and Lackawanna Counties’ rates were comparable with the state overall. The Commonwealth experienced a gradually decreasing unemployment rate through most of the past decade, as the labor market recovered from the last recession. There were signs of a slight uptick in 2019, and in 2020, the unemployment rate spiked. It nearly doubled from the previous year – an economic repercussion of the pandemic, including the statewide shutdown of non-life-sustaining businesses. After falling from an eight-percent unemployment rate in 2013 to a low of 4.8 percent in 2018, Lackawanna County recorded a 9.6 percent unemployment rate in 2020. Luzerne County followed a similar pattern, peaking from a low of 5.6 percent in 2018 to 10.9 percent in 2020. Wayne County peaked from 4.9 in 2018 to 9.2 percent in 2020. The unemployment rates in all counties exceeded the statewide unemployment rate, which doubled from 4.5 percent in 2019 to 9.1 percent in 2020.

All geographies’ unemployment rates peaked in April 2020 and then slowly fell as the economy reopened. By 2021, unemployment rates had fallen significantly (between 1.8 and 2.8 percentage points in all localities, but these were still well above pre-pandemic numbers). Continued decreases in 2022 brought the rates in line with or below pre-pandemic levels.

In Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, the shares of people in the labor force have generally declined since 2012, despite an uptick in 2016. Nonetheless, the two counties' labor force participation rate trended upward during that time due to declines in the estimated population aged 18 to 64. Meanwhile both measures varied significantly for Wayne County, dropping 2012 through 2015 and fluctuating during the rest of the period. Overall, Wayne County was similar to the other two counties in that from 2012 to 2019 the number of people working dropped but the rate increased due to estimated declines in the population aged 18 to 64 years.

By 2022, there were over 7,000 fewer participants in the labor force of the three counties compared with 2012. In 2020 the labor force lost over 2,000 workers, and another 3,900 were lost in 2021. The labor force did grow in 2022 but only by approximately 700 people. This is because Lackawanna County’s labor force grew by around 900 workers and Wayne and Luzerne Counties’ labor forces each shrunk by about 100 each. The statewide labor force followed a similar trend, growing from 2014 to 2019 and shrinking 2020 and 2021 to rebound slightly in 2022. With these decreases, the participation rate dropped significantly everywhere in 2020 and everywhere but Wayne County in 2021.



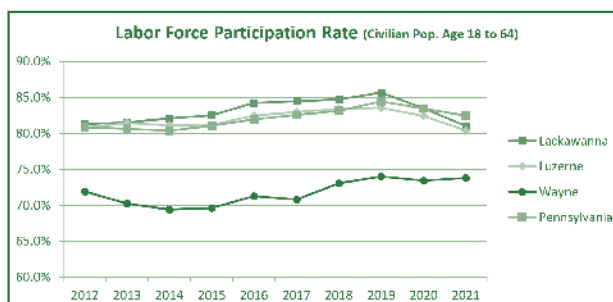
“In 2021 and 2022, the unemployment rate continued to drop, hitting pre-COVID levels.”

Annual Labor Force				
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Wayne	Pennsylvania
2012	107,371	160,330	23,209	6,449,073
2013	107,214	160,264	22,697	6,419,837
2014	106,598	158,949	22,359	6,389,059
2015	106,458	158,723	22,261	6,423,155
2016	107,087	159,402	22,555	6,458,890
2017	106,928	159,977	22,625	6,485,253
2018	106,463	159,666	22,601	6,500,149
2019	106,301	159,995	22,748	6,560,772
2020	105,010	159,558	22,381	6,482,770
2021	103,325	157,261	22,459	6,406,184
2022	104,250	157,168	22,373	6,440,607

Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics. Prior year figures have been revised.

Annual Unemployment Rate				
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Wayne	Pennsylvania
2013	8.0	9.1	7.6	7.1
2014	6.6	7.4	6.5	5.9
2015	5.9	6.6	5.9	5.4
2016	5.6	6.2	5.7	5.3
2017	5.2	6.0	5.2	5.0
2018	4.8	5.6	4.9	4.5
2019	5.0	5.8	4.9	4.5
2020	9.6	10.9	9.2	9.1
2021	6.9	8.3	6.6	6.3
2022	4.7	5.5	4.9	4.5

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics. Prior year figures have been revised. 2022 rates are preliminary.



Household Income



“As of 2021, the region had a larger share of households with moderate incomes than the state as a whole.”

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

In 2021, the median household income was \$62,136 in Lackawanna County, \$60,020 in Luzerne County, and \$54,336 in Wayne County. Statewide, median household income was \$68,957, higher than all local counties and a notable increase from the prior year despite the pandemic.

When adjusted for inflation, median household income declined from 2000 to 2010. However, this trend reversed in the most recent decade, with real household income increasing by \$10,461 in Lackawanna County, \$8,696 in Luzerne County, \$894 in Wayne County, and \$8,581 statewide from 2010 to 2021. A significant portion of these increases occurred in the last two years, with Lackawanna County growing by \$5,886, Luzerne County by \$3,618, and statewide by \$2,637 between 2019 and 2021 (after adjusting for inflation). Wayne County’s median inflation-adjusted income decreased during that period.

As of 2021, the region had a larger share of households with moderate incomes than the state as a whole. Households with incomes below \$50,000 per year comprised about 40 percent of all households in Lackawanna County and 43 percent in Luzerne and Wayne Counties, compared with 37 percent statewide. Conversely, households with incomes in excess of \$100,000 comprised 33 percent of all households in Pennsylvania but only one-quarter regionally.

Median Household Income (2021 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars)							
	2000	2010	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Lackawanna	\$53,688	\$51,675	\$53,703	\$56,814	\$56,250	ND	\$62,136
Luzerne	\$52,648	\$51,324	\$56,062	\$58,019	\$56,402	ND	\$60,020
Wayne	\$53,133	\$53,442	\$54,591	\$57,134	\$58,798	\$57,941	\$54,336
Pennsylvania	\$62,525	\$60,376	\$64,649	\$64,918	\$66,320	\$67,610	\$68,957

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (Inflation calculated using BLS CPI)

Median Household Income							
	2000	2010	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Lackawanna	\$34,438	\$42,185	\$49,172	\$53,302	\$53,826	ND	\$62,136
Luzerne	\$33,771	\$41,898	\$51,332	\$54,433	\$53,972	ND	\$60,020
Wayne	\$34,082	\$43,627	\$49,985	\$53,602	\$56,265	\$55,627	\$54,336
Pennsylvania	\$40,106	\$49,288	\$59,195	\$60,905	\$63,463	\$64,910	\$68,957

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (Wayne using Small Area Survey)

Household Income Distribution: 2021				
Income Amount	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Wayne	Pennsylvania
Less than \$10,000	5.6%	6.7%	3.8%	5.9%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	6.7%	5.1%	4.1%	4.1%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	8.7%	8.1%	9.7%	7.8%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	7.3%	9.5%	11.6%	7.8%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	12.1%	13.4%	13.6%	11.5%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	18.2%	17.0%	21.8%	16.8%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	14.1%	15.0%	12.7%	13.2%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	15.4%	15.3%	14.5%	16.5%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	6.4%	5.8%	4.3%	7.9%
\$200,000 or more	5.4%	4.2%	3.8%	8.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (Wayne Using 5 year-estimate)

Income by Source

INCOME BY SOURCE

In 2021, over 72 percent of households in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties earned income by working, while 67 percent of Wayne County households received earned income. Lackawanna County saw a significant drop between 2019 and 2021 (nearly two percentage points), while Luzerne County dropped 0.2 percentage points and Wayne County increased 0.2 points. Throughout the Commonwealth, the percentage of households with earnings dropped in 2021 to just below 75 percent but continued to exceed the rates in the region.

In 2021, the mean earnings for households with earned income were \$83,130 in Lackawanna County, \$80,488 in Luzerne County, and \$72,246 in Wayne County. All were lower than the \$97,147 mean earnings statewide. Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties saw significant growth in 2021. Wayne County increased by a smaller margin.

The share of households receiving Social Security income dropped nearly two percentage points in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, but increased one point in Wayne County. Meanwhile the statewide percentage stayed generally stable. Historically, Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties had higher percentages of recipients on Social Security than the state but this gap has narrowed. Wayne County's share of households receiving Social Security remains significantly higher at around 48 percent. Social Security and retirement incomes were much lower than earned income. In all three counties, households with Social Security income received a mean of just over \$20,000.



Income by Source: Lackawanna County					
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Percent of HH with earnings	71.6%	73.4%	74.3%	ND	72.6%
Mean earnings	\$73,672	\$68,983	\$72,726	ND	\$83,130
Percent of HH with Social Security income	38.1%	39.9%	39.8%	ND	38.1%
Mean Social Security income	\$17,537	\$18,309	\$19,581	ND	\$20,660
Percent of HH with retirement income	20.5%	22.1%	25.3%	ND	24.5%
Mean retirement income	\$19,211	\$23,303	\$22,598	ND	\$24,511
Percent of HH with cash assistance income	3.0%	3.1%	3.5%	ND	2.9%
Mean cash assistance income	\$2,667	\$2,107	\$2,107	ND	\$3,238

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (2002)

Income by Source: Luzerne County					
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Percent of HH with earnings	72.9%	73.1%	72.3%	ND	72.1%
Mean earnings	\$68,697	\$71,706	\$70,788	ND	\$80,488
Percent of HH with Social Security income	39.3%	39.9%	38.9%	ND	37.4%
Mean Social Security income	\$18,324	\$18,006	\$18,804	ND	\$20,087
Percent of HH with retirement income	21.2%	21.8%	28.0%	ND	27.9%
Mean retirement income	\$23,052	\$21,970	\$22,155	ND	\$22,841
Percent of HH with cash assistance income	3.8%	4.9%	2.8%	ND	3.3%
Mean cash assistance income	\$2,241	\$2,717	\$2,184	ND	\$3,966

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Income by Source: Wayne County					
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Percent of HH with earnings	68.4%	67.9%	67.1%	67.0%	67.2%
Mean earnings	\$64,396	\$69,620	\$72,077	\$72,834	\$72,246
Percent of HH with Social Security income	47.4%	47.2%	48.2%	47.4%	48.2%
Mean Social Security income	\$19,884	\$20,906	\$21,254	\$21,625	\$22,120
Percent of HH with retirement income	26.8%	27.2%	29.2%	29.4%	31.3%
Mean retirement income	\$23,968	\$23,279	\$23,388	\$24,650	\$25,718
Percent of HH with cash assistance income	4.0%	4.8%	5.1%	5.4%	4.4%
Mean cash assistance income	\$2,667	\$2,482	\$3,042	\$2,974	\$3,034

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (using 5 year estimate)

Income by Source: Pennsylvania					
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Percent of HH with earnings	74.5%	75.5%	75.3%	ND	74.8%
Mean earnings	\$85,817	\$87,353	\$90,297	ND	\$97,147
Percent of HH with Social Security income	34.9%	35.6%	35.4%	ND	35.0%
Mean Social Security income	\$19,497	\$19,624	\$20,241	ND	\$21,499
Percent of HH with retirement income	21.0%	21.1%	27.8%	ND	27.4%
Mean retirement income	\$22,939	\$23,577	\$24,257	ND	\$25,567
Percent of HH with cash assistance income	2.9%	3.1%	3.2%	ND	3.8%
Mean cash assistance income	\$2,363	\$2,136	\$2,074	ND	\$4,140

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Per Capita Income

Aggregate Personal Income



“All three counties reported increases in unadjusted per capita income between 72 and 79 percent.”

PER CAPITA INCOME

From 2000 to 2021, all three counties reported increases in unadjusted per capita income between 72 and 79 percent. Per capita income in all counties was lower than the statewide per capita income, however, and grew at a slower pace during that time.

After accounting for inflation, year-to-year changes have been variable in the region and state. Lackawanna County was highly variable with multiple years of decreases but also increases of nearly ten percent in 2015 and nearly five percent in 2019. Luzerne County saw its largest jump in 2015 as well (over four percent), but then experienced declines year after year. Wayne County saw consistent but minor growth in per capita income, less than two percent year over year, except for one year of decline. The state was more consistent than the region, increasing two or three percent each year aside from one annual increase of one percent. From 2019 to 2021 Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties’ per capita each grew 0.7 percent but those in Wayne County and the state dropped 1.8 percent and 1.4 percent respectively. Overall, there was an increase of about 12 percent in Lackawanna County, nine percent in Luzerne County, seven percent in Wayne County, and 15 percent statewide from 2000 to 2021.

Per Capita Income									
	2000	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Lackawanna	\$18,710	\$24,547	\$27,174	\$27,126	\$28,397	\$28,642	\$30,662	ND	\$33,514
Luzerne	\$18,228	\$24,737	\$25,960	\$26,893	\$27,944	\$28,484	\$29,151	ND	\$31,860
Wayne	\$16,977	\$24,132	\$24,539	\$24,962	\$25,569	\$26,570	\$27,412	\$28,275	\$29,215
Pennsylvania	\$20,880	\$29,220	\$30,384	\$31,272	\$32,711	\$33,960	\$35,804	ND	\$38,315

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (Wayne using 5-year estimate)

Per Capita Income (2022 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars)									
	2000	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Lackawanna	\$31,914	\$31,027	\$34,099	\$33,347	\$34,188	\$33,837	\$35,414	ND	\$35,677
Luzerne	\$31,092	\$31,267	\$32,575	\$33,060	\$33,643	\$33,650	\$33,669	ND	\$33,916
Wayne	\$28,958	\$30,502	\$30,792	\$30,686	\$30,783	\$31,389	\$31,660	\$32,218	\$31,101
Pennsylvania	\$35,616	\$36,933	\$38,127	\$38,443	\$39,382	\$40,119	\$41,353	ND	\$40,788

Source: U.S. Census Bureau (inflation calculated December of each year)

AGGREGATE PERSONAL INCOME

Aggregate personal income is defined by the Bureau of Economic Analysis as “the income that is received by all persons from all sources.” Aggregate personal income has been slowly but steadily rising in all counties for the past several years, after seeing stagnation and modest decline in the wake of the last recession. The Commonwealth has experienced a similar trend. From 2020 to 2021, Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wayne Counties saw increases in nominal (unadjusted for inflation) aggregate personal income of 5.8 percent, 6.7 percent, and 7.1 percent respectively, compared to 5.7 percent statewide. This is one measure where local growth has outpaced the state. Increases from 2019 to 2020 were even larger, due in part to income in the form of direct pandemic relief payments.

Aggregate Personal Income (in thousands of current-year dollars)					
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Lackawanna	\$9,453,805	\$9,865,111	\$10,237,305	\$11,081,589	\$11,727,805
Luzerne	\$13,551,635	\$14,133,487	\$14,615,800	\$15,983,764	\$17,052,703
Wayne	\$2,142,707	\$2,258,523	\$2,334,885	\$2,513,520	\$2,692,481
Pennsylvania	\$678,604,554	\$714,331,524	\$739,891,828	\$788,281,467	\$833,314,466

Prior year data has been revised.

POVERTY

The rate of poverty in the area increased sharply with the rise in unemployment during the last recession, with Lackawanna County and Luzerne County both seeing increases from 2005 to 2010. Since 2015, poverty has followed a modest declining trend statewide and in Lackawanna County. Poverty in Wayne County increased in 2016, but otherwise declined. Luzerne County's poverty rate declined 2010 through 2017, only to grow slightly in 2018 and 2019.

Among all geographies, poverty rates dropped in 2020. In Lackawanna County, Wayne County, and statewide the drops were significant, but in Luzerne County the improvement was marginal. Decreases in the poverty rates despite the economic disruption of the pandemic in 2020 are likely influenced by increased assistance programs and direct federal aid payments implemented in that year. As the programs expired in 2021, poverty rates again increased, though they remain below pre-pandemic levels in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties. They are comparable to pre-pandemic levels in Wayne County and statewide.



“Poverty rates have increased since pandemic assistance programs expired in 2021.”

Poverty Rate - Percent of All People Below the Federal Poverty Line									
	2005	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Lackawanna	13.3%	13.6%	15.3%	14.1%	14.3%	14.2%	14.2%	12.2%	13.7%
Luzerne	12.7%	15.9%	15.1%	14.6%	13.8%	14.3%	15.2%	15.1%	12.8%
Wayne	ND	12.4%	13.3%	13.7%	12.9%	13.0%	12.4%	10.5%	12.6%
Pennsylvania	11.9%	13.4%	13.1%	12.9%	12.5%	12.2%	12.0%	10.9%	12.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates

Employment by Occupation Average Annual Pay

“From 2012 through 2021, the three counties and the state consistently reported steady increases in average annual pay.”

EMPLOYMENT BY OCCUPATION

In 2021, the top occupation categories in Lackawanna County were office and administrative support and transportation and material moving. Luzerne County had the same top occupation groups, but in the reverse order. Sales and related occupations represented the third most common occupation category for both counties. Wayne County’s top occupation categories were: 1) office and administrative support; 2) sales and related occupations; and 3) construction and extraction operations.

While most occupation groups have seen overall declines in total employment over the past five years, a few categories grew across all three counties. Transportation and material movers;

business and financial operations; management; computer and mathematics; and farming, fishing, and forestry occupations increased. Transportation and material movers’ growth across the region has been substantial and now comprises 11 percent of jobs in Lackawanna County, 17 percent of jobs in Luzerne County, and seven percent of jobs in Wayne County.

Occupational Category	Employment by Occupation: 2022								
	Lackawanna			Luzerne			Wayne		
	Current	% of All Jobs	5 Year Change	Current	% of All Jobs	5 Year Change	Current	% of All Jobs	5 Year Change
Architecture and Engineering	1,204	1.2%	0	1,733	1.2%	-41	143	0.8%	12
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media	1,390	1.4%	-133	1,675	1.1%	-158	262	1.5%	-8
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance	2,932	2.9%	-162	3,913	2.6%	-394	835	4.9%	55
Business and Financial	4,751	4.8%	177	6,595	4.4%	311	795	4.7%	127
Community and Social Service	2,180	2.2%	-131	2,581	1.7%	-336	373	2.2%	-52
Computer and Mathematical	1,964	2.0%	128	3,366	2.3%	407	285	1.7%	69
Construction and Extraction	3,601	3.6%	-108	5,495	3.7%	241	1,302	7.7%	14
Educational Instruction and Library	5,486	5.5%	-256	7,040	4.7%	-350	736	4.3%	-53
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry	281	0.3%	105	235	0.2%	41	85	0.5%	8
Food Preparation and Serving	7,899	7.9%	-713	10,685	7.2%	-881	1,195	7.0%	-46
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical	6,918	6.9%	-132	9,672	6.5%	-247	1,025	6.0%	-20
Healthcare Support	6,938	6.9%	281	7,632	5.1%	-72	717	4.2%	-113
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair	3,531	3.5%	-107	6,067	4.1%	61	785	4.6%	6
Legal	750	0.8%	-48	813	0.5%	-84	141	0.8%	15
Life, Physical, and Social Science	603	0.6%	-24	895	0.6%	33	99	0.6%	10
Management	5,296	5.3%	175	7,383	4.9%	298	1,115	6.6%	29
Office and Administrative Support	12,612	12.6%	-2,102	18,119	12.1%	-2,814	2,138	12.6%	-111
Personal Care and Service	2,300	2.3%	76	3,094	2.1%	-156	390	2.3%	-17
Production	6,879	6.9%	-163	11,395	7.6%	89	597	3.5%	37
Protective Service	1,764	1.8%	-18	3,126	2.1%	-274	947	5.6%	16
Sales and Related	9,267	9.3%	-870	13,121	8.8%	-1,730	1,741	10.3%	21
Transportation and Material Moving	11,427	11.4%	1,210	24,753	16.6%	4,609	1,248	7.4%	46
Total - All Occupations	99,973	100.0%	-2,815	149,388	100.0%	-1,447	16,954	100.0%	45

Source: Chisura Economics

AVERAGE ANNUAL PAY

From 2012 through 2021, the three counties and the state consistently reported steady increases in average annual pay. Through the period analyzed, all geographies averaged increases between three percent and four percent from year to year (not accounting for inflation). Lackawanna County’s average salary was \$14,565 less than the state’s rate (nearly 24 percent less). Luzerne County’s average salary was \$13,657 less than the state’s rate (22 percent lower). Wayne County’s disparity was largest, at \$16,909 less than the state’s rate (over 27 percent).

	Average Annual Pay										
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
Lackawanna	\$36,764	\$37,228	\$38,478	\$39,515	\$40,285	\$41,232	\$42,356	\$43,120	\$47,484	\$49,270	
Luzerne	\$37,855	\$38,335	\$39,483	\$40,885	\$41,324	\$42,343	\$43,934	\$45,073	\$48,392	\$51,255	
Wayne	\$33,266	\$34,622	\$35,595	\$37,028	\$37,841	\$38,651	\$39,942	\$41,418	\$45,140	\$46,765	
Pennsylvania	\$48,397	\$49,077	\$50,567	\$52,187	\$52,460	\$54,000	\$55,628	\$57,497	\$62,049	\$64,697	

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

Job Growth to Population Growth

JOB GROWTH TO POPULATION GROWTH

Employment performance is measured as a ratio of employment growth compared to population growth. A rate of job growth higher than the rate of population growth is a potentially good sign for the economy but can also be a leading indicator of a tight labor market. Otherwise, the population may be growing faster than the job market, which may indicate economic stagnation. A poor job growth to population growth ratio can also indicate that a region is becoming a bedroom community, where people come to live but work elsewhere. A job growth ratio that is too high could conversely be a sign of workforce shortage.

From 2010 to 2021, job availability declined nearly six percent in Lackawanna County, but the population increased 0.6 percent. Luzerne County's population grew 1.6 percent and jobs increased nearly one percent. Wayne County saw negatives in both measures, with 5.4 percent fewer jobs and 2.6 percent fewer people. This is partially a result of the pandemic; as seen in the unemployment data, employment numbers didn't return to pre-COVID levels until 2022. Job availability and population did increase statewide and nationally, with job growth outpacing population growth.

Prior to the pandemic, job growth outpaced population growth in the region and statewide. Based on the growth seen in measures like the unemployment rate, it is likely that when 2022 data is fully available, job growth will again outpace population growth.



“Employment performance is measured as a ratio of employment growth compared to population growth, and job growth in the region has outpaced population growth.”

Job Growth to Population Growth Comparison: 2015 - 2021

	Job Growth	Population Growth	Employment 2015	Employment 2021	Population 2015	Population 2021
Lackawanna County	-5.2%	1.8%	96,882	91,829	211,917	215,663
Luzerne County	-3.2%	2.4%	142,346	137,812	318,449	326,053
Wayne County	0.0%	-0.4%	14,591	14,584	51,642	51,431
Pennsylvania	-0.7%	1.3%	5,691,613	5,650,325	12,802,503	12,964,056
United States	3.1%	3.3%	139,491,699	143,780,068	321,418,821	331,893,745

Source: US Census Bureau, Bureau of Labor Statistics QCEW

Job Growth to Population Growth Comparison: 2010 - 2021

	Job Growth	Population Growth	Employment 2010	Employment 2021	Population 2010	Population 2021
Lackawanna County	-5.8%	0.6%	97,461	91,829	214,367	215,663
Luzerne County	0.8%	1.6%	136,696	137,812	320,795	326,053
Wayne County	-5.4%	-2.6%	15,414	14,584	52,822	51,431
Pennsylvania	3.3%	2.0%	5,472,171	5,650,325	12,709,630	12,964,056
United States	12.5%	7.3%	127,820,442	143,780,068	309,349,689	331,893,745

Source: US Census Bureau, Bureau of Labor Statistics QCEW

Distribution of Employment by Industry



DISTRIBUTION OF EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

The three industry groups (by rank) with the highest proportions of jobs in Lackawanna County are: Education, Health Care and Social Assistance; Retail Trade; and Manufacturing, in that order. In Luzerne County, the top industries are Education, Health Care and Social Assistance; Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities; and Manufacturing, in that order. In Wayne County the three largest industries are Education, Health Care and Social Assistance; Retail Trade; and Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation, and Accommodation and Food Services.

In 2022, the Education, Health Care and Social Assistance industry comprised just under one quarter of all jobs in the region, and the top three industry groups in each county comprised about half of all jobs in that county. Both Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties' smallest shares of jobs were in the Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, Hunting, and Mining industry. Wayne County's smallest share was in the Information industry.

Despite job growth during the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic there are still declines in most sectors. In Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties only four of 14 industry sectors saw job growth. In Wayne County, nine of 14 industries experienced job growth. In Lackawanna County, the growth recorded in the Manufacturing and Transportation, Warehousing, and Utilities industries was substantial. Wayne County saw the largest growth in Professional and Administrative Services industries.

Distribution of Employment by Industry									
Industry	Lackawanna			Luzerne			Wayne		
	Current	% of All Jobs	5 Year Change	Current	% of All Jobs	5 Year Change	Current	% of All Jobs	5 Year Change
Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and mining	511	0.5%	203	646	0.4%	22	432	2.5%	40
Construction	4,431	4.4%	-7	6,826	4.6%	875	1,684	9.9%	10
Manufacturing	10,347	10.3%	599	17,091	11.4%	1,116	703	4.1%	107
Wholesale trade	3,921	3.9%	346	4,979	3.3%	-451	304	1.8%	-29
Retail trade	11,734	11.7%	-528	16,584	11.1%	-1,840	2,522	14.9%	53
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	7,775	7.8%	1,388	22,914	15.3%	5,250	590	3.5%	-29
Information	1,124	1.1%	-184	2,563	1.7%	-366	198	1.2%	-33
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	5,174	5.2%	-624	5,604	3.8%	-1,089	766	4.5%	82
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	10,218	10.2%	-2,389	15,376	10.3%	-1,365	1,319	7.8%	122
Education and health care and social assistance	28,017	28.0%	-813	34,336	23.0%	-1,813	3,411	20.1%	-398
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation and food services	9,323	9.3%	-428	12,499	8.4%	-1,149	2,104	12.4%	46
Other services, except public administration	4,146	4.1%	-279	4,849	3.2%	-87	1,002	5.9%	-27
Public administration	3,254	3.3%	-101	5,122	3.4%	-550	1,920	11.3%	100
Total	99,975	100.0%	-2,817	149,388	100.0%	-1,447	16,955	100.0%	44

Source: Chmura Economics

Number of Employees & Establishments

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES

Prior to the pandemic, employment had been generally trending upward in Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties. Lackawanna County saw 0.6 percent growth between 2012 and 2019, Luzerne County saw nearly five percent growth, and the state saw six percent growth during that time. Meanwhile, the number of workers in Wayne County declined from 2011 until 2015 and more recent increases brought its overall growth to 0.2 percent between 2012 and 2019.

Total employment in the region stood at 257,875 in 2019, before falling to an annual average of 239,060 amid the pandemic in 2020. The drop amounts to eight percent of jobs in Lackawanna and Wayne Counties and seven percent in Luzerne County and statewide. Calendar year 2021 saw strong job growth but it still did not quite make up for what was lost. Total employees in Lackawanna County and Pennsylvania as a whole each expanded three percent while Luzerne County's number grew two percent and Wayne County's number grew five percent.



Number of Employees										
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Lackawanna	96,548	96,679	97,226	96,882	97,353	97,797	98,101	97,131	89,594	91,829
Luzerne	138,837	139,015	140,883	142,346	143,619	144,773	144,969	145,634	135,557	137,812
Wayne	15,086	14,690	14,646	14,591	14,745	14,998	15,099	15,110	13,909	14,584
Pennsylvania	5,578,414	5,596,841	5,644,443	5,691,613	5,737,759	5,799,123	5,867,783	5,925,588	5,488,591	5,650,325

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics - Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages

NUMBER OF ESTABLISHMENTS

The number of business establishments has fluctuated year to year from 2012 through 2019. Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wayne Counties experienced an overall downward trend. The number of establishments in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties dropped around three percent while Wayne County's number dropped around five percent. Meanwhile, the state's number of establishments increased three percent.

From 2019 to 2020, Pennsylvania and Luzerne County saw increases in establishments despite the pandemic, while Lackawanna County's volume of establishments declined almost two percent and Wayne County's volume of establishments declined almost one percent. In 2021, each county saw a small increase of less than one percent and the Commonwealth saw a growth of 3.4 percent – its largest year-over-year gain. Nonetheless, all three counties had fewer establishments in 2021 than they did in 2012, though Pennsylvania as a whole had over seven percent more.

Number of Establishments										
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Lackawanna	5,820	5,743	5,810	5,783	5,744	5,654	5,576	5,648	5,546	5,554
Luzerne	7,642	7,440	7,469	7,470	7,447	7,373	7,378	7,405	7,437	7,455
Wayne	1,476	1,422	1,444	1,430	1,449	1,443	1,407	1,396	1,383	1,396
Pennsylvania	349,014	343,993	347,496	351,689	353,122	353,949	356,086	360,662	363,410	375,765

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics - Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages 4th Quarter. Prior data has been revised.

Deed Transactions

“More transactions were reported in each of the last three years than in any analyzed year prior to 2020.”

DEED TRANSACTIONS

Deed transactions measure activity in the real estate market, regarding residential, commercial, and industrial property. In Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, the numbers of deed transactions in 2021 spiked to levels not seen in several years, but then dropped in 2022. Even with this drop, however, the numbers of transactions were still larger than they were any year between 2016 and 2020. Transactions in Wayne County also rose in 2021 before falling in 2022. More transactions were reported in each of the last three years than in any analyzed year prior to 2020.

Deed Transactions										
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Lackawanna	4,735	4,565	4,708	5,046	5,183	5,152	5,205	5,508	6,697	6,306
Luzerne	9,652	9,532	9,864	7,006	6,689	6,770	6,365	6,611	8,640	7,772
Wayne	2,596	2,691	2,791	2,956	2,904	2,881	2,852	3,546	4,159	3,535

2011-2016 Data for Lackawanna County has been revised.
Source(s): Counties' Recorders of Deeds

Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP)

Prior to 2020, there had been consistent GDP growth in the Scranton-Wilkes-Barre-Hazleton Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), averaging almost three percent per year from 2012 to 2019. The state's GDP growth is slightly higher, averaging over percent per year. GDP for the MSA decreased 3.7 percent from 2019 to 2020, largely due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but the drop was not equally spread. Lackawanna County's GDP dropped 1.6 percent while Luzerne County's dropped 4.3 percent. For comparison, Wayne County's GDP dropped 2.2 percent and the statewide decline was 3.5 percent. As the economy bounced back from the pandemic in 2021, the metro area, all three counties, and the state saw GDP growth of 8.6 percent to 9.5 percent.



GDP (in millions of current-year dollars)										
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Scranton-Wilkes-Barre	\$23,254	\$23,811	\$24,751	\$25,710	\$26,307	\$26,704	\$27,488	\$28,485	\$27,435	\$30,041
Lackawanna	\$8,296	\$8,489	\$8,768	\$9,153	\$9,424	\$9,706	\$10,112	\$10,473	\$10,305	\$11,201
Luzerne	\$13,615	\$13,895	\$14,254	\$14,939	\$15,229	\$15,245	\$15,592	\$16,255	\$15,558	\$16,954
Wayne	\$1,639	\$1,637	\$1,644	\$1,680	\$1,729	\$1,822	\$1,912	\$1,981	\$1,937	\$2,104
Pennsylvania	\$647,926	\$668,569	\$694,143	\$714,203	\$726,562	\$746,441	\$773,977	\$799,889	\$771,613	\$844,497

*Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis.
All prior year figures have been revised.*

GDP Growth (Not Adjusted for Inflation)			
	2012-2021	2019-2020	2020-2021
Scranton-Wilkes-Barre	29.2%	-3.7%	9.5%
Lackawanna	35.0%	-1.6%	8.7%
Luzerne	24.5%	-4.3%	9.0%
Wayne	28.3%	-2.2%	8.6%
Pennsylvania	30.3%	-3.5%	9.4%

Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis.

“As the economy bounced back from the pandemic in 2021, the metro area, all three counties, and the state saw GDP growth of 8.6 percent to 9.5 percent.”

Exports by Industry



“Chemical manufacturing has been the Scranton-Wilkes-Barre MSA’s largest goods export category for the last several years, with approximately \$506 million in exports in 2021.”

EXPORTS BY INDUSTRY

Numerous firms in the region contribute to the economy by exporting their goods overseas. Before 2020, the region had seen a generally upward trend in exported goods aside from a noticeable drop from 2018 to 2019. In 2020 exports dropped 20 percent due to the pandemic. In 2021 firms throughout the region exported products worth nearly \$1.4 billion, a seven-percent increase from the prior year but still below pre-pandemic levels.

Chemical manufacturing has been the Scranton-Wilkes-Barre MSA’s largest goods export category for the last several years, with approximately \$506 million in exports in 2021.

This is \$71 million more than 2020 numbers (an increase exceeding 16 percent), but the increase did not make up for what was lost in 2020. In 2021 chemical exports totaled \$37 million less than 2019 total. The plastics and rubber products manufacturing industries suffered the greatest one-year decline, at approximately 45 percent from 2019 to 2021. Food manufacturing defied broader trends to show growth in 2020 with a five-percent increase, though it declined three percent by 2021.

The region’s largest trade partners were Canada and Mexico, receiving 42 percent of the region’s exports. In 2021, the European Union overtook Asia as the region’s second largest recipient of exports, with 21 percent of exports going to the EU and 19 percent of exports going to Asia. The change is the result of back-to-back years of decreases in exports to Asia from 2019 to 2021 and back-to-back increases in exports to the EU. South America, Africa, and all other destination countries together comprise more than percent of the region’s exports, slightly less than they comprised in 2020.

Scranton/Wilkes-Barre/Hazleton Metropolitan Area Exports by Industry

Exports Industry	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Chemical Manufacturing	\$349,497,168	\$555,550,505	\$543,429,990	\$435,208,441	\$506,299,555
Plastics and Rubber Products Manufacturing	\$219,873,249	\$228,465,058	\$225,785,664	\$129,581,398	\$123,695,132
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	\$132,988,975	\$168,803,641	NA	NA	NA
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	\$129,917,050	\$127,854,455	\$123,925,580	\$99,662,160	\$85,804,488
Food Manufacturing	\$126,405,862	\$120,036,338	\$122,253,044	\$128,688,817	\$124,464,335
Computer and Electronic Product Manufacturing	NA	NA	\$105,461,007	\$94,549,766	NA
Machinery Manufacturing	NA	NA	NA	NA	\$92,189,303
Primary Metal Manufacturing	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
All Others (Residual)	\$548,240,201	\$533,074,744	\$494,836,941	\$401,275,612	\$447,115,770
All Products	\$1,506,922,505	\$1,733,784,741	\$1,615,692,226	\$1,288,966,194	\$1,379,568,583

Source: International Trade Administration

Scranton/Wilkes-Barre/Hazleton Metropolitan Area Exports by Destination

Export Destination	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Mexico & Canada	\$441,627,204	\$502,229,823	\$500,641,148	\$458,902,084	\$578,976,297
Asia	\$531,975,460	\$646,007,197	\$527,818,677	\$315,289,782	\$260,902,399
European Union	\$249,205,343	\$263,938,919	\$239,817,251	\$248,680,265	\$288,211,076
South America	\$120,609,888	\$142,333,277	\$176,282,763	\$99,794,352	\$96,785,569
Africa	\$16,261,717	\$16,610,757	\$22,602,000	\$15,367,619	\$18,704,425
Other Destinations	\$147,242,893	\$162,664,768	\$148,530,387	\$150,932,092	\$135,988,817
Total	\$1,506,922,505	\$1,733,784,741	\$1,615,692,226	\$1,288,966,194	\$1,379,568,583

Source: International Trade Administration

Federal Funding

FEDERAL FUNDING

This indicator tracks federal funding in the form of grants and prime contracts (including defense) for the public, private, and non-profit sectors. Some other forms of federal funding or awards, such as insurances, are not included. The three counties together received nearly \$2.62 billion in federal contracts and grants in the calendar year 2021. The larger portion of this total consists of federal prime contracts. In terms of direct payments, loans, and other assistance, the region received approximately \$4.38 billion.



“The three counties together received nearly \$2.62 billion in federal contracts and grants in the calendar year 2021.”

Federal Awards 2021 (Calendar Year)				
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Wayne	Pennsylvania
Contracts				
Number	503	22,011	70	554,909
Amount (Thousands)	\$362,678,309	\$1,198,674,200	\$17,186,279	\$202,563,416,093
Grants				
Number	311	378	45	21,101
Amount (Thousands)	\$550,532,015	\$442,347,887	\$44,270,431	\$183,516,958,153
Direct Payments				
Number	1,734	1,734	575	107,276
Amount (Thousands)	\$1,259,488,588	\$1,854,610,150	\$322,556,074	\$188,401,024,606
Other Financial Assistance				
Number	248	276	211	16,710
Amount (Thousands)	\$33,599,662	\$96,846,232	\$11,908,854	\$2,547,434,052
Loans				
Number	3,549	4,808	831	288,399
Amount (Thousands)	\$355,898,622	\$371,042,246	\$77,583,808	\$41,720,599,432

www.usaspending.gov

Student Loan Debt



“The share of the adult population with student loan debt is 22 percent in Lackawanna County, 18 percent in Luzerne County, and 15 percent in Wayne County. ”

STUDENT LOAN DEBT

The share of the adult population with student loan debt is 22 percent in Lackawanna County, 18 percent in Luzerne County, and 15 percent in Wayne County. Nineteen percent of the Commonwealth’s population also has student loan debt. Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties and Pennsylvania’s shares are higher than the nationwide percentage of 15 percent. The proportions of residents with student debt dropped by one percentage point from 2021 in all geography areas.

The percentages of student loan holders with debt in default is nine percent in Lackawanna County, eight percent in Luzerne County, and five percent in Wayne County. The state and national percentages fall in the middle of this range, with seven percent in default statewide and eight percent nationally. From 2021 to 2022, the share of borrowers with student loan debt in default fell in each geography analyzed. From early 2020 to early 2023, student loan payments on federally-backed loans have been paused; private loans were not affected.

Of all analyzed areas, Lackawanna County has the highest median student loan debt (at \$22,172), closely followed by Pennsylvania with only \$40 less. Wayne County and the national median are \$21,604 and \$20,108 respectively. Luzerne County has the lowest median student loan debt of all geographies analyzed, at \$19,874. The median monthly payments of borrowers correlate to the median student loan debt amount in each county.

Student Loan Debt: 2022					
	Share of population with student loan debt	Share of student loan holders with student loan debt in default	Median student loan debt	Median student loan debt in default	Median monthly payment
Lackawanna	22%	9%	\$22,172	\$6,655	\$177
Luzerne	18%	8%	\$19,874	\$8,340	\$158
Wayne	15%	5%	\$21,604	N/A	\$167
Pennsylvania	19%	7%	\$22,132	\$10,976	\$175
United States	15%	8%	\$20,108	\$10,940	\$160

Source: Urban Institute, last updated 6/23/2022

Student Loan Debt: 2021					
	Share of population with student loan debt	Share of student loan holders with student loan debt in default	Median student loan debt	Median student loan debt in default	Median monthly payment
Lackawanna	23%	10%	\$22,393	\$9,669	\$190
Luzerne	19%	9%	\$19,639	\$10,920	\$157
Pennsylvania	20%	10%	\$21,772	\$11,339	\$174
United States	16%	10%	\$19,825	\$11,646	\$160

Source: Urban Institute, last updated 3/11/2021

Student Loan Debt: 2019					
	Share of population with student loan debt	Share of student loan holders with student loan debt in default	Median student loan debt	Median student loan debt in default	Median monthly payment
Lackawanna	22%	12%	\$22,067	\$8,676	\$188
Luzerne	18%	11%	\$19,865	\$7,913	\$174
Pennsylvania	20%	11%	\$20,159	\$10,084	\$190
United States	16%	13%	\$18,615	\$9,843	\$179

Source: Urban Institute, last updated 12/17/2019



Education

Education



“Pay level often links to high-skill jobs, which in turn links to level of education, so higher educational attainment and enhanced training can lead to greater economic opportunity and a more competitive workforce.”

EDUCATION

The Education section of this report details important education indicators, such as high school graduation rates, career and technical education, dropout rates, educational attainment, degree completions, special education, and student-teacher ratios. By examining indicators like these, it is possible to assess education and future economic development in terms of strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities to prepare tomorrow’s workforce for employment in the region’s business and industry.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some indicators in this section were not collected in 2020. They include assessments on industry-based learning for those enrolled in Career and Technical Education Center (CTC) institutions and individual student growth as measured by the Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment System. In some cases, 2021 data was also unavailable for publication. The school shutdown and transition to virtual learning in spring 2020 had far more significant effects than disruption of data collection and release; data from this point will show how education indicators were affected by the pandemic as well as how quickly they recover and return to pre-pandemic measures.

There was a surge in charter school enrollment from 2020 to 2021, but those numbers dipped slightly from 2021 to 2022. Nonpublic school enrollment now comprises a larger share of total school enrollment, particularly in Lackawanna County. This may be a result of parents considering new options – including virtual options – for educating their children during the pandemic.

At the K-12 level and beyond, the quality of the education and training received by residents and workers directly correlate with the success of that region’s economy. Pay level often links to high-skill jobs, which in turn links to level of education, so higher educational attainment and enhanced training can lead to greater economic opportunity and a more competitive workforce. The shares of the workforces in Lackawanna County (10.9 percent) and Luzerne County (10.4 percent) that have earned an associate’s degree is slightly higher than the shares in Wayne County and statewide – both around nine percent.

Lackawanna County has a slightly higher percentage of the population 25 and older that have earned a Bachelor’s degree or higher, at 30.5 percent, compared to Luzerne County (26 percent) and Wayne County (nearly 20 percent).

Emerging industries and occupations demand a diverse range of education and training opportunities, including apprenticeship programs, associate degree or trade school programs, on-the-job training, certificates, credentials, and college and university degrees. In 2020-2021, 7,185 degrees were awarded in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties – many of them in key fields like health care and business. There has appeared to be a downward trajectory in total degrees awarded since the pandemic. Despite the setbacks posed by COVID-19, Northeastern Pennsylvania’s impressive and varied group of higher education institutions will continue to be an asset in preparing students for success in the workforce.

Career and technical education at the high school level represents another path to gaining the job skills that translate to economic opportunity. Between the three counties, 2,599 students were enrolled in CTCs in 2022. In both Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, this total has declined compared to 2019 and 2020. Wayne County is one of the few counties left in Northeastern Pennsylvania without its own complete CTC.

In addition to CTC programs, Advanced Placement (AP) coursework helps students after graduation. Some districts recorded AP/IB (International Baccalaureate) course participation in as high as 55 percent of students, and many districts saw large shares of students complete college coursework as well.

Among the many indicators of school performance, including attendance numbers, dropout rates, and standardized test scores, the most notable trend is the significant variation from district to district and school to school. For more students to pursue higher education and succeed in the workforce, it is important that schools struggling in measures of academic performance continue to strive for improvement despite the differing socioeconomic contexts of the communities they serve. These efforts must be complemented by work to improve those socioeconomic contexts – ensuring that children come to school ready to learn by alleviating poverty, food insecurity, housing insecurity, and physical and mental health challenges – and addressing disparities in resources afforded to students by exploring policies to support struggling districts.

Dropouts have declined since the 2016-2017 academic year, with 2020-2021 representing the lowest level in several years in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties. The pandemic has not appeared to interfere with students' on-time graduation from high school – if anything, data available so far may suggest the opposite could be true. Four-year high school graduation rates in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties have been trending upward since a dip in the 2017-2018 academic year. Graduation rates in Wayne County have generally fluctuated within a narrower range. Rates in all three counties also have stayed above the average for the entire state of Pennsylvania.

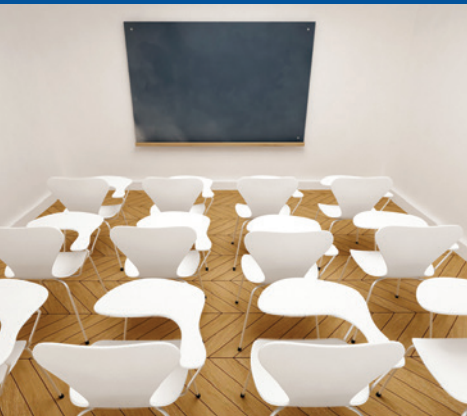
Public school assessment has undergone a significant period of transition. The Keystone Exams have replaced the PSSA exams for 11th grade students, and the PSSA exam has changed to reflect Common Core material. As a result, this report has most recently used PVAAS – the Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment System. This tool measures students' growth and accounts for changes in standardized tests over time, along with variability among the student population. In 2022, the PVAAS growth index showed positive results in 11th grade Literature for all three counties. Countywide average scores for 4th through 8th grade students showed room for improvement, although results varied significantly by district.

Pre-K programs are significant in that they provide a basis to help children with early literacy. Students are four times likelier to drop out of school if they are not proficient readers by the third grade. Although there are discrepancies and gaps in data on the share of children served by publicly funded pre-K, reports of 3- and 4-year-olds benefitting from these programs reflect approximately 26 percent of children served for both Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties and about 21 percent of children served in Wayne County.



“Despite the setbacks posed by COVID-19, Northeastern Pennsylvania’s impressive and varied group of higher education institutions will continue to be an asset in preparing students for success in the workforce.”

Four Year Cohort Graduation Rates



“The average four-year graduation rates of districts in Lackawanna and Wayne Counties experienced decreases in the 2020-2021 school year while Luzerne County’s average saw a slight increase.”

FOUR YEAR COHORT GRADUATION RATES

The four-year graduation rate measures the proportion of students who enter 9th grade and successfully graduate four years later. Hence, this is a different measure than high school dropout rate because it measures only students who graduate within four years and excludes those who graduate in five or six years. Adjustments are made to account for students moving in and out of each school district.

Statewide, the four-year graduation rate has averaged close to 87 percent from 2016-2017 to 2020-2021. There has not been a clear upward or downward trajectory. The averages of districts in Lackawanna and Wayne Counties experienced decreases in the 2020-2021 school year while Luzerne County’s average saw a slight increase.

The average among school districts in Lackawanna County grew from about 89 percent in 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 to 92 percent in 2019-2020, before falling back to 90.5 percent in the most recent data – still higher than most prior years analyzed. Scranton School District saw substantial improvement in their graduation rates from 2016-2017 (79 percent) to 2020-2021 (87 percent).

Wayne County’s graduation rate rose from 91 percent in 2018-2019 to 95 percent in 2019-2020. It then decreased to 91 percent in 2020-2021, near levels seen before the pandemic. The three districts in Wayne County have typically been within a close range of each other in this measure.

Luzerne County’s graduate rate has experienced an upward trend since the 2017-2018 school year, including a slight increase in 2020-2021. Recent gains have been noted in several districts, with Lake-Lehman, Northwest Area, and Wyoming Area reaching the highest level among years analyzed, though Wilkes-Barre Area’s rate declined to 80 percent.

4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate: Lackawanna County					
	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Abington Heights	97.3%	94.3%	96.4%	95.7%	96.6%
Carbondale Area	88.8%	91.6%	88.5%	84.4%	80.2%
Dunmore	89.5%	89.8%	93.2%	95.8%	92.9%
Lakeland	89.5%	90.2%	83.2%	87.6%	89.1%
Mid Valley	93.5%	88.6%	90.8%	91.2%	91.7%
North Pocono	95.4%	91.6%	96.8%	94.3%	95.5%
Old Forge	91.4%	90.2%	88.7%	94.0%	94.0%
Riverside	85.0%	81.7%	75.0%	92.0%	84.2%
Scranton	78.8%	79.0%	81.0%	85.7%	86.9%
Valley View	90.2%	90.7%	95.1%	95.1%	93.4%
County Average	89.9%	88.8%	88.9%	91.6%	90.5%

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education

4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate: Wayne County					
	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Wallenpaupack Area	94.0%	93.5%	91.3%	94.7%	92.3%
Wayne Highlands	94.0%	89.5%	92.2%	94.8%	90.0%
Western Wayne	94.6%	91.8%	90.5%	96.2%	91.3%
County Average	94.2%	91.6%	91.3%	95.2%	91.2%

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education

4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate: Luzerne County					
	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Crestwood	97.6%	93.5%	93.8%	95.9%	97.4%
Dallas	93.0%	93.5%	92.1%	93.4%	97.0%
Greater Nanticoke Area	84.0%	79.0%	84.3%	87.4%	87.2%
Hanover Area	84.2%	85.9%	88.0%	87.1%	80.3%
Hazleton Area	76.6%	76.8%	77.9%	81.5%	75.1%
Lake-Lehman	91.0%	92.0%	92.2%	96.0%	100.0%
Northwest Area	90.9%	84.9%	90.3%	88.8%	94.0%
Pittston Area	91.1%	87.5%	92.8%	89.1%	91.8%
Wilkes-Barre Area	84.4%	84.9%	85.4%	83.3%	80.3%
Wyoming Area	89.0%	87.8%	88.8%	92.6%	94.2%
Wyoming Valley West	89.5%	89.0%	87.8%	88.2%	88.3%
County Average	88.6%	86.8%	88.5%	89.4%	89.6%

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education

4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate					
	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Lackawanna	89.9%	88.8%	88.9%	91.6%	90.5%
Luzerne	88.6%	86.8%	88.5%	89.4%	89.6%
Wayne	94.2%	91.6%	91.3%	95.2%	91.2%
Pennsylvania	86.6%	85.9%	86.5%	87.4%	86.7%

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education

School Enrollment

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

In Lackawanna County, public school enrollment compared to non-public schools is lower in 2021-2022 (62 percent) compared to the 2017-2018 school year (89 percent), while Luzerne County’s 2021-2022 public school enrollment (90 percent) is slightly higher than it was in 2017-2018 (90 percent). Wayne County’s 2021-2022 public school enrollment (94 percent) has experienced a drop since the 2017-2018 school year (95 percent). Statewide, the ratio of public to non-public enrollment has not changed significantly over the period analyzed.

The total number of students enrolled in public schools increased in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties in 2021-2022 but fell slightly in Wayne County and statewide.



Public School Enrollment							
	2000-2001	2010-2011	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Lackawanna	27,351	28,330	28,304	28,172	28,101	26,860	27,008
Luzerne	39,916	42,937	42,300	42,245	42,535	41,566	42,719
Wayne	No Data	5,305	4,452	4,361	4,355	4,186	4,103
Pennsylvania	1,801,860	1,781,206	1,719,336	1,722,461	1,724,454	1,696,022	1,689,532

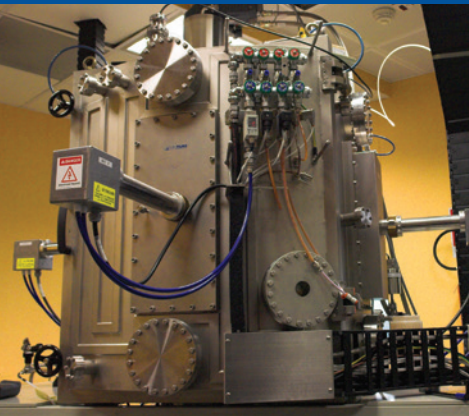
Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education

Public and Private/Non-Public School Enrollment										
	2017-2018		2018-2019		2019-2020		2020-2021		2021-2022	
	Public	Nonpublic	Public	Nonpublic	Public	Nonpublic	Public	Nonpublic	Public	Nonpublic
Lackawanna	89.2%	10.8%	89.0%	11.0%	89.3%	10.7%	62.4%	37.6%	62.3%	37.7%
Luzerne	89.7%	10.3%	89.9%	10.1%	90.3%	9.7%	90.7%	9.3%	90.3%	9.7%
Wayne	95.4%	4.6%	95.6%	4.4%	95.4%	4.6%	94.9%	5.1%	93.6%	6.4%
Pennsylvania	87.5%	12.5%	87.8%	12.2%	88.1%	11.9%	88.1%	11.9%	87.6%	12.4%

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education

“The total number of students enrolled in public schools increased in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties in 2021-2022 but fell slightly in Wayne County and statewide.”

Career and Technical Education



“As of 2022, there were 755 students from Lackawanna County school districts, 1,834 students from Luzerne County school districts, and ten students from Wayne County school districts participating in CTC programs.”

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

An important role of education is to equip students with the practical skills that will help them excel in their careers. Career and Technical Education Centers (CTCs) present an opportunity for students to study career-based curriculums. CTC programs can include traditional trades as well as health care, information systems, cosmetology, and more. These tables show the numbers of high school students enrolled, by sending school district, in programs at partnering Career and Technology Centers. Wayne County is one of the few counties in Northeastern Pennsylvania without its own Career and Technical Education Center.

As of 2022, there were 755 students from Lackawanna County school districts, 1,834 students from Luzerne County school districts, and ten students from Wayne County school districts participating in CTC programs. Data was incomplete for the prior years, but where historical data is available, there have generally been small year-over-year changes in CTC enrollment – with the exception Hazleton Area, where enrollment grew significantly between 2018 and 2020 before dropping in 2022, and Greater Nanticoke, which saw a significant decrease in the most recent data.”

For the 2021-2022 school year, competency on the NOCTI assessment, which are standardized assessments for measuring industry-based skills, ranged from 37 percent to 80 percent among the region’s CTCs, while the percentage earning industry credentials ranged from 20 percent to 100 percent. An even greater range was seen in the percentage completing work-based learning experiences, from six percent in Wilkes-Barre Area to 100 percent at West Side CTC. These statistics may be subject to fluctuation in part due to variations in the types of career programs offered by the CTCs, and relatively small population sizes of students. Compared to the 2019-2020 school year, Wilkes-Barre Area saw declines in each of these metrics, while West Side CTC saw improvements in

each. Hazleton Area and Lackawanna each saw a mix of increases and decreases since 2019-2020.

CTC Enrollment: Lackawanna County					
Sending District	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Abington Heights	32	31	24	34	34
Carbondale Area	50	59	59	44	44
Dunmore	33	30	40	52	52
Lakeland	48	59	56	70	70
Mid Valley	57	63	72	67	67
North Pocono	81	88	95	92	92
Old Forge	53	57	48	NA	42
Riverside	59	51	41	NA	48
Scranton	250	234	252	226	226
Valley View	43	40	67	79	80
County Total	706	712	754	664*	755

* Excludes Old Forge and Riverside SDs where no data was reported
Source: Future Ready PA Index

CTC Enrollment: Luzerne County					
Sending District	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Crestwood	67	70	88	NA	85
Dallas	50	48	45	NA	58
Greater Nanticoke Area	102	76	84	NA	57
Hanover Area	146	161	147	NA	121
Hazleton Area	644	667	734	NA	658
Lake-Lehman	37	44	42	NA	47
Northwest Area	49	52	53	NA	26
Pittston Area	118	90	97	NA	101
Wilkes-Barre Area	369	362	360	NA	295
Wyoming Area	60	78	93	NA	84
Wyoming Valley West	346	353	355	NA	302
County Total	1,983	2,001	2,093	NA	1,834

Source: Future Ready PA Index

CTC Enrollment: Wayne County								
Sending District	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	
Wayne Highlands SD							NA	
Western Wayne SD	No Historical Data Available							10
County Total							10	

Source: Future Ready PA Index

CTE/CTC Competency Assessments: 2019-2020				
	Lackawanna	Hazleton Area	West Side	Wilkes-Barre Area
Percent Scoring Competent or Advanced on NOCTI/NIMS	80.0%	74.4%	65.4%	50.4%
Percent Earned Industry Recognized Credential	71.1%	73.3%	87.9%	50.7%
Percent Completed Work-Based Learning Experience	29.5%	13.6%	99.1%	17.8%

Source: Future Ready PA Index

CTE/CTC Competency Assessments: 2021-2022				
	Lackawanna	Hazleton Area	West Side	Wilkes-Barre Area
Percent Scoring Competent or Advanced on NOCTI/NIMS	79.7%	62.0%	66.3%	36.6%
Percent Earned Industry Recognized Credential	86.6%	81.0%	100.0%	19.8%
Percent Completed Work-Based Learning Experience	11.4%	62.0%	100.0%	5.9%

Source: Future Ready PA Index

Rigorous Courses of Study

RIGOROUS COURSES OF STUDY

In accordance with Future Ready PA standards, participation in rigorous courses was measured by the percentage of students participating in AP/IB coursework, and the percentage of students enrolling in college coursework during high school. AP/IB course participation during the 2021-2022 school year ranged from zero percent to 55 percent in several districts. The average among all districts in the region was around 29 percent. There has been little change in the average rate of AP/IB participation.

College course enrollment ranged from zero percent to just over 81 percent. The Luzerne County district average was 15 percent, the average among Lackawanna County districts was 27 percent, and the Wayne County average was 79 percent. For Lackawanna County, college course enrollment is still significantly lower than it was during the 2019-2020 school year. Wayne and Luzerne Counties saw their averages increase.

2021-2022 Rigorous Courses of Study: Lackawanna County		
High School	AP/IB Participation	College Course Enrollment
Abington Heights	55.2%	25.0%
Carbondale Area	23.5%	5.9%
Dunmore	31.9%	0.0%
Lakeland	39.8%	0.0%
Mid Valley	21.4%	73.8%
North Pocono	38.2%	78.5%
Old Forge	0.0%	40.0%
Riverside	23.3%	20.4%
Scranton	20.7%	10.3%
West Scranton	19.4%	8.5%
Valley View	34.7%	30.7%
County Average	28.0%	26.6%

Source: Future Ready PA Index

2021-2022 Rigorous Courses of Study: Luzerne County		
High School	AP/IB Participation	College Course Enrollment
Crestwood	29.1%	51.4%
Dallas	41.1%	19.3%
Greater Nanticoke Area	23.4%	7.0%
Hanover Area	17.9%	10.5%
Hazleton Area	23.6%	15.6%
Lake-Lehman	45.6%	0.0%
Northwest Area	36.3%	16.3%
Pittston Area	31.6%	0.4%
Wilkes-Barre Area	16.8%	5.2%
Wyoming Area	35.6%	34.4%
Wyoming Valley West	23.4%	0.3%
County Average	29.5%	14.6%

Source: Future Ready PA Index

2021-2022 Rigorous Courses of Study: Wayne County		
High School	AP/IB Participation	College Course Enrollment
Wallenpaupack Area	N/A	N/A
Wayne Highlands	18.8%	81.2%
Western Wayne	53.8%	76.9%
County Average	36.3%	79.1%

Source: Future Ready PA Index

	AP/IB Participation			College Course Enrollment		
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Wayne	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Wayne
2019-2020	28.5%	28.9%	No Data	37.9%	11.5%	No Data
2020-2021	29.9%	29.4%	33.2%	28.8%	14.3%	71.7%
2021-2022	28.0%	29.5%	36.3%	26.6%	14.6%	79.1%

Source: Future Ready PA Index

Charter Schools

“In 2022, there were 1,701 Lackawanna County students, 2,216 Luzerne County students, and 329 Wayne County students enrolled in charter schools.”

CHARTER SCHOOLS

In 2022, there were 1,701 students enrolled in charter schools from Lackawanna County and 2,216 enrolled in Luzerne County. Wayne County reported 329 students enrolled in charter schools. Compared with the previous year in Lackawanna County, this was a decrease of eight percent. Luzerne County experienced a seven-percent decrease. Although both Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties experienced slight decreases, charter school enrollments in both Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties are significantly higher than they were in 2017.

Charter School Enrollment: Lackawanna County							
School District	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Abington Heights	64	63	77	86	62	142	118
Carbondale Area	186	178	165	148	154	173	172
Dunmore	26	24	28	30	36	74	57
Lakeland	63	68	55	62	65	89	94
Mid Valley	51	57	71	71	76	118	117
North Pocono	71	68	69	72	80	121	114
Old Forge	17	10	22	16	30	60	65
Riverside	34	41	53	43	43	55	50
Scranton	345	389	422	517	554	908	811
Valley View	39	32	48	71	55	114	103
County Total	896	930	1,010	1,116	1,155	1,854	1,701

Source: Future Ready PA Index

Charter School Enrollment: Luzerne County							
School District	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Crestwood	74	66	50	58	53	112	70
Dallas	30	37	40	38	40	77	66
Greater Nanticoke Area	67	67	55	72	71	160	139
Hanover Area	57	84	81	86	99	158	143
Hazleton Area	222	220	239	277	285	474	393
Lake-Lehman	42	38	46	56	37	70	51
Northwest Area	45	41	37	46	44	45	58
Pittston Area	80	80	76	68	78	124	139
Wilkes-Barre Area	525	555	575	591	625	783	837
Wyoming Area	52	33	41	51	42	82	69
Wyoming Valley West	160	122	144	146	149	292	251
County Total	1,354	1,343	1,384	1,489	1,523	2,377	2,216

Source: Future Ready PA Index

Charter School Enrollment: Wayne County							
School District	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Wallenpaupack Area							90
Wayne Highlands							148
Western Wayne							91
County Total							329

Source: Future Ready PA Index

School Assessment

SCHOOL ASSESSMENT

Individual student growth has been measured using PVAAS – the Pennsylvania Value-Added Assessment System. The Average Growth Index (AGI) is a measure of students’ improvement in scores on the PSSA and Keystone Exams. Higher AGI values indicate higher levels of confidence that student growth meets or exceeds state standards. Unlike examining achievement scores, the growth scores show to what degree individual students’ progress over time, rather than how well students perform on a test in a particular year. This data was not collected for 2020 or 2021 as a result of school disruptions precipitated by the pandemic.

Lackawanna County’s 2022 averages were positive in all categories except Algebra 11. The positive categories included Math 4-8, Reading 4-8, Literature 11, and Biology 11. However, there was a range of scores between districts. Dunmore recorded negative scores in each subject, while Abington Heights saw at least a +3.0 in each subject.

In Luzerne County, the only negative growth area was Biology 11. There were positive growth areas in Math 4-8, Reading 4-8, Literature 11, and Algebra 11. There were again large differences between districts; Hazleton Area saw particularly notable positive growth cross each subject.

In Wayne County for 2022, there was improvement in Literature 11, Algebra 11, and Biology. Wayne County’s districts together experienced negative growth in Math 4-8 and Reading 4-8. In the year of data available, Wayne Highlands saw positive change in each area, while the other two districts saw more mixed results.



2022					
District	Math 4-8	Reading 4-8	Literature 11	Algebra 11	Biology 11
Abington Heights	4.85	3.00	9.70	7.09	11.36
Carbondale Area	3.98	1.54	0.99	-1.22	-4.07
Dunmore	-2.85	-0.65	-1.56	-0.91	-4.2
Lakeland	4.72	-0.06	-4.02	-1.86	2.13
Mid Valley	2.03	-1.57	2.63	-2.31	5.69
North Pocono	3.09	-2.98	-3.10	-1.09	4.50
Old Forge	0.13	0.30	-2.41	-6.68	-0.16
Riverside	9.04	5.16	0.64	2.71	0.70
Scranton	7.23	-1.37	-3.29	-3.25	-7.67
Valley View	0.11	0.38	6.30	0.89	1.91
County Average	3.23	0.38	0.59	-0.66	1.02

Source: PVAAS

2022					
	Math 4-8	Reading 4-8	Literature 11	Algebra 11	Biology 11
Lackawanna County	3.23	0.38	0.59	-0.66	1.02
Luzerne County	-0.01	-0.74	0.91	-0.75	0.00
Wayne County	-0.98	-0.41	0.95	4.00	5.13
2019					
	Math 4-8	Reading 4-8	Literature 11	Algebra 11	Biology 11
Lackawanna County	-0.79	-0.32	0.90	1.77	1.76
Luzerne County	-0.01	-0.74	0.91	-0.75	0.00
2018					
	Math 4-8	Reading 4-8	Literature 11	Algebra 11	Biology 11
Lackawanna County	0.37	1.22	1.02	0.27	1.15
Luzerne County	0.44	0.70	1.04	-0.85	0.28
2017					
	Math 4-8	Reading 4-8	Literature 11	Algebra 11	Biology 11
Lackawanna County	1.64	1.54	0.88	1.02	2.51
Luzerne County	-2.86	0.27	-1.86	-1.67	0.23
2016					
	Math 4-8	Reading 4-8	Literature 11	Algebra 11	Biology 11
Lackawanna County	0.31	0.67	-0.36	-0.49	2.03
Luzerne County	1.32	-0.14	0.51	-0.87	0.22

2022					
District	Math 4-8	Reading 4-8	Literature 11	Algebra 11	Biology 11
Crestwood	6.32	1.43	-0.69	-3.57	-0.94
Dallas	3.04	3.68	-0.62	-0.02	1.09
Greater Nanticoke Area	5.38	5.40	5.34	1.62	-0.79
Hanover Area	2.46	-2.08	0.80	-6.07	-3.94
Hazleton Area	9.63	4.60	5.39	8.28	4.84
Lake-Lehman	-3.20	-3.15	5.32	4.53	3.50
Northwest Area	2.19	5.73	0.04	1.15	-0.10
Pittston Area	3.36	2.65	-2.75	-2.26	-0.10
Wilkes-Barre Area	-3.29	-4.95	-0.12	1.49	-5.51
Wyoming Area	-1.85	-5.77	-1.88	-9.43	-4.44
Wyoming Valley West	-4.13	-2.30	0.46	4.73	-1.27
County Average	1.81	0.48	1.03	0.04	-0.70

Source: PVAAS

2022					
District	Math 4-8	Reading 4-8	Literature 11	Algebra 11	Biology 11
Wayne Highlands	2.07	1.33	2.88	9.06	8.96
Western Wayne	-3.24	-1.31	4.99	2.05	1.27
Wallenpaupack	-1.76	-1.26	-5.03	0.90	5.17
County Average	-0.98	-0.41	0.95	4.00	5.13

Source: PVAAS

Education Employment



“During the 2020-2021 academic year, 86 percent of professional personnel in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties were classroom teachers, compared to 79 percent in Wayne County.”

EDUCATION EMPLOYMENT

The most recent education employment data available covers the 2020-2021 school year. At that time, public school districts in Lackawanna County employed 2,256 people, Luzerne County districts employed 3,061 people, and Wayne County districts employed 460 people. Eighty-six percent of professional personnel in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties were classroom teachers, compared to 79 percent in Wayne County. Relatively small increases and decreases in staff were seen in each county from 2019-2020 to the 2020-2021 school year. Lackawanna County experienced an overall increase of two classroom teachers, while Luzerne County lost 53 classroom teachers. Wayne County districts together gained 22 classroom teachers.

Education Employment: Lackawanna County

Full and Part Time Staff	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Professional Personnel	2,296	2,289	2,257	2,251	2,256
Administrators	104	105	106	113	114
Classroom Teachers	1,961	1,954	1,935	1,931	1,933
Coordinator/Support	222	223	206	204	199
Other Staff	20	18	20	20	22

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education

Education Employment: Luzerne County

Full and Part Time Staff	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Professional Personnel	3,077	3,069	3,092	3,098	3,061
Administrators	125	126	128	135	138
Classroom Teachers	2,650	2,650	2,672	2,678	2,625
Coordinator/Support	283	275	281	275	285
Other Staff	53	46	43	39	44

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education

Education Employment: Wayne County

Full and Part Time Staff	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Professional Personnel	440	441	440	438	460
Administrators	22	22	22	20	21
Classroom Teachers	346	347	342	342	364
Coordinator/Support	62	63	65	64	64
Other Staff	15	13	14	15	15

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education

Special Education Public School Dropouts



SPECIAL EDUCATION

Special education data is collected at the Intermediate Unit Level. The Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit 19 includes Lackawanna, Susquehanna, and Wayne Counties. The Luzerne Intermediate Unit 18 includes Luzerne and Wyoming Counties. The 2020-2021 school year data is the most recent available.

Both intermediate units had significantly higher overall numbers of students enrolled in special education compared with the 2001-2002 and 2011-2012 school years. Furthermore, both areas have generally experienced increasing trends in special education enrollments in more recent years, though 2020-2021 marked the first decrease in several years in both units. Nonetheless, 2020-2021 enrollment in NEIU 19 increased 28 percent compared with the 2001-2002 period, and enrollment in Luzerne IU 18 grew 71 percent in that same time.

Students with specific learning disabilities, other health impairments, and speech and language impairments comprise the largest shares of special education enrollments in the counties. The numbers of students in the categories for autism spectrum disorders exhibited continued to grow in recent years, with a 25-percent increase in NIEU 19 and a 35-percent increase in Luzerne IU 18 compared to 2016-2017.

	Special Education Enrollments													
	2001-2002		2011 - 2012		2016-2017		2017-2018		2018-2019		2019-2020		2020-2021	
	NEIU 19	Luz. IU 18	NEIU 19	Luz. IU 18	NEIU 19	Luz. IU 18	NEIU 19	Luz. IU 18	NEIU 19	Luz. IU 18	NEIU 19	Luz. IU 18	NEIU 19	Luz. IU 18
Intellectual Disabilities	961	832	497	677	446	652	442	652	448	614	465	628	460	578
Deafness or Hearing Impairment	66	76	64	70	54	49	53	56	61	51	68	52	68	48
Speech or Language Impairment	1,485	979	1,283	1,189	1,132	1,011	1,117	1,043	1,185	1,058	1,239	1,189	1,313	1,114
Blind or Visual Impairment	36	48	32	39	33	39	27	32	26	29	32	29	29	27
Serious Emotional Disturbance	500	314	615	468	692	649	668	684	669	744	663	751	649	750
Orthopedic Impairment	5	66	*	17	*	16	*	*	14	*	*	*	11	13
Other Health Impairment	71	22	667	870	1,139	1,347	1,263	1,457	1,338	1,532	1,436	1,628	1,451	1,598
Specific Learning Disability	3,643	2,686	3,423	2,929	3,190	3,132	3,211	3,176	3,291	3,376	3,340	3,384	3,231	3,215
Deaf-Blind	0	0	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Multiple Disabilities	48	70	84	82	84	89	103	87	108	92	114	96	102	79
Autism	76	72	417	366	623	587	687	664	718	707	774	777	776	791
Traumatic Brain Injury	3	11	15	*	14	*	14	14	*	12	12	13	*	*
Total	6,894	5,176	7,707	7,279	8,028	8,128	8,221	8,491	8,520	8,867	8,874	9,198	8,796	8,834

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education. Prior year totals have been revised.
Data is for Northeastern Educational Intermediate Unit 19 (Lackawanna, Susquehanna, and Wayne counties) and Luzerne Intermediate Unit 18 (Luzerne and Wyoming counties).

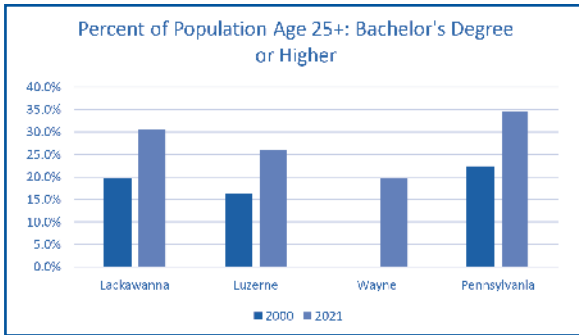
PUBLIC SCHOOL DROPOUTS

The number of dropouts in the Lackawanna County and Luzerne County region has fluctuated considerably over the last decade. Following a peak in the number of dropouts in both Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties in 2016-2017, totals have generally declined. As of the 2020-2021 school year, dropout totals fell considerably below the ten-year averages for both counties. Wayne County has seen little significant change in the number of dropouts in the last several years.

	Public School Dropouts									
	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021
Lackawanna County	175	139	123	163	116	228	197	181	136	86
Luzerne County	374	309	261	294	347	454	437	407	302	271
Wayne County	14	29	23	27	18	25	23	22	20	21

Source: PA Department of Education

Higher Education Attainment Degree Completions



HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT

Associate's Degree

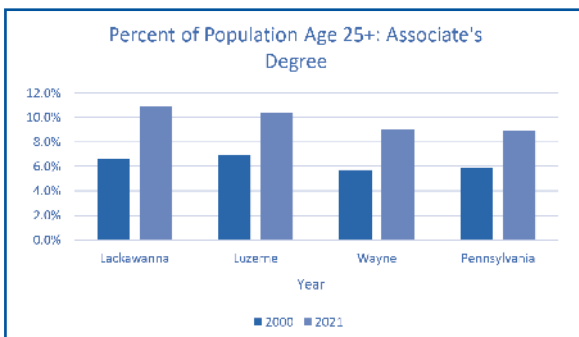
As of 2021, the proportions of residents age 25 and older with an associate's degree as their highest level of educational attainment were 11 percent for Lackawanna County, 10 percent for Luzerne County, and nine percent for Wayne County. There has been significant growth in associate's degree holders since 2000 in all three counties and in Pennsylvania, with the statewide statistic reaching nine percent. Both Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties have typically had larger shares of adults with an associate's degree as their highest level of education compared to Pennsylvania as a whole, and Wayne County is in line with the state percentage.

Bachelor's Degree or Higher

In Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, the percentages of populations holding a bachelor's degree or higher has increased significantly from 2000 and 2010. Pennsylvania has also seen growth in this area, rising from 22 percent in 2000 to 27 percent in 2010 and to a new high of 34.5 percent in 2021. In contrast to those with associate's degrees, the proportions of adults with bachelor's degrees are lower in Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wayne Counties than in Pennsylvania as a whole. The relative gap between regional bachelor's degree attainment and the statewide share has been largely unchanged in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, which had rates 12 percent and 25 percent lower than the statewide rate, respectively. On the other hand, Wayne County's attainment of bachelor's degree grew more slowly than the statewide share, falling from 34 percent below the statewide rate in 2010 to 43 percent below the statewide rate in 2021.

	2000	2010	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Lackawanna	6.6%	7.7%	8.2%	10.6%	8.8%	9.5%	10.9%
Luzerne	6.9%	8.0%	9.7%	9.5%	10.1%	10.7%	10.4%
Wayne	5.7%	7.4%	7.2%	8.2%	8.5%	9.0%	9.0%
Pennsylvania	5.9%	7.4%	8.3%	8.6%	8.6%	8.6%	8.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



	2000	2010	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Lackawanna	19.6%	24.5%	29.2%	28.8%	29.1%	28.7%	30.5%
Luzerne	16.4%	21.4%	23.8%	23.6%	21.6%	23.6%	26.0%
Wayne	ND	17.9%	20.4%	20.4%	20.4%	20.7%	19.6%
Pennsylvania	22.4%	27.1%	31.4%	31.8%	32.3%	32.3%	34.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

DEGREE COMPLETIONS

In the 2020-2021 academic year, institutions in Lackawanna County awarded a greater number of certificates (3,683) than Luzerne County (3,502). These numbers represent a near two-percent increase in Lackawanna County and a near 12-percent decrease in Luzerne County compared to 2019-2020.

A total of 7,185 degrees were awarded across the two-county region, including 1,782 certificates and two-year degrees, 3,066 four-year degrees, and 2,337 postgraduate degrees. The greatest number of degrees conferred were for registered nursing (521 completions), general business administration and management (421) completions, and accounting (289 completions). Certificates and two-year credentials were most commonly awarded in liberal arts and sciences, licensed practical nursing, registered nursing, and criminal justice. JobsEQ (Chmura Economics) is the source of degree completions data.

Student-Teacher Ratio

STUDENT-TEACHER RATIO

The student-teacher ratio is calculated by dividing the number of students enrolled in a district by the number of teachers employed in the district. The ratio can correlate with a district's performance; research has shown that students in schools with smaller class sizes receive more individualized attention and therefore tend to perform better on average. It is not a perfect predictor of educational quality or outcomes, however.

In Lackawanna County, 2021-2022 student-teacher ratios ranged from 13 in both the Lakeland and Old Forge School Districts to more than 16 in the Mid Valley School District. In Luzerne County, 2021-2022 student-teacher ratios ranged from 12.5 in Northwest Area to 18.5 in Greater Nanticoke Area. In both counties, 2021-2022 student teacher ratios were at or near their lowest levels among years analyzed.

Prior year data for Wayne County was not available for comparison, but ratios were lower than those observed in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties. They did not exceed 12.



“Though it is not an ideal predictor of educational quality or outcomes, research has shown that students in schools with smaller class sizes receive more individualized attention and therefore tend to perform better on average.”

Lackawanna County Student - Teacher Ratios					
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Abington Heights	15.4	15.4	15.5	15.2	15.3
Carbondale	15.7	15.0	16.1	16.0	12.8
Dunmore	15.5	14.7	14.2	13.9	14.0
Lakeland	14.7	14.2	14.0	12.1	12.9
Mid Valley	14.9	14.9	15.4	15.1	16.4
North Pocono	14.2	14.3	14.1	13.8	13.7
Old Forge	14.3	14.0	13.9	13.7	12.9
Riverside	13.5	13.9	13.6	13.4	13.5
Scranton	13.9	14.3	14.4	13.6	13.8
Valley View	13.8	13.5	14.3	13.7	14.4
County Average	14.6	14.4	14.6	14.0	14.0

Source: National Center for Education Statistics

Luzerne County Student - Teacher Ratios					
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Crestwood	18.7	18.1	18.4	18.1	13.3
Dallas	16.3	15.7	15.5	15.0	14.7
Greater Nanticoke Area	17.9	18.5	18.0	17.6	18.5
Hanover Area	17.4	16.5	16.6	16.0	15.8
Hazleton Area	16.3	16.0	16.4	16.8	17.2
Lake-Lehman	13.2	13.3	14.0	13.9	13.5
Northwest Area	14.5	13.8	13.6	13.3	12.5
Pittston	18.2	18.0	17.9	17.7	17.2
Wilkes-Barre Area	15.6	15.7	16.2	16.3	17.6
Wyoming Area	16.1	15.2	14.7	14.6	14.4
Wyoming Valley West	14.1	14.4	14.6	14.4	No Data
County Average	16.2	15.9	16.0	15.8	15.5

Source: National Center for Education Statistics

Wayne County Student - Teacher Ratios					
	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022
Wallenpaupack Area					10.8
Wayne Highlands					11.5
Western Wayne					11.6
County Average					11.3

Source: National Center for Education Statistics

Pre-K Enrollment



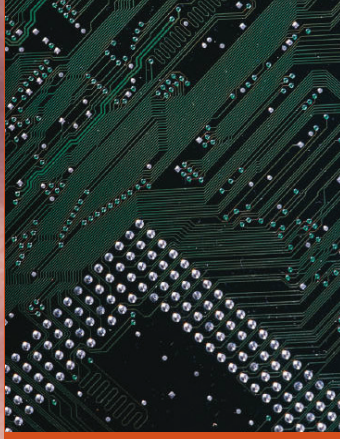
“As of the 2018-2019 school year, more than one-fifth of children aged three and four years were served by publicly-funded early childhood education programs.”

PRE-K ENROLLMENT

No 2019-2020 enrollment data for publicly-funded Pre-K was available for inclusion in the report. Data has also been unavailable for the 2017-2018 school year. As of the 2018-2019 school year, 26 percent of children aged three or four in both Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties were served by the publicly-funded early childhood education programs listed. In Luzerne County, participation in publicly-funded Pre-K was at the highest level on record. This trend was driven by growth in Pre-K Counts, Head Start Supplemental Assistance Program, and Child Care Works programs. Lackawanna County suffered a significant decrease in children served. This is due to a near complete elimination of school district pre-K enrollment, according to data published by KidsCount Data Center. Wayne County has also experienced a decrease in publicly-funded Pre-K enrollments from the 2016-2017 school year to the 2018-2019 academic period. Most recently, almost 21 percent of children aged three to four were served.

Publicly Funded Pre-K Enrollments - Children Ages 3-4 Served					
Year	Head Start	PKC, HSSAP, CCW in STAR 3/4	School District Pre-K	Total Children Served	% of Children Served
Lackawanna County					
2013-2014	615	610	651	1,876	39.7%
2014-2015	645	531	572	1,748	37.0%
2015-2016	542	778	505	1,825	38.6%
2016-2017	830	768	435	2,033	43.4%
2018-2019	492	701	3*	1,219	25.8%
Luzerne County					
2013-2014	676	664	20	1,360	20.1%
2014-2015	676	649	20	1,345	19.9%
2015-2016	655	907	0	1,562	23.1%
2016-2017	672	1,018	0	1,690	23.7%
2018-2019	516	1,164	6	1,739	25.7%
Wayne County					
2013-2014	23	205	97	325	34.4%
2014-2015	150	202	95	447	47.4%
2015-2016	30	157	105	292	30.9%
2016-2017	104	282	69	455	44.4%
2018-2019	34	160	0	194	20.6%

* PA Department of Education report 473 students served.



Technology & Innovation

Technology & Innovation



“It is incumbent on regional leaders to continue to promote a culture of innovation and creativity.”

TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

The Technology and Innovation section of this report identifies important indicators in Pennsylvania and Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wayne Counties. They include technology and innovation-related occupations and industries, funding from federal programs supporting innovation (such as Small Business and Innovation Research Awards (SBIR), Small Business Technology Transfer Awards (STTR), and National Science Foundation (NSF) funding), clinical trials, venture capital investments, academic research. Each of these indicators measures some aspect of technological development or innovation.

Innovation in regional businesses, healthcare, and educational institutions is difficult to measure directly, however. Several datasets presented here are limited, and many innovations in processes or practices occur without being counted. It is incumbent on regional leaders to continue to promote a culture of innovation and creativity. Through entrepreneurship and creative thinking, new ideas can be introduced, applied to real-world problems, and brought into the global marketplace. Major areas of technology and innovation include research and development, scientific research, medical and pharmaceutical research, and information technology.

Globally, economic activity is shifting more toward knowledge-based jobs and industries like education, healthcare, and finance. Even traditional industries such as manufacturing and extraction are increasingly reliant on automation and other new technologies to stay competitive, and thereby reliant on STEM workers. In this year’s report, three STEM occupation categories are examined – computer and mathematical occupations; life, physical, and social science occupations; and architecture and engineering occupations. Industries with high concentrations of these jobs are analyzed as well. These include settings like manufacturing plants, college and universities, technology companies, insurance companies, and architecture and engineering firms. In 2022, 10,292 workers held STEM-related occupations in the region – up from the previous year’s total of 10,228.

Higher education institutions host a significant amount of research activity. Regionally, institutions reported over \$4.2 million in spending on research. Together, they employed six full time staff and 34 graduate assistants dedicated to research activities.

Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) is a competitive grant program run by the U.S. Small Business Administration to support research and development with the potential for commercialization. The Small Business Administration also coordinates the Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR) program, which encourages joint ventures between small businesses and nonprofit research institutions. Allocations for SBIR awards in Pennsylvania reached new highs in 2021 – 198 SBIR awards accounted for over \$150 million in funding, and STTR awards in the Commonwealth numbered 45 with over \$22 million in awards.

The amount of multi-stage venture capital investments and angel fund investments in the region also highlight how much innovation is occurring in Northeastern Pennsylvania. Though there is no single, systematic source for data on venture capital investment, several sources reported over \$500 thousand in investment in local companies in 2021 and 2022. Only known investments were counted, so this number is likely an underrepresentation of actual venture capital funding that supports innovation and entrepreneurship in the area.

STEM Occupations

STEM OCCUPATIONS

Data for three STEM occupation categories were analyzed. In 2022, employment in architecture and engineering occupations decreased slightly in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties but rose slightly in Wayne County. This occupation category employs just over 3,000 workers across the three counties.

Life, physical, and social science employment has been generally stable in the region since 2013. Both Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties saw employment growth from 2019 to 2022 despite a dip in 2021. Wayne County has been stable at just under 100 jobs in these occupations. This category includes 1,597 workers in the three counties.

Computer and mathematical occupations have varied from year to year. Lackawanna County added 33 jobs in 2022. Wayne County also increased, to 285 jobs. Luzerne County saw a small decline, though the 3,366 jobs in these occupations was a higher total than any year prior to 2020.

Wages in all three of these STEM occupation groups were higher than wages in the region as a whole. In the three counties, architecture and engineering jobs have a median wage of nearly \$79,000 per year, and science occupations have median wage of \$65,400 per year. Computer and mathematical occupations have a median wage of \$78,200 per year. The regional median wage for all jobs is \$40,800 per year. The wage gap between STEM and non-STEM workers is apparent across different experience levels for workers.

“In the three counties, architecture and engineering jobs have a median wage of nearly \$79,000 per year, science occupations have a median wage of \$65,400 per year, and computer and mathematical occupations have a median wage of \$78,200 per year.”

Architecture and Engineering Occupations										
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Lackawanna	1,325	1,307	1,277	1,252	1,351	1,326	1,250	1,203	1,226	1,204
Luzerne	1,700	1,665	1,709	1,724	1,890	1,914	1,902	1,804	1,758	1,733
Wayne	-	-	-	-	-	-	135	132	136	143

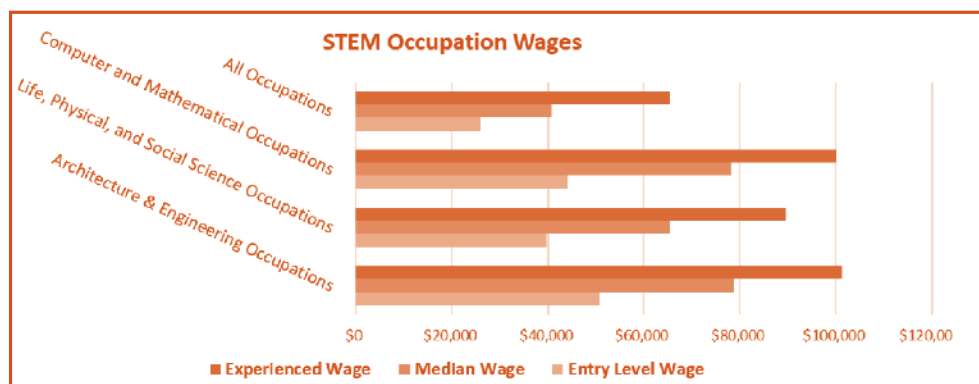
Source: JobsEQ (Chmura Economics)

Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations										
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Lackawanna	634	636	636	630	603	584	548	590	580	603
Luzerne	711	712	719	730	782	793	799	874	853	895
Wayne	-	-	-	-	-	-	95	95	95	99

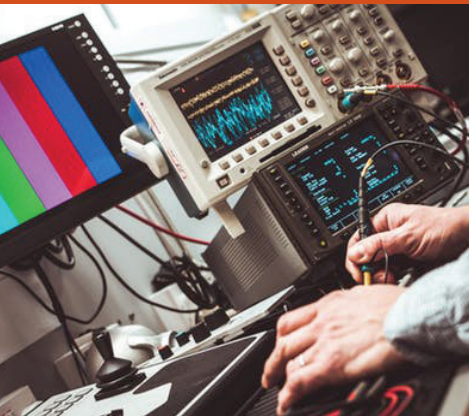
Source: JobsEQ (Chmura Economics)

Computer and Mathematical Occupations										
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Lackawanna	1,897	1,923	1,933	1,872	1,610	1,529	1,801	1,782	1,931	1,964
Luzerne	2,969	3,028	3,186	3,276	2,666	2,665	3,099	3,084	3,384	3,366
Wayne	-	-	-	-	-	-	248	253	265	285

Source: JobsEQ (Chmura Economics)



STEM-Based Industries



“Architectural, engineering, and related services had the highest number of STEM jobs as well as the highest percentage of its workforce (59 percent) in STEM occupations.”

STEM-BASED INDUSTRIES

This table shows the industries with the largest numbers of employees in the three STEM occupation categories discussed previously. About 56 percent of the region’s STEM jobs fall into one of the 15 industries listed here.

Architectural, engineering, and related services had the highest number of STEM jobs as well as the highest percentage of its workforce (59 percent) in STEM occupations. In the computer systems design and related services industry, 839 workers are in STEM occupations – 58 percent of its total workforce. Computing infrastructure, data processing, hosting, and related services constitute the third largest STEM-employing industry in the region (572 STEM jobs; 41 percent of the industry workforce). Management of companies, insurance carriers, colleges and universities, and various other industries also host large numbers of STEM workers. Several heavy industries, such as electricity generation, transmission, and distribution; medical equipment manufacturing; and plastics manufacturing are also represented.

Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wayne County Employment in STEM-Focused Industries: 2022			
Industry	STEM Job Employment	Total Employment	Percent STEM Employment
Architectural, Engineering, and Related Services	991	1,674	59%
Computer Systems Design and Related Services	839	1,439	58%
Computing Infrastructure Providers, Data Processing, Web Hosting, and Related Services	572	1,379	41%
Employment Services	464	6,210	7%
Management of Companies and Enterprises	417	2,646	16%
Electric Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution	353	1,335	26%
Colleges, Universities, and Professional Schools	331	5,232	6%
Insurance Carriers	329	2,521	13%
Executive, Legislative, and Other General Government Support	264	6,105	4%
Depository Credit Intermediation	226	3,190	7%
Justice, Public Order, and Safety Activities	222	2,837	8%
Other Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	214	1,217	18%
Plastics Product Manufacturing	198	3,829	5%
Medical Equipment and Supplies Manufacturing	195	1,614	12%
Warehousing and Storage	181	18,493	1%

Source: Chimera Economics

SBIR & STTR Awards National Science Foundation

SBIR & STTR AWARDS

The Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program awards grants to small businesses throughout the nation in order to promote federal innovation research and development. In 2021, firms in Pennsylvania received over \$150 million in SBIR awards. This represents a slight increase from the prior year's revised total and became the highest total of all years analyzed. The total number of awards fell, however, as the number of phase one and phase two awards both declined.

The Small Business Technology Transfer program (STTR) is similar to the SBIR program, with special emphasis on joint venture opportunities between small businesses and nonprofit research institutions. Pennsylvania's 2021 award total exceeded \$22 million; this total is slightly lower than the prior year but still far higher than any year before 2020. The total number of STTR grants fell by one from 46 to 45, though phase one awards increased from 30 to 32.



Pennsylvania SBIR Awards			
	Phase 1	Phase 2	Total
2012	123	69	192
2013	101	46	147
2014	135	60	195
2015	121	64	185
2016	104	62	166
2017	112	73	185
2018	125	74	199
2019	144	80	224
2020	140	97	237
2021	119	79	198
Prior year data has been revised			
Source: U.S. Small Business Administration			

Pennsylvania SBIR Award Amounts			
	Phase 1	Phase 2	Total
2012	\$21,522,922	\$61,865,753	\$83,388,675
2013	\$17,566,923	\$46,049,969	\$63,616,892
2014	\$22,042,448	\$60,450,760	\$82,493,208
2015	\$20,802,645	\$64,208,614	\$85,011,259
2016	\$21,754,620	\$64,305,506	\$86,060,126
2017	\$18,745,644	\$68,825,672	\$87,571,316
2018	\$23,543,897	\$93,634,883	\$117,178,780
2019	\$28,110,706	\$107,972,792	\$136,083,498
2020	\$26,071,705	\$110,962,970	\$137,034,675
2021	\$22,715,362	\$127,417,703	\$150,133,065
Prior year data has been revised			
Source: U.S. Small Business Administration			

Pennsylvania STTR Awards			
	Phase 1	Phase 2	Total
2012	13	5	18
2013	19	4	23
2014	15	8	23
2015	30	7	37
2016	29	10	39
2017	30	2	32
2018	28	10	38
2019	28	8	36
2020	30	16	46
2021	32	13	45
Prior year data has been revised			
Source: U.S. Small Business Administration			

Pennsylvania STTR Award Amounts			
	Phase 1	Phase 2	Total
2012	\$1,968,973	\$5,818,469	\$7,787,442
2013	\$3,633,890	\$2,728,555	\$6,362,445
2014	\$2,726,404	\$6,373,029	\$9,099,433
2015	\$5,039,277	\$5,056,772	\$10,096,049
2016	\$6,794,645	\$10,267,448	\$17,062,093
2017	\$5,282,259	\$4,947,031	\$10,229,290
2018	\$6,496,934	\$10,101,195	\$16,598,129
2019	\$5,669,905	\$12,187,469	\$17,857,374
2020	\$7,066,558	\$18,441,610	\$25,508,168
2021	\$6,324,440	\$15,775,856	\$22,100,296
Prior year data has been revised			
Source: U.S. Small Business Administration			

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (NSF)

In the three-county region, the total amount of National Science Foundation grants has averaged over \$834,000 per year. There has been a significant increase in these funds since 2020, with 2021 and 2022 representing the highest years on record after respective year-over-year increases of 67 percent and 75 percent. Still, the regional total has consistently accounted for less than one percent of statewide NSF grant funds.

National Science Foundation Grants								
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Pennsylvania	\$291,451,092	\$267,940,651	\$259,410,034	\$261,190,364	\$312,766,906	\$295,007,834	\$331,290,908	\$335,778,010
3-County Region	\$26,975	\$144,384	\$0	\$846,517	\$1,212,366	\$792,674	\$1,326,489	\$2,325,583
Source: USAspending.gov, National Science Foundation								

Clinical Trials Venture Capital Investments/Academic Research



“In 2020, recipients of multi-stage venture capital investments included manufacturers, software companies, health and wellness businesses, and business accelerator/incubator programs.”

CLINICAL TRIALS

The number of active clinical trials shown here is a point-in-time snapshot of trials in the recruiting phase, excluding online trials available to county residents which may be located anywhere in the country.

Active Clinical Trial Sites				
	2020	2021	2022	2023
Lackawanna	58	51	42	34
Luzerne	149	119	93	107
Wayne	-	-	-	0

Source: Centerwatch

The number of ongoing trials in the region relate to critical areas of health research, including cancer, chronic disease, and mental health. Clinical trials counted in this manner numbered 141 between the two counties, including an increase from the prior year’s count in both Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties.

MULTI-STAGE VENTURE CAPITAL INVESTMENTS

It is difficult to capture venture capital investment data from a single source, and this problem is compounded by the lack of non-proprietary data available. Due to these challenges, venture capital measured here likely underestimates actual investments. This list includes multi-stage venture capital investments and angel fund investments made by public and private sources over the past ten years, and which have been made public or provided to The Institute.

Regional Venture Capital Investments Reported to The Institute	
Year	Amount (Thousands)
2011	\$540
2012	\$8,200
2013	\$600
2014	\$700
2015	\$600
2016	\$725
2017	\$700
2018	\$800
2019	\$15,200
2020	\$2,155
2021	\$530
2022	\$518

Source: Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Northeastern Pennsylvania, Private Funders. Previous figures have been revised.

In 2020, over \$2 million was invested directly by organizations reporting data to The Institute – including Ben Franklin Technology Partners of Northeastern Pennsylvania and private sources. In 2021 and 2022, more than \$500,000 in investments were identified in each year. Known recipients include manufacturers, software companies, health and wellness businesses, and business accelerator/incubator programs.

ACADEMIC RESEARCH

Data on academic research activity is difficult to capture due to the varied types of research programs and projects undertaken in colleges and universities. Data was gathered for 11 institutions in the region, with satellite or multiple campuses counted as a single institution. Among them, they employed six staff members in dedicated research roles, and an additional 34 graduate assistants in research roles.

Expenses spent on research activities totaled approximately \$4.25 million, including more than \$1 million in salary and wages for staff positions fully or partially engaged in research.

Penn State University is not included in these totals as disaggregated data for local campuses was not available through IPEDS, though the Penn State system employs over 1,100 research staff and reported over \$900 million in research expenses.

Academic Research	
	2021
Total Institutions	11
Total Research Staff	6
Full Time	5
Part Time	1
Research Graduate Assistants	34
Research Expenses	\$4,249,462
Salary/Wage Expenses	\$1,000,032

Source: IPEDS



Housing

Housing



“While for-sale inventory was already trending downward before the pandemic, indicating a tightening housing market (i.e. a seller’s market), the pandemic accelerated this trend.”

HOUSING

The Housing section of this report covers indicators that measure Northeastern Pennsylvania’s housing market, including demand, building permits, occupancy, housing affordability, rental affordability, housing density, market conditions, and homelessness.

As of 2021, there were 282,324 housing units in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties. Housing stock in the two counties is predominantly older, and about two-thirds of housing units are owner-occupied. In Wayne County, a larger share of housing was built between 1980 and 2010, and about four-fifths of homes are owner-occupied rather than renter-occupied. Wayne County also has a much higher residential vacancy rate, likely influenced by the presence of seasonally occupied homes, vacation rentals, hunting cabins, and the like.

After the housing market crash over a decade ago, signs of recovery in the region have been mixed, with some significant year-over-year fluctuations in building activity. In the time since the beginning of the pandemic, however, there has been a seismic shift in the regional and nationwide housing market. While for-sale inventory was already trending downward before the pandemic, indicating a tightening housing market (i.e. a seller’s market), the pandemic accelerated this trend. Home values in the region saw more growth from 2019 to 2022 than the entire previous decade. Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wayne Counties saw home values increase by 37 percent, 42 percent, and 65 percent, respectively, from 2019 to 2022 – a faster growth than the statewide rate of 35 percent. Accordingly, market rents have also risen, with mid-market rent increasing by 33 percent in the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre metro area from 2019 to 2022, faster than the still significant growth rate of 25 percent observed statewide.

Historically, housing has been fairly affordable in Northeastern Pennsylvania. As of the latest available data, the median monthly ownership costs (including mortgage payment, property taxes, and other costs of homeownership) as a percentage of median household income for owner-occupied households were notably lower than 2010 proportions in all three counties and statewide. As of 2021, rental costs as a percentage of the median household income for renters have increased in Lackawanna County and decreased in Luzerne and Wayne Counties compared with 2010. However, the above noted trends in the real estate market are already suggesting significant implications on the need for new efforts to ensure access to affordable housing. Affordable housing should not be construed as meaning low-income housing only. Many people working full time jobs in a variety of occupations such as education, health care, manufacturing, etc. cannot afford some of the market prices.

Finally, homelessness remains a challenge in this region, as with virtually all communities in the United States. With counts altered due to the pandemic, there are gaps in the data showing the impacts of COVID-19 on homelessness in the area. Across the Commonwealth, more than 17 percent of all homeless households counted in 2020 were unsheltered, compared to just under ten percent in the region. However, data suggests that the region is home to a higher share of children as part its unhoused population, with about 27 percent under age 18.

Age of Housing Stock Building Permits & Construction Costs

AGE OF HOUSING STOCK

As of 2021, Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wayne Counties were slightly behind the Commonwealth in terms of recent building. Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties also had smaller shares of homes built between 2000 and 2009, indicating that the nationwide housing construction boom of the early 2000s was less apparent in this region. However, Wayne County had a much higher share of its housing built in the 1980s, 1990s, and early 2000s.

Compared to Pennsylvania, much higher percentages of housing stock in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties were built prior to 1940 – 37.5 percent in Lackawanna County and 33 percent in Luzerne County compared to 26 percent statewide. However, a smaller share of Wayne County’s housing is older than 1940, at 18 percent.

Homes by Year Built - 2021								
Year Built	Lackawanna		Luzerne		Wayne	Pennsylvania		
Built 2020 or later	86	0.1%	61	0.0%	10	0.0%	6,061	0.1%
Built 2010-2019	3,788	3.8%	2,954	2.0%	1,150	3.6%	228,525	4.0%
Built 2000 - 2009	5,452	5.5%	9,146	6.1%	3,847	12.0%	459,492	8.0%
Built 1990 - 1999	6,965	7.0%	11,358	7.5%	4,911	15.4%	538,637	9.4%
Built 1980 - 1989	8,144	8.2%	11,642	7.7%	6,488	20.3%	551,065	9.6%
Built 1970 - 1979	11,800	11.8%	23,140	15.4%	5,040	15.8%	716,448	12.5%
Built 1960 - 1969	8,528	8.5%	12,743	8.5%	1,861	5.8%	576,906	10.1%
Built 1950 - 1959	9,549	9.6%	15,748	10.5%	1,922	6.0%	771,101	13.5%
Built 1940 - 1949	8,041	8.1%	13,798	9.2%	975	3.1%	410,191	7.2%
Built 1939 or earlier	37,487	37.5%	49,957	33.2%	5,733	18.0%	1,470,362	25.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Recent Building - 2021					
	Total Housing Units	Homes Built 2020 or later	Percent Built 2020 or later	Homes Built 2010 or later	Percent Built 2010 or later
Lackawanna	99,840	86	0.1%	3,874	3.9%
Luzerne	150,547	61	0.0%	3,015	2.0%
Wayne	31,937	10	0.0%	1,160	3.6%
Pennsylvania	5,728,788	6,061	0.1%	234,586	4.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

BUILDING PERMITS & CONSTRUCTION COSTS

The number of building permits issued in Luzerne County has largely matched or exceeded levels seen before the last recession. Despite the pandemic, building permits issued in Luzerne County were higher in number during 2020 and 2021 than they were in 2017, 2018, or 2019. In the most recent year, 365 units were permitted among 344 buildings.

In Lackawanna County, 186 buildings comprising 254 housing units were permitted. The total number of units in 2021 was the highest since 2017, but remains well below levels of building activity seen before the last recession and during the period from 2014 to 2016.

In Wayne County, the units and buildings permitted both totaled 133 (indicating that all units were single family structures). This amount represents the highest number of units permitted since 2010, which marked the end of several years of rapid building.

Construction costs have generally correlated with permitting activity in each county.

	Building Permit Activity					
	Units			Buildings		
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Wayne	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Wayne
2007	579	771	290	557	668	290
2008	788	357	705	787	331	704
2009	319	340	155	309	301	155
2010	265	359	196	253	358	196
2011	167	700	98	157	194	98
2012	166	265	84	161	257	84
2013	233	238	110	202	194	110
2014	2,009	252	110	1,898	214	110
2015	593	204	94	579	195	94
2016	617	375	87	608	227	87
2017	258	300	112	193	226	112
2018	212	312	122	197	276	122
2019	177	315	100	174	252	100
2020	172	385	120	144	294	117
2021	254	365	133	186	344	133

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Building Permits Survey

Year Built	Value of New Construction		
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Wayne
2007	\$82,826,155	\$131,157,113	\$57,932,314
2008	\$60,475,997	\$68,570,221	\$36,417,063
2009	\$56,723,143	\$60,990,321	\$28,414,513
2010	\$48,884,959	\$66,033,765	\$33,370,474
2011	\$31,602,774	\$38,385,875	\$18,263,257
2012	\$40,884,721	\$48,593,324	\$16,071,095
2013	\$47,236,514	\$43,220,034	\$22,990,158
2014	\$405,944,745	\$48,986,675	\$23,061,044
2015	\$133,851,085	\$44,264,238	\$22,942,096
2016	\$144,530,035	\$64,315,078	\$17,215,206
2017	\$56,494,626	\$59,706,829	\$22,491,103
2018	\$45,757,109	\$67,521,473	\$32,674,759
2019	\$44,682,889	\$64,466,400	\$23,589,918
2020	\$40,058,987	\$81,280,942	\$28,924,125
2021	\$62,682,544	\$86,035,914	\$37,589,773

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Building Permits Survey

Occupancy & Vacancy Housing Tenure



“Wayne County’s occupancy rate has typically stood around 60 percent; the higher vacancy rate is not necessarily indicative of widespread blight but influenced by factors such as presence of vacation rentals and seasonally occupied properties.”

OCCUPANCY & VACANCY

From 2017 to 2021, 87 percent of all housing units in Lackawanna County were occupied – unchanged from the prior five-year period but slightly lower than the 2007-2011 period. The percentage in Luzerne County rose from 86 percent in 2012-2016 to 87 percent most recently. Wayne County’s occupancy rate has typically stood around 60 percent; the higher vacancy rate is not necessarily indicative of widespread blight but influenced by factors such as presence of vacation rentals and seasonally occupied properties. The Commonwealth’s occupancy rate increased slightly to 90 percent, just over one percentage point higher than five years prior.

	Occupancy and Vacancy					
	2007-2011		2012-2016		2017-2021	
	Occupied	Vacant	Occupied	Vacant	Occupied	Vacant
Lackawanna	89.4%	10.6%	87.4%	12.6%	87.4%	12.6%
Luzerne	88.1%	11.9%	86.1%	13.9%	87.4%	12.6%
Wayne	60.9%	39.1%	60.2%	39.8%	60.7%	39.3%
Pennsylvania	89.2%	10.8%	88.7%	11.3%	89.9%	10.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year Estimates

HOUSING TENURE

Housing tenure refers to the breakdown of those who own their homes versus those who rent. Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties have seen a gradual shift away from homeownership, with the shares of renters growing from 31 percent to 32 percent in Luzerne County and from 33 percent to 35 percent in Lackawanna County over each period analyzed. Wayne County has not seen a clear trend but has had much higher shares of homeowners overall. Statewide, the share of renters is just under 31 percent, a minimal decline from the prior five-year period but larger than it was a decade ago.

	Housing Tenure: Owner to Renter Comparison					
	2007-2011		2012-2016		2017-2021	
	Owner	Renter	Owner	Renter	Owner	Renter
Lackawanna	66.7%	33.3%	65.9%	34.1%	65.3%	34.7%
Luzerne	68.9%	31.1%	68.0%	32.0%	67.6%	32.4%
Wayne	81.6%	18.4%	79.1%	20.9%	80.7%	19.3%
Pennsylvania	70.6%	29.4%	69.0%	31.0%	69.2%	30.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year Estimates

Housing & Rental Affordability

HOUSING & RENTAL AFFORDABILITY

For owner-occupied housing, affordability is measured by monthly cost of ownership. Selected Monthly Owner Costs (SMOC), as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau, include mortgage payment, real estate taxes, various insurances, utilities, fuels, mobile home costs, and condominium fees. Only owner-occupied units with mortgages are included in this dataset.

From 2017 to 2021, Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties' median SMOC were mostly between 20 percent and 23 percent of the median household income for homeowners. In Wayne County, the ratio was typically 26 percent to 27 percent, higher than the other two counties and the state as a whole. Ratios have been lower over the last several years than the comparison year of 2010 for all three counties and statewide, indicating that on average, homeowners have become somewhat less burdened by housing costs over time. Because this statistic is a ratio of homeownership costs to median income, there is no need to adjust for inflation.

A similar calculation was used for rental housing. The median rent as a percentage of median renter household income for all four geographies has fluctuated, usually staying within a few percentage points of 30 percent in recent years.

The ratio of median rent to median income increased to 31.5 percent in Lackawanna County and decreased to 26.5 percent in Luzerne County in 2021. In Wayne County, the ratio decreased to 29.8 percent. The statewide ratio rose marginally to 30.5 percent. A household is considered cost-burdened when housing-related spending exceeds 30 percent of its income, meaning that it may struggle to afford other necessities.

In each geography, the ratio of income to housing costs for renters was consistently less favorable than the ratio for homeowners.



“In each geography, the ratio of income to housing costs for renters has consistently been less favorable than the ratio for homeowners.”

Housing Affordability						
	2010	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Lackawanna						
Median Income for Owner Households	\$55,817	\$68,053	\$66,126	\$72,317	ND	\$78,769
Median Monthly Owner Costs	\$1,304	\$1,300	\$1,273	\$1,381	ND	\$1,299
% of Income for Owner Costs	28.0%	22.9%	23.1%	22.9%	ND	19.8%
Luzerne						
Median Income for Owner Households	\$53,706	\$64,927	\$66,528	\$65,020	ND	\$72,611
Median Monthly Owner Costs	\$1,160	\$1,193	\$1,232	\$1,138	ND	\$1,259
% of Income for Owner Costs	25.9%	22.0%	22.2%	21.0%	ND	20.8%
Wayne						
Median Income for Owner Households	\$51,014	\$59,951	\$62,814	\$64,333	ND	\$65,332
Median Monthly Owner Costs	\$1,261	\$1,333	\$1,369	\$1,384	ND	\$1,456
% of Income for Owner Costs	29.7%	26.7%	26.2%	25.8%	ND	26.7%
Pennsylvania						
Median Income for Owner Households	\$60,996	\$73,966	\$75,309	\$78,866	ND	\$84,101
Median Monthly Owner Costs	\$1,390	\$1,438	\$1,451	\$1,477	ND	\$1,505
% of Income for Owner Costs	27.3%	23.3%	23.1%	22.5%	ND	21.5%

Monthly Owner Costs (SMOC) includes mortgage payment, real estate taxes, various insurances, utilities, fuels, mobile home costs, and condominium fees. Includes only housing units with a mortgage.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1 Year Estimates (Lackawanna, Luzerne, PA), 5 Year Estimates (Wayne)

Rental Affordability						
	2010	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Lackawanna						
Median Income for Renter Households	\$28,054	\$28,093	\$33,789	\$33,364	ND	\$31,215
Median Rent	\$664	\$771	\$797	\$792	ND	\$819
% of Income for Rent	28.4%	32.9%	28.3%	28.5%	ND	31.5%
Luzerne						
Median Income for Renter Households	\$22,250	\$33,042	\$30,971	\$33,425	ND	\$39,157
Median Rent	\$617	\$749	\$789	\$810	ND	\$866
% of Income for Rent	33.3%	27.2%	30.6%	29.1%	ND	26.5%
Wayne						
Median Income for Renter Households	\$25,978	\$28,841	\$27,890	\$31,051	ND	\$34,331
Median Rent	\$691	\$832	\$816	\$820	ND	\$852
% of Income for Rent	31.9%	34.6%	35.1%	31.7%	ND	29.8%
Pennsylvania						
Median Income for Renter Households	\$27,110	\$33,193	\$35,600	\$37,761	ND	\$40,806
Median Rent	\$763	\$893	\$977	\$951	ND	\$1,036
% of Income for Rent	33.8%	32.3%	31.2%	30.2%	ND	30.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1 Year Estimates (Lackawanna, Luzerne, PA), 5 Year Estimates (Wayne)

Housing Value



HOUSING VALUE

In this year’s report, statistics on housing values were obtained from data collected by Zillow. The Zillow Home Value Index is a measure of typical home values in a region for mid-range homes (in the 35th- 65th price percentile). Home prices nationwide rose by 36 percent from 2000 to 2010 and by 46 percent from 2010 to 2019. Regionally and statewide, home prices rose more gradually from 2010 to 2019 – from 13 percent to 20 percent during that time.

The pandemic, however, brought a much more rapid increase in home prices. Since 2019, the typical home price has risen 37 percent in Lackawanna County, 42 percent in Luzerne County, and 65 percent in Wayne County. All three counties saw home values grow at a faster pace than the state’s rate of 35 percent during that time.

Typical Home Value							
	2000	2010	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Lackawanna County	ND	\$102,698	\$115,280	\$119,822	\$129,001	\$149,093	\$164,233
Luzerne County	\$63,709	\$94,211	\$100,433	\$107,104	\$116,572	\$135,887	\$152,159
Wayne County	\$80,325	\$138,351	\$152,086	\$157,473	\$168,725	\$215,943	\$259,437
Pennsylvania	\$89,287	\$143,806	\$164,746	\$172,531	\$185,421	\$210,854	\$232,218
United States	\$113,743	\$155,117	\$214,851	\$226,476	\$241,516	\$279,263	\$323,117

Source: Zillow Research ZHVI (Zillow Home Value Index). Each value is the average of all available monthly data. Prior data has been revised.

Market prices have also increased for rental units. Within the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre/Hazleton metropolitan area, typical market rents for units in the 40th to 60th percentile reached \$1,172 in 2022, up 11 percent from the prior year and 33 percent compared to 2019, when the typical rent in the metro area was \$882. Nationwide, market rents increased by 25 percent from 2019 to 2022.

Typical Market Rent					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Scranton/ Wilkes-Barre/ Hazleton Metropolitan Area	\$847	\$882	\$926	\$1,052	\$1,172
United States	\$1,484	\$1,544	\$1,574	\$1,709	\$1,934

Source: Zillow Research ZORI (Zillow Observed Rent Index). Each value is the average of all available monthly data. Prior data has been revised.

Housing Density

HOUSING DENSITY

Housing density data for each county and Pennsylvania showed small increases in homes per square mile between 2000, 2010, and 2021, in accordance with small increases in the estimated number of housing units. In Lackawanna County, Luzerne County, and Pennsylvania, the number of homes per square mile in 2019 were 214.8, 166.1, and 126.4 respectively, indicating that the two counties have higher housing densities than the Commonwealth as a whole. Wayne County’s density of 42.5 homes per square mile was only about one-third of the housing density of the Commonwealth.

	Total Square Miles	Housing Density Comparison					
		2000		2010		2017-2021	
		Housing Units	Homes per square mile	Housing Units	Homes per square mile	Housing Units	Homes per square mile
Lackawanna	464.9	95,362	205.1	96,832	208.3	99,840	214.8
Luzerne	906.3	144,686	159.7	148,748	164.1	150,547	166.1
Wayne	751.0	30,593	40.7	31,653	42.1	31,937	42.5
Pennsylvania	45,306.0	5,249,750	115.9	5,567,315	122.9	5,728,788	126.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 & 2010 Census & American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates



“Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties have higher housing densities than the Commonwealth as a whole. Wayne County’s housing density was only about one-third of the housing density of the Commonwealth.”

Mortgage Activity



MORTGAGE ACTIVITY

Generally, between 54 percent and 57 percent of owner-occupied homes in Lackawanna County had mortgages since 2007. Luzerne County saw an increase from 2000 to the 2007-2011 period, but more recent estimates showed a decreasing trend. Wayne County has also seen declines, where the share of owner-occupied homes with mortgages has fallen below 50 percent.

Median monthly owner costs, which include mortgage payments as well as real estate taxes, various insurances, utilities, fuels, mobile home costs, and condominium fees, increased in each geography. The median monthly owner costs in all three counties have remained lower than those at the state level.

Mortgage Activity Comparison: Lackawanna County				
	2000	2007-2011	2012-2016	2017-2021
Owner Occupied Homes	47,906	57,693	56,117	56,921
% with Mortgage	55.2%	57.4%	54.8%	54.8%
Median Monthly Owner Costs	\$939	\$1,334	\$1,294	\$1,393

Monthly Owner Costs (SMOC) includes mortgage payment, real estate taxes, various insurances, utilities, fuels, mobile home costs, and condominium fees.
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 & 2010 Census & American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Mortgage Activity Comparison: Luzerne County				
	2000	2007-2011	2012-2016	2017-2021
Owner Occupied Homes	78,799	90,284	86,663	88,877
% with Mortgage	54.1%	57.3%	56.3%	53.5%
Median Monthly Owner Costs	\$865	\$1,199	\$1,209	\$1,281

Monthly Owner Costs (SMOC) includes mortgage payment, real estate taxes, various insurances, utilities, fuels, mobile home costs, and condominium fees.
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 Census & American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Mortgage Activity Comparison: Wayne County				
	2000	2007-2011	2012-2016	2017-2021
Owner Occupied Homes	2,889,484	15,744	15,167	15,630
% with Mortgage	62.2%	56.6%	54.5%	48.9%
Median Monthly Owner Costs	\$1,010	\$1,340	\$1,331	\$1,456

Monthly Owner Costs (SMOC) includes mortgage payment, real estate taxes, various insurances, utilities, fuels, mobile home costs, and condominium fees.
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 & 2010 Census & American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Mortgage Activity Comparison: Pennsylvania				
	2000	2007-2011	2012-2016	2017-2021
Owner Occupied Homes	2,889,484	3,498,381	3,425,706	3,560,917
% with Mortgage	62.2%	63.1%	61.0%	59.7%
Median Monthly Owner Costs	\$1,010	\$1,435	\$1,426	\$1,569

Monthly Owner Costs (SMOC) includes mortgage payment, real estate taxes, various insurances, utilities, fuels, mobile home costs, and condominium fees.
 Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000 & 2010 Census & American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Market Conditions Foreclosure Rate

MARKET CONDITIONS

Data on for-sale inventory, the number of homes available for sale, was available for the Scranton/Wilkes-Barre/Hazleton Metropolitan Area, which includes Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wyoming Counties.

For-sale inventory dropped steadily between the first quarter of 2020 and the first quarter of 2021, indicating tight housing market conditions – a seller’s market. For-sale inventory trended upward in late 2021, but fell again in early 2022, and remains below pre-pandemic levels as of the fourth quarter of 2022. Nationwide, a similar trend was observed.

For-Sale Inventory: Recent Trends		
	Scranton/Wilkes-Barre/Hazleton Metro Area	United States
Q1 2019	2,319	1,436,028
Q2 2019	2,403	1,594,960
Q3 2019	2,608	1,682,555
Q4 2019	2,458	1,545,515
Q1 2020	2,011	1,310,230
Q2 2020	1,772	1,312,654
Q3 2020	1,795	1,317,722
Q4 2020	1,495	1,132,280
Q1 2021	1,253	904,424
Q2 2021	1,457	931,468
Q3 2021	2,034	1,061,416
Q4 2021	2,008	984,249
Q1 2022	1,362	736,968
Q2 2022	1,416	860,568
Q3 2022	1,857	1,075,621
Q4 2022	1,894	1,024,513

Monthly average for each quarter
Source: Zillow Research



“Since 2019, the typical home price has risen 37 percent in Lackawanna County, 42 percent in Luzerne County, and 65 percent in Wayne County.”

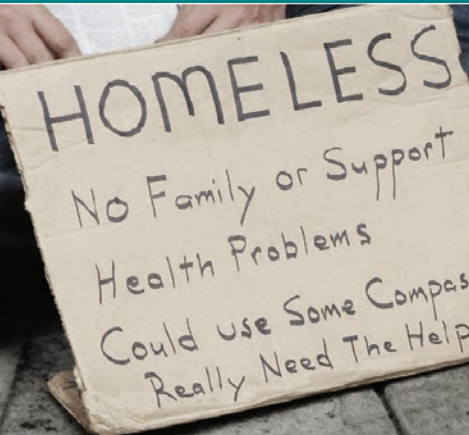
FORECLOSURE RATE

The numbers of foreclosures in the region and statewide were generally highest in 2012 and 2013, representing a peak associated with the last recession. In Lackawanna and Wayne Counties, foreclosures have continued to trend downward. Luzerne County’s foreclosure total has been trending upward since 2016. However, the counties saw new lows in foreclosures in 2020 and 2021 as a result of the moratorium on foreclosures. The 2021 totals were 73 percent to 80 percent lower in each region compared to 2019, in accordance with the moratorium which covered about 70 percent of mortgages nationwide. The moratorium expired on July 31, 2021.

	Foreclosures									
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Lackawanna	552	607	537	541	584	448	420	395	148	105
Luzerne	1,067	1,058	890	693	218	482	571	636	218	127
Wayne	222	178	187	184	149	131	133	108	37	29
Pennsylvania	34,372	33,632	28,905	27,494	25,429	24,449	22,678	20,143	6,715	4,230

Source: The Unified Judicial System of Pennsylvania

Homelessness



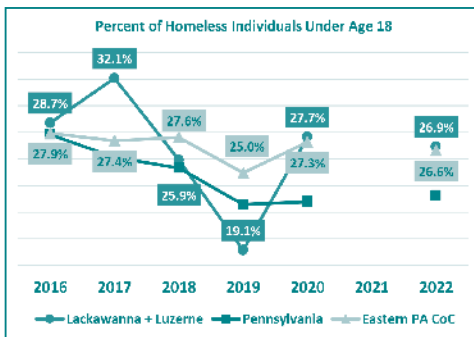
HOMELESSNESS

Homelessness data is tracked annually via point-in-time counts reported to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. In 2021, local agencies responsible for conducting the point-in-time counts were given the option of modifying count procedures due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, some data has been limited – in particular, data on shelter status is incomplete and thus the total number of unhoused individuals does not include those unsheltered at the time of the count in cases where unsheltered data was not collected. Data is reported by Continuum of Care regions across Pennsylvania. These include Lackawanna County, Luzerne County, and the Eastern Pennsylvania Continuum of Care, which is composed of 33 primarily rural counties – including Wayne County.

Statewide, the number of sheltered homeless households fell in January 2021. This may be related to the eviction moratorium or other supports preventing some vulnerable households

from becoming homeless. In 2022, the number in emergency shelter rose, though the number who were counted as unsheltered remained lower than levels seen from 2017 to 2020. The percent of homeless households that were sheltered in either transitional or emergency housing has typically ranged from about 90 percent to 95 percent in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, from 82 percent to 86 percent statewide, and from 73 percent to 84 percent in the Eastern PA CoC region.

The portion of homeless individuals who are under age 18 has been gradually falling statewide, and in most years, the region has seen a slightly higher share of children among the unhoused – averaging 27 percent compared to 25 percent statewide.



	Sheltered Households			Individuals	
	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Unsheltered Households	Total	Children
Jan. 2016	54	90	11	242	84
Jan. 2017	47	69	14	197	63
Jan. 2018	58	52	5	159	38
Jan. 2019	91	57	7	186	24
Jan. 2020	59	59	16	177	38
Jan. 2021	54	55	No Data	165*	No Data
Jan. 2022	51	57	13	188	50

Source: US Department of Housing & Urban Development

	Sheltered Households			Individuals	
	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Unsheltered Households	Total	Children
Jan. 2016	708	511	446	2,599	726
Jan. 2017	667	420	340	2,170	594
Jan. 2018	675	372	286	1,998	552
Jan. 2019	692	292	260	1,843	460
Jan. 2020	754	306	276	2,032	554
Jan. 2021	641	268	No Data	1,396*	No Data
Jan. 2022	992	244	241	2,290	610

Source: US Department of Housing & Urban Development

	Sheltered Households			Individuals	
	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Unsheltered Households	Total	Children
Jan. 2016	65	53	9	169	34
Jan. 2017	55	53	3	174	56
Jan. 2018	66	47	6	165	46
Jan. 2019	60	51	7	164	43
Jan. 2020	61	50	8	181	61
Jan. 2021	53	48	No Data	138*	No Data
Jan. 2022	60	44	No Data	150	41

Source: US Department of Housing & Urban Development

	Sheltered Households			Individuals	
	Emergency Shelter	Transitional Housing	Unsheltered Households	Total	Children
Jan. 2016	5,554	3,563	1,464	15,339	4,269
Jan. 2017	5,363	2,979	1,673	14,138	3,693
Jan. 2018	5,558	2,562	1,667	13,512	3,422
Jan. 2019	5,899	2,417	1,524	13,199	2,980
Jan. 2020	5,989	2,174	1,721	13,375	3,048
Jan. 2021	4,655	1,924	No Data	10,339*	No Data
Jan. 2022	5,777	1,854	1,470	12,691	2,950

Source: US Department of Housing & Urban Development



Social Services

Social Services



“Social services include government-funded programs usually provided to those in need of essentials, such as health care and food, and nonprofits and private philanthropy play an important role in the provision of these services to disadvantaged members of the community.”

SOCIAL SERVICES

The Social Services section of the report describes important indicators related to social service programs within Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wayne Counties and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The indicators tracked cover the Keystone STARS program, children living in poverty, children in foster care, households receiving food stamps, individuals receiving cash assistance, medical assistance and children’s health insurance programs, the population of seniors 65 years and older, the number of senior centers, the population of individuals with disabilities, and certain tax credits. Social services include government-funded programs usually provided to those in need of essentials, such as health care, food, etc. Nonprofit organizations and private philanthropy also play an important role in the provision of these services to disadvantaged members of the community.

Numerous individuals throughout Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wayne Counties and the Commonwealth face physical, economic, or social challenges. The recipients of social services are often older individuals, those with mental and physical health challenges or disabilities, and lower-income families. A large portion of the population has faced the consequences of an uneven economy since the recession in 2008, and despite generalized economic growth in recent years, inequities remain. Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic caused a spike in the acute need for support among families facing income loss. The pandemic has appeared to widen already existing economic inequalities across gender, age, and race. While the economy has returned to a growth trajectory overall, some households have continued to fall through the cracks, and rising costs of essentials have made it more difficult for some to get ahead.

Under the Affordable Care Act, Pennsylvania has expanded Medicaid to cover adults under 65 years with incomes up to 133 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. As a result, a greater number of individuals have been eligible for Medical Assistance. After plateauing in 2018 and 2019, 2020 brought another spike in the share of those eligible for Medical Assistance. This spike was due to expanded eligibility and a rise in unemployment during the pandemic. The percentage reached over 30 percent in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties and over 24 percent in Wayne County. Statewide and regional enrollment in the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) has historically followed an upward trajectory, though it has fallen since 2021 as families shift to Medicaid due to changes in income and eligibility.

Older Pennsylvanians also possess a particular need for social support. Many senior citizens live on fixed incomes and face significant health care issues. Within the three-county region, the percent of the total population aged 65 years and older remains higher than the statewide percentage, with total number estimated at 121,405. The number of individuals with a disability has remained relatively steady, indicating a continued need for support for a variety of disabilities.

Several federal income tax credits are in some ways similar to social assistance programming. The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) can provide significant income, in the form of a tax refund, to lower-income households. Regionally, about 14 percent of tax returns included the EITC as of 2020. The share of households receiving Child Tax Credits, and the average amount of the credit per return, grew due to the expansion of that credit under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Further tax credits and direct payments made in 2020 and 2021 have also made an important impact on the financial situations of families. As a result of these payments, child poverty statewide fell considerably in provisional data for 2020 before rising in 2021. Luzerne County has seen a more rapid decline in child poverty, with its 2021 rate being the lowest among years analyzed.

Early Childhood Education Children Living in Poverty

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Keystone STARS is an initiative of the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL). It was developed to improve, support, and recognize the continuous quality improvement efforts of early learning programs in Pennsylvania. Participating childcare and early learning programs are rated from one to four stars on several factors, such as teacher quality and adherence to safety regulations.

There has been significant year-to-year fluctuation in the number of participating centers. Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties reached their highest levels in 2021 and the total number of participating facilities remained the same in 2022, with 96 facilities with at least 1 STAR in Lackawanna County and 140 in Luzerne County. Data on Wayne County was not available for prior years, but in 2022 there were 24 facilities with at least 1 STAR. The number of 4-STAR (i.e. highest quality) centers has trended upward in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, with a significant increase in 2021. In those two counties, there was a concurrent decrease in STAR 2 and STAR 3 centers, suggesting that those facilities have been graduating to the highest quality level. With 13 facilities, Wayne County had a larger share of 1-STAR centers in 2022, followed by 4-STAR centers with seven facilities.

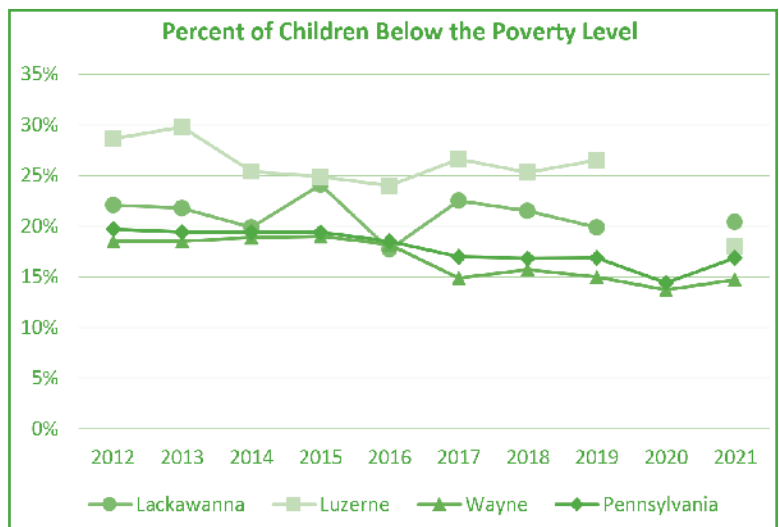


Keystone STARS Child Care Facilities												
Category	2019			2020			2021			2022		
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Wayne	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Wayne	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Wayne	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Wayne
Total STAR Facilities	83	122	ND	80	116	ND	96	140	ND	96	140	24
STAR 1	35	62	ND	33	58	ND	29	63	ND	30	62	13
STAR 2	20	31	ND	19	29	ND	17	23	ND	13	29	4
STAR 3	5	14	ND	5	14	ND	6	4	ND	7	1	0
STAR 4	23	15	ND	23	15	ND	44	50	ND	46	48	7

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Human Services OCDEL.

CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY

The statewide childhood poverty rate has shown a declining trend over the last few years, from 19.4 percent in 2015 to 16.9 percent in 2021. Provisional data from 2020 showed another sharp decline to 14.4 percent. This was likely driven by additional social spending and emergency safety-net programs put into place during the pandemic. In most years, both Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties have had child poverty rates above the statewide rate. Wayne County had childhood poverty rates below the statewide rate in all years examined. County-level data for 2020 comparable to other years was not available for Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, but it is likely that the Northeastern Pennsylvania region also saw decreased child poverty because of pandemic interventions. In the case of Luzerne County, 2021 child poverty remains significantly below pre-pandemic levels.



Percent of Children Under 18 Living Below the Poverty Level										
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Lackawanna	22.1%	21.8%	19.9%	24.1%	17.7%	22.5%	21.5%	19.9%	ND	20.4%
Luzerne	28.6%	29.8%	25.4%	24.9%	24.0%	26.6%	25.3%	26.5%	ND	18.0%
Wayne	18.5%	18.5%	18.9%	19.0%	18.2%	14.9%	15.7%	15.0%	13.7%	14.7%
Pennsylvania	19.7%	19.4%	19.4%	19.4%	18.5%	17.0%	16.8%	16.9%	14.4%	16.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS 1-year Estimates. Wayne County data from U.S. Census Bureau ACS 5-year Estimates. 2020 PA data is experimental.

Children in Foster Care Nutrition Assistance



“The most recent data available estimates 1,269 children served by foster care in the 12 months ending September 2021.”

CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE

County-level data on children in foster care was sourced from Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children (via the Annie E. Casey Foundation). The most recent data available estimates 1,269 children served by foster care in the three counties in the 12 months ending September 2021. This total includes all individuals aged 0 to 20 years in foster care. This population has slightly increased over the period analyzed, including a year-over-year increase of 43 children in the three-county region. Statewide, 20,490 children were in foster care from October 2020 to September 2021 – a decline of 1,199 children from the previous year.

Both statewide and in the region, racial and ethnic minorities are disproportionately represented in the foster care population. Statewide, nonwhite or Hispanic individuals comprise about one-third of the total population of individuals younger than age 20, but account for 56 percent of the foster care population.

	2016-2017		2017-2018		2018-2019		2019-2020		2020-2021	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Lackawanna	797	0.6%	748	0.5%	NA	NA	755	0.5%	786	0.6%
Luzerne	807	1.1%	797	1.1%	NA	NA	889	0.1%	885	1.2%
Wayne	57	0.6%	68	0.7%	NA	NA	82	0.9%	98	1.1%
Pennsylvania	25,381	0.8%	25,441	0.8%	24,665	0.8%	21,689	0.7%	20,490	0.7%

Note: Reporting period begins in October and ends in September.
Source: Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children and the Annie E. Casey Foundation.
Number includes all children in foster care ages 0-20. Percent is out of total population ages 0-19.

	Children in Foster Care by Race and Hispanic Origin 2020-2021							
	Pennsylvania		Lackawanna		Luzerne		Wayne	
	% Total Population (0-19 years)	% Foster Care Population	% Total Population (0-19 years)	% Foster Care Population	% Total Population (0-19 years)	% Foster Care Population	% Total Population (0-19 years)	% Foster Care Population
Hispanic or Latino	13.4%	12.3%	17.5%	15.7%	28.1%	11.4%	7.6%	ND
Non-Hispanic Black or African American	12.8%	30.7%	5.3%	9.1%	6.4%	13.1%	1.2%	15.3%
Non-Hispanic Other Race	0.2%	1.2%	0.2%	12.2%	0.2%	1.4%	0.2%	0.0%
Non-Hispanic Two or More Races	4.2%	8.4%	3.7%	5.2%	3.5%	7.3%	2.7%	0.0%
Non-Hispanic White	65.2%	44.3%	69.9%	57.7%	60.4%	63.7%	87.6%	75.5%

Note: Reporting period begins in October and ends in September.
Source: Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children and the Annie E. Casey Foundation.

NUTRITION ASSISTANCE

The last decade has generally brought with it a marked increase in the number of households receiving assistance through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, also called food stamps), both regionally and across Pennsylvania. A period of growth occurred from 2010 to 2014, coinciding with changes to program eligibility at the federal level. Further growth in the number of households receiving SNAP was seen from 2015 to 2018; this was more pronounced in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties than statewide, while Wayne County saw a decline in SNAP utilization. In 2019 and 2020, SNAP usage remained relatively level statewide, at about 13.5 percent of households. It increased to 14.1 percent in 2021. County-level data was not available for 2020, but in 2021, Luzerne County had a lower number and percentage of SNAP recipients compared to 2018 and 2019. Lackawanna County saw an increase in that time. Wayne County’s statistics have recently seen fluctuation without a clear trend.

	Households Receiving SNAP (Food Stamps)											
	Lackawanna			Luzerne			Wayne			Pennsylvania		
	Total Households	Food Stamps Recipients	% Receiving Food Stamps	Total Households	Food Stamps Recipients	% Receiving Food Stamps	Total Households	Food Stamps Recipients	% Receiving Food Stamps	Total Households	Food Stamps Recipients	% Receiving Food Stamps
2012	85,491	11,748	14.0%	129,158	21,311	17.0%	19,216	1,974	10.3%	4,958,249	650,665	13.0%
2013	83,709	11,512	13.8%	128,597	21,235	16.5%	19,558	2,021	10.3%	4,938,894	618,259	12.5%
2014	84,280	13,642	16.2%	125,235	21,560	17.2%	19,362	2,200	11.4%	4,945,972	644,930	13.0%
2015	83,054	11,895	14.3%	127,408	19,860	15.6%	19,306	2,233	11.6%	4,956,037	658,303	13.3%
2016	86,203	14,635	17.0%	124,118	21,821	17.6%	19,173	2,423	12.6%	4,937,771	660,314	13.4%
2017	86,213	15,218	17.7%	126,811	20,788	16.4%	19,202	2,273	11.8%	5,008,751	646,413	12.9%
2018	88,268	15,164	17.2%	128,301	23,612	18.4%	18,739	2,308	12.3%	5,070,931	679,656	13.4%
2019	88,154	14,783	16.8%	130,890	23,968	18.3%	18,841	2,260	12.0%	5,119,249	693,470	13.5%
2020	ND	ND	-	ND	ND	-	18,938	2,545	13.4%	5,178,588	698,320	13.5%
2021	88,294	15,629	17.7%	134,132	23,291	17.4%	19,379	2,376	12.3%	5,228,956	737,503	14.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 1-year Estimates, Wayne County data from U.S. Census Bureau ACS 5-year Estimates, 2020 PA data is experimental.

Cash Assistance Medical Assistance & CHIP

CASH ASSISTANCE

Cash assistance programs, such as Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF), provide additional income assistance to those who cannot work and to households that do not earn enough from work to support themselves. The number and share of Lackawanna County households receiving cash assistance have fluctuated, but in 2021 reached the lowest point since 2015 and the second lowest since 2012.

In Luzerne County, the number of cash assistance recipients increased year over year from 2014 to 2018, before falling in 2019 to the lowest levels seen in the last decade. Luzerne County levels did increase to 3.8 percent in 2020 before dropping to 3.3 percent in 2021. The number of Wayne County households receiving cash assistance fluctuated over the last decade, and most recently the share decreased from 5.4 percent in 2020 to 4.4 percent in 2021.

	Households Receiving Cash Assistance							
	Lackawanna		Luzerne		Wayne		Pennsylvania	
	# of Households	% of Households	# of Households	% of Households	# of Households	% of Households	# of Households	% of Households
2012	2,456	2.9%	4,880	3.8%	617	3.2%	184,003	3.7%
2013	3,099	3.7%	4,102	3.2%	527	2.7%	163,462	3.3%
2014	2,738	3.2%	3,885	3.1%	568	2.9%	168,621	3.4%
2015	2,124	2.6%	4,211	3.3%	704	3.6%	162,502	3.3%
2016	3,288	3.8%	4,337	3.5%	732	3.8%	159,489	3.2%
2017	2,548	3.0%	4,873	3.8%	776	4.0%	146,108	2.9%
2018	2,710	3.1%	6,274	4.9%	897	4.8%	158,875	3.1%
2019	3,073	3.5%	3,707	2.8%	968	5.1%	161,961	3.2%
2020	3,423	3.9%	4,937	3.8%	1,019	5.4%	162,509	3.2%
2021	2,531	2.9%	4,427	3.3%	847	4.4%	200,583	3.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS 1-year Estimates. Wayne County and 2020 data from U.S. Census Bureau ACS 5-year Estimates.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AND CHIP

Since 2011, there has been a substantial increase in the number of individuals eligible for Medical Assistance in the Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties. This growth has been due to expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act. The percentage of the population and the total number of people eligible for Medical Assistance continued to rise between 2013 and 2018, plateauing in 2018 and 2019 before resuming an upward trend through 2022 – coinciding with expanded eligibility during the COVID-19 pandemic. About one-third of Lackawanna County and Luzerne County residents were eligible for Medical Assistance as of July 2022. Data prior to 2017 was not available for Wayne County, although the number of residents eligible for Medical Assistance rose from 20.4 percent in 2017 to 24.4 percent in 2022.

Statewide enrollment in the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) grew significantly from 2018 to 2020. CHIP enrollment dropped in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties and statewide by January 2021, however, and continued to fall through 2023. Even though data from 2018 and 2019 was not available in Wayne County, CHIP enrollment dropped from January 2020 to 2021. Enrollment in Wayne County also decreased from 2021 to 2023. This shift reportedly results from more families using Medicaid due to changes in family income.

	Total Persons Eligible for Medical Assistance							
	Lackawanna		Luzerne		Wayne		Pennsylvania	
	# of Individuals	% of Population	# of Individuals	% of Population	# of Individuals	% of Population	# of Individuals	% of Population
July 2013	39,644	18.5%	63,414	19.70%	ND	ND	2,203,479	17.3%
July 2014	41,873	19.6%	65,352	20.4%	ND	ND	2,257,071	17.7%
July 2015	48,369	22.7%	75,255	23.6%	ND	ND	2,592,693	20.3%
July 2016	52,831	24.9%	82,982	26.1%	ND	ND	2,779,675	21.7%
July 2017	54,900	26.0%	87,411	27.6%	10,476	20.4%	2,852,494	22.3%
July 2018	56,402	26.8%	89,278	28.1%	10,688	20.9%	2,894,860	22.6%
July 2019	56,376	26.8%	89,268	28.1%	10,371	20.2%	2,860,191	22.3%
July 2020	59,606	28.4%	94,815	29.9%	10,896	21.2%	3,009,756	23.5%
July 2021	65,680	30.5%	106,278	32.7%	11,924	23.3%	3,320,102	25.6%
July 2022	70,144	32.5%	114,957	35.3%	12,556	24.4%	3,550,480	27.4%

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Human Services. Percent of population calculated using population estimates from U.S. Census Bureau.

	Children's Health Insurance (CHIP) Enrollment					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Lackawanna	2,438	2,522	2,690	2,369	2,062	1,889
Luzerne	4,272	4,377	4,758	3,976	3,438	3,062
Wayne	ND	ND	701	634	ND	480
Pennsylvania	180,999	179,241	185,959	170,124	145,745	129,257

Data is from January of each year. Source: Pennsylvania Department of Human Services

Programs for Seniors



“In 2021, there were 25 active adult centers in the three-county region.”

PROGRAMS FOR SENIORS (POPULATION 65 OR OLDER)

The share of seniors (aged 65 or older) among the Lackawanna County population rose from 19.5 percent in 2000 to 20.3 percent in 2021. As of 2021, seniors comprised 19.9 percent of the population in Luzerne County; this is a slightly higher share of the county’s population than in 2000 and a much higher share than 2010. In Wayne County, the share of seniors has increased since 2000, with a substantial growth noted since 2010 at a much higher rate than the other two counties and Pennsylvania. The statewide senior population has similarly trended upward – in 2021, 19 percent of the state population was at least 65 years old (up from 15.6 percent in 2000 and 15.4 percent in 2010). All three counties have typically had higher shares of older residents than the Commonwealth as a whole.

In 2021, there were 25 active adult centers in the three-county region. In Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, respectively, there are about 0.16 and 0.22 senior centers per 10,000 residents aged 65 years or older. Wayne County has slightly more senior centers on a per-capita basis, with about 0.31 centers per 10,000 residents in this age group.

Population 65 Years and Older															
Lackawanna				Luzerne				Wayne				Pennsylvania			
	Total Population	65 Years +	% 65 Years +	Total Population	65 Years +	% 65 Years +	Total Population	65 Years +	% 65 Years +	Total Population	65 Years +	% 65 Years +			
2000	213,295	41,542	19.5%	319,250	62,740	19.7%	47,722	8,352	17.5%	12,281,054	1,919,165	15.6%			
2010	214,437	37,895	17.7%	320,918	57,595	17.9%	52,822	10,028	19.0%	12,702,379	1,959,307	15.4%			
2017	210,451	41,364	19.7%	317,808	62,340	19.6%	51,192	12,075	23.6%	12,787,641	2,278,410	17.8%			
2018	210,269	42,015	20.0%	317,859	63,167	19.9%	51,395	12,399	24.1%	12,800,922	2,334,899	18.2%			
2019	209,674	42,622	20.3%	317,417	63,977	20.2%	51,361	12,623	24.6%	12,801,989	2,393,362	18.7%			
2020	215,516	43,195	20.0%	325,057	64,300	19.8%	51,101	12,523	24.5%	12,989,625	2,417,109	18.6%			
2021	215,663	43,733	20.3%	326,053	64,903	19.9%	51,431	12,769	24.8%	12,964,056	2,464,454	19.0%			

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates, 2000 & 2010 U.S. Census

Number of Senior Centers		
	2021	Per 1000 Residents Age 65+
Lackawanna	7	0.16
Luzerne	14	0.22
Wayne	4	0.31

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Aging, Residents Age 65+ from U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates

Individuals with Disabilities

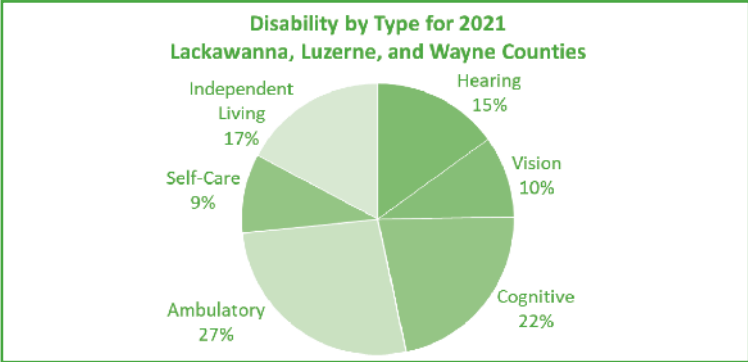
INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

In the three counties and statewide, the percentages of individuals with disabilities have fluctuated over the past five years, not accounting for 2020 in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties when comparable data was not available. In Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, the proportions of people with at least one disability have been consistently higher than the percentage in the Commonwealth – both counties averaged about 16 percent over the five years analyzed, compared to the statewide five-year average of 14 percent. The five-year estimate for Wayne County is higher still, at 18.3 percent. Of all disabilities reported in the three-county region, 27 percent were ambulatory disabilities, and another 22 percent were cognitive disabilities. Outside those, independent living disabilities were most frequently reported. Hearing, vision, and self-care disabilities each comprise smaller but still substantial amounts of all disabilities reported in the region. This breakdown has changed minimally over the past several years.



	Population with a Disability											
	Lackawanna			Luzerne			Wayne			Pennsylvania		
	Civilian Non-Institutionalized Population	With a Disability	%	Civilian Non-Institutionalized Population	With a Disability	%	Civilian Non-Institutionalized Population	With a Disability	%	Civilian Non-Institutionalized Population	With a Disability	%
2016	207,544	33,471	16.1%	308,401	50,021	16.2%	47,723	8,352	17.5%	12,579,422	1,792,479	14.2%
2017	206,732	32,103	15.5%	309,654	48,088	15.5%	48,066	8,832	18.4%	12,602,472	1,774,646	14.1%
2018	206,943	33,478	16.2%	310,069	49,068	15.8%	47,956	8,579	17.9%	12,604,311	1,774,575	14.1%
2019	205,870	33,256	16.2%	309,750	51,643	16.7%	47,847	9,024	18.9%	12,593,136	1,769,125	14.0%
2020	No Data			No Data			47,720	9,134	19.1%	12,579,538	1,745,563	13.9%
2021	212,477	35,508	16.7%	319,212	49,256	15.4%	47,747	8,561	17.9%	12,767,386	1,767,211	13.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS 1-year Estimates, 2020 PA data is experimental, Wayne County from U.S. Census Bureau ACS 5-year Estimates.



Tax Credits



TAX CREDITS

Certain tax credits function as a form of social aid to low- and middle-income families and individuals, and play a large role in poverty alleviation. The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a federal income tax credit that assists lower-income working households. It was received on about one in six Luzerne County tax returns in 2020. In that year, 14.9 percent of returns filed in Lackawanna County received the EITC, as did 12.4 percent of returns in Wayne County. Statewide, 12.8 percent of returns received the EITC. The amount of the credit ranges from \$2,000 to \$2,100 in the region and statewide. Credits of this amount, when received as tax refunds, can make a significant impact on the financial stability of households. In Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, the average size of the credit per return has generally grown in the past five years, despite a drop in 2020, while Wayne County showed a nominal increase.

	Total Tax Returns	Returns Receiving EITC	Percent Receiving EITC	Average EITC amount per return	Returns Receiving Child Tax Credit	Percent Receiving Child Tax Credit	Average Child Tax Credit Amount per Return
2016	102,590	17,560	17.1%	\$2,179	13,060	12.7%	\$1,212
2017	103,130	17,320	16.8%	\$2,245	13,150	12.8%	\$1,220
2018	103,150	17,190	16.7%	\$2,285	22,540	21.9%	\$2,009
2019	104,710	17,740	16.9%	\$2,257	22,600	21.6%	\$2,029
2020	108,930	16,200	14.9%	\$2,002	23,540	21.6%	\$2,156

*Two year data has been revised.
Source: Internal Revenue Service*

	Total Tax Returns	Returns Receiving EITC	Percent Receiving EITC	Average EITC amount per return	Returns Receiving Child Tax Credit	Percent Receiving Child Tax Credit	Average Child Tax Credit Amount per Return
2016	157,090	29,810	19.0%	\$2,287	19,900	12.7%	\$1,149
2017	158,080	29,980	19.0%	\$2,327	19,780	12.5%	\$1,150
2018	158,210	29,840	18.9%	\$2,366	34,580	21.9%	\$1,836
2019	161,370	30,970	19.2%	\$2,355	35,030	21.7%	\$1,842
2020	170,650	28,370	16.6%	\$2,184	36,960	21.7%	\$1,873

*Two year data has been revised.
Source: Internal Revenue Service*

	Total Tax Returns	Returns Receiving EITC	Percent Receiving EITC	Average EITC amount per return	Returns Receiving Child Tax Credit	Percent Receiving Child Tax Credit	Average Child Tax Credit Amount per Return
2016	24,710	3,690	14.9%	\$2,139	3,020	12.2%	\$1,281
2017	24,870	3,660	14.7%	\$2,096	2,960	11.9%	\$1,297
2018	25,070	3,540	14.1%	\$2,108	4,990	19.9%	\$2,089
2019	25,180	3,540	14.1%	\$2,115	4,910	19.5%	\$2,085
2020	26,520	3,300	12.4%	\$2,118	4,980	18.8%	\$2,048

*Two year data has been revised.
Source: Internal Revenue Service*

	Total Tax Returns	Returns Receiving EITC	Percent Receiving EITC	Average EITC amount per return	Returns Receiving Child Tax Credit	Percent Receiving Child Tax Credit	Average Child Tax Credit Amount per Return
2016	6,188,330	949,840	15.3%	\$2,230	827,260	13.4%	\$1,245
2017	6,236,490	930,470	14.9%	\$2,253	823,380	13.2%	\$1,243
2018	6,259,700	906,990	14.5%	\$2,278	1,453,120	23.2%	\$2,161
2019	6,353,920	917,220	14.4%	\$2,255	1,458,540	23.0%	\$2,177
2020	6,546,550	841,110	12.8%	\$2,091	1,473,200	22.5%	\$2,213

Source: Internal Revenue Service

The Child Tax Credit was claimed by about 22 percent of households in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties in 2020, the same share from the previous year but a slightly smaller percentage than in Pennsylvania as a whole. In 2020, Wayne County saw a decrease from the previous year, with 18.8 percent of households receiving Child Tax Credit – a smaller percentage than the other two counties and statewide, likely due to its differing demographic makeup. The significant increase in households claiming Child Tax Credits between 2017 and 2018, and growth in the average size of the credits, result from expansion of the credit in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. The credits ranged from \$1,873 in Luzerne County to \$2,156 in Lackawanna County. Numbers for all three counties were lower than the state average of \$2,213.



Health & Health Care

Health & Health Care



HEALTH AND HEALTH CARE

The Health and Health Care section of this report identifies important health indicators in Pennsylvania and Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wayne Counties. These indicators include death from health conditions such as cancer and heart disease, death by suicide, infant and child mortality, childhood lead exposure, teen pregnancy, unhealthy behaviors such as cigarette smoking and excessive drinking, health insurance status, obesity, and the availability of health care facilities such as hospitals and nursing homes.

The rate of death from cancer is an indicator affected by behavior (such as smoking, which is known to cause various types of cancer) and by health care (cancer death rates decline as access to the latest treatments improve). Demographics also complicate these statistics; cancer is more prevalent among older individuals, for instance. Although the cancer death rates have fluctuated in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties in recent years and Wayne County cancer deaths decreased between 2015 and 2019, the annual average number of deaths in the three counties from 2012 to 2020 exceeds the statewide average.

The age-adjusted rate of death by heart disease – another leading cause of death in the U.S. – is similarly impacted by health-related behaviors and access to health care. The rate of death by heart disease was higher in 2020 than it was in 2012 for Luzerne County and Pennsylvania, and both Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties have higher rates than the state as a whole.

Environmental health factors are associated with lifelong health complications. Screening for childhood lead exposure, one such environmental health issue, is not mandated for all children in Pennsylvania. Statewide, only 17.6 percent of children under 72 months were tested in 2020, and Lackawanna County had a smaller share tested.

Personal behavior impacts many health conditions, including but not limited to heart disease and cancer. At a time when many area residents are living with low or moderate incomes, healthy choices are not always top priorities – nor are they affordable. Issues of social determinants and the existence of food deserts in the region also complicate efforts to improve population health. The adult obesity rate has stood at around 33 percent regionally and statewide in recent years. One of the key health-related indicators, adult tobacco smoking, has performed worse regionally in recent years compared to state as a whole, though the rate is declining. The rate of chronic drinking has exceeded statewide levels in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties but rates in the region that includes Wayne County have been below Pennsylvania levels.

Drug overdose deaths regionally and statewide increased between 2020 and 2021, despite some declines in the prevalence of drug use disorder in the previous year. The rates of change in the three counties exceeded the statewide rate. Fentanyl is a major factor in persistent deaths from drug overdoses. The rates of opioid prescriptions between 2016 and 2020 have decreased annually in all four regions, however. The prevalence of these high-risk behaviors is a significant public health concern.

A considerably larger proportion of individuals in the region and statewide had health insurance coverage in 2019 than in 2010, largely due to an increase in people covered by public health insurance. In 2020, there was a temporary jump in the share of children and adults without insurance coverage statewide, though 2021 brought a return to pre-pandemic levels.

Finally, the availability and cost of health care are important concerns. Though Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wayne Counties are homes to multiple health care resources and the number of beds available in hospitals has not declined significantly, cost could impede access for those who are underinsured or uninsured – especially as some COVID-related supports to expand access to care are set to end. Hospital room rates have risen between 2017 and 2021; the daily private hospital room rate has increased by 45 percent in Lackawanna County, 31 percent in Luzerne County, and 15 percent in Wayne County.

Although the daily private hospital rate has gradually increased over recent years, rates for nursing homes have fluctuated. From 2017-2018 to 2021-2022, the semi-private daily room rate for nursing homes rose by four percent in Lackawanna County, five percent in Luzerne County, and 11 percent in Wayne County. Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties have more nursing home beds per 1,000 seniors compared to the statewide rate, and Wayne County has fewer. However, the numbers of beds are lower regionally and statewide compared with rates in 2017-2018. With an increasing population of older adults and growing life expectancy, capacity to care for older adults will be an important issue to address. This must include care at various levels and home-based solutions as well as skilled nursing facilities.

Cancer & Heart Disease Obesity

CANCER

Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wayne Counties have reported fluctuating cancer death rates in recent years, while the cancer death rate in Pennsylvania has been generally declining. However, from 2019 to 2020, the cancer death rate in Pennsylvania slightly increased. Over the years analyzed, the annual average number of deaths by cancer has been 174.3 in Lackawanna County, 172.4 in Luzerne County, and 168.1 in Wayne County, exceeding the annual average rate of 163.1 in the Commonwealth. There was an uptick in the cancer death rate in Lackawanna County (to 162.9) in 2020. Similarly, Luzerne County's rate increased from 166.4 to 166.7. Wayne County had a sharp increase in the cancer death rate in 2020 (to 187.8), a notable difference between the state and the other two counties' rates. In the previous year, Wayne County had the lowest cancer death rate among the three counties.



Cancer Deaths (Age-Adjusted Rate per 100,000)									
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Lackawanna	177.0	180.9	177.8	173.3	179.4	179.9	184.8	152.4	162.9
Luzerne	179.6	189.3	185.6	175.2	166.2	172.6	150.2	166.4	166.7
Wayne	169.8	196.4	174.7	180.1	160.9	160.9	152.1	130.0	187.8
Pennsylvania	173.8	170.1	168.8	166.2	164.0	160.6	156.4	153.2	155.2

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health

"Both Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties' heart disease death rates increased in 2020, and Luzerne's rate was seven percent higher than in 2012"

HEART DISEASE

Pennsylvania's age-adjusted rate of death by heart disease has seen a generally declining trend, but in the past year the state experienced more of these deaths. Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wayne Counties have reported fluctuating rates of death by heart disease in more recent years. The statewide heart disease death rate was four percent higher in 2020 than it was in 2012. Both Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties' heart disease death rates increased in 2020, and Luzerne County's rate was seven percent higher than it was in 2012. Despite the recent fluctuations, rates in both geographies remain significantly above the state rate of death by heart disease. The heart disease death rate saw a decline in Wayne County in 2020. It was 23 percent lower than the rate in 2012. In that year, Wayne County's rate fell below the state rate of death by heart disease for the first time in the period analyzed.

Heart Disease Deaths (Age-Adjusted Rate per 100,000)									
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Lackawanna	236.5	209.4	210.8	224.9	201.5	221.3	230.4	211.8	218.5
Luzerne	196.0	222.3	195.6	202.1	192.5	203.0	213.3	186.1	209.8
Wayne	232.7	218.4	204.5	210.2	224.1	180.9	197.7	217.4	178.5
Pennsylvania	175.2	178.4	174.7	176.8	175.8	175.7	175.8	172.7	181.8

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health

OBESITY

There was a slight uptick in the adult obesity rate (to 33 percent) in the region encompassing Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wyoming Counties, while the rate in Pike, Monroe, Susquehanna, and Wayne Counties decreased slightly to 34 percent. Pennsylvania has remained at the rate of 32 percent from 2017 through 2020 but that number increased to 33 percent for the most recent three-year time period. Over the entire period analyzed, the average adult obesity rate was 31 percent in the three-county region, 34 percent in the four-county region, and 32 percent statewide.

Adult Obesity Rate (BMI > 30.0)						
	2014-2016	2015-2017	2016-2018	2017-2019	2018-2020	2019-2021
Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wyoming	30%	30%	30%	29%	32%	33%
Pike, Monroe, Susquehanna, and Wayne	33%	33%	35%	35%	35%	34%
Pennsylvania	30%	31%	31%	32%	32%	33%

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health

Infant Mortality Death Rate of Children Under Five

“As with the infant mortality rate, the death rate of children under five years has been slowly declining statewide.”

INFANT MORTALITY

Infant mortality rates have fluctuated somewhat over the last decade. The rate for Lackawanna County is now below and the statewide rate and the rate for Luzerne County is above the statewide rate. Data for Wayne County was not available. The statewide infant mortality rate (measured per 1,000 live births) has declined slowly since 2014-2016, reaching 5.8 in 2018-2020. The rate in Lackawanna County also reached the lowest point over the period analyzed. The infant mortality rate in Luzerne County had increased for several years prior to the 2016-2018 period, before dropping in 2017-2019 and reaching its highest rate during the last period analyzed.

Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births)					
	2014 - 2016	2015 - 2017	2016 - 2018	2017- 2019	2018- 2020
Lackawanna	7.8	7.7	6.2	6.0	5.4
Luzerne	5.7	6.2	6.3	6.0	6.5
Wayne	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
Pennsylvania	6.1	6.1	6.1	6.0	5.8

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health

DEATH RATE OF CHILDREN UNDER FIVE

As with the infant mortality rate, the death rate of children under five years has been slowly declining statewide. It reached its lowest point over the past decade, with the rate of 125.0 in 2020. The rates in both Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties have fluctuated over the period from 2011 to 2020. While the death rate of children under five years in Lackawanna County decreased in 2020, the rate in Luzerne County rose above the statewide rate. Data for Wayne County was not available.

Rate of Death for Children Younger Than 5										
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Lackawanna	200.3	156.3	115.4	162.3	196.4	180.2	134.9	132.5	127.2	108.5
Luzerne	123.4	229.9	142.2	81.4	162.2	138.2	124.1	146.4	131.9	162.0
Wayne	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
Pennsylvania	146.8	157.0	147.2	136.5	139.5	141.1	134.0	132.4	130.2	125.0

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health

Childhood Lead Screening Suicide Rate

CHILDHOOD LEAD SCREENING

Pennsylvania does not require universal testing of children for elevated lead levels; tests are only mandated for children covered by Medicaid. In 2020, the number of children younger than 72 months with tested blood lead levels (BLL) higher than five micrograms per deciliter totaled 419 for the three counties combined. The share of tested children with elevated BLL in Lackawanna County (eight percent) has declined considerably since 2017, although it continues to exceed the rates in Luzerne County (seven percent), Wayne County (four percent), and statewide (five percent).

Nearly 18 percent of children in this age group were tested statewide. The percent of children tested in Luzerne County has followed statewide trends since 2017. Lackawanna County continues to trail statewide and Luzerne County testing rates, with less than 14 percent of children in this age group tested in 2020. In recent years, the percent of children tested in Wayne County is larger than the proportions in the two other counties and statewide, reaching 23.8 percent in 2020.



Childhood Lead Levels: 2020			
	% of Population Age 0-71 Months Tested	Number Tested with Elevated BLL (> 5 µg/dL)	% of Tested with Elevated BLL
Lackawanna	13.7%	154	8.4%
Luzerne	18.1%	242	6.7%
Wayne	23.8%	23	3.9%
Pennsylvania	17.6%	6,903	4.7%

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health

Percent Tested (Age 0-71 Months)				
	2017	2018	2019	2020
Lackawanna	15.8%	15.6%	16.0%	13.7%
Luzerne	17.3%	19.2%	19.5%	18.1%
Wayne	15.7%	16.8%	21.2%	23.8%
Pennsylvania	17.8%	19.0%	19.9%	17.6%

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health

Percent of Tested with Elevated BLL				
	2017	2018	2019	2020
Lackawanna	10.4%	9.2%	8.0%	8.4%
Luzerne	5.7%	6.6%	5.8%	6.7%
Wayne	5.6%	3.4%	2.1%	3.9%
Pennsylvania	6.2%	5.5%	4.6%	4.7%

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health

SUICIDE RATE

In 2020, the age-adjusted suicide rate in Lackawanna County declined to 12.1, after reaching a peak of 25.0 in 2018. The rate in Luzerne County has declined noticeably since 2017 to the most recent rate of 15.7. By 2019, the rate in Wayne County reached a peak of 34.4 before dropping to 23.6 the following year – this is the highest rate compared to the other two counties and statewide. The rates in Luzerne and Wayne Counties have exceeded the statewide rate for all years analyzed, while Lackawanna County's rate was in line with the statewide rate in 2019 and 2020, following fluctuations in prior years.

Suicide-Deaths (Age Adjusted Rate per 100,000)									
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Lackawanna	14.6	15.4	14.4	21.1	17.9	12.8	25.0	14.3	12.1
Luzerne	15.6	15.3	15.8	21.8	16.6	21.2	19.2	18.4	15.7
Wayne	25.2	23.8	ND	20.9	32.4	23.0	23.3	34.4	23.6
Pennsylvania	12.1	13.3	13.2	13.9	14.6	15.0	14.9	14.0	12.3

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health

Alcohol and Tobacco Substance Abuse

ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO

Many chronic health conditions are linked with related health factors such as behaviors and lifestyles. Smoking and alcohol use are associated with heart disease, cancer, and high blood pressure – among other issues. Both factors analyzed here have been more prevalent in the three-county area (Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wyoming Counties) than in the four-county area (Pike, Monroe, Susquehanna, and Wayne Counties) and the Commonwealth as a whole for the majority of periods.

The rate of cigarette smoking in Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wyoming Counties decreased to 20 percent in 2019-2021, following a decrease in the prior period. In the four-county region including Pike, Monroe, Susquehanna, and Wayne Counties, the rate of cigarette smoking decreased to 17 percent, following an increase in 2018-2020. Both regions have consistently had high proportions of adult cigarette smokers compared with the Commonwealth as a whole – 23 percent in the three-county region and 21 percent in the four-county region compared with 18 percent statewide – over the period from 2014 to 2021.

Adult Tobacco Smoking						
	2014-2016	2015-2017	2016-2018	2017-2019	2018-2020	2019-2021
Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wyoming	22%	25%	23%	24%	22%	20%
Pike, Monroe, Susquehanna, and Wayne	24%	22%	23%	19%	21%	17%
Pennsylvania	19%	18%	18%	18%	17%	16%

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health

Adult Alcohol Consumption						
Chronic Drinking	2014-2016	2015-2017	2016-2018	2017-2019	2018-2020	2019-2021
Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wyoming	6%	5%	8%	8%	9%	7%
Pike, Monroe, Susquehanna, and Wayne	6%	6%	5%	5%	5%	4%
Pennsylvania	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%	7%
Binge Drinking	2014-2016	2015-2017	2016-2018	2017-2019	2018-2020	2019-2021
Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wyoming	15%	19%	19%	19%	17%	16%
Pike, Monroe, Susquehanna, and Wayne	15%	14%	13%	14%	15%	15%
Pennsylvania	18%	18%	18%	17%	17%	16%

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health

Two measures are used for the adult population engaging in potentially harmful alcohol use. Chronic drinking is defined as consuming an average of two or more drinks every day for 30 days. Across a majority of the periods analyzed, Pennsylvania’s rate of chronic drinking has stood at six percent. It has risen slightly to seven percent, however. The three-county region’s rate of chronic drinking was higher than the statewide rate from 2016 to 2020, peaking at nine percent most recently. In the four-county region that includes Pike, Monroe, Susquehanna, and Wayne Counties, the rate of chronic drinking has been lower in the past few years compared to the other two regions. It decreased to four percent in 2019-2021.

Binge drinking is defined as the consumption of five or more alcoholic drinks for men or four or more alcoholic drinks for women on one occasion. Compared to chronic drinking, larger shares of adults regionally and statewide report alcohol use in this category. The shares are 15 percent in the four-county region and 16 percent both in the three-county region and statewide.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

As of 2020, there were an estimated 16,086 individuals with a drug use disorder in the three-county region. Drug use disorder is defined as any substance use disorder not including alcohol use disorder. The proportion of these individuals residing in Luzerne County grew by nine percent from 2019 to 2020, while the proportion residing in Lackawanna County fell by six percent. The number of drug use disorders in Wayne County has fluctuated substantially, most recently decreasing by 54 percent.

COVID-19 appears to have affected drug overdose deaths. In 2020, there was a 42-percent increase in drug overdose deaths in Lackawanna County and a 26-percent increase in Luzerne County. In Wayne County, however, drug overdose deaths decreased by 21 percent. Statewide, drug overdose deaths grew by 15 percent, reaching the highest level seen since 2017. From 2020 to 2021, drug overdose deaths rose from 92 to 106 in Lackawanna County, from 169 to 194 in Luzerne County, and from 15 to 18 in Wayne County.

Fentanyl has typically been the drug most commonly associated with overdose deaths in Pennsylvania, having been reported in 70 percent of cases as of 2018. It was followed by heroin, cocaine, and benzodiazepines.

Abuse of opioid drugs such as fentanyl and heroin sometimes begins with abuse of prescription opioids. In recent years, the rate of opioid prescription has decreased annually in all four regions. Despite the increase in drug overdose deaths in 2020 for Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, the pandemic did not seem to interrupt the decline in opioid dispensing. From 2019 to 2020, there was a ten-percent dispensation decline in Lackawanna County, a three-percent decline in Luzerne County, and an eight percent decrease statewide. Wayne County experienced a 21 percent decrease in drug overdose deaths in 2020 and a one percent drop in opioid dispensation from 2019 to 2020.

Estimated Individuals with a Drug Use Disorder					
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2019-2020 Change
Lackawanna	4,727	6,358	4,898	5,352	9%
Luzerne	8,120	9,933	10,744	10,046	-6%
Wayne	848	1,231	1,485	688	54%
Pennsylvania	303,000	293,000	316,000	299,000	-5%

Source: CDC Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, Pennsylvania Department of Health

Drug Overdose Deaths (Any Drug, Accidental and Undetermined)					
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2020-2021 Change
Lackawanna	79	94	65	92	15%
Luzerne	145	158	134	169	15%
Wayne	12	17	19	15	20%
Pennsylvania	5,425	4,451	4,479	5,171	3%

Source: PA Department of Health, via PA OpenData. Prior year data not been updated.

Opioid Prescribing Rate (per 100 people)						
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2019-2020 Change
Lackawanna	117.1	98.5	83.7	77.9	65.3	-10%
Luzerne	85.7	71.1	61.5	51.0	49.4	-3%
Wayne	64.6	56.3	52.2	21.2	20.9	1%
Pennsylvania	69.5	58.3	49.9	47.0	43.1	-8%

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Prior year data not been updated.

Hospitals Long-Term Care Facilities

HOSPITALS

There are 14 hospitals in Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wayne Counties, including general hospitals, specialty hospitals, and federal hospitals. Among them, the daily room rate for a private room is \$2,751 in Lackawanna County, \$2,525 in Luzerne County, and \$730 in Wayne County. In the three areas, the rate has grown substantially over the years analyzed. This includes an increase of 15 percent in daily rate for a private room in Lackawanna County from 2020 to 2021, though Luzerne County saw the first decline reported among the years analyzed.

The number of general hospital beds in proportion to the population has remained relatively consistent in the three counties, with 2.8 beds per 1,000 residents in Lackawanna County, 2.7 beds per 1,000 residents in Luzerne County, and 2.1 beds per 1,000 residents in Wayne County.

The COVID-19 pandemic affected use of health care services. Emergency room visits declined 23 percent in Lackawanna County between 2018 and 2020, before increasing by 14 percent in 2021. Emergency room visits in Luzerne County have fluctuated from 2017 to 2021 but were also at their lowest level in 2020. In Wayne County, emergency room visits fell by 17 percent from 2019 to 2020 before rebounding by eight percent in 2021.

Since 2020, there has been an uptick in the percentage of ER visits resulting in inpatient admission. Though this rate is not an exact indicator of ER overutilization, this trend may suggest that ER visits for non-emergent cases has been an ongoing issue in the region, with some progress being made. In 2020, the three counties saw large decreases in emergency room visits but increases in ER inpatient admission rates. This is likely due to many patients with less urgent concerns avoiding hospitals during the pandemic.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total Hospitals	5	5	5	5	5
Daily Room Rate (Private Room)	\$1,891	\$1,940	\$2,773	\$2,392	\$2,751
General Hospital Beds	692	692	692	692	601
Beds per 1,000	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.2	2.8
Emergency Room Visits	121,838	124,152	123,111	96,071	109,337
ER Inpatient Admission Rate	16.5%	16.4%	15.5%	21.5%	18.4%

Total hospitals and daily room rate includes general hospitals, specialty hospitals, and federal hospitals. Listed beds, beds per 1,000, and ER visit rate includes only general acute care hospitals.

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total Hospitals	7	7	7	7	7
Daily Room Rate (Private Room)	\$1,932	\$1,993	\$2,050	\$2,819	\$2,525
General Hospital Beds	847	828	872	872	872
Beds per 1,000	2.7	2.6	2.7	2.7	2.7
Emergency Room Visits	150,218	147,981	157,503	130,469	139,585
ER Inpatient Admission Rate	17.9%	16.2%	16.3%	20.0%	17.5%

Total hospitals and daily room rate includes general hospitals, specialty hospitals, and federal hospitals. Listed beds, beds per 1,000, and ER visit rate includes only general acute care hospitals.

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total Hospitals	2	2	2	2	2
Daily Room Rate (Private Room)	\$633	\$663	\$695	\$730	\$730
General Hospital Beds	95	95	106	106	106
Beds per 1,000	1.8	1.8	2.1	2.1	2.1
Emergency Room Visits	22,962	22,182	22,344	18,474	19,995
ER Inpatient Admission Rate	8.3%	7.4%	6.7%	7.8%	8.4%

Total hospitals and daily room rate includes general hospitals, specialty hospitals, and federal hospitals. Listed beds, beds per 1,000, and ER visit rate includes only general acute care hospitals.

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health

LONG-TERM CARE FACILITIES

The number of nursing homes in Pennsylvania has shown a slow decreasing trend since 2017, though they've remained stable in Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wayne Counties. Numbers of beds per 1,000 residents aged 65 years and older have declined in the three counties and statewide in the most recent period. Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties have more beds per 1,000 seniors than the state overall. The three long term care facilities in Wayne County have fewer beds per 1,000 seniors than in the other three regions in all years analyzed.

The daily room rates at long-term care facilities in Lackawanna and Wayne Counties are lower than rates statewide and in Luzerne County. In addition, the rates in Lackawanna County have increased four percent since 2017-2018, compared to upticks of nearly five percent in Luzerne County and one percent statewide. Wayne County has the lowest room rates, but the largest increases in those rates (11.4 percent).

	2017-2018			2018-2019			2019-2020			2020-2021			2021-2022		
	Nursing Homes	Beds Per 1,000	Daily Room Rate	Nursing Homes	Beds Per 1,000	Daily Room Rate	Nursing Homes	Beds Per 1,000	Daily Room Rate	Nursing Homes	Beds Per 1,000	Daily Room Rate	Nursing Homes	Beds Per 1,000	Daily Room Rate
Lackawanna	18	58.4	\$301	18	52.9	No Data	18	55.6	\$312	18	No Data	\$295	18	54.4	\$313
Luzerne	25	44.4	\$322	25	46.8	No Data	25	43.6	\$367	25	No Data	\$333	25	42.4	\$338
Wayne	3	31.9	\$236	3	31.2	No Data	3	30.6	\$248	3	No Data	\$256	3	29.7	\$263
Pennsylvania	697	38.6	\$343	697	37.7	No Data	692	36.7	\$365	689	No Data	\$326	683	35.2	\$347

Daily Room Rate is for Semi-Private Room

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health

Teen Pregnancy Health Insurance Coverage



TEEN PREGNANCY

Over the decade analyzed, Pennsylvania reported generally decreasing rates of teen pregnancies. Teen pregnancies are defined here as pregnancies among females aged 15 to 17 years old.

Declines from 2011 to 2020 include a 55-percent drop in the rate of teen pregnancy in Lackawanna County and a 40-percent drop in Luzerne County. The statewide rate has declined as well over the past decade. In recent years, Luzerne County has had a teen pregnancy rate significantly higher than the statewide rate. Data for Wayne County during the last nine years was not available, but in 2011 the county had a teen pregnancy rate lower than the other two counties and statewide.

Teen Pregnancy Rate (crude rate per 1,000)										
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Lackawanna	14.6	17.6	11.6	11.7	12.5	9.6	7.7	6.5	8.6	6.6
Luzerne	17.4	15.7	14.7	11.9	15.6	13.4	13.7	13.5	11.7	10.5
Wayne	11.2	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND	ND
Pennsylvania	19.3	17.4	14.3	13.3	12.4	10.6	9.5	9.6	9.0	8.2

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Health

HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE

Until 2019, all four geographies experienced declines in their shares of residents covered by private health insurance, a trend that was more prominent in the region than statewide. The shares of those covered by public health insurance grew substantially regionally and in Pennsylvania since 2010, an effect of Pennsylvania's expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act.

More recently – from 2019 to 2021, not accounting for 2020 data – the state and Lackawanna County saw slight increases in their shares of people with health insurance. In that same period Luzerne and Wayne counties experienced declines in coverage. Although 2020 data for Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties was not available, statewide data showed a further decline, with the uninsured rate decreasing to 5.5 percent, and over four percent for children.

Enrollment in health plans offered through the Healthcare.gov marketplace continued to decline regionally and statewide as of 2020. County-wide enrollment data was not available for 2021 and 2022. The share of Lackawanna County enrollees declined by six percent since 2018, while shares of enrollees declined 11 percent in Luzerne County, 12 percent in Wayne County, and 15 percent statewide. The statewide rollout of Pennie, Pennsylvania's health insurance marketplace, occurred in 2021. According to the data published, statewide enrollment grew in 2021 and 2022 compared to prior years, reversing the declining trend.

The number of people enrolled in HealthChoices, the managed care program for Pennsylvania's Medical Assistance recipients, has increased 29 percent statewide since 2018 and by even more significant margins in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties. In Wayne County, the number of people enrolled in HealthChoices has increased by 24 percent since 2018. There were over 165,000 enrollees in HealthChoices in the three counties combined, representing nearly six percent of the statewide enrollment.

	Health Insurance Coverage																	
	Lackawanna					Luzerne					Wayne							
	2010	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2010	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2010	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
With Health Insurance	89.6%	96.3%	95.4%	94.3%	NA	95.5%	89.0%	95.1%	95.4%	94.1%	NA	93.5%	NA	93.4%	94.1%	94.6%	94.4%	93.2%
Private Health Insurance	71.4%	71.5%	70.1%	68.3%	NA	71.2%	69.2%	70.8%	68.9%	65.4%	NA	66.5%	NA	70.1%	69.0%	69.1%	69.0%	66.7%
Public Health Insurance	32.0%	41.2%	43.1%	42.8%	NA	40.5%	35.9%	41.0%	43.1%	44.7%	NA	43.9%	NA	43.0%	44.3%	45.0%	45.0%	45.4%
No Health Insurance Coverage	10.4%	3.7%	4.6%	5.7%	NA	4.5%	11.0%	4.9%	4.6%	5.9%	NA	6.5%	NA	6.6%	5.9%	5.4%	5.6%	6.8%
No Health Insurance - Under 18	5.3%	0.3%	1.6%	3.3%	NA	2.8%	6.8%	3.2%	2.7%	3.1%	NA	4.7%	NA	3.5%	3.9%	3.7%	4.6%	5.1%

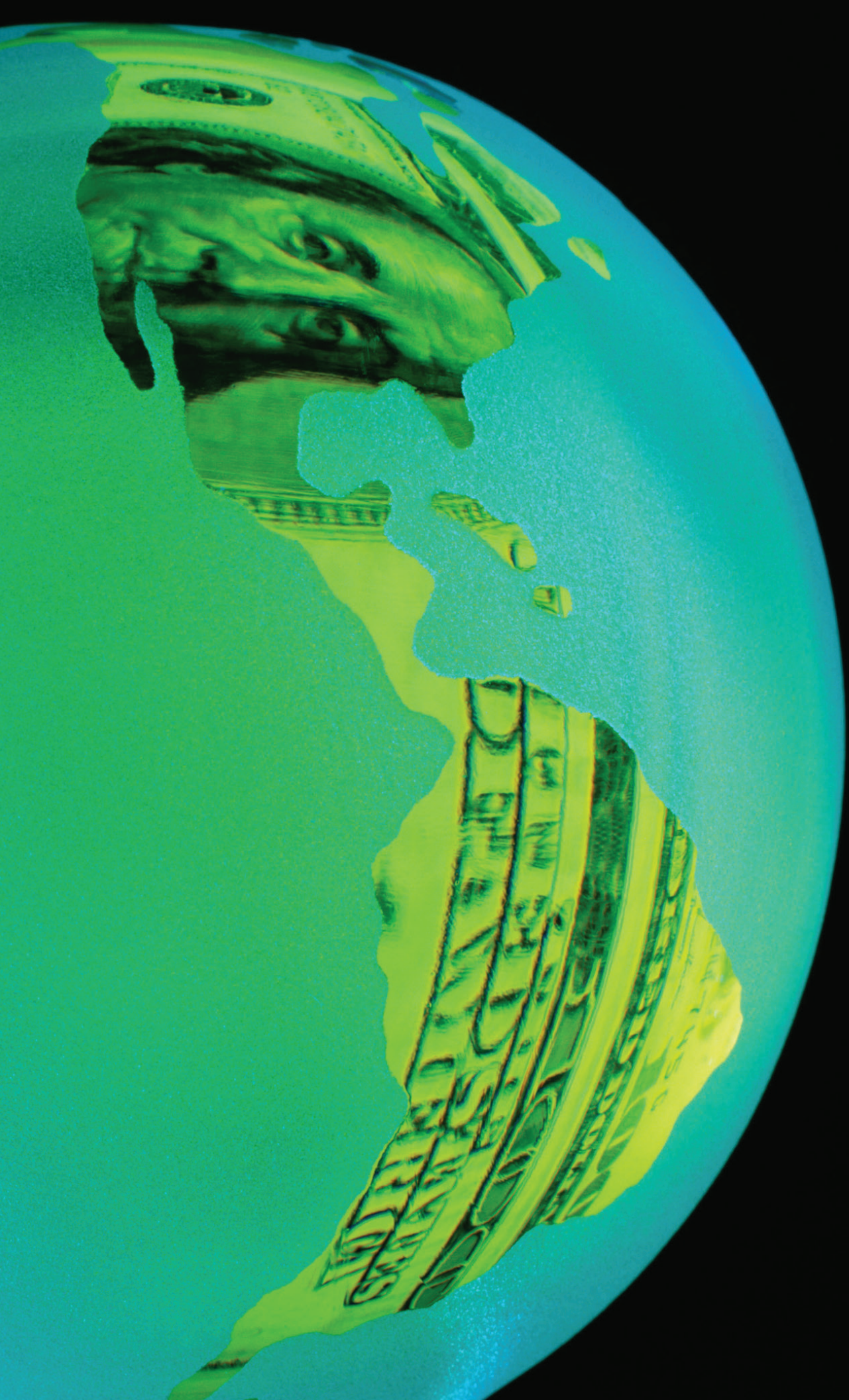
Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey
Wayne County from U.S. Census Bureau ACS 5-Year Estimates

Health Choices Enrollment					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Lackawanna	43,556	43,971	49,262	54,090	57,691
Luzerne	70,738	71,414	81,013	90,517	97,684
Wayne	8,410	8,036	9,172	9,824	10,414
Pennsylvania	2,284,179	2,236,594	2,517,302	2,767,556	2,950,613

Data taken from November of each year
Source: Pennsylvania Department of Human Services

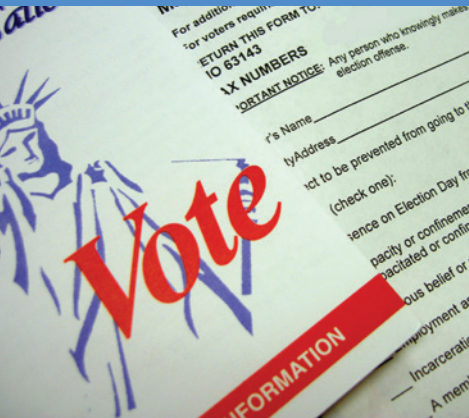
Marketplace Plan Enrollment					
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Lackawanna	6,235	6,087	5,856	No Data	No Data
Luzerne	8,515	8,272	7,613	No Data	No Data
Wayne	2,086	2,011	1,845	No Data	No Data
Pennsylvania	389,081	365,888	331,825	337,722	374,776

Source: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services



Civic Engagement

Civic Engagement



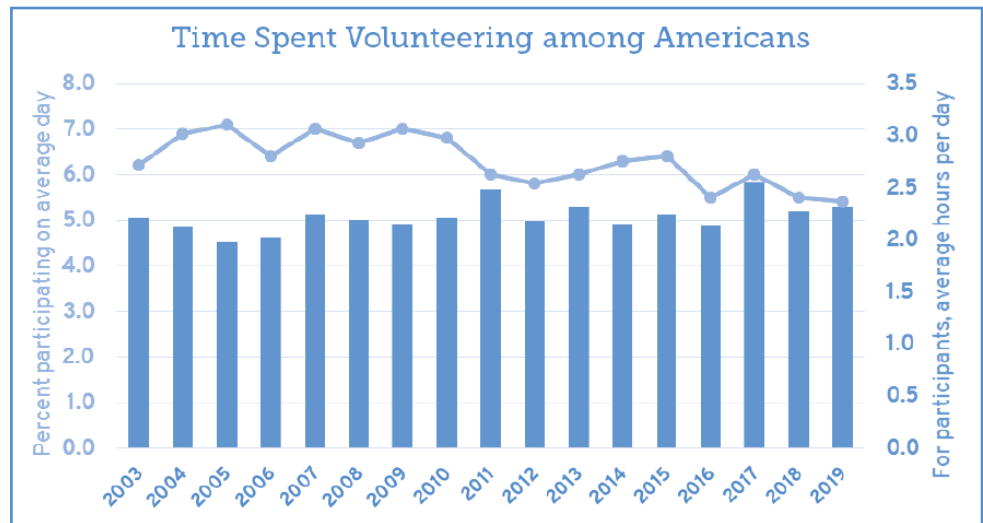
“An engaged and involved population is an important asset for the overall strength and vibrancy of communities, though it is difficult to measure systematically.”

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

The Civic Engagement section of the report identifies important indicators in Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wayne Counties, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania – including nonprofit organizations, library circulation, voter turnout, and veterans. An engaged and involved population is an important asset for the overall strength and vibrancy of communities, but it is one of the most difficult topics in the Indicators report to measure systematically.

The state of nonprofit organizations is a key indicator of regional civic engagement and community ties. The Institute calculated statistics on nonprofit organizations from the IRS Master File, accessed through the Urban Institute’s National Center for Charitable Statistics. The number of nonprofits in the region declined slightly in 2022, reaching or falling below levels seen across the prior four years in each county. There were 2,344 tax-exempt organizations in the region as of 2022, with about 63 percent of those designated as 501c3 organizations. These organizations span a variety of activity areas, including arts, culture and humanities, education, environment, health, human services, and religion.

Nonprofit organizations were impacted in a variety of ways by the COVID-19 pandemic, including disruption of important fundraisers and forced alteration of service delivery. Volunteer opportunities were also limited. Even prior to the pandemic, national data since 2003 showed a gradual declining trend in the share of Americans who volunteer on any given day. The number of hours spent by those who did volunteer has not changed significantly.



Declining volunteerism negatively affects community organizations, safety net programs, arts and culture events, and critical public safety services like volunteer fire companies and EMS. However, The Institute's annual polling program of college and university students found that as of 2022, 57 percent responded that they sometimes or often participated in events to raise money for charity and nearly 49 percent said they sometimes or often got involved in organizations outside school.

Libraries are nonprofit organizations that serve a particularly important role in the community. Additionally, library data is useful in determining the availability and utilization of resources. The numbers of libraries in the region has remained stable despite a recent statewide decline. The COVID-19 pandemic had significant effects on public libraries in Pennsylvania. Statewide, library registration fell by over 546,000 individuals from 2019 to 2021. In Northeastern Pennsylvania, however, there appeared to be an increase in utilization of public libraries during the pandemic: Lackawanna and Wayne Counties saw increases in 2020, while Luzerne County remained essentially unchanged. The region's libraries circulated over 1.3 million items in 2021, rebounding after significant declines in 2020. The decline in statewide and regional circulation in 2020 is likely due to reduced availability or demand for physical materials due to the pandemic. The increase in registration but decline in circulation seen during 2020 may be a result of an increase in need for library services other than physical materials, such as computer and internet access, electronic information resources, or virtual programming.

Voter turnout is another important indicator of civic engagement. This report tracks the total number of registered voters eligible to vote in the November election of each year, along with the voter turnout for those elections. Despite pandemic-related challenges to voter registration and in-person voting, the 2020 election resulted in record voter registration and participation both regionally and statewide. Between 2019 and 2020, voter registration increased six percent in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, nine percent in Wayne County, and seven percent statewide. Declines in voter registration and participation were revealed in 2021 – longstanding trends in municipal election years. In 2022, the midterm election brought about a small jump in registered voters, and voter turnout was 61 percent in Lackawanna County, 57 percent in Luzerne County, and 65 percent in Wayne County. These levels are on par with or higher than previous midterm election years in all three counties.

The number of military veterans in a community can be telling of the community's success in caring for veterans and an indicator of demand for specialized services such as mental health and substance abuse treatment. The most recent data showed a generally declining trend in the total number of veterans in the region; nonetheless, the area is home to over 36,500 veterans. Luzerne and Wayne Counties are home to proportions larger than the statewide share. In all three counties and statewide, over half of veterans are age 65 or older.

Non-Profit Organizations



“The total number of not-for-profit organizations declined slightly in all three counties between 2018 and 2022.”

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

The total number of not-for-profit organizations declined slightly in all three counties between 2018 and 2022. The total number of organizations in the three counties stood at 2,344 in 2022 compared with 2,459 in 2018. Statewide, there has been a growth in the number of nonprofits, with tax exempt organizations reaching over 75,800 in 2022 – more than there were prior to the pandemic.

Charitable organizations with 501c3 designations comprise the largest share of tax exempt organizations in the region, at 63 percent regionally and 76 percent statewide. Several other designations, including 501c4 civic leagues and social welfare organizations and 501c5 labor organizations, make up a larger share of exempt organizations in the region than they do across the state.

Total Tax Exempt Organizations				
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Wayne	Pennsylvania
2022	924	1,183	237	75,826
2021	ND	ND	ND	ND
2020	947	1,225	237	74,254
2019	956	1,243	240	73,431
2018	968	1,252	239	65,503

Source: National Center for Charitable Statistics IRS Master File

Exempt Organizations by Category: 2022				
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Wayne	Pennsylvania
501(c)3 - Charities; Educational, Religious, Scientific, or Literary organizations	602	720	145	57,573
501(c)4 - Civic Leagues, Social Welfare Organizations, etc.	67	123	22	3,693
501(c)5 - Labor Organizations	53	76	10	2,343
501(c)6 - Business Leagues, Chambers of Commerce, etc.	21	44	9	2,142
501(c)7 - Social & Recreational Clubs	33	59	12	2,864
501(c)19 - Organizations of War Veterans	28	36	9	1,272
All Other Exempt Organizations	120	125	30	5,939

Source: National Center for Charitable Statistics IRS Master File

Non-Profit Organizations by Activity Type

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS BY ACTIVITY TYPE

The following tables show nonprofits categorized by major activity types. In each county and statewide, the largest share of nonprofits is classified as human services, followed by public and social benefit. Although the number of organizations in these two categories declined from 2018 in Lackawanna and Luzerne County and was unchanged in Wayne County, they still account for nearly half the nonprofit organizations in the three counties.

In Lackawanna and Wayne Counties, education organizations represent the third largest category of nonprofit; in Luzerne County and statewide, religious organizations represent the third largest category. Arts, culture, and humanities organizations also made up a large share, with 236 entities in the region. Exempt organizations in the health care field number 168 in the three counties.

“Charitable organizations with 501c3 designations comprise large shares of tax exempt organizations, at 63 percent regionally and 76 percent statewide.”

	2018	2019	2020	2022
Arts, culture, and humanities	126	124	119	118
Education	133	127	127	125
Environment and animals	28	28	28	27
Health care	79	79	76	76
Human services	261	258	260	253
Religion	96	95	94	93
Mutual benefit	58	58	57	54
Public and social benefit (other)	182	181	180	172

Source: National Center for Charitable Statistics IRS Master File

	2018	2019	2020	2022
Arts, culture, and humanities	103	104	104	100
Education	121	117	116	113
Environment and animals	54	53	51	49
Health care	80	82	82	77
Human services	370	364	356	343
Religion	179	178	178	178
Mutual benefit	81	80	80	75
Public and social benefit (other)	255	256	249	239

Source: National Center for Charitable Statistics IRS Master File

	2018	2019	2020	2022
Arts, culture, and humanities	18	18	18	18
Education	29	29	29	28
Environment and animals	12	12	12	12
Health care	16	16	15	15
Human services	75	76	75	75
Religion	22	22	22	22
Mutual benefit	21	21	21	21
Public and social benefit (other)	43	43	42	43

Source: National Center for Charitable Statistics IRS Master File

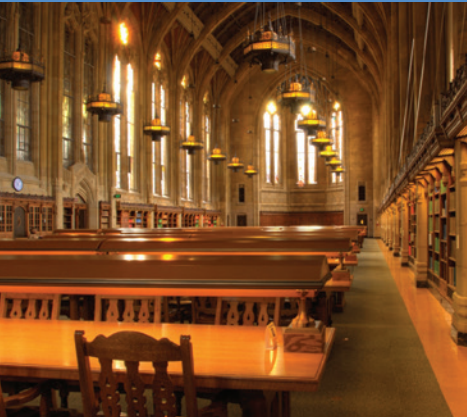
	2018	2019	2020	2022
Arts, culture, and humanities	4,667	5,181	5,216	5,304
Education	8,412	9,295	9,403	9,192
Environment and animals	2,136	2,496	2,553	2,672
Health care	4,376	5,002	5,031	5,126
Human services	17,185	19,893	20,192	20,665
Religion	10,198	10,934	11,021	11,245
Mutual benefit	3,216	3,298	3,263	3,214
Public and social benefit (other)	14,023	15,275	15,315	15,333

Source: National Center for Charitable Statistics IRS Master File

	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Wayne	PA
Total Exempt Organizations	-5%	-6%	-1%	16%
Arts, culture, and humanities	-6%	-3%	0%	14%
Education	-6%	-7%	-3%	12%
Environment and animals	-4%	-9%	0%	25%
Health care	-4%	-4%	-6%	17%
Human services	-3%	-7%	0%	20%
Religion	3%	1%	0%	10%
Mutual benefit	-7%	-7%	0%	0%
Public and social benefit (other)	-5%	-6%	0%	9%

Source: National Center for Charitable Statistics IRS Master File

Library Registration & Circulation



“The region’s libraries circulated over 1.3 million items in 2021, rebounding after significant declines in 2020.”

LIBRARY REGISTRATION & CIRCULATION

The COVID-19 pandemic significantly affected Pennsylvania’s public libraries. While the total number of state-funded libraries remains level at 27 in the three-county region, the statewide number dropped from 470 in 2019 to 457 in 2021. Statewide, library registration fell by over 546,000 individuals during that time. In Northeastern Pennsylvania, however, there appeared to be an increase in utilization of public libraries during the pandemic; Lackawanna and Wayne Counties saw increases in 2020, while Luzerne County remained essentially unchanged. In 2021, Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties both saw growth while Wayne County decreased by a notable amount.

The region’s libraries circulated over 1.3 million items in 2021, rebounding after significant declines in 2020. The decline in statewide and regional circulation in 2020 is likely due to reduced availability or demand for physical materials due to the pandemic. Statewide, a similar trend was seen, but the Commonwealth as a whole saw a relatively small rebound in 2021 relative to the three-county region. The increase in registration but decline in circulation seen during 2020 may be a result of an increase in need for library services other than physical materials, such as computer and internet access, electronic information resources, and virtual programming.

	Library Circulation							
	Pennsylvania		Lackawanna		Luzerne		Wayne	
	Total Circulation	Circulation Per Capita	Total Circulation	Circulation Per Capita	Total Circulation	Circulation Per Capita	Total Circulation	Circulation Per Capita
2012	68,692,140	5.4	1,222,667	5.7	821,395	2.6	229,282	4.4
2013	68,155,060	5.3	1,161,506	5.4	781,659	2.4	224,495	4.3
2014	66,140,364	5.2	1,147,873	5.4	791,461	2.5	210,351	4.0
2015	64,534,566	5.0	1,051,572	5.0	684,279	2.2	197,263	3.8
2016*	63,900,275	5.0	1,064,411	5.0	625,538	2.0	137,624	2.7
2017	61,841,879	4.8	1,005,946	4.8	715,801	2.3	162,658	3.2
2018	62,077,482	4.8	957,745	4.6	551,186	1.7	173,587	3.4
2019	63,942,921	5.0	964,814	4.6	550,546	1.7	196,202	3.8
2020	46,400,720	3.6	564,158	2.6	434,656	1.3	70,603	1.4
2021	47,550,669	3.7	690,612	3.2	506,018	1.6	127,332	2.5

Data includes state-aided libraries. Source: Pennsylvania State Library

	Library Registration							
	Pennsylvania		Lackawanna		Luzerne		Wayne	
	Number of Libraries	Registration	Number of Libraries	Registration	Number of Libraries	Registration	Number of Libraries	Registration
2012	474	5,357,818	8	52,906	11	120,857	8	13,698
2013	474	5,229,111	8	51,779	11	134,408	8	13,207
2014	474	5,295,583	8	50,092	11	138,665	8	13,020
2015	474	5,416,096	8	52,090	11	131,494	8	12,310
2016	474	5,197,214	8	50,858	11	137,196	8	11,687
2017*	474	5,324,185	8	50,208	11	233,035	8	10,945
2018	467	5,330,741	8	46,520	11	239,568	8	10,416
2019	470	5,361,183	8	44,056	11	237,323	8	22,747
2020	468	5,088,130	8	49,189	11	237,326	8	23,846
2021	457	4,814,830	8	65,273	11	242,966	8	17,886

* Registration data prior to 2017 for Luzerne County and prior to 2019 for Wayne County is not comparable due to a change in reporting for one location.

Data includes state-aided libraries. Source: Pennsylvania State Library

VETERANS

The estimated number of veterans in Pennsylvania decreased in 2021 to just under seven percent of the population. Lackawanna County followed a similar trend, with the number of veterans decreasing from 9.2 percent to 6.9 percent of the population from one five-year period to the next. In Luzerne County, there was a similar decrease from 9.4 to 7.8 percent, while Wayne County saw a slight increase from 10.5 to 10.7 percent, though this share remains lower than the 13 percent estimated from 2007 to 2011. Most recently, there were more than 36,500 veterans in the three-county region, and Luzerne and Wayne Counties had shares significantly higher than the share of the Commonwealth as a whole.



Veterans: Lackawanna County

	2007-2011	2012-2016	2017-2021
Total Number of Veterans	19,349	15,664	11,830
Percent of Civilian Population 18+	11.4%	9.2%	6.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS 5-year estimates

Veterans: Luzerne County

	2007-2011	2012-2016	2017-2021
Total Number of Veterans	30,254	24,034	20,210
Percent of Civilian Population 18+	11.9%	9.4%	7.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS 5-year estimates

Veterans: Wayne County

	2007-2011	2012-2016	2017-2021
Total Number of Veterans	5,618	4,448	4,553
Percent of Civilian Population 18+	13.3%	10.5%	10.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS 5-year estimates

Veterans: Pennsylvania

	2007-2011	2012-2016	2017-2021
Total Number of Veterans	1,007,939	840,258	703,580
Percent of Civilian Population 18+	10.2%	8.3%	6.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau ACS 5-year estimates

Voter Registration & Participation

VOTER REGISTRATION & PARTICIPATION

The number of registered voters on both the state and regional levels has followed a predictable and stable trend since 2000, rising significantly during presidential election years, and rising by smaller amounts during midterm federal election years. Registration often decreases following presidential elections.

The COVID-19 pandemic created logistical challenges to voter registration and in-person voting. Despite these challenges, the 2020 election resulted in record voter registration and participation both regionally and statewide. Between 2019 and 2020, voter registration increased six percent in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, nine percent in Wayne County, and seven percent statewide. Then between 2020 and 2021, voter registration decreased by three percent in Lackawanna and Wayne Counties, eight percent in Luzerne County, and four percent statewide. For 2022's midterm election, in which several statewide races were on the ballot, registration increased by one percent in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties and two percent in Wayne County and statewide.

Voter turnout for the 2020 election reached historic levels, with at least seven in ten registered voters participating regionally and statewide. Percentages of voter turnout dropped, following typical patterns, prior the 2021 municipal election. In 2022, voter turnout rebounded to 61 percent in Lackawanna County, 57 percent in Luzerne County, and 65 percent in Wayne County, levels similar to or higher than previous midterm election years in all three counties.

Voting: Lackawanna											
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Registered Voters	149,471	146,614	146,655	139,796	148,104	141,516	143,610	140,320	149,389	144,467	146,125
Total Votes	98,775	47,344	60,489	44,209	104,991	50,735	84,502	51,544	116,003	51,689	89,830
% of Voter Turnout	66%	32%	41%	32%	71%	36%	61%	37%	78%	36%	61%
<i>Prior year data has been revised</i>											
<i>Source: Pennsylvania Department of State, Lackawanna County Department of Elections</i>											

Voting: Luzerne											
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Registered Voters	194,137	194,991	196,129	190,659	205,332	204,757	207,513	208,965	220,888	202,389	204,548
Total Votes	125,619	49,344	75,692	53,312	137,549	49,654	109,024	55,676	154,134	62,120	117,495
% of Voter Turnout	65%	25%	39%	28%	67%	24%	52%	27%	70%	31%	57%
<i>Prior year data has been revised</i>											
<i>Source: Pennsylvania Department of State, Luzerne County Department of Elections</i>											

Voting: Wayne											
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Registered Voters	32,577	31,877	32,090	31,337	33,683	32,608	33,339	32,668	35,705	34,818	35,514
Total Votes	21,751	6,746	13,887	8,994	24,321	9,539	20,246	12,296	28,235	12,184	22,945
% of Voter Turnout	67%	21%	43%	29%	72%	29%	61%	38%	79%	35%	65%
<i>Prior year data has been revised</i>											
<i>Source: Pennsylvania Department of State, Lackawanna County Department of Elections</i>											

Voting: Pennsylvania											
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Registered Voters	8,508,015	8,223,473	8,251,050	8,073,175	8,722,977	8,430,988	8,609,880	8,530,983	9,090,962	8,727,731	8,873,144
Total Votes	5,742,040	1,651,441	3,495,866	2,006,393	5,918,847	2,086,025	5,012,555	2,463,876	6,915,283	2,769,282	ND
% of Voter Turnout	68%	20%	42%	25%	68%	25%	59%	29%	76%	32%	ND
<i>Source: Pennsylvania Department of State</i>											

Voter Registration & Participation

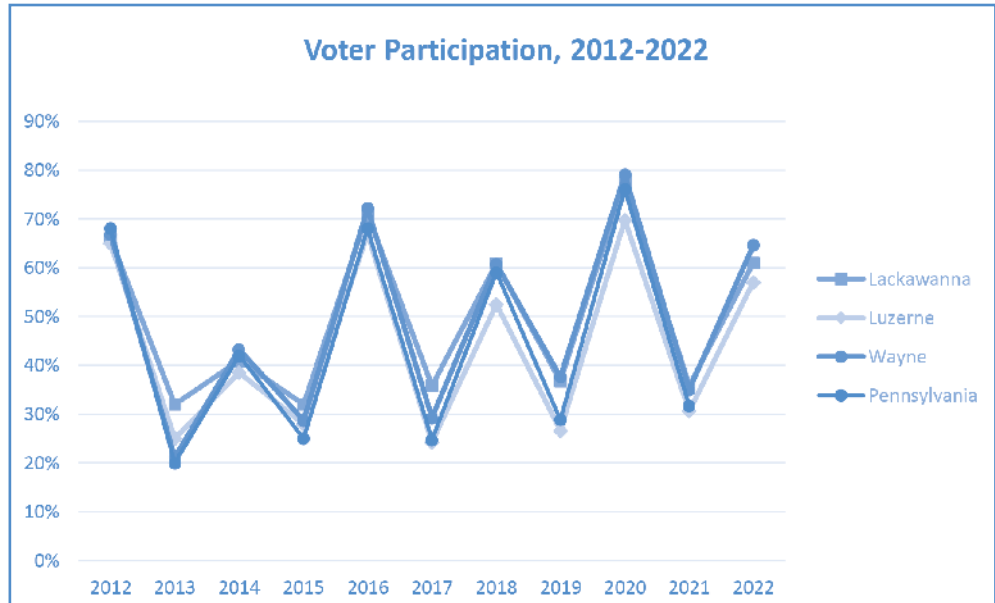
Registered Voters				
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Wayne	Pennsylvania
2001	147,197	197,813	27,478	7,773,541
2002	146,129	198,062	28,023	7,835,775
2003	147,144	203,276	27,762	7,688,295
2004	154,464	213,296	30,064	8,366,663
2005	148,551	211,845	29,686	8,073,337
2006	148,283	196,775	30,394	8,182,876
2007	148,975	173,344	30,191	8,112,998
2008	157,326	187,844	32,068	8,755,588
2009	149,632	191,108	31,729	8,473,823
2010	150,577	188,091	32,159	8,478,509
2011	146,723	188,591	31,827	8,168,254
2012	149,474	194,137	32,577	8,508,015
2013	146,614	194,991	31,877	8,223,473
2014	146,655	196,129	32,090	8,251,050
2015	139,796	190,659	31,337	8,073,175
2016	148,104	205,332	33,683	8,722,977
2017	141,516	204,757	32,608	8,430,988
2018	143,610	207,513	33,339	8,609,880
2019	140,320	208,965	32,668	8,530,983
2020	149,389	220,888	35,705	9,090,962
2021	144,467	202,388	34,818	8,727,731
2022	146,125	204,548	35,514	8,873,144

Source: Pennsylvania Department of State

Voter Registration & Participation



“Voter turnout for the 2020 election reached historic levels, with at least seven in ten registered voters participating regionally and statewide.”



	Percent Voter Turnout										
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Lackawanna	66%	32%	41%	32%	71%	36%	61%	37%	78%	36%	61%
Luzerne	65%	25%	39%	28%	67%	24%	52%	27%	70%	31%	57%
Wayne	67%	21%	43%	29%	72%	29%	61%	38%	79%	35%	65%
Pennsylvania	68%	20%	42%	25%	68%	25%	59%	29%	76%	32%	ND

Source: Pennsylvania Department of State



Government

Government Lackawanna County Fiscal Snapshot



GOVERNMENT

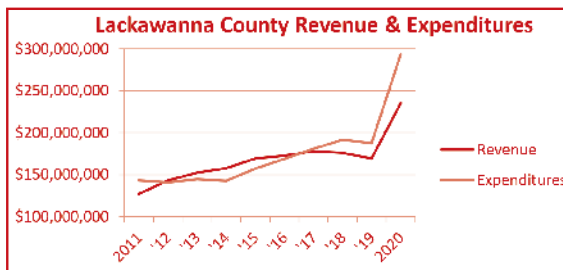
This section of the report deals primarily with county government fiscal affairs. Tables consist of county and state data such as revenue, expenditures, debt, taxes, and aid to communities. The indicators reflect governmental size, scope, and financial health. Sources of information include the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development and data procured directly from the counties' annual financial reports, which are filed with DCED.

The statistics presented here are government-wide, meaning that the data is inclusive of each county's component parts. They contain details from each county's general fund as well as all other major and minor funds for which the county is responsible.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY FISCAL SNAPSHOT

In 2020, the county's total revenues exceeded \$235 million – a 39-percent jump that reversed a declining trend from 2017 to 2019. Expenditures rose by 56 percent from the prior year. These trends are due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which increased the need for certain government services and brought about new revenue through the CARES Act. In 2020, debt per capita fell below \$1,000 for the first time among all years analyzed.

County revenue consists primarily of taxes and intergovernmental funds. Intergovernmental funds come from federal, state, and local sources. They include grants, reimbursements for services, and the like. The majority of intergovernmental funds received by the counties support health and human services. Tax revenue, on the other hand, includes all taxes levied by a county government (predominantly property taxes). In Lackawanna County, intergovernmental revenue has generally trended up, and increased greatly in 2020, though tax revenues also increased.



Year	Revenue		Expenditures	
	Total Revenue	Per Capita	Total Expenditures	Per Capita
2011	\$126,985,143	\$593	\$142,878,817	\$667
2012	\$143,137,091	\$667	\$140,883,575	\$657
2013	\$152,203,107	\$711	\$144,354,993	\$675
2014	\$157,464,861	\$740	\$142,586,340	\$670
2015	\$169,058,332	\$798	\$157,031,357	\$741
2016	\$172,642,884	\$817	\$168,733,731	\$798
2017	\$177,746,961	\$843	\$180,627,796	\$857
2018	\$176,218,890	\$836	\$191,539,314	\$909
2019	\$169,258,391	\$807	\$187,707,051	\$895
2020	\$235,447,906	\$1,091	\$293,714,398	\$1,360

Source: Lackawanna County, PA DCED

Year	Total Taxes	Intergovernmental Revenue	
		Taxes per Capita	Intergovernmental Revenue
2011	\$55,512,405	\$259	\$47,578,152
2012	\$72,892,209	\$340	\$44,598,547
2013	\$77,732,981	\$363	\$46,413,441
2014	\$79,066,461	\$372	\$44,797,841
2015	\$79,902,327	\$377	\$55,923,290
2016	\$80,814,918	\$382	\$60,316,175
2017	\$84,141,605	\$399	\$61,330,478
2018	\$83,809,729	\$398	\$61,371,273
2019	\$84,702,303	\$404	\$54,460,398
2020	\$90,385,468	\$419	\$80,531,527

Source: Lackawanna County, PA DCED

Year	Lackawanna County		Luzerne County		Wayne County	
	Total Debt	Debt Per Capita	Total Debt	Debt Per Capita	Total Debt	Debt Per Capita
2011	\$240,221,204	\$1,122	\$288,160,000	\$899	\$23,908,359	\$453
2012	\$233,435,714	\$1,088	\$286,515,419	\$892	\$23,103,688	\$442
2013	\$229,145,438	\$1,071	\$273,750,005	\$855	\$21,188,667	\$406
2014	\$229,065,212	\$1,077	\$253,676,089	\$796	\$20,204,979	\$388
2015	\$222,348,986	\$1,049	\$262,076,601	\$823	\$19,590,000	\$378
2016	\$217,234,408	\$1,028	\$247,687,351	\$783	\$18,215,000	\$355
2017	\$214,570,970	\$1,018	\$256,800,530	\$809	\$20,775,000	\$406
2018	\$221,732,958	\$1,052	\$232,439,629	\$732	\$19,340,001	\$376
2019	\$215,070,642	\$1,026	\$218,600,000	\$689	\$20,770,000	\$404
2020	\$215,070,823	\$996	\$203,160,000	\$624	\$26,220,000	\$513

Source: Lackawanna, Luzerne & Wayne Counties, PA DCED

Luzerne County Fiscal Snapshot

Wayne County Fiscal Snapshot

LUZERNE COUNTY FISCAL SNAPSHOT

In 2020, Luzerne County's total revenues grew by 13 percent to more than \$274 million, while expenditures grew by a similar rate, amid local governments' response to the pandemic. County debt fell by more than \$15 million from 2019 to 2020.

Luzerne County's intergovernmental revenue (which includes transfers from other federal, state, and local sources such as grants and reimbursements for services) had been increasing slowly since 2016, but fell by 0.5 percent in 2019.

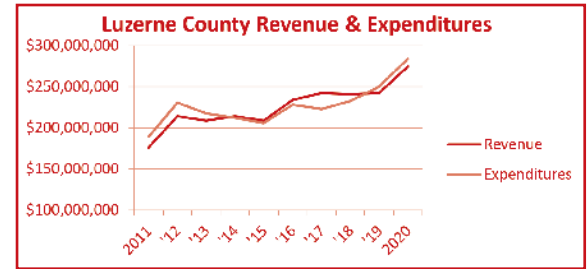
In 2020, this portion of revenue grew by nearly 30 percent due to an influx of COVID-related funds. Tax revenue for the county increased slightly, building on increases seen in the prior years.

Luzerne County Revenue			
Year	Total Taxes	Taxes per Capita	Intergovernmental Revenue
2011	\$ 92,272,209	\$288	\$66,725,348
2012	\$ 98,407,858	\$307	\$96,930,033
2013	\$ 102,350,859	\$320	\$88,192,000
2014	\$ 109,634,691	\$344	\$85,031,817
2015	\$ 114,447,790	\$359	\$94,156,605
2016	\$ 117,000,854	\$370	\$98,420,897
2017	\$ 120,726,394	\$380	\$99,024,827
2018	\$ 121,205,717	\$382	\$99,158,886
2019	\$ 123,882,966	\$390	\$98,656,531
2020	\$ 126,095,596	\$387	\$127,885,832

Source: Luzerne County, PA DCED

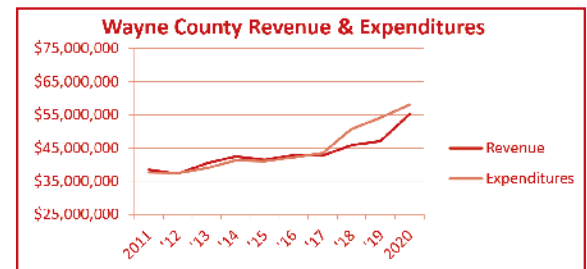
Luzerne County Fiscal Snapshot				
Year	Total Revenue	Revenue Per Capita	Total Expenditure	Expenditures Per Capita
2011	\$175,979,319	\$549	\$188,925,651	\$589
2012	\$214,029,856	\$667	\$230,354,909	\$718
2013	\$208,595,158	\$652	\$217,338,270	\$679
2014	\$214,028,831	\$671	\$211,946,527	\$665
2015	\$208,561,765	\$655	\$205,828,005	\$646
2016	\$233,872,953	\$739	\$227,919,956	\$720
2017	\$242,335,123	\$764	\$222,829,957	\$702
2018	\$240,771,606	\$758	\$232,647,665	\$732
2019	\$242,350,083	\$764	\$250,032,131	\$788
2020	\$274,656,002	\$844	\$284,062,946	\$872

Source: Luzerne County, PA DCED



WAYNE COUNTY FISCAL SNAPSHOT

Wayne County's revenue has grown each year since 2015, and 2020 brought the highest rate of growth – over 17 percent compared to 2019. Expenditures grew by about seven percent, but surpassed total revenue. The growth of both of these statistics in 2020 is largely due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which increased the need for certain government services and brought the county new revenue through intergovernmental funds. Intergovernmental funds include transfers from other federal, state, and local sources such as grants and reimbursements for services. These funds grew by 15 percent from 2019 to 2020, but added tax revenue was a larger driver in the increase in total revenue; it increased 25 percent from the previous year.



Wayne County Revenue			
Year	Total Taxes	Taxes per Capita	Intergovernmental Revenue
2011	\$ 18,022,538	\$342	\$15,596,173
2012	\$ 18,176,744	\$348	\$14,009,647
2013	\$ 19,116,693	\$366	\$16,830,549
2014	\$ 19,441,090	\$373	\$18,202,602
2015	\$ 19,427,820	\$375	\$17,364,407
2016	\$ 19,465,543	\$379	\$17,747,438
2017	\$ 19,497,485	\$381	\$17,957,851
2018	\$ 21,093,994	\$410	\$20,583,702
2019	\$ 21,160,971	\$412	\$21,323,234
2020	\$ 26,526,509	\$519	\$24,555,061

Source: Wayne County, PA DCED

Wayne County Fiscal Snapshot				
Year	Total Revenue	Revenue Per Capita	Total Expenditure	Expenditures Per Capita
2011	\$38,499,615	\$730	\$37,560,626	\$712
2012	\$37,246,154	\$713	\$37,438,023	\$716
2013	\$40,431,645	\$774	\$38,906,274	\$745
2014	\$42,402,062	\$814	\$41,286,650	\$793
2015	\$41,544,675	\$802	\$41,022,951	\$792
2016	\$42,783,153	\$833	\$42,264,407	\$823
2017	\$42,686,753	\$834	\$43,485,805	\$849
2018	\$45,877,233	\$893	\$50,708,898	\$987
2019	\$47,012,024	\$915	\$54,071,479	\$1,053
2020	\$55,182,426	\$1,079	\$58,041,633	\$1,135

Source: Wayne County, PA DCED

Property Tax Rates Sales Tax & Government Employment

PROPERTY TAX RATES

In Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, property tax rates have remained unchanged for several years, according to reports published by DCED. Wayne County has seen several adjustments in recent years, including an increase in millage rates effective in 2022, bringing the total to 5.23 mills in real estate taxes. In 2023, Wayne County's millage was adjusted downward to coincide with the conclusion of a property tax reassessment.

The three counties' property tax rates vary significantly due to how and when properties in the counties were assessed. The ratios of assessed value for tax purposes to actual market value are different in each area, and in Wayne County the reassessment resulted in a higher ratio of assessed to actual value, so the decline in millage rates does not mean that property tax bills decreased. Furthermore, tax rates included in this report do not include school taxes, which typically comprise the largest portions of all property owners' tax bills.

SALES TAX

Sales tax remittance generally trended upward from 2013 through 2019, reaching over \$11 billion statewide in the 2018-2019 reporting year, though Luzerne County has seen more significant fluctuations.

In 2019-2020, sales tax remittance dropped in all three counties and statewide due to disruptions in commerce caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Luzerne County saw the lowest total among all years analyzed. The year-over-year declines in Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wayne Counties (6.8 percent, 5.8 percent, and 7.3 percent, respectively) were larger than the statewide decline of 2.5 percent. However, all areas have since experienced significant growth in sales tax remittance as economic activity resumed after shutdowns were lifted and since prices increased due to high inflation. From the 2019-2020 tax year to the most recent data available, Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties and Pennsylvania saw increases of about 37 percent; in Wayne County, the increase was even larger at 58 percent.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT

Government employment presented in the table includes staff of federal, state, and local government entities. In the three counties, government sector activity supported nearly 29,000 jobs in 2021. In each county, however, there was a noticeable decline in government jobs in 2020 – coinciding with the COVID-19 pandemic and accelerating a previous trend seen in Lackawanna County, where government employment fell by about four percent between 2015 and 2019. The total rebounded in Lackawanna County by 2021 but government employment levels have yet to do so in Luzerne and Wayne Counties and statewide.

In the three-county region, about 63 percent of government employment is by local entities, including cities, boroughs, townships, counties, and school districts. On average, state workers have made up 21 percent of government employment in the region, with the remaining 16 percent consisting of federal employees. State and local employment both dropped during the pandemic, while federal employment actually increased in the region. Although the number of federal workers in the region declined in 2021, this number remains slightly above pre-pandemic levels.

2022 Tax Rates			
	Lackawanna County Tax Rates (mills)	Luzerne County Tax Rates (mills)	Wayne County Tax Rates (mills)
Real Estate - General Purpose	4.6000	1.2358	4.8500
Debt Service	12.5000	1.1836	0.3800
Library	2.8200	0.0459	
Culture and Education Fund	1.0000		
Community Colleges		0.3240	
Roads & Bridges		0.1070	
Criminal Justice		1.9977	
Human Services		0.4260	
Hotel Room Rental (Percent)	7%	5%	3%
Real Estate Total	63.9200	5.3200	5.2300

Source: PA Department of Community & Economic Development

2023 Tax Rates			
	Lackawanna County Tax Rates (mills)	Luzerne County Tax Rates (mills)	Wayne County Tax Rates (mills)
Real Estate - General Purpose	47.6000	1.2358	2.9800
Debt Service	12.5000	1.1836	0.2600
Library	2.8200	0.0459	
Culture and Education Fund	1.0000		
Community Colleges		0.3240	
Roads & Bridges		0.1070	
Criminal Justice		1.9977	
Human Services		0.4260	
Hotel Room Rental (Percent)	7%	5%	3%
Real Estate Total	63.9200	5.3200	3.2400

Source: PA Department of Community & Economic Development

Sales Tax Remittance				
Year	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Wayne	Pennsylvania
2013-2014	\$73,515,000	\$93,822,000	No Data	\$9,129,621,000
2014-2015	\$73,899,000	\$138,985,000	\$12,563,000	\$9,493,107,000
2015-2016	\$77,625,000	\$142,636,000	\$13,503,000	\$9,795,189,000
2016-2017	\$73,920,000	\$76,717,000	\$14,286,000	\$10,004,459,000
2017-2018	\$80,700,000	\$77,404,000	\$14,719,000	\$10,381,360,000
2018-2019	\$85,000,000	\$79,000,000	\$15,000,000	\$11,099,600,000
2019-2020	\$79,200,000	\$74,400,000	\$13,900,000	\$10,817,800,000
2020-2021	\$96,600,000	\$91,800,000	\$19,500,000	\$13,708,200,000
2021-2022	\$108,400,000	\$101,600,000	\$21,900,000	\$14,873,000,000

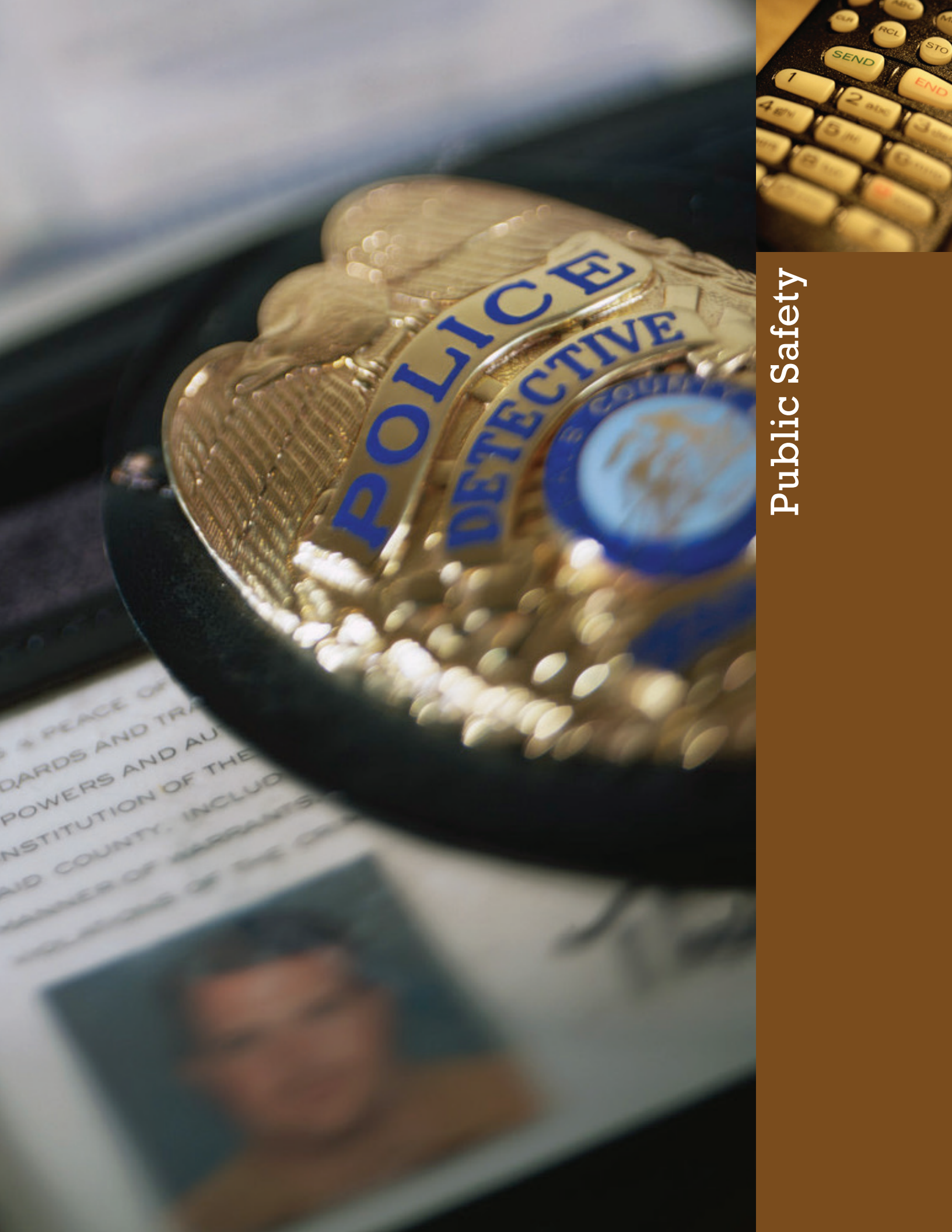
County totals exclude major vendors.
Source: PA Department of Revenue

Government Employment				
Year	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Wayne	Pennsylvania
2015	10,511	17,287	2,963	675,745
2016	10,329	17,305	3,007	675,118
2017	10,167	17,257	3,060	674,695
2018	10,063	17,249	3,059	673,822
2019	10,052	17,328	3,048	675,840
2020	9,774	16,525	3,009	659,151
2021	9,784	16,148	2,996	651,695

Source: Chemura Economics via BLS/DCED

Three-County Region: Government Employment by Type			
Year	Federal	State	Local
2015	4,610	6,560	19,592
2016	4,684	6,595	19,362
2017	4,746	6,569	19,168
2018	4,662	6,537	19,173
2019	4,714	6,553	19,162
2020	4,890	6,287	18,091
2021	4,761	6,097	18,071

Source: Chemura Economics via BLS/DCED



Public Safety

Public Safety

PUBLIC SAFETY

Public Safety indicators in this section identify important statistics for Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wayne Counties as well as the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. These statistics are used to evaluate the health and efficiency of safety services. They cover crime rates, drug-related offenses, vehicle crashes, Driving Under the Influence (DUI) offenses, alcohol-induced crashes, domestic violence offenses, and police officer and fire department numbers.

Generally, this section of the report includes indicators that help measure the quality of life in Pennsylvania. A low crime rate typically makes an area attractive to potential residents and businesses. Additionally, it is an indicator of the social well-being of a community because crime is interrelated with other social, economic, and public health problems such as unemployment, poverty, and substance abuse. Breaking the cycle of poverty and crime requires tremendous effort. However, this effort can be rewarding in terms of quality of life and economic success. Strong public safety, social service, educational, and health care infrastructure working together with government and community members are integral.

Northeastern Pennsylvania generally remains a safe area for a region with its size and socioeconomic characteristics, and by some measures, it is getting safer. In all three counties, several categories of property crimes analyzed in this report have dropped overall in the past decade, driven largely by falling numbers of burglaries and larceny-theft offenses. Some large year-over-year shifts, however, may be influenced by changes in the ways law enforcement agencies categorize certain offenses.

Property crimes like burglary and theft are often associated with drug addiction. Drug abuse offenses, however, have primarily risen in the last ten years as the region deals with the fallout of substance abuse disorders – particularly those specific to heroin, fentanyl, and methamphetamine. While Luzerne and Wayne Counties have seen slight declines for the past three years, Lackawanna County experienced an uptick in drug abuse offenses in 2021.

Violent crime statistics have been uneven in recent years. In the 2021 preliminary data, Luzerne County saw the total number of violent crimes fall to the lowest it has been in a decade, declining for a third consecutive year. Violent crime reports have fluctuated greatly in Lackawanna County, growing in 2018 and 2019 before falling in 2020 and 2021. Wayne County also saw violent crimes decrease in 2021.

Safety in schools is of utmost importance. Reported school misconduct incidents, which cover a variety of activities including fights, disorderly conduct, other harassment or intimidation, bullying, and possession or use of tobacco or controlled substances, fell to low levels during the 2020-2021 school year amid remote learning. In the 2021-2022 school year, these incidents rose to new highs statewide and in all three counties. While this is a troubling trend, there has not yet been a corresponding increase in juvenile arrests, which fell in 2021 and remain well below pre-pandemic averages. This suggests that while school behavioral incidents are more common, many are not severe enough to result in an arrest.

There are a little over 1,000 municipal police officers employed in the three counties, including a larger share of part-time officers compared to Pennsylvania as a whole. However, 37 percent of the municipalities in the region use State Police coverage rather than municipal police forces, and several other federal, state, and local agencies have active roles in law enforcement in the region. Many municipalities have reported on the challenges of recruiting officers given the current workforce environment.

Motor vehicle crashes can, unfortunately, result in fatalities and injuries. In Luzerne County, the total number of fatal crashes rose from 34 in 2020 to 40 in 2021. Lackawanna County had a decline in the number of fatal crashes in 2021 but an increase in the number and share of crashes involving injuries. In Wayne County, both the total number of fatal car crashes and crashes involving injuries increased from the 2020 total. These trends are largely due to resumption of normal travel after pandemic-related dips in traffic. The total number of alcohol-related crash deaths decreased slightly in Lackawanna and Wayne Counties, whereas Luzerne County experienced an increase from nine crash deaths to 12. The number of pedestrian crash fatalities remained relatively stable in the region, accounting for five percent of the statewide total. While motor vehicle accidents may be nearly impossible to completely eliminate, improved education, enforcement, and infrastructure can significantly improve public safety.

There were 117 fire departments in the three-county region as of 2022. Anecdotal evidence suggests that some fire departments in Pennsylvania are experiencing difficulties recruiting and retaining volunteers. There were 3,568 volunteer firefighters in the three-county region in 2022, comprising about 87 percent of the area's total firefighting force.

Property Crime

PROPERTY CRIME

In 2021, Lackawanna County’s total number of property crimes continued a sustained downward trend – standing at 1,893, 35 fewer than the year before. Since 2012, property crime totals in Lackawanna County have been reduced by 59 percent. However, motor vehicle thefts in the county grew to the highest level since 2017.

Luzerne County’s total property crime figures entered the eighth year of decline in 2021, at 3,647 property crimes reported – the lowest among the years analyzed. Property crimes decreased one percent overall from 2020 due to declines in larceny-theft and arson. However, there was a slight uptick in burglaries and motor vehicle thefts in the county. Overall, property crimes have declined 54 percent in Luzerne County since 2012.

In Wayne County, the total number of property crimes decreased by 23 percent in 2021. Burglaries and larceny-theft have experienced significant declines, whereas motor vehicle theft and arson crimes have slightly increased in the county. Property crimes have declined by 64 percent since 2012.

Unlike the improvement trends in the three-county area of Northeast Pennsylvania, the Commonwealth saw a slight uptick in property crimes in 2021, ending a nine-year consecutive streak of declining property crimes and increasing by one percent from the prior year. Nonetheless, property crime statewide remained far below levels seen prior to 2020.



“Unlike the improvement trends in the three-county area of Northeast Pennsylvania, the Commonwealth saw a slight uptick in property crimes.”

Property Crime: Lackawanna County										
Crime	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021*
Burglary	1,023	885	733	663	632	615	549	372	305	257
Larceny Theft	3,352	2,982	2,967	2,762	2,568	2,509	2,094	1,676	1,425	1,406
Motor Vehicle Theft	187	191	212	181	164	217	143	120	167	190
Arson	47	57	31	47	37	30	49	29	31	40
Total	4,609	4,115	3,943	3,653	3,401	3,371	2,835	2,197	1,928	1,893

Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Reporting System.
*2021 figures are preliminary. 2020 figures have been updated.

Property Crime: Luzerne County										
Crime	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021*
Burglary	1,661	1,655	1,383	1,045	985	871	706	718	492	535
Larceny Theft	5,895	5,950	5,588	5,081	4,571	4,099	3,528	3,373	2,877	2,776
Motor Vehicle Theft	354	318	268	234	190	197	214	214	267	284
Arson	55	77	81	98	70	51	35	31	62	52
Total	7,965	8,000	7,320	6,458	5,816	5,218	4,483	4,336	3,698	3,647

Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Reporting System.
*2021 figures are preliminary. 2020 figures have been updated.

Property Crime: Wayne County										
Crime	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021*
Burglary	263	251	192	176	150	173	89	84	96	67
Larceny Theft	569	518	459	438	409	358	320	306	292	220
Motor Vehicle Theft	28	32	22	18	11	23	23	12	21	25
Arson	17	11	8	5	9	3	3	3	0	3
Total	877	812	681	637	579	557	435	405	409	315

Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Reporting System.
*2021 figures are preliminary. 2020 figures have been updated.

Property Crime: Pennsylvania										
Crime	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021*
Burglary	57,509	52,333	46,083	40,165	35,380	32,202	27,351	23,742	20,456	18,140
Larceny Theft	208,981	201,587	192,038	185,145	176,515	168,282	152,993	146,999	123,486	124,210
Motor Vehicle Theft	14,993	13,816	13,078	12,371	13,100	12,998	13,187	12,520	14,208	16,656
Arson	1,754	1,702	1,934	1,847	1,853	1,495	1,445	1,250	1,606	1,709
Total	283,237	269,438	253,133	239,528	226,848	214,977	194,976	184,511	159,756	160,715

Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Reporting System.
*2021 figures are preliminary. All figures have been updated.

Violent Crime



“As of 2021, violent crimes decreased in the three counties and the Commonwealth.”

VIOLENT CRIME

Lackawanna County experienced year-over-year increases in the number of violent crimes reported from 2013 to 2019, including a 31-percent increase in 2019 – the highest in the last decade. Then in 2020, the total number of violent crimes decreased by 35 percent as the total number of these offenses fell from 1,420 to 926. As of 2021, the total number of violent crimes in Lackawanna has declined further, falling to 451. This total is the lowest in the county since 2015. This trend has been driven primarily by a decrease in aggravated assaults; at least a portion of these considerable year-over-year changes may result from crimes being classified into other categories not counted here.

Luzerne County reported 606 total violent crimes in 2021 – a 12-percent decrease from the prior year and the lowest level reported in the last decade. Except for the number of rape offenses that recorded an increase of eight, all other categories of violent crimes declined in the county from 2020, with a 16 percent decrease in the incidence of murder, 37 percent decline in robberies, and nine percent decline in the number of aggravated assaults.

Wayne County reported a total of 45 total violent crimes in 2021, which is an 18 percent decrease from 2020, and the lowest level reported in the last decade. Except for the number of murders, of which none were recorded in 2020 or 2021, all other categories of violent crimes declined in the county since 2020.

There was a decrease in violent crime across the Commonwealth in 2021 (the second consecutive year). It declined by two percent to 36,086, due to the drop of robbery and aggravated assault offenses. The number of murders, however, increased by 12 percent from 2020, and reached the highest level of all years analyzed. Overall, violent crimes statewide are 21 percent lower than the totals reported a decade ago.

Violent Crime: Luzerne County										
Crime	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021*
Murder	17	18	8	23	14	17	17	10	19	16
Rape	88	70	60	66	82	63	117	82	78	86
Robbery	233	223	253	269	222	218	167	124	113	71
Aggravated Assault	562	511	521	503	517	627	499	482	478	433
Total	900	822	842	861	835	925	800	698	688	606

Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Reporting System.
*2021 figures are preliminary. 2020 figures have been updated.

Violent Crime: Lackawanna County										
Crime	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021*
Murder	0	5	6	0	3	3	4	1	4	1
Rape	35	31	39	72	56	50	76	71	28	125
Robbery	165	97	94	91	88	118	82	79	46	39
Aggravated Assault	296	274	275	289	327	313	925	1,269	848	286
Total	496	407	414	452	474	484	1,087	1,420	926	451

Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Reporting System.
*2021 figures are preliminary. 2020 figures have been updated.

Violent Crime: Wayne County										
Crime	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021*
Murder	2	1	1	0	0	5	5	2	0	0
Rape	21	21	18	25	26	29	30	20	20	15
Robbery	6	7	5	1	15	7	4	1	3	1
Aggravated Assault	33	40	28	30	20	38	32	30	32	29
Total	62	69	52	56	61	79	71	53	55	45

Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Reporting System.
*2021 figures are preliminary. 2020 figures have been updated.

Violent Crime: Pennsylvania										
Crime	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021*
Murder	707	613	614	666	675	744	783	703	923	1,034
Rape	3,439	3,935	3,859	4,322	4,611	4,364	4,630	4,485	3,714	3,926
Robbery	15,871	14,855	13,648	13,173	12,407	11,872	9,935	9,932	8,022	7,812
Aggravated Assault	25,763	23,783	22,527	22,674	23,095	23,487	24,210	24,504	24,153	23,314
Total	45,780	43,186	40,648	40,835	40,788	40,467	39,558	39,624	36,812	36,086

Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Reporting System.
*2021 figures are preliminary. 2020 figures have been updated.

Drug Abuse Offenses

DRUG ABUSE OFFENSES

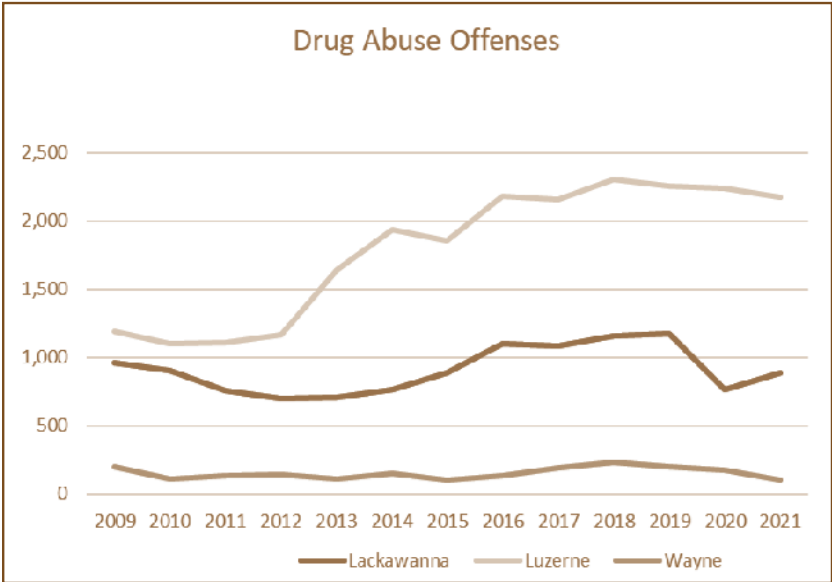
Drug abuse offenses include the manufacture, sale, and possession of drugs. Since 2012, the number of drug offenses in Lackawanna County has increased each year except for a small drop in 2017 and then a more substantial drop in 2020 amid the COVID-19 pandemic, when offenses decreased to 766. However, drug abuse offenses in the county rebounded to 887 in 2021. Despite slight declines of one percent in 2020 and three percent in 2021, Luzerne County has generally experienced significant growth in drug abuse offenses since 2012. There were 2,170 total offenses reported in 2021, almost twice the level reported in 2010. Wayne County, in contrast, had only 97 total drug abuse offenses in 2021, which is the lowest total since 2015. The county's total decreased by 44 percent from 2020. Across the Commonwealth, drug abuse offenses followed a generally upward trend from 2009 to 2017, before beginning to decline. This decline has accelerated throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, with a 23-percent decrease since 2019.



“Drug abuse offenses include the manufacture, sale, and possession of drugs.”

Drug Abuse Offenses				
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Wayne	Pennsylvania
2009	957	1,187	200	52,565
2010	902	1,101	111	52,196
2011	756	1,111	134	52,013
2012	700	1,167	143	52,857
2013	705	1,642	105	56,555
2014	763	1,933	151	56,814
2015	884	1,850	96	55,879
2016	1,095	2,178	135	59,017
2017	1,086	2,158	191	63,984
2018	1,159	2,307	234	63,055
2019	1,171	2,253	194	61,918
2020	766	2,237	172	54,501
2021	887	2,170	97	47,519

Source : Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Reporting System
 *2021 data is preliminary. 2020 data has been updated.



DUI Offenses

Alcohol Related Crash Deaths



“The three-county region accounts for an average of 5.6 percent of all alcohol-related crash deaths statewide.”

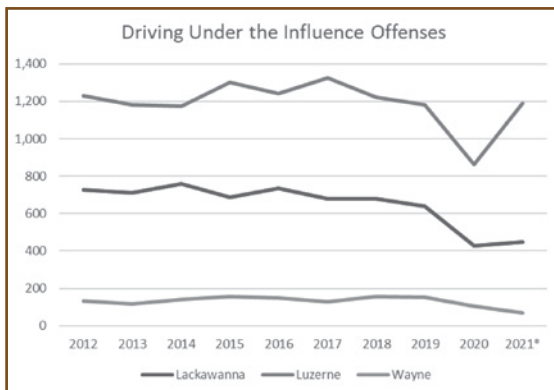
DUI OFFENSES

Lackawanna County’s total number of DUI offenses has fluctuated over the last decade, with a significant declining trend since 2016. There was a slight increase in 2021, however. The number of DUI offenses in Luzerne County has declined ten percent from its peak of 1,325 in 2017 to 1,189 in 2021. In Wayne County, the total number of DUI offenses has also steadily decreased since 2018. As of 2021, the county experienced a 32-percent decrease from 2020, ending with a total of 70 DUI offenses.

Statewide, the total number of DUI offenses increased for the first time in ten years. In 2021, the DUI offenses increased by eight percent, but remained well below levels seen prior to 2020. DUI offenses in Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wayne Counties typically account for around four percent of all DUI offenses in Pennsylvania.

Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Offenses										
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021*
Lackawanna	726	710	759	687	733	678	680	641	427	447
Luzerne	1,230	1,181	1,172	1,303	1,242	1,325	1,221	1,183	861	1,189
Wayne	134	118	139	157	149	128	156	151	103	70
Pennsylvania	52,222	49,714	49,264	48,896	48,805	47,762	45,435	44,420	35,534	38,408

Source : Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Reporting System. *2021 data is preliminary. 2020 data has been updated.



Percentage of Statewide DUI Offenses by County										
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021*
Lackawanna	1.4%	1.4%	1.5%	1.4%	1.5%	1.4%	1.5%	1.4%	1.2%	1.2%
Luzerne	2.4%	2.4%	2.4%	2.7%	2.5%	2.8%	2.7%	2.7%	2.4%	3.1%
Wayne	0.3%	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%

Source : Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Reporting System. *2021 data is preliminary. 2020 data has been updated.

ALCOHOL RELATED CRASH DEATHS

Five alcohol-related crash deaths were reported in Lackawanna County during 2020, and only three deaths were recorded in 2021. Over the past decade, Lackawanna County has averaged five alcohol-related crash deaths per year. Luzerne County’s average number of alcohol-related crash deaths per year has been about 11 over the last ten years. The total number of deaths reported in Luzerne County more than doubled from four in 2018 to ten in 2019, and increased to 12 in 2021. In Wayne County, the total number of alcohol-related crash deaths decreased from three to two in 2021. This is the lowest total in the county since 2018, when there were no alcohol-related crash deaths recorded. Statewide, the number of alcohol-related crash deaths has followed a downward trend for most of the decade. Total statewide deaths increased by six percent in 2021 and are 23 percent lower than they were a decade ago. The three-county region accounts for an

Alcohol Related Crash Deaths										
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Lackawanna	5	7	5	5	9	4	6	0	5	3
Luzerne	13	13	17	18	8	5	4	10	9	12
Wayne	2	2	1	4	7	1	0	3	3	2
Pennsylvania	404	381	333	345	297	293	331	299	293	311

Source : Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

average of 5.6 percent of all alcohol-related crash deaths statewide.

Motor Vehicle Crashes

MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES

In 2021, motor vehicle crashes in Lackawanna County increased to 2,459, ending three consecutive years of decline. Motor vehicle crashes also increased in Luzerne County, rising by 14 percent to 3,377. The total number of motor vehicle crashes in Wayne County increased by 17 percent in 2021. In all three counties, the number of crashes increased from their 2020 totals, which likely results from the restrictions of the pandemic coming to an end and a subsequent increase in travel. The Commonwealth's total also increased, reaching 117,899 crashes. In all cases, the total crashes in 2021 were still lower than levels seen before the pandemic.

Statewide, the number of crashes resulting in injuries has increased by 13 percent. Similarly, the total number of crashes that caused fatalities rose from 1,060 in 2020 to 1,153 in 2021. A larger number of crashes have resulted in property damage only. This increasing trend extends to all three counties as well. The long-term decline in the share of crashes with fatalities and/or injuries is likely attributable in part to safety innovations in vehicles.

In 2021, there were ten pedestrian crash deaths in the three counties combined (an increase of two from the prior year) and 182 statewide. Each of the three counties have ranged from zero to six pedestrian crash deaths per year for the years analyzed, with no clear upward or downward trend. The 45 pedestrian deaths since 2017 represent about five percent of all statewide pedestrian deaths in that period, though the region represents only about five percent of the Commonwealth's total population.



“In all three counties, the number of crashes increased from their 2020 totals, which likely results from the restrictions of the pandemic coming to an end and a subsequent increase in travel.”

Lackawanna County: Total Crashes

Type of Crash	2000	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Fatal	16	20	28	10	20	18
Injury	1,620	1,157	1,197	1,123	929	1,054
Property Damage Only	1,171	1,535	1,462	1,398	1,170	1,387
Total	2,807	2,712	2,687	2,531	2,119	2,459

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Luzerne County: Total Crashes

Type of Crash	2000	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Fatal	43	25	18	30	34	40
Injury	2,444	1,585	1,560	1,487	1,260	1,437
Property Damage Only	1,525	1,994	2,034	1,901	1,662	1,900
Total	4,012	3,604	3,612	3,418	2,956	3,377

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Wayne County: Total Crashes

Type of Crash	2000	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Fatal	13	6	6	11	8	9
Injury	361	250	235	210	178	195
Property Damage Only	309	290	300	239	198	246
Total	683	546	541	460	384	450

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Pennsylvania Total Crashes

Type of Crash	2000	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Fatal	1,396	1,083	1,103	990	1,060	1,153
Injury	88,108	58,183	56,745	55,552	44,957	50,684
Property Damage Only	57,749	68,922	70,572	68,725	58,458	66,062
Total	147,253	128,188	128,420	125,267	104,475	117,899

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Pedestrian Crash Deaths

	2000	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Lackawanna County	3	4	4	4	2	4
Luzerne County	6	2	5	4	6	6
Wayne County	0	1	1	2	0	0
Pennsylvania	172	150	201	154	146	182

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

Offenses Against Children & Families



“Although there has been some fluctuation in the number of offenses against children and families reported in the three counties, as of 2021, the total increased 29 percent to 533 offenses.”

OFFENSES AGAINST CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Offenses against families and children include abuse of spouses and children, child neglect, and nonpayment of child support and alimony. Although there has been some fluctuation in the number of these offenses reported in the three counties, as of 2021 the total increased 29 percent to 533 offenses.

By 2021, offenses against Lackawanna County families and children dropped to 141. There was an increase in Luzerne County, however, with total offenses rising 50 percent to 383 (after a decrease of two percent in 2020). In Wayne County, offenses against families and children increased by one in 2021, below the average of 13 seen over the past decade.

Statewide, the number of offenses declined for its third consecutive year in 2021. There had been an upward trend statewide since 2012, including a substantial increase since 2014. Total offenses across the Commonwealth have increased by over 40 percent in the past decade.

Offenses Against Families and Children										
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021*
Lackawanna	373	296	182	160	192	200	217	173	148	141
Luzerne	254	345	311	225	259	295	312	261	256	383
Wayne	17	10	4	7	17	7	27	20	8	9
Pennsylvania	5,415	5,770	5,660	7,185	7,961	8,394	9,157	8,823	7,823	7,308

Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Reporting System.
*2021 figures are preliminary. 2020 figures have been updated.

Police Personnel & Fire Departments



POLICE PERSONNEL

Municipal police forces in the three counties employ over 1,000 officers as of early 2023. This accounts for just under five percent of the statewide total, though in the three counties, there is a larger share of part-time officers compared to Pennsylvania as a whole. In Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wayne Counties, 31 percent of municipal police officers are part-time, while the share is only about 12 percent statewide.

These municipal police statistics exclude personnel from several other law enforcement agencies that serve the region, including Pennsylvania State Police. In the three counties, 74 of 144 municipalities (51 percent) have their own municipal police forces, while 16 (11 percent) contract with other municipalities for police protection. Another 53 (37 percent) municipalities use State Police only. Finally, one municipality in Luzerne County utilizes regional police service.

Municipal Police Officers: 2023		
	Full Time	Part Time
Lackawanna County	296	158
Luzerne County	398	134
Wayne County	3	18
Pennsylvania	18,513	2,417

Source: PA Department of Community & Economic Development

“In the three counties, 74 of 144 municipalities (51 percent) have their own municipal police forces, while 16 (11 percent) contract with other municipalities for police protection.”

Municipal Police Coverage: 2023					
	Total Municipalities	With Own Municipal Police Force	Contracts with Another Municipality	State Police Coverage Only	Regional Police Service
Lackawanna County	40	25	9	6	0
Luzerne County	76	45	6	24	1
Wayne County	28	4	1	23	0

Source: PA Department of Community & Economic Development

FIRE DEPARTMENTS

As of early 2022, there were 36 fire departments in Lackawanna County, 68 fire departments in Luzerne County, and 13 fire departments in Wayne County. There were 4,092 active firefighters across the three counties. Approximately 87 percent were volunteers and less than 10 percent were career firefighters.

Lackawanna County Fire Departments	
	2022
Number of Departments	36
Active Firefighters	1,374
Volunteer	1,174
Paid per Call	34
Career	166
Non-Firefighting Volunteers	651

Source: U.S. Fire Administration National Fire Department Registry

Luzerne County Fire Departments	
	2022
Number of Departments	68
Active Firefighters	2,292
Volunteer	1,968
Paid per Call	142
Career	182
Non-Firefighting Volunteers	954

Source: U.S. Fire Administration National Fire Department Registry

Wayne County Fire Departments	
	2022
Number of Departments	13
Active Firefighters	426
Volunteer	426
Paid per Call	0
Career	0
Non-Firefighting Volunteers	214

Source: U.S. Fire Administration National Fire Department Registry

Pennsylvania Fire Departments	
	2022
Number of Departments	1,801
Active Firefighters	64,865
Volunteer	58,297
Paid per Call	1,035
Career	5,533
Non-Firefighting Volunteers	30,649

Source: U.S. Fire Administration National Fire Department Registry

School Safety Juvenile Arrests



“In 2021-22, the number of reported school safety incidents rebounded above pre-pandemic levels.”

SCHOOL SAFETY

School safety incidents include a range of misconduct. A large share of incidents involve fights, disorderly conduct, minor altercations, other harassment or intimidation, bullying, and possession or use of tobacco or controlled substances. The number of reported incidents declined in all three counties and statewide during the 2020-2021 school year due to COVID-19 prevention and mitigation plans for schools. In 2021-22, the number of reported incidents rebounded above pre-pandemic levels. There were 894 documented school misconduct incidents in Lackawanna County, 1,489 in Luzerne County, and 184 in Wayne County. Statewide, school misconduct incidents increased significantly as well.

Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties’ rates of incidents per enrolled student was lower than the statewide average, but the most recent rates were the highest among years analyzed. Wayne County had a slightly higher rate per student than the state as a whole for the last two school years.

School Misconduct Incidents								
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Lackawanna	618	517	441	543	728	625	108	894
Luzerne	676	1,059	829	829	1,260	823	135	1,489
Wayne	104	112	89	-	127	60	55	184
Pennsylvania	42,922	42,965	43,330	49,076	58,426	46,095	14,577	73,277

Source: PA Department of Education Safe Schools

Incidents per 1,000 Enrolled Students								
	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Lackawanna	22.3	18.6	15.9	19.5	26.3	22.6	4.1	33.8
Luzerne	16.5	25.9	20.2	20.2	30.7	19.8	3.3	36.0
Wayne	22.1	25.1	19.9	-	29.2	13.8	13.2	45.6
Pennsylvania	24.6	24.8	25.2	28.5	32.9	26.8	8.6	43.4

Source: PA Department of Education Safe Schools

Juvenile Arrests				
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Wayne	Pennsylvania
2009	876	1,200	220	89,941
2010	1,012	1,279	194	83,042
2011	964	1,186	180	72,287
2012	738	983	176	69,289
2013	610	944	133	64,850
2014	644	852	61	57,889
2015	621	881	57	51,452
2016	508	893	56	43,914
2017	603	917	69	44,827
2018	502	701	75	37,083
2019	434	698	42	34,791
2020	258	516	32	20,351
2021*	238	433	23	18,885

Includes all UCR crime codes except runaways
Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Reporting System
**2021 figures are preliminary. 2020 figures have been updated.*

JUVENILE ARRESTS

Juvenile arrests shown here pertain to arrests made for several categories of crimes included in the Uniform Crime Report, such as violent crimes, liquor law, drug possession, and others. Juvenile runaways are excluded.

In 2021, the number of juvenile arrests declined statewide and in all three counties. They declined eight percent since 2020 in Lackawanna County, while falling 16 percent in Luzerne County (to 433). In Wayne County, total arrests declined 39 percent (to 23). Statewide, juvenile arrests declined seven percent (to 18,885). Across these regions, there has primarily been a downward trend in juvenile arrests since 2011 – reaching the lowest levels in a decade in 2021. All three counties have seen declines of more than 64 percent compared with 2009, and the Commonwealth registered a 79-percent drop during that time.



Environment

Environment Recycling



“Both Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties produce more waste than they did 20 years ago, though Wayne County’s tonnage decreased.”

ENVIRONMENT

The Environment section of the report focuses on several key indicators, including recycling, waste management, mining impacts, and air and water quality.

The amount of waste generated in the three-county region has followed a generally increasing trend over the past several years, but experienced a drop in 2022 in both Lackawanna and Wayne Counties. Luzerne County reported a rise in total waste from 2021 to 2022. Both Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties produce more waste than they did 20 years ago, though Wayne County’s tonnage decreased. Municipal waste was the largest component of all waste generated in all three counties. Statewide data on recycled materials has been tabulated inconsistently, and the most recent data is from 2020. In that year, the three counties accounted for nearly 83,000 pounds of residential single-stream, plastic, metal, glass, and organics recyclable material – a 13.6-percent decrease from the prior year.

Many of the region’s critical environmental challenges relate to its industrial past. The lingering effects of coal mining and other heavy industries include contaminated brownfield sites, coal refuse sites, mine subsidence, mine fires, and acid mine drainage. Some of these issues are difficult to quantify or measure. In 2021, 36 sites in the region were designated under either the statewide (HSCA) or federal (CERCLA) programs for remediation. Cleanup of these sensitive sites, which often involve bankrupt owners, abandoned facilities, or facilities where hazardous materials have been improperly disposed of, is an important step in preventing further harm and facilitating return to productive use. The region is also home to 7.5 percent of Pennsylvania’s abandoned mine land (AML) sites and 25 percent of its anthracite coal refuse-producing sites. As part of policies designed to address the impact of

these sites, the region has been home to a significant share of statewide projects receiving funding under the AMLER program to return AMLs to productive use.

Indicators have been positive in terms of the region’s air and water ecosystem quality. Air Quality Index (AQI) scores are generally good, and annual monitoring of the Susquehanna River by the Chesapeake Bay Project shows normal results in several metrics of stream water quality.

	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Wayne	Pennsylvania
Residential Single Stream	4,716	18,680	0	545,034
Plastics	787	0	50	6,358
Metals	608	74	262	154,039
Glass	316	18	113	9,987
Organics	20,977	48,361	937	1,516,569
Total from Select Categories	27,399	67,132	1,362	2,231,987

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Wayne	Pennsylvania
Residential Single Stream	3,891	18,598	0	585,371
Plastics	0	0	53	4,887
Metals	69	79	208	102,239
Glass	0	8	140	10,372
Organics	14,675	44,228	860	1,480,295
Total from Select Categories	18,635	62,914	1,261	2,183,114

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Year	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Wayne
2020	0.85%	2.88%	0.06%
2019	1.23%	3.01%	0.06%
2018	1.91%	30.91%	0.05%
2017	11.05%	59.38%	0.11%
2016	29.81%	11.05%	0.12%
2015	30.91%	29.81%	0.08%
2014	59.38%	30.91%	0.08%
2013	1.07%	59.38%	0.11%
2012	0.64%	1.07%	0.12%
2011	0.97%	0.64%	0.13%

Includes Residential & Commercial
Source: Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

RECYCLING

The most recent statewide statistics on recycled materials are from 2020. At that time, recycled tonnage varied significantly in the counties. The total tonnage of Lackawanna County’s recycled material, as a percentage of the statewide total, spiked in 2014 and remained disproportionately high for several years. It accounted for about 30 percent of all recycled materials statewide in 2015 and 2016, 11

percent in 2017, and just under one percent in 2020. In 2014, DEP attributed this anomaly to large amounts of materials recycled from the University of Scranton’s demolition of the former YWCA building and construction of Leahy Hall. Luzerne County has accounted for an average of two to three percent of the total statewide tonnage, roughly approximating its share of the statewide population. Wayne County has consistently accounted for less than one percent of the state’s total recycled materials and as of 2020 accounted for 0.06 percent of the state’s total recycled materials. This share has trended downward since 2011.

Generation of single-stream recycled materials increased in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties as well as the Commonwealth between 2015 and 2016, before leveling off in recent years. Both Lackawanna and Luzerne County saw a decline in residential single stream recycling in 2020. Wayne County’s total recycled tonnage declined in 2020 though tonnage of glass increased. Total recycling significantly dropped statewide in both 2019 and 2020.

Waste Facilities Brownfields

WASTE FACILITIES

Lackawanna County generated just over 322,000 tons of waste in 2022 – a decrease of 6.8 percent from the prior year. Luzerne County generated over 340,000 tons – an increase of about six percent from 2021. Wayne County generated nearly 26,000 tons of waste – a significant decrease of just over 15 percent from 2021. The three county region overall saw a 1.2 percent reduction in tonnage of total waste. In 2022, Lackawanna County recorded increases in the residual, medical, and other waste categories, which comprise a relatively small share of total waste compared to municipal waste. Municipal waste declined considerably. Luzerne County saw an increase in municipal, residual, sewage sludge, and construction waste. Wayne County saw an increase in construction waste but declines in the other categories.



Total Waste (In Tons)						
	2000	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Lackawanna	274,696	326,397	305,291	322,971	345,490	322,128
Luzerne	313,859	304,611	345,225	306,404	321,952	341,662
Wayne	56,525	21,097	21,091	24,469	30,560	25,929

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

Total Waste by Type: 2022 (In Tons)							
	Municipal	Residual	Sewage Sludge	Medical	Construction	Other	Total
Lackawanna	186,216	23,701	19,096	974	91,501	640	322,128
Luzerne	261,463	57,595	14,330	222	7,820	232	341,662
Wayne	23,284	1,280	1,212	0	153	0	25,929
Regional Total	470,963	82,577	34,639	1,196	99,473	871	689,719

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

“Lackawanna County generated just over 322,000 tons of waste in 2022 – a decrease of 6.8 percent from the prior year; in that time, Luzerne County generated over 340,000 tons (an increase of about six percent) and Wayne County generated nearly 26,000 tons of waste (a decrease of just over 15 percent).”

BROWNFIELDS

Updated data for 2022 was not available for this year’s report. As of 2021, six Lackawanna County sites were listed in Pennsylvania DEP’s Hazardous Sites Cleanup Act (HSCA). Five additional Lackawanna County sites are listed under the federal CERCLA program – the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (commonly known as Superfund). Luzerne County had 16 HSCA sites and six federal Superfund sites as of 2021. Both counties’ total numbers of sites were unchanged from 2020. As of 2021, Wayne County has three HSCA sites and zero Superfund sites. According to DEP, most of these sites involve facilities with bankrupt owners, abandoned facilities, and facilities where hazardous materials have been improperly disposed.

Environmental Cleanup and Brownfield Sites: Lackawanna County		
	HSCA	Superfund
2018	6	5
2019	6	5
2020	6	5
2021	6	5

Source: PA Department of Environmental Protection

Environmental Cleanup and Brownfield Sites: Luzerne County		
	HSCA	Superfund
2018	15	6
2019	15	4
2020	16	6
2021	16	6

Source: PA Department of Environmental Protection

Environmental Cleanup and Brownfield Sites: Wayne County		
	HSCA	Superfund
2021	3	0

Source: PA Department of Environmental Protection

Abandoned Mine Lands



ABANDONED MINE LANDS

Abandoned mine lands (AMLs) refer to any of the 250,000 acres of mine lands left abandoned across Pennsylvania. There are AMLs in 43 of the Commonwealth's 67 counties. Luzerne, Lackawanna, and Wayne Counties together are home to 7.5 percent of the state's 5,617 abandoned mine lands, with a total of 421 sites between the three counties. As of the most recent report in 2013, there were 165 AML sites in Lackawanna County, 247 in Luzerne County, and nine sites in Wayne County.

The Abandoned Mine Land Economic Revitalization (AMLER) program, formerly known as the AML Pilot Program, provides funds for the reclamation of AMLs in conjunction with economic and community development and reuse goals. The sites could be former mines, coal refuse areas, areas with acid mine drainage, and more. For each of the last five years except 2019, there has been at least one project in the three-county area. Three sites were funded in 2020, all of which were located in Luzerne County. Over the past five years, there were 14 projects across the three counties, representing about 21 percent of all funded projects statewide.

Coal refuse refers to any waste coal or other materials (such as shale, clay, or rock) that are brought above ground or removed from coal mines during mining activities. The term also refers to the leftover materials separated from coal during cleaning operations. Coal refuse sites are areas where such materials are disposed. As of 2021, there are eight reported refuse sites in Luzerne County – the lowest number since 2016. Lackawanna County has one refuse site, also the lowest since 2016. Wayne County does not have any anthracite coal refuse producing sites. There are 36 coal refuse sites in Pennsylvania. Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties have generally accounted for about 20 percent to 30 percent of statewide coal refuse sites.

Number of AML Sites			
Lackawanna	Luzerne	Wayne	Pennsylvania
165	247	9	5,617

Source: PA Department of Environmental Protection

AML Revitalization Projects (AMLER)					
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Lackawanna	1	2	1	0	0
Luzerne	1	4	1	0	3
Wayne	0	0	1	0	0
Pennsylvania	14	13	15	11	13

Source: OSMRE and PA Department of Environmental Protection

Anthracite Coal Refuse Producing Sites				
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Wayne	Pennsylvania
2013	2	7	0	41
2014	0	8	0	39
2015	2	8	0	42
2016	1	8	0	39
2017	2	10	0	42
2018	2	11	0	48
2019	4	13	0	53
2020	1	9	0	47
2021	1	8	0	36

Source: PA Department of Environmental Protection

AIR QUALITY

The Air Quality Index (AQI) reads five pollutants to assess the safety of the nation’s air quality. Those pollutants include ground level ozone (smog), particle pollution, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide. The overall AQI is the highest AQI of any of the five individual pollutants. Scores of 0 to 50 are considered good air quality, 51 to 100 are considered moderate, 101 to 150 are considered unhealthy to sensitive groups, 151 to 200 are considered unhealthy to everyone, 201 to 300 are considered very unhealthy, and scores above 301 are considered hazardous for all people.

Monitoring stations in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties have generally reported AQI ratings in the ‘Good’ range. AQI data changes daily and is available in real time from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection’s Bureau of Air Quality. Annual data, including the number of unhealthy air quality days and the median AQI for the calendar year, is collected from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. As of 2022, there were no monitoring stations in Wayne County.

Over the past several years, Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties have reported no unhealthy AQI days. The 2022 median AQI for Lackawanna County was 38, and it was 37 for Luzerne County. This represents a slight decline in quality for both Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties. They have remained in the ‘Good’ range for all years analyzed, however. AQI has improved by about 14 percent in Lackawanna County since 2000, while Luzerne County has improved by about 18 percent.



“Over the past several years, Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties have reported no unhealthy air quality days.”

Air Quality Index (AQI): Number of Unhealthy Days

	2000	2010	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Lackawanna	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Luzerne	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Source: US Environmental Protection Agency Air Data

Air Quality Index (AQI): Median

	2000	2010	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Lackawanna	44	41	40	33	35	38	36	38
Luzerne	45	29	33	31	34	31	34	37

Source: US Environmental Protection Agency Air Data

Water Quality



WATER QUALITY

Stream water quality monitoring is conducted at several sites in the region. One site – the Susquehanna River at Wilkes-Barre, which is monitored by the Chesapeake Bay Program – has consistent and regular data necessary for inclusion in this report. The vast majority of Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties are within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Comparable data was not readily available for waterways in other portions of the region. Two key parameters of water quality (pH, which is commonly used to measure acidity in water, and total dissolved solids) were analyzed.

A pH of seven represents a neutral measurement. A value greater than seven indicates basic or alkaline conditions, and values less than seven indicate acidic conditions. The pH of natural waters is between 6.0 and 8.5. Any values less than 4.5 and above 9.5 tend to be severely damaging to ecosystems. The Susquehanna River tested at an average of 7.35 pH in the most recent year, or slightly more alkaline than neutral water. The average in 2021 is a decrease from the previous year's average of 7.65.

The concentration of total dissolved solids (TDS) is a measure of the amount of dissolved materials in water. These materials include sodium, calcium, magnesium, and others. Fresh water usually has TDS levels between 0 and 1,000 mg/L, dependent on the geography and contributing factors in the region. Values over 500 mg/L are considered elevated and can be unsuitable for drinking or household use. Although TDS is not considered a primary pollutant, water with a high TDS concentration may indicate elevated levels of ions such as aluminum, arsenic, copper, lead, nitrate, and others that do pose health concerns. Since 2013, TDS levels in the Susquehanna River have consistently been below 200 mg/L, though in 2019 the average level was the highest since 2016. It dropped below 150 mg/L in 2020 and further fell to 132.7 in 2021.

Water Quality - Susquehanna River		
	pH (Corrected for Temperature)	Total Dissolved Solids (mg/L)
2013	7.58	134.3
2014	7.64	151.3
2015	7.81	179.2
2016	7.87	174.0
2017	7.42	138.5
2018	7.32	136.3
2019	7.69	155.7
2020	7.65	149.7
2021	7.35	132.7
2022	Not yet Available for Wilkes-Barre	

Source: Chesapeake Bay Program



Infrastructure

Infrastructure



“Similar to those in the rest of the state, a significant majority of workers in Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wayne Counties commute to work by driving alone.”

INFRASTRUCTURE

The Infrastructure section of this report contains data that identifies patterns and trends in commuting, transportation infrastructure, motor vehicles, home heating fuels, energy prices, and home internet access.

Understanding the public’s means of transportation reveals insight into a region’s environmental impact, as well as the impact of its employment dynamics. Similar to those in the rest of the state, a significant majority of workers in Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wayne Counties commute to work by driving alone. The proportion of commuters using alternative forms of transportation has fluctuated a bit but did not appear much different in 2020 than it was in 2000. Data since 2020 has pointed to a much larger share of workers telecommuting.

The transportation changes seen during the pandemic also extend to traffic counts. Increasing trends in traffic volume were observed prior to the pandemic. Daily vehicle miles traveled on major highways in the region grew by about one percent between 2018 and 2019. However, the traffic volumes in Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wayne Counties as well as Pennsylvania overall fell by 23 percent, 13 percent, 37 percent, and 17 percent, respectively, in 2020. Traffic volumes have begun to rebound after the height of the pandemic, with 2021 counts falling just short of 2019 levels.

The number of motor vehicle registrations is also an indicator of traffic trends. More vehicles registered typically means more vehicle miles traveled, which can result in traffic congestion. Vehicle registrations can also indicate economic activity. Lackawanna County experienced an increase in registered cars compared with 2000. Luzerne County has experienced little sustained growth in passenger car registrations, with a one-percent overall increase from 2000 to 2021. Wayne County saw passenger vehicle registrations fall nine percent in that period. Registrations for large trucks, however, have grown significantly in all three counties and statewide in accordance with the growth of the logistics sector in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

In 2020, there were notable declines in the cost of heating oil and propane and a smaller drop in the cost of electricity, all of which coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic. Each of these fuel sources rebounded in 2021 and 2022, and each reached the highest price levels in several years. Natural gas continued to have the lowest cost per million BTU of all energy sources analyzed and it has remained the most-used home heating fuel over the past decade, though electricity has grown in prominence.

Broadband access remained critical to each county’s economic growth. In addition to its importance in education, health care, and access to social services, widespread access to the newest and most essential technologies makes any location a more attractive place to establish a business. The three-county region enjoys widespread access to wireless technology and other broadband services, but it is not always affordable or at speeds that support work, education, or telehealth. Household-level internet usage has also increased quickly, reaching 88 percent, 87 percent, and 84 percent of households in Luzerne Lackawanna, and Wayne Counties respectively in 2021. Internet importance manifested itself as a major equity issue as well as an infrastructure necessity for employment, education, and health care in 2020 and 2021. Statewide data show a continued increase in the share of households with some type of internet access. Smartphone adoption has been widespread as well, with access to smartphones nearing the same levels as home internet subscriptions.

Transportation Mobility

TRANSPORTATION MOBILITY

Driving alone remains the most common way to commute in both Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties. Prior to 2020, there had not been a significant change in the share of commuters driving to work alone, despite a decline between 2010 and 2019 in Lackawanna County. The second largest share of commuters have typically commuted by carpool, while public transit, walking, and other means normally comprised about five percent of commuters in the region and about 10 percent of commuters statewide.

A considerably large share of people worked from home in 2020 amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The share of those working at home statewide grew to 16.3 percent, and continued growing to nearly 19 percent in 2021, bringing down the share of those driving alone from 75 percent to 67 percent. In the region, there appears to be a similar shift underway, though multi-year estimates used in 2020 and for Wayne County still include pre-pandemic data, resulting in an underestimation of those working from home. In 2021, Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties each saw about 12 percent of workers telecommuting, and the percent driving alone decreased from about 79 percent to 73 percent.

The estimated share of households with no vehicles available has fluctuated in all three counties, averaging between 10 and 11 percent in Lackawanna County, Luzerne County, and statewide. In Wayne County, this share is only six percent.



	2000			2010			2019			2020			2021		
	Lackawanna	Wayne	Luzerne	Lackawanna	Wayne*	Luzerne	Lackawanna	Wayne*	Luzerne	Lackawanna*	Wayne*	Luzerne*	Lackawanna	Wayne*	Luzerne
Workers 16 years and over	94,532	19,909	141,168	95,209	21,620	140,092	97,335	20,707	151,602	97,374	20,701	147,836	97,927	20,521	147,042
Car, truck, or van -- drove alone	80.5%	80.1%	81.9%	81.1%	80.4%	81.8%	76.3%	82.0%	81.1%	78.6%	81.8%	79.8%	73.2%	79.7%	73.0%
Car, truck, or van -- carpooled	12.2%	10.4%	11.1%	10.5%	8.2%	11.2%	11.2%	7.4%	11.1%	10.6%	6.9%	10.2%	9.2%	8.3%	10.1%
Public transportation (excluding taxi)	0.9%	1.0%	1.0%	1.4%	0.7%	1.1%	1.3%	0.7%	0.7%	1.0%	0.7%	0.9%	0.9%	0.5%	0.8%
Walked	3.7%	3.5%	3.2%	3.8%	4.0%	3.5%	2.5%	2.6%	2.7%	3.3%	2.7%	2.8%	4.4%	3.3%	2.5%
Other means	0.6%	0.9%	0.6%	0.5%	0.6%	0.5%	1.3%	1.4%	0.9%	0.9%	1.4%	0.9%	0.4%	1.5%	1.6%
Worked at home	2.0%	4.2%	2.1%	2.7%	6.0%	1.8%	7.4%	5.8%	3.4%	5.6%	6.3%	5.3%	11.9%	6.6%	12.2%
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	19.8	26.3	21.2	19.5	26.8	22.2	22.0	29.3	24.3	21.8	28.6	23.1	21.2	29.1	24.4

Source: US Census Bureau American Community Survey (1-year estimates) for 2010 and Wayne County all years; all other years are 3-year estimates.

Pennsylvania Commuting to Work					
	2000	2010	2019	2020	2021
Workers 16 years and over	5,556,311	5,723,063	6,179,069	5,872,274	6,072,593
Car, truck, or van -- drove alone	76.5%	77.0%	75.2%	67.8%	66.8%
Car, truck, or van -- carpooled	10.4%	8.8%	8.4%	7.0%	7.0%
Public transportation (excluding taxi)	5.2%	5.4%	5.7%	3.7%	2.8%
Walked	4.1%	3.8%	3.6%	Combined:	2.9%
Other means	0.8%	1.2%	1.2%		1.3%
Worked at home	3.0%	3.7%	5.4%	16.3%	18.7%
Mean travel time to work (minutes)	25.2	25.9	27.8	27.1	25.7

Source: US Census Bureau American Community Survey 1-year estimates

	Lackawanna		Luzerne		Wayne		Pennsylvania	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
2015	7,116	8.6%	13,849	10.9%	944	4.9%	551,449	11.1%
2016	8,765	10.2%	10,526	8.5%	948	4.9%	533,856	10.8%
2017	9,227	10.7%	13,593	10.7%	1,040	5.4%	559,312	11.2%
2018	7,215	8.2%	14,743	11.5%	960	5.1%	562,300	11.1%
2019	9,882	11.2%	13,465	10.3%	914	4.9%	563,183	11.0%
2020	8,675	9.9%	13,859	10.7%	1,102	5.8%	544,554	10.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey

Traffic Counts Bridges



“The DVMT per mile of highway, a measure of average traffic volume, is lower than the statewide average in Lackawanna and Wayne Counties, but higher in Luzerne County.”

TRAFFIC COUNTS

In Lackawanna County, there are over 143 linear miles of highway that are part of the National Highway System. In Luzerne County, there are about 178 miles in the National Highway System, which includes interstate highways and certain other critical highways designated by the federal government. In 2021, Daily Vehicle Miles of Travel (DVMT, the total number of miles driven by all vehicles per day) on the National Highway System in the three counties was over 7.5 million – about 4.8 percent of the statewide DVMT.

The DVMT per mile of highway, a measure of average traffic volume, is lower than the statewide average in Lackawanna and Wayne Counties, but higher in Luzerne County. This trend was apparent both prior to and during the pandemic. As of 2021, vehicle miles traveled have nearly returned to pre-pandemic levels regionally and statewide.

The three-county region has several permanent traffic count sites that measure traffic volume and speed data on a continuous basis. The local sites include Interstate 81 in Wilkes-Barre Township, Interstate 80 in Foster Township, and State Route 307 in Newton Township. For the first time since 2016, data was available for the Foster Township location. In 2021, none was reported for the Wilkes-Barre Township location. Traffic counts at the Route 307 location increased by eight percent in 2021, consistent with increases in regional highway VMT, though traffic counts at that location remain lower than they were in 2015. On Interstate 80 in Foster Township, however, there was a significant increase in traffic counts between 2015 and 2021 – over 13 percent. Traffic counts are conducted less frequently in other locations within the three counties, so that data is not reported here.

	DVMT	National Highway Linear Miles	DVMT per Linear Mile
Lackawanna County	3,043,458	143.8	21,164.5
Luzerne County	4,347,177	177.8	24,449.8
Wayne County	120,038	6.6	18,187.6
Pennsylvania	157,563,702	7,173.4	21,965.0

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2015 - 2021 % Change
I-81 in Wilkes-Barre Township	59,023	60,176	61,228	62,938	61,955	ND	ND	ND
I-80 in Foster Township	24,347	24,880	ND	ND	ND	ND	27,668	13.6%
PA-307 in Newton Township	4,952	ND	ND	4,949	4,912	4,310	4,649	-6.1%

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

	DVMT	National Highway Linear Miles	DVMT per Linear Mile
Lackawanna County	2,417,494	143.8	16,811.5
Luzerne County	3,792,285	177.8	21,328.9
Wayne County	91,730	6.6	13,898.5
Pennsylvania	131,239,013	7,173.0	18,296.3

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

	DVMT	National Highway Linear Miles	DVMT per Linear Mile
Lackawanna County	3,132,096	143.7	21,796.1
Luzerne County	4,371,283	177.8	24,585.4
Pennsylvania	158,011,598	7,170.0	22,037.9

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Transportation

BRIDGES

In 2018, the Federal Highway Administration’s National Bridge Inventory changed its procedures for bridge evaluation and no longer reports the number of structurally deficient bridges. Instead, bridges are categorized as good, fair, or poor.

Throughout Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wayne Counties, 1,074 bridges were counted in the 2022 National Bridge Inventory. Of those bridges, 21 percent, 27 percent, and 30 percent were classified as poor in Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wayne Counties.

	Lackawanna		Luzerne		Wayne		Pennsylvania	
	Total Bridges	% in Poor Condition	Total Bridges	% in Poor Condition	Total Bridges	% in Poor Condition	Total Bridges	% in Poor Condition
2018	343	18.7%	436	26.6%	253	28.9%	22,737	16.6%
2019	348	21.0%	441	26.5%	256	26.6%	22,911	15.3%
2020	349	20.9%	443	26.2%	250	27.6%	22,965	14.6%
2021	364	22.8%	441	26.3%	257	28.8%	23,166	13.8%
2022	364	20.9%	450	27.1%	260	29.6%	23,202	13.4%

Source: Federal Highway Administration National Bridge Inventory

For Luzerne and Wayne Counties, there was a marginal increase from the prior year while the percentage of bridges in poor condition decreased in Lackawanna County. All three counties have a considerably higher percentage of bridges in poor condition than the statewide percentage. In Pennsylvania as a whole, there has been a more marked decreasing trend in the share of bridges rated in poor condition, which declined to 13.4 percent in 2022.

Motor Vehicle Registrations

MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATIONS

As of 2021, Lackawanna County passenger vehicle registrations have increased considerably compared to 2000. Luzerne County passenger car registrations have increased from 2020; in 2021, passenger car registrations rose to 195,732. In both counties, these totals were the highest among all years analyzed. In Wayne County, the total number of passenger car registrations decreased nine percent since 2000. Overall, the three-county region has seen a two-percent increase in passenger car registrations from 2000 to 2021, and growth of nearly two percent from 2020 to 2021. Statewide, there has been more consistent growth in passenger car registrations since 2000, aside from decreases in 2019 and 2020.



The three-county region has seen a generally increasing trend in the number of registered trucks over 5,000 pounds. In 2021, however, the number of the region's registered trucks over 5,000 pounds decreased more than five percent from its 2020 totals. In contrast, the number of registered trucks over 5,000 pounds at the state level increased in 2021. The number of registered trucks under 5,000 pounds continued to decrease in the three counties and across the state, and it appears as though these trucks are being replaced by larger trucks in higher weight classifications. Since 2000, the number of registered trucks under 5,000 pounds has decreased by 64 percent in the three-county region and statewide.

Motor Vehicle Registrations: 3-County Region			
	Registered in 2021	Change Since 2020	Change Since 2000
Cars	352,654	1.6%	2.1%
Motorcycles	16,067	0.2%	66.0%
Trucks < 5k lbs.	17,139	-3.7%	-64.1%
Trucks > 5k lbs.	76,449	-5.4%	123.8%
Trailers	63,811	2.1%	59.2%

Motor Vehicle Registrations: Lackawanna County							
Vehicle Type	2000	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2000 - 2021 % Change
Passenger Vehicles	114,361	120,646	121,147	120,612	121,595	123,772	8%
Motorcycles	2,948	5,167	5,136	4,952	5,123	4,939	68%
Buses	783	886	915	900	856	833	6%
Trailers	11,981	19,027	19,203	19,496	19,866	20,452	71%
Truck - 5,000 lbs. or less	13,867	6,027	5,607	5,274	5,004	4,887	-65%
Truck - 5,000 lbs. to 9,000 lbs.	5,129	14,188	14,905	15,127	16,217	17,011	232%
Truck - 9,000 lbs. to 21,000 lbs.	1,847	3,441	3,614	6,648	6,939	4,283	132%
Truck - over 21,000 lbs.	2,643	2,972	3,047	3,053	3,075	3,191	21%

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Bureau of Motor Vehicles

Motor Vehicle Registrations: Luzerne County							
Vehicle Type	2000	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2000 - 2021 % Change
Passenger Vehicles	194,739	189,399	191,729	190,804	192,667	195,732	1%
Motorcycles	5,302	8,836	8,776	8,467	8,591	8,785	66%
Buses	1,140	1,094	1,111	1,092	1,036	1,001	-12%
Trailers	21,373	31,877	31,915	31,782	31,988	32,447	52%
Truck - 5,000 lbs. or less	27,392	12,847	12,128	11,369	10,747	10,293	-62%
Truck - 5,000 lbs. to 9,000 lbs.	10,632	24,712	25,563	26,461	27,297	28,389	167%
Truck - 9,000 lbs. to 21,000 lbs.	3,675	6,238	6,389	11,172	11,478	6,972	90%
Truck - over 21,000 lbs.	4,315	4,694	4,762	4,862	4,709	5,046	17%

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Bureau of Motor Vehicles

Motor Vehicle Registrations: Wayne County							
Vehicle Type	2000	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2000 - 2021 % Change
Passenger Vehicles	36,422	34,012	34,798	33,256	32,952	33,150	-9%
Motorcycles	1,431	2,287	2,373	2,296	2,327	2,343	64%
Buses	362	359	361	357	331	318	-12%
Trailers	6,728	10,387	10,530	10,440	10,631	10,912	62%
Truck - 5,000 lbs. or less	6,436	2,510	2,432	2,182	2,044	1,964	-69%
Truck - 5,000 lbs. to 9,000 lbs.	3,962	7,177	7,466	7,433	7,520	7,777	96%
Truck - 9,000 lbs. to 21,000 lbs.	918	1,828	1,998	1,996	2,082	2,229	143%
Truck - over 21,000 lbs.	1,041	1,389	1,418	1,432	1,442	1,521	46%

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Bureau of Motor Vehicles

Motor Vehicle Registrations: Pennsylvania							
Vehicle Type	2000	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2000 - 2021 % Change
Passenger Vehicles	7,166,668	8,084,151	8,219,631	8,168,045	8,118,635	8,152,012	14%
Motorcycles	210,788	373,635	374,300	366,244	372,375	371,613	76%
Buses	47,182	55,633	56,217	56,163	54,410	54,347	15%
Trailers	812,620	1,268,804	1,286,503	1,294,685	1,307,324	1,332,986	64%
Truck - 5,000 lbs. or less	987,230	449,840	424,570	395,212	374,323	356,742	-64%
Truck - 5,000 lbs. to 9,000 lbs.	472,508	1,081,441	1,134,573	1,166,485	1,194,519	1,227,859	160%
Truck - 9,000 lbs. to 21,000 lbs.	142,004	258,087	272,767	526,803	537,182	311,317	119%
Truck - over 21,000 lbs.	240,504	188,832	196,146	198,810	195,886	204,783	-15%

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Bureau of Motor Vehicles

Home Heating Fuels



“According to the most recent data, utility gas remained the most widespread method of home heating fuel in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, though oil is Wayne County’s most widespread method of home heating.”

HOME HEATING FUELS

According to the most recent data, utility gas remained the most widespread method of home heating fuel in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties from 2000 to 2020. Since 2000, electricity has eclipsed fuel oil as the second largest home heating source. The share of homes heated by electricity increased in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties in 2020 and 2021.

Fuel oil is Wayne County’s most widespread method of home heating fuel, though this share has decreased from 47 percent to 32 percent over the past 20 years. Compared to the other geographies, Wayne County also has a much higher share of homes using other fuels – this is largely comprised of homes heated by wood.

Statewide trends have been similar, with a slower shift toward electricity and a steady share of natural gas amid generally declining use of fuel oil.

Pennsylvania Home Heating Fuel				
	2000	2019	2020	2021
Occupied housing units	4,777,003	5,119,249	5,106,601	5,228,956
Utility gas	51.3%	51.5%	51.3%	51.2%
Bottled, tank, or LP gas	3.0%	4.6%	4.6%	5.1%
Electricity	16.5%	23.9%	23.5%	24.6%
Fuel oil, kerosene, etc.	25.5%	15.5%	15.9%	14.6%
Coal or coke	1.4%	1.0%	1.1%	0.8%
Other fuel	2.0%	3.1%	0.7%	3.1%
No fuel used	0.2%	0.4%	0.5%	0.6%

Source: US Census Bureau American Community Survey

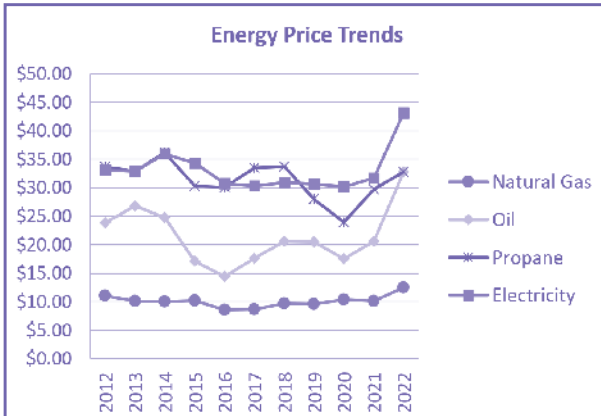
	Home Heating Fuel											
	2000			2019			2020			2021		
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Wayne	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Wayne*	Lackawanna*	Luzerne*	Wayne*	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Wayne*
Occupied housing units	86,218	130,687	18,350	88,154	130,890	18,841	87,737	130,039	18,938	88,294	134,132	19,379
Utility gas	61.0%	45.9%	10.0%	67.1%	50.6%	9.3%	64.3%	48.9%	10.1%	61.1%	49.8%	10.2%
Bottled, tank, or LP gas	3.8%	3.2%	13.0%	5.4%	5.1%	18.9%	5.8%	5.0%	18.6%	6.9%	5.0%	18.3%
Electricity	12.9%	17.2%	18.4%	16.0%	22.1%	23.1%	17.5%	22.7%	22.7%	20.3%	24.2%	23.2%
Fuel oil, kerosene, etc.	19.0%	28.9%	47.3%	8.9%	17.2%	30.8%	9.3%	17.9%	32.1%	8.5%	17.0%	31.8%
Coal or coke	2.0%	3.7%	2.9%	0.8%	2.6%	3.2%	1.0%	3.0%	3.0%	0.8%	2.0%	3.0%
Other fuel	0.8%	0.9%	0.2%	1.5%	2.3%	1.5%	0.7%	0.5%	1.2%	1.8%	1.7%	13.1%
No fuel used	0.2%	0.2%	0.1%	0.3%	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%	0.5%	0.3%	0.6%	0.4%	0.4%

Source: US Census Bureau American Community Survey (5-year estimates for 2020 and Wayne County all years; all others 1-year estimates)*

Energy Price Trends Airport

ENERGY PRICE TRENDS

In 2022, all sources of heating energy increased in price. Natural gas increased by 24 percent, oil by 59 percent, propane by more than ten percent, and electricity by 36 percent. Oil, natural gas, and electric heating costs in 2022 were the highest they have been among all years analyzed. Propane costs were the highest seen since 2018. Natural gas prices have been less prone to large fluctuation and remain lower than the other fuel sources analyzed, despite the recent increases.



	Natural Gas	Oil	Propane	Electricity
2012	\$11.01	\$23.81	\$33.65	\$33.18
2013	\$10.13	\$26.81	\$32.93	\$32.92
2014	\$10.00	\$24.77	\$36.19	\$35.97
2015	\$10.20	\$17.12	\$30.29	\$34.36
2016	\$8.56	\$14.42	\$30.04	\$30.78
2017	\$8.68	\$17.58	\$33.52	\$30.31
2018	\$9.70	\$20.60	\$33.72	\$30.90
2019	\$9.62	\$20.52	\$27.99	\$30.70
2020	\$10.39	\$17.51	\$23.96	\$30.18
2021	\$10.09	\$20.64	\$29.73	\$31.73
2022	\$12.50	\$32.77	\$32.80	\$43.13

Source: UGI Utilities

AIRPORT

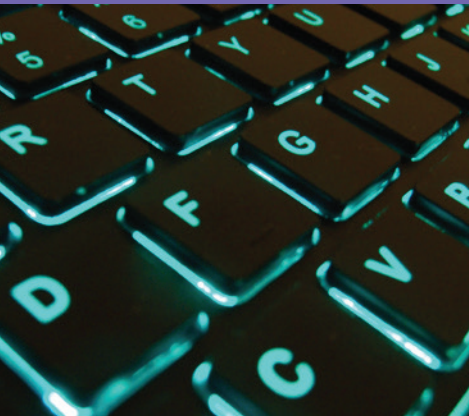
In 2019, the last full year before the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted travel, the total number of passengers traveling through Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport grew to the largest number among all years analyzed, and nearly 39 percent higher than the passenger count recorded in 2013. In 2020, the passenger count fell by 62 percent to just under 222,000 passengers on 2,877 outbound flights. As of 2022, passenger counts continue to rebound, growing by nearly 23 percent from the prior year but remaining below pre-pandemic levels.

On-time performance, which has generally been on par with or slightly better than larger airports in the Mid-Atlantic region, has fluctuated without a clear trend. Flight delays and cancellations rose slightly 2022 after a decline in the prior year. Data reported by the Bureau of Transportation Statistics also indicated an increase in freight and mail volume at the airport, but still well below the freight volume seen prior to 2020.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Passengers	422,343	434,127	462,999	531,854	527,928	590,044	221,781	313,107	384,371
Outbound Flights	4,647	4,781	4,823	4,822	5,557	6,051	2,877	3,037	3,065
Freight/Mail (lbs.)	492k	351k	369k	340k	403k	238k	3.6k	2.5k	8.3k
Carriers	14	10	13	12	13	12	10	9	10
% On Time									
Departure	80%	84%	87%	83%	81%	84%	82%	86%	81%
Arrival	71%	75%	83%	81%	79%	79%	81%	83%	77%
Average Delay (minutes)									
Departure	87.79	84.26	93.64	126.15	88.49	92.95	99.32	77.53	88.74
Arrival	60.98	55.66	65.73	71.44	62.89	64.26	65.93	49.75	67.05
% Cancelled	5%	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%	7%	2%	3%
# of Carriers Reporting	2	2	3	3	7	6	7	5	5

Source: Wilkes-Barre/Scranton International Airport and Bureau of Transportation Statistics.

Broadband Access



“As of 2021, about 87 percent of households in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties had internet access – slightly more than Wayne County (84 percent) but lower than the statewide rate of 89 percent.”

BROADBAND ACCESS

The share of households with any internet subscription has been growing since detailed data has been kept by the Census Bureau. As of 2021, about 87 percent of households in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties had internet access – slightly more than Wayne County (84 percent) but lower than the statewide rate of 89 percent. While internet access is less widespread among lower income households, over two-thirds of regional households with annual income under \$20,000 have internet access. At the state level, about 71 percent of households with annual income under \$20,000 have internet access.

As of 2021, over 84 percent of households in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties have smartphones – a proportion that grew considerably from 66 percent in 2016. Wayne County has a slightly lower rate of smartphone availability, at 75 percent, but all three counties have seen consistent increases in this share where data is available. In Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties, the percentages of households with smartphones have nearly equaled the shares of households with any internet subscriptions.

Households with Any Internet Subscription				
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Wayne*	Pennsylvania
2021	87.5%	87.4%	84.1%	89.1%
2020	No Data	No Data	83.5%	86.3%
2019	87.3%	83.9%	81.3%	85.9%
2018	84.1%	82.1%	79.4%	84.5%
2017	80.8%	79.6%	77.0%	82.0%
2016	75.9%	74.9%	77.9%	81.0%
2015	73.8%	70.0%	75.2%	76.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey
**Data for Wayne County is taken from 5-Year Estimates 2017-2021, Supplemental estimates 2015 and 2016*

Households with a Smartphone				
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Wayne*	Pennsylvania
2021	85.4%	84.3%	75.1%	86.1%
2020	No Data	No Data	72.0%	No Data
2019	82.7%	79.8%	68.1%	82.4%
2018	79.0%	77.0%	63.4%	79.7%
2017	73.3%	72.2%	58.8%	75.8%
2016	66.4%	66.4%	No Data	70.8%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey
**Data for Wayne County is taken from 5-Year Estimates*

Households with Any Internet Subscription: Household Income Less than \$20,000				
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Wayne*	Pennsylvania
2021	66.9%	70.5%	60.9%	71.6%
2020	No Data	No Data	59.5%	No Data
2019	75.6%	63.9%	59.2%	64.7%
2018	63.3%	58.0%	54.2%	61.8%
2017	56.3%	55.4%	51.7%	54.8%
2016	52.1%	46.7%	No Data	54.0%
2015	47.2%	41.6%	No Data	48.3%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey
**Data for Wayne County is taken from 5-Year Estimates*



Arts, Culture, and Heritage

Arts, Culture, and Heritage

Arts Occupations



“In addition to making the region a more attractive place to live and work, strong cultural resources drive tourism.”

ARTS CULTURE AND HERITAGE

A region’s competitiveness extends beyond its economy, housing, infrastructure, and the like. Quality-of-life factors are critical for attracting and retaining graduates and skilled workers. The number of art and design workers increased by nine percent in Lackawanna County and five percent in both Luzerne and Wayne Counties.

In addition to making the region a more attractive place to live and work, strong cultural resources drive tourism. As of 2021, spending by visitors in the region exceeded \$2 billion in the three counties, and the economic ripple effects of this activity spreads across many industry sectors and communities. Tourism was reduced in 2020 due to pandemic restrictions on travel, but there was a resurgence in 2021. All three counties saw tourism rebound at a faster rate than Pennsylvania as a whole.

Scenic landscapes and historic resources are also important aspects of tourism development as well as overall quality of life. The region is home to between four and five percent of Pennsylvania’s historic sites and markers, and in 2021, there was increase in available state and county funds for farmland preservation.

ARTS OCCUPATIONS

Two categories of workers were analyzed for this section of the report – art and design workers; and entertainers, performers, and sports workers. There has been little noticeable trend in the number of art and design workers employed in Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wayne Counties. In 2022, however, the amount of art and design workers increased in all three counties. Lackawanna County’s share of these workers increased by nine percent and the number of

art and design workers in both Luzerne and Wayne Counties increased by five percent.

In 2022, the number of entertainers, performers and sports and related workers in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties increased by five percent and 9.5 percent, respectively, and declined by more than four percent in Wayne County. The amount employed in each county remains significantly below their pre-pandemic totals.

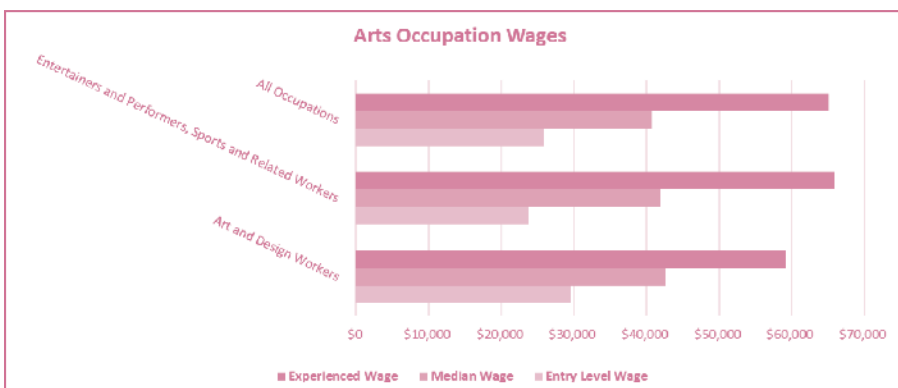
Wages in arts and design occupations are slightly higher at the entry level and median levels than they are in other occupations, though wages for experienced workers are lower than average. For entertainers, performers, and sports workers, entry-level wages are relatively low, but median wages and wages for experienced workers are slightly above average.

Entertainers and Performers, Sports, and Related Workers										
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Lackawanna	460	466	466	460	445	447	452	390	383	402
Luzerne	523	523	518	538	511	503	501	442	420	460
Wayne	79	74	71	78	80	86	62	67	70	67

Source: Jobs EQ (Chimura Economics)

Art and Design Workers										
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Lackawanna	474	469	471	480	484	509	495	461	452	493
Luzerne	622	629	633	629	613	615	614	590	589	617
Wayne	77	77	77	77	75	82	82	79	84	88

Source: Jobs EQ (Chimura Economics)



Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation Industry Sector/Arts Funding

ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, AND RECREATION INDUSTRY SECTOR

Businesses in arts, entertainment, and recreation collectively employ over 20,000 people in the three counties. Of all types of businesses in this sector, golf courses and country clubs have the highest employment total (903 employees), followed by recreational sports centers (551 employees). The next largest group includes independent artists, writers, and performers (349 individuals).

ARTS FUNDING

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) distributed two grants to Northeast Pennsylvania in 2021 – both in Lackawanna County. The region also received two grants 2020. Statewide, NEA funding most recently stood at \$5.5 million across nearly 100 grants.

The Pennsylvania Council on the Arts distributed 57 grants to Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wayne Counties in 2020-2021. The number of grants funded in the region has dropped from 86 in 2019-2020 to 57 in 2020-2021, though the total amount allocated increased for Lackawanna County. The total grant appropriation statewide has remained unchanged at \$9,590,000.



“Businesses in arts, entertainment, and recreation collectively employ over 20,000 people in the three counties.”

National Endowment for the Arts Funding				
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Wayne	Pennsylvania
2021				
Number	2	0	0	99
Amount	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$5,545,474
2020				
Number	1	0	1	136
Amount	\$50,000	\$0	\$10,000	\$7,505,406
2019				
Number	2	0	0	105
Amount	\$20,000	\$0	\$0	\$4,408,559

Source: www.usaspending.gov

PA Council on the Arts Funding				
	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Wayne	Pennsylvania
2020-2021				
Number	42	11	4	1,315
Amount	\$248,772	\$45,171	\$8,000	\$9,590,000
2019-2020				
Number	58	20	8	1,787
Amount	\$207,290	\$67,152	\$17,153	\$9,590,000
2018-2019				
Number	53	18	9	1,671
Amount	\$191,840	\$63,947	\$17,007	\$9,590,000

Source: PA Council on the Arts

Tourism Historic & Farmland Preservation



“There are currently 122 historical markers in Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wayne Counties - comprising almost five percent of all historical markers located in the Commonwealth.”

TOURISM

Prior to 2020, tourism visitor spending had followed a generally increasing trend in all three counties. Average year-over-year growth was two percent in Lackawanna County, three percent in Luzerne County, four percent in Wayne County, and three percent statewide.

The pandemic disrupted a large share of travel in 2020, causing a dip in visitor spending. In 2021, tourism largely rebounded in all three counties and statewide. In the most recent data, Lackawanna County had returned to 91 percent of pre-pandemic visitor spending and Luzerne County had returned to 88 percent. Wayne County’s increase surpassed prior years, with 2021’s total being the highest on record.

The recovery in tourism spending in the region has been faster than the state’s tourism recovery as a whole, where 2021 spending stood at 83 percent of pre-pandemic spending. Accordingly, the region’s share of the statewide tourism spending total grew from nearly five percent in years 2017 through 2019 to 5.5 percent in 2020 and 2021.

Tourism Visitor Spending (in millions)								
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Lackawanna	\$633.3	\$618.4	\$605.8	\$649.9	\$667.2	\$689.1	\$484.1	\$623.7
Luzerne	\$875.1	\$889.7	\$913.9	\$965.3	\$989.0	\$1,015.7	\$685.3	\$897.7
Wayne	\$419.7	\$433.1	\$443.8	\$462.3	\$478.9	\$517.1	\$428.3	\$558.4
Regional Total	\$1,928	\$1,941	\$1,964	\$2,078	\$2,135	\$2,222	\$1,598	\$2,080
Statewide	\$39,688	\$40,854	\$41,581	\$43,044	\$44,788	\$46,041	\$28,909	\$38,017

Source: Pennsylvania Tourism Office

Historic Resources			
	Historical Markers	District Resources	Above-Ground Resources
Lackawanna	34	65	2,260
Luzerne	71	99	4,092
Wayne	17	39	1,068
Pennsylvania	2,577	4,162	178,718

Source: PA-SHARE

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Several types of resources relate to historic preservation. Historical markers are present at locations to tell stories of notable people, places, events, and innovations. Above-ground resources include buildings, structures, or sites of historic significance. District resources can include larger areas of significance such as downtowns, neighborhoods, farms, industrial areas, and landscapes.

There are currently 122 historical markers in Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wayne Counties. This total comprises almost five percent of all historical markers located in the Commonwealth. The three-county region also has a combined total of 7,420 above-ground resources – just over four percent of the statewide total of these historic buildings or sites. Finally, the three-county region has 203 district resources, which comprise about five percent of the state’s total of these larger areas of historical significance.

FARMLAND PRESERVATION

State and county funds from the Bureau of Farmland Preservation help preserve agricultural lands. There is not a clear trend in the amount of state and county funds distributed to Lackawanna, Luzerne, and Wayne Counties by the Bureau of Farmland Preservation in recent years. However, the amount of funds distributed to all three counties in 2021 increased from

Bureau of Farmland Preservation - State and County Funds					
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Lackawanna	\$478,689	\$476,420	\$531,285	\$435,371	\$478,598
Luzerne	\$474,208	\$477,253	\$519,412	\$557,587	\$588,254
Wayne	\$214,241	\$225,421	\$254,049	\$237,864	\$318,236
Pennsylvania	\$53,210,765	\$53,767,620	\$56,264,081	\$54,439,167	\$54,570,045

Source: PA Department of Agriculture

their 2020 totals. Lackawanna County received a ten percent increase in its state and county funds for farmland preservation. Luzerne County received a five percent increase in its funding (though it has the highest total amount of all three counties). Lastly, Wayne County received an approximate 34 percent increase in its funding for farmland preservation.



Social Equity

Social Equity



“These statistics are used to determine where social inequities exist and for whom.”

SOCIAL EQUITY

The National Academy of Public Administration defines social equity as the “fair, just, and equitable management of all institutions serving the public directly or by contract; and the fair and equitable distribution of public services, and implementation of public policy; and the commitment to promote fairness, justice, and equity in the formation of public policy.” The Social Equity indicators identify vital statistics for Lackawanna, Luzerne, Wayne Counties, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. These statistics are used to determine where social inequities exist and for whom. Indicators from several other domains covered in the Indicators Report, including economics, health, housing, and safety, are considered in this section through a social equity lens. Data are broken down across several dimensions including race/ethnicity, age, gender, income, and LGBTQIA+ identification.

Data analyzed in this year’s report found several areas of disparity across racial lines. Black and Hispanic individuals are likelier than others to have income below the poverty line and workers from those backgrounds are less likely to earn at least \$15 per hour in the region. Non-White households had higher rates of cost burden than White households, with women of color likeliest to be cost burdened – 61 percent, compared with 45 percent of White women and 32 percent of White men. Homeownership rates were far lower among Black and Hispanic households compared to White households.

Members of the LGBTQIA+ community were likelier than heterosexual and cisgender individuals to smoke tobacco, report being a victim of intimate partner violence, and report poor mental health or depression. Over 62 percent statewide reported having experience discrimination based on LGBTQIA+ status.

The U.S. Census Bureau defines community resilience as “the capacity of individuals and households to absorb, endure, and recover” from the impacts of a disaster. A number of cities across the United States have started to integrate resilience into their communities’ plans and policies to better respond to uncertainties and crises, including the health, social, and economic impacts of a disaster. Research has demonstrated that hazards disproportionately impact both low-income and minority communities, so for a community to be resilient, it is pertinent that the region address social equity in all areas.

Resilience estimates can aid communities in developing plans to reduce the potential effects of a disaster. The Census Bureau modeled individual and household characteristics from the 2019 American Community Survey in combination with data from the Population Estimates Program to create the Community Resilience Estimates. The risk factors taken into account include income, single or zero caregiver households, crowding, communication barriers, employment, disability, lack of health insurance, and age.

According to the 2019 Community Resilience Estimates, 40 percent of those in Lackawanna County, 40 percent in Luzerne County, and 42 percent of the population in Wayne County have one to two risk factors. Lackawanna (23 percent), Luzerne (24 percent), and Wayne Counties (25 percent) have similar population shares with three or more risk factors.

The three counties also share a similar income inequality rate, with Lackawanna County’s income inequality rate at 0.4568, Luzerne County’s at 0.4496, and Wayne County’s at 0.4194. These rates are according to the Gini Index, a summary measure of income inequality. The Gini coefficient ranges from 0, indicating perfect equality (where everyone receives an equal share of income), to 1, perfect inequality (where only one recipient or group of recipients receives all the income).

Economic Equity

ECONOMIC EQUITY

The percentage of the population in the three-county region living below the poverty level is a significant indicator concerning promotion of social equity and economic growth. As of 2021 in Pennsylvania, 12 percent of the overall population fell below the poverty level. The highest poverty levels are for those who identify with Hispanic or Latino origin, of any race (25 percent), Black or African American (nearly 25 percent), American Indian and Alaska Native (21 percent), or Some Other Race (nearly 25 percent).

In Lackawanna County, 14 percent of the population falls below the poverty level. Poverty is highest in Lackawanna County among those identifying as Black or African American (nearly 35 percent) and those who identify as Two or More Races (31 percent). In Luzerne and Wayne Counties, poverty is highest among the American Indian and Alaska Native population followed by the Black or African American population (36.5 percent).

Where data was available to analyze over time, there have been some signs of improvement, with declines in the poverty rates of African American and Hispanic individuals falling faster than the overall rate since 2010.

Seventy percent of all people working in the Scranton-Wilkes-Barre Metro Area earned at least \$15 per hour in 2019. Only 45 percent of the Latino population, 48 percent of people of color, and 51 percent of the Asian or Pacific Islander population earned at least \$15 per hour in 2019. Similar disparities are present across levels of education, though the gap narrows somewhat at higher levels of education. The female populations for those identifying as Latino, People of Color, or White all had a lower percentages of those earning at least \$15 per hour than their male counterparts.

Additionally, those who identify as White have higher rates of employment in management occupations – ranging from nearly five percent to nearly six percent in the three counties. The share of Hispanic workers in these occupations ranges from nearly two percent to more than 2.5 percent, and the share among Black workers is 2.5 percent to more than three percent.



Race/Ethnicity	Percentage
All	70%
Asian or Pacific Islander	51%
Latino	45%
People of Color	48%
White	73%

Source: National Equity Atlas

	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Wayne
White	5.8%	4.9%	5.4%
Black	3.3%	2.5%	2.9%
American Indian	2.6%	2.5%	3.3%
Asian	5.2%	5.4%	4.2%
Pacific Islander	5.1%	3.2%	4.7%
Two or More Races	4.4%	3.1%	3.9%
Non-Hispanic/Latino	5.8%	5.2%	5.4%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	2.6%	1.8%	2.3%

Source: JobsEq as of 2022 Q3

	Lackawanna			Luzerne			Wayne			Pennsylvania		
	2010	2021	Change	2010	2021	Change	2010	2021	Change	2010	2021	Change
Overall population	13.2%	14.0%	0.8%	13.7%	14.2%	0.5%	No Data	10.8%	-	12.4%	11.8%	-0.6%
White alone (not Hispanic or Latino)	11.4%	11.3%	-0.1%	11.2%	11.5%	0.3%	No Data	10.3%	-	9.0%	9.1%	0.1%
Black or African American	39.1%	34.6%	-4.5%	46.5%	36.5%	-10.0%	No Data	18.1%	-	27.9%	24.6%	-3.3%
American Indian and Alaska Native	11.4%	No Data	-	25.8%	49.2%	23.4%	No Data	91.1%	-	24.3%	21.2%	-3.1%
Asian	11.8%	12.6%	0.8%	12.4%	9.7%	-2.7%	No Data	11.7%	-	14.7%	13.1%	-1.6%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0.0%	No Data	-	0.0%	6.8%	6.8%	No Data	0.0%	-	27.7%	20.0%	-7.7%
Some other race	38.1%	16.3%	-21.8%	35.7%	27.2%	-8.5%	No Data	10.6%	-	35.2%	29.6%	-5.6%
Two or more races	38.0%	31.1%	-6.9%	31.1%	24.8%	-6.3%	No Data	17.7%	-	26.0%	17.4%	-8.6%
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	38.3%	27.8%	-10.5%	40.5%	26.5%	-14.0%	No Data	17.8%	-	31.0%	25.3%	-5.7%

Data Source: US Census Bureau ACS 5-year Estimates

Education Equity



“Access to equitable school opportunities and experiences, regardless of background, race, socioeconomic circumstances, gender, or ability, is essential to ensure that every student has the support and resources necessary to attain their educational goals.”

EDUCATION EQUITY

Access to equitable school opportunities and experiences, regardless of background, race, socioeconomic circumstances, gender, and ability, is essential to ensure that every student has the support and resources necessary to attain their educational goals. This access – or lack thereof – has consequences for other intersecting social equity indicators.

For 2021, slightly larger shares of women than men held at least a high school diploma and at least a bachelor’s degree in all three counties.

In all three counties, there was also a gap in educational attainment by race and ethnicity for both the high school and bachelor’s degree levels. In Lackawanna County, almost 31 percent of White non-Hispanic residents hold a bachelor’s degree or higher compared with 11 percent of Hispanic residents and 13 percent of Black residents. In Luzerne County, these shares were nearly 25.5 percent, nearly 13 percent, and nearly nine percent, respectively. In Wayne County, these rates were 20 percent, almost 19 percent, and almost two percent for White non-Hispanic, Hispanic, and Black residents respectively.

Gender	HS Diploma or Higher		Bachelor's or Higher	
	2016	2021	2016	2021
Male	89.9%	91.2%	26.5%	28.4%
Female	90.2%	91.9%	25.8%	30.4%
Race/Ethnicity				
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	91.7%	93.4%	27.0%	30.7%
Black or African American alone	75.2%	84.4%	9.5%	13.2%
Asian alone	69.2%	80.8%	32.8%	43.6%
Two or more races	86.0%	81.1%	19.8%	15.9%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	70.1%	71.3%	12.9%	11.1%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 5-year estimates.

Gender	HS Diploma or Higher		Bachelor's or Higher	
	2016	2021	2016	2021
Male	89.0%	89.3%	21.4%	22.9%
Female	89.2%	91.1%	22.6%	25.1%
Race/Ethnicity				
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	91.3%	93.1%	23.1%	25.4%
Black or African American alone	79.8%	82.6%	10.1%	8.7%
Asian alone	86.3%	88.3%	53.5%	55.3%
Two or more races	81.7%	79.4%	16.1%	22.8%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	60.9%	67.6%	7.9%	12.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 5-year estimates.

Gender	HS Diploma or Higher		Bachelor's or Higher	
	2016	2021	2016	2021
Male	88.3%	88.6%	18.2%	16.6%
Female	91.7%	92.8%	23.1%	23.1%
Race/Ethnicity				
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	91.0%	91.5%	21.5%	20.3%
Black or African American alone	78.1%	78.1%	6.2%	1.8%
Asian alone	92.5%	82.1%	34.0%	38.0%
Two or more races	74.2%	94.1%	5.0%	13.3%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	77.7%	84.3%	9.8%	18.7%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 5-year estimates.

Gender	HS Diploma or Higher		Bachelor's or Higher	
	2016	2021	2016	2021
Male	89.0%	90.8%	29.4%	32.4%
Female	90.0%	91.9%	29.3%	33.7%
Race/Ethnicity				
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	91.5%	93.4%	30.7%	34.7%
Black or African American alone	84.9%	87.8%	17.2%	20.5%
Asian alone	82.3%	83.9%	53.9%	57.4%
Two or more races	85.4%	88.4%	27.4%	31.1%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	69.3%	74.4%	14.8%	18.9%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 5-year estimates.

DIGITAL EQUITY

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) reports a strong relationship between broadband access and health outcomes, referring to digital equity as a “super” determinant of health. Therefore, fostering digital equity is vital among communities.

The percentage of households with computer and broadband internet subscriptions for 2021 was tracked to better understand digital equity across the three-county region. In Pennsylvania overall, those identifying as Black or African American alone have the lowest rate of access (85.5 percent), followed by Hispanic or Latino of any race (88 percent). In Lackawanna County, those who identify as Black or African American alone had a slightly lower rate of access than other groups (at nearly 87 percent). In Luzerne County, those who identify as White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, had a slightly lower rate (at nearly 88 percent) than other groups, followed by Hispanic or Latino of any race (89 percent). In Wayne County, people who identify White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, have the lowest rate of access at 86 percent.

Digital equity statistics are likely correlated with other demographic differences present in counties, such as the age of the population. In all three counties, those who are aged 65 or older (approximately 70 percent to 75 percent) live in households with a computer, broadband, and internet subscription. Those with less than a high school diploma also have a lower rate of computer or broadband access in all three counties, ranging from 66 percent to 72 percent.

It should be noted that Internet speed and affordability are not factored into this metric.

“The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) reports a strong relationship between broadband access and health outcomes, referring to digital equity as a “super” determinant of health.”

Households with a Computer and Broadband Internet Subscription, 2021				
Race/Ethnicity	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Wayne	PA
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	88.6%	87.6%	86.1%	89.6%
Black or African American alone	86.8%	90.6%	96.9%	85.5%
Asian alone	91.6%	97.3%	94.9%	94.4%
Two or more races	96.8%	92.3%	96.4%	93.5%
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	94.1%	88.9%	96.0%	88.2%
Other Selected Groups	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Wayne	PA
Age 65+	70.7%	69.4%	73.4%	74.7%
Less than HS diploma	71.6%	72.0%	66.5%	67.6%
Unemployed	92.8%	89.2%	90.2%	90.1%

Source: Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 5-year estimates

Health Risk Factors and Outcomes



“The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services defines health equity as the ‘attainment of the highest level of health for all people.’ ”

HEALTH RISK FACTORS AND OUTCOMES

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services defines health equity as the “attainment of the highest level of health for all people.” Numerous inequities contribute to disparities in health risk factors and the health status of Pennsylvanians. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has named “achieving health equity, eliminating disparities, and improving the health of all groups” a top priority.

Those who have less than a high school education face greater incidences of poor physical health, heart attack, heart disease or stroke, diabetes, and poor mental health than people with high school diplomas or higher. Although adults across all levels of education had similar rates of depressive disorder diagnoses, those with college educations had a slightly lower rate. Individuals without high school diplomas are also likelier than others to have low physical activity and use tobacco.

Those who identify as Black non-Hispanic and Hispanic have higher rates of reported poor physical health than those identifying as White non-Hispanic. They also have higher reported rates of diabetes and poorer mental health. However, those identifying as White have higher reported rates of heart attack and heart disease or stroke as well as higher rates of reported depressive disorders. Black individuals were likelier than others to report no leisure time physical activity.

Individuals who identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual have a significantly higher rates of poor mental health and reported depressive disorders – 35 percent and 45 percent, respectively. They also have a higher rate of tobacco smoking – 21 percent compared to 15 percent.

Health Risk Factors, Pennsylvania Adults, 2021					
	Overweight and Obese	No Physical Activity In Past Month	Current Tobacco Smoker	Binge Drinking*	At Risk for Problem Drinking**
All adults	66	24	14	15	7
Gender					
Male	71	22	15	19	7
Female	62	27	14	12	6
Age					
18-29	48	16	12	24	6
30-44	65	20	18	19	7
45-64	75	26	18	16	8
65+	70	32	9	5	5
Education					
< High school	61	36	24	11	8
High school	69	31	18	14	6
Some college	68	24	16	18	8
College degree	63	13	6	16	6
Household income					
< \$15,000	67	44	27	11	5
\$15,000 to \$24,999	69	35	24	11	6
\$25,000 to \$49,999	66	32	21	15	7
\$50,000 to \$74,999	70	21	16	17	6
\$75,000+	68	16	8	19	8
Race					
White, non-Hispanic	66	23	15	16	7
Black, non-Hispanic	74	33	16	15	6
Hispanic	70	25	14	15	6
Sexual orientation					
Lesbian, gay or bisexual	52	23	21	26	9
Straight	67	25	15	15	6

Source: Pennsylvania BRFSS

Excludes missing, don't know and refused.

*Defined as having five or more drinks on one occasion for men and having four or more drinks on one occasion for women

**Defined as adult men having more than one drink per day and adult women having more than one drink per day.

Health Status, Pennsylvania Adults, 2021					
	Physical Health Not Good 14+ Days in the Past Month	Ever told had heart attack, heart disease or stroke	Ever told they had diabetes	Mental Health Not Good 14+ Days in the Past Month	Ever told they have some form of depressive disorder
All adults	12	13	11	14	19
Gender					
Male	11	16	12	12	14
Female	12	10	10	16	24
Age					
18-29	7	3	2	21	26
30-44	7	8	4	17	20
45-64	14	11	13	12	19
65+	17	24	22	9	14
Education					
< High school	20	21	15	17	20
High school	13	15	14	15	20
Some college	14	13	11	16	21
College degree	6	8	7	10	17
Household Income					
< \$15,000	33	24	18	27	34
\$15,000 to \$24,999	24	29	23	23	29
\$25,000 to \$49,999	15	17	13	16	21
\$50,000 to \$74,999	8	13	9	12	19
\$75,000+	6	6	8	10	14
Race					
White, non-Hispanic	11	14	10	13	20
Black, non-Hispanic	14	12	17	16	17
Hispanic	13	11	14	17	16
Sexual Orientation					
Lesbian, gay or bisexual	13	6	8	35	45
Straight	11	13	11	12	17

Source: Pennsylvania BRFSS

Excludes missing, don't know, and refused.

Health Insurance Equity

HEALTH INSURANCE EQUITY

Health equity involves lessening or eliminating health disparities through increased access to resources and health care. It is also a matter of lessening or eliminating economic and social obstacles in the three-county region. Removing these disparities requires equitable access to health insurance coverage as well.

As of the most recent data available in 2021, Pennsylvania overall had a slightly lower percentage (over 5.5 percent) of those not covered by health insurance than was the case in 2016 (eight percent). In Pennsylvania, males have a slightly higher rate of uninsured (6.5 percent) compared to females (nearly five percent).

In Lackawanna County, those who identify as some other race alone and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander have higher uninsured rates than other races and ethnicities (21 percent and 21 percent, respectively). In Luzerne County, people identifying as Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander and some other race alone have the highest uninsured rates (21 percent and 18 percent, respectively). In Wayne County, those identifying as Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander and American Indian and Alaska Native have the highest rates of being uninsured (100 percent and nearly 49.5 percent, respectively).

Generally, uninsured rates declined between 2016 and 2021. However, several non-White groups saw less decline than White non-Hispanic residents.

Percent Not Covered by Health Insurance								
	Lackawanna		Luzerne		Wayne		Pennsylvania	
	2016	2021	2016	2021	2016	2021	2016	2021
Percent Uninsured	6.7%	4.6%	7.6%	5.8%	N/A	6.8%	8.0%	5.6%
Gender								
Male	8.1%	5.8%	8.7%	7.4%	N/A	7.7%	9.1%	6.5%
Female	5.4%	3.4%	6.5%	4.3%	N/A	5.9%	6.9%	4.8%
Race & Ethnicity								
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	5.5%	3.5%	6.3%	3.7%	N/A	6.4%	6.6%	4.7%
Black or African American	13.1%	6.5%	12.9%	11.2%	N/A	9.0%	11.5%	7.1%
American Indian and Alaska Native	2.8%	3.1%	25.1%	17.7%	N/A	49.4%	17.7%	12.6%
Asian	16.0%	8.6%	13.5%	12.5%	N/A	18.1%	11.3%	6.6%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	50.0%	20.1%	0.0%	21.3%	N/A	100%	10.0%	12.4%
Some other race alone	24.3%	21.1%	21.4%	18.2%	N/A	13.6%	20.1%	15.5%
Two or more races	5.2%	6.7%	8.1%	12.3%	N/A	13.1%	8.9%	6.8%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	19.1%	12.0%	16.9%	16.3%	N/A	8.9%	17.4%	12.3%
Place of Birth and Citizenship								
Native born	5.7%	3.8%	6.5%	4.5%	N/A	6.5%	7.1%	5.0%
Foreign-born, naturalized citizen	14.5%	7.1%	14.8%	14.2%	N/A	19.0%	9.8%	6.6%
Foreign-born, not a citizen	35.7%	25.4%	32.9%	26.7%	N/A	1.4%	31.0%	22.2%
Disability Status								
With a disability	4.1%	2.4%	4.7%	3.3%	N/A	1.8%	5.1%	3.4%
No disability	7.2%	5.0%	8.1%	6.3%	N/A	7.9%	8.4%	6.0%
Educational Attainment								
Less than high school graduate	14.3%	11.4%	13.7%	14.2%	N/A	7.4%	16.8%	14.1%
High school graduate or equivalent	8.8%	6.1%	9.2%	5.6%	N/A	7.0%	9.7%	6.5%
Some college or associate's degree	7.9%	4.5%	7.2%	5.9%	N/A	7.9%	8.3%	5.2%
Bachelor's degree or higher	3.2%	2.6%	4.1%	3.2%	N/A	2.3%	3.7%	2.6%
Household Income								
Under \$25,000	9.5%	6.0%	12.3%	7.3%	N/A	9.1%	12.6%	7.7%
\$25,000 to \$49,999	10.7%	7.1%	10.6%	7.2%	N/A	8.8%	12.1%	8.4%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	6.5%	4.7%	7.3%	7.8%	N/A	7.6%	8.3%	7.3%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	3.8%	5.6%	4.1%	5.7%	N/A	4.9%	5.8%	5.2%
\$100,000 and over	2.8%	2.2%	2.9%	3.4%	N/A	5.0%	3.6%	3.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau - ACS 5-year estimates

Trauma and Resilience

“Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are events or circumstances that may be traumatic to children during the first 18 years of life.”

TRAUMA AND RESILIENCE

According to the CDC, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are events or circumstances that may be traumatic to children during the first 18 years of life. Examples of ACEs are experiencing violence, abuse, neglect, intimate partner violence, living with family members with mental health or substance abuse problems, and parental incarceration. Mitigating these experiences and improving equity by linking community members to the resources they need will, in turn, foster resilience.

Across Pennsylvania in 2021, 22 percent of residents lived with someone who was depressed, mentally ill, or suicidal before they were age 18. One-quarter lived with someone who was a problem drinker or alcoholic before they reached age 18. Thirteen percent, before age 18, lived with someone who used illegal street drugs or abused prescriptions. Nine percent, before age 18, lived with someone who was sentenced to serve time in prison.

Those identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, Black non-Hispanic, or Hispanic were likelier than others to have Adverse Childhood Experiences. This includes 51 percent of lesbian, gay, and bisexual adults who lived with someone depressed, mentally ill, or suicidal before age 18 compared with 22 percent overall. It also includes 35 percent of those with very low incomes who lived with a problem drinker before age 18 compared to 25 percent overall. The percentages who had lived with someone sentenced to prison was 20 percent and 18 percent among Black non-Hispanic and Hispanic adults (respectively) compared to just seven percent for White non-Hispanic adults.

Intimate partner violence was also most common among lesbian, gay, and bisexual adults, as well as women, younger adults, and those with incomes under \$15,000 per year.

Adverse Childhood Experiences and Intimate Partner Violence, Pennsylvania Adults, 2021						
	Before Age 18, Lived with Anyone Who:				Ever had sex without their consent	Ever hit, slapped, pushed, kicked or hurt by an intimate partner
	Was depressed, mentally ill or suicidal	Was a problem drinker or alcoholic	Used illegal drugs or abused prescriptions	Was sentenced to serve time in prison		
All adults	22	25	13	9	7	13
Gender						
Male	20	22	13	9	4	11
Female	25	28	13	10	10	15
Age						
18-29	37	27	18	16	13	15
30-44	30	27	20	14	9	20
45-64	19	27	13	7	6	12
65+	10	21	4	3	4	6
Education						
< High school	20	33	21	15	7	15
High school	22	28	15	11	6	13
Some college	24	26	13	9	8	14
College degree	22	19	10	5	7	11
Household Income						
< \$15,000	22	35	21	15	12	21
\$15,000 to \$24,999	25	32	16	14	9	14
\$25,000 to \$49,999	25	28	16	13	9	15
\$50,000 to \$74,999	21	22	11	7	10	14
\$75,000 +	23	24	12	5	6	11
Race						
White, non-Hispanic	22	25	12	7	7	12
Black, non-Hispanic	26	29	20	20	10	17
Hispanic	29	35	22	18	8	17
Sexual orientation						
Lesbian, gay, or bisexual	51	34	23	18	28	25
Straight	20	24	12	8	6	12

Source: Pennsylvania BIR 55
Includes missing, don't know, and refused

Housing Equity

HOUSING EQUITY

Data on housing cost burden demonstrates that in 2019, White households had the lowest housing burden among renters (40 percent), and Latino households had the highest housing burden (52 percent). Also in 2019, White households living below 200 percent of the federal poverty level had the lowest housing burden for renters (67 percent), and Latino households had the highest (71 percent). In that year, women of color were likelier to be cost burdened – 61 percent, compared with 45 percent of White women and 32 percent of White men.

Inequities are also present in homeownership rates. In each county and statewide, African Americans had a far lower rate of homeownership compared with White non-Hispanic households. In Luzerne and Wayne Counties, Asian households had comparable or higher rates of homeownership, but in Lackawanna County the homeownership rate among Asians was lower than average. In Wayne County, where homeownership rates are higher overall, gaps between racial groups in homeownership appeared less drastic.



Housing Cost Burden: Scranton/Wilkes-Barre MSA	
Percent of all burdened renters living at all income levels	
Race/Ethnicity	Percentage
All	43%
Latino	52%
People of color	50%
White	40%
Percent of burdened renters living 200% below poverty level	
All	68%
Latino	71%
People of color	69%
White	67%
Burdened and living at all income levels	
Race/Ethnicity and Gender	Percentage
All	
Male	34%
Female	49%
Latino	
Male	43%
Female	61%
People of Color	
Male	39%
Female	61%
White	
Male	32%
Female	45%

Source: National Equity Atlas

Scranton--Wilkes-Barre, PA; Tenure: Renters; Severity: Burdened; Poverty: All income levels; Year: 2019

Homeownership Rate by Race and Ethnicity								
	Lackawanna		Luzerne		Wayne		Pennsylvania	
	2016	2021	2016	2021	2016	2021	2016	2021
Overall Homeownership Rate	65.9%	65.3%	68.0%	67.6%	79.1%	80.7%	69.0%	69.2%
White alone (not Hispanic or Latino)	69.4%	69.9%	71.7%	73.1%	79.5%	80.9%	74.3%	74.9%
Black or African American	19.1%	22.3%	13.8%	16.7%	45.5%	50.7%	43.3%	43.5%
Asian	35.7%	45.1%	65.9%	69.5%	100.0%	98.6%	57.5%	59.6%
Two or more races	34.9%	32.7%	32.4%	39.3%	70.7%	79.4%	46.0%	51.6%
Hispanic or Latino origin (of any race)	25.1%	26.0%	35.4%	35.1%	70.2%	72.2%	40.6%	44.0%

Data Source: US Census Bureau ACS 5-year Estimates

Hate Crime

“Hate crimes increased in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties from 2021 to 2022, and remain unchanged in Wayne County.”

HATE CRIME

An offense committed with motivation based on bias constitutes a hate crime. In Pennsylvania, a hate crime is defined as “a criminal act motivated by ill will or hatred toward a victim’s race, color, religion, or national origin.” At the federal level, hate crime laws include “crimes committed on the basis of a victim’s perceived or actual race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or disability.”

Hate crimes increased in Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties from 2021 to 2022. In 2021, there were four reported hate crimes in Lackawanna County. That number rose to nine in 2022. In 2021, there was one reported hate crime in Luzerne County. That number rose to three in 2022. The number in Wayne County remains unchanged, with one report in 2021 and one report in 2022. There was a decrease in reported hate crimes statewide, with 287 reported in 2022, but this number remains higher than levels seen several years ago.

Between 2018 and 2022, the majority of hate crimes in the three-county region were motivated by race, ethnicity, or ancestry (50 percent), followed by disability (20 percent), religion (15 percent), and sexual orientation (10 percent). Compared to the statewide distribution, the region had a larger share of hate crimes motivated by disability, including four of the nine statewide during that time.

Hate Crime Reports					
County	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Lackawanna County	0	1	0	4	9
Luzerne County	0	0	0	1	3
Wayne County	0	0	0	1	1
Pennsylvania	91	83	112	347	287

Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Reporting System

2018-2022 Hate Crime Reports by Bias Motivation				
Bias Motivation	3-County Region		Pennsylvania	
Race/Ethnicity/Ancestry	10	50%	636	69%
Religion	3	15%	134	15%
Sexual Orientation	2	10%	125	14%
Disability	4	20%	9	1%
Gender	0	0%	3	0%
Gender Nonconforming	1	5%	13	1%

Source: Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Reporting System

DISABILITY EQUITY

Males and females across the three-county region have similar rates of disability. All three counties have higher rates than Pennsylvania’s rate overall. In Lackawanna County, those identifying as Black or African American alone have a higher disability rate (22 percent) than other races and ethnicities. Those identifying as Two or more races in Luzerne County have the highest disability rate (18 percent). In Wayne County, those identifying as American Indian and Alaska Native alone (47 percent) have the highest reported disability rate, followed by individuals identifying as Black or African American alone (29 percent). Across all of Pennsylvania, people identifying as American Indian and Alaska Native alone (19.5 percent) have the highest rate of reported disability, followed by people identify as Some other race alone (18 percent) and Black or African American alone (nearly 17 percent).

Percent of the Population with a Disability: 2021				
Gender	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Wayne	PA
Male	15.9%	15.8%	19.1%	13.7%
Female	15.7%	15.7%	16.7%	14.2%
Race/Ethnicity	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Wayne	PA
White alone	16.1%	16.4%	17.9%	13.8%
Black or African American alone	22.0%	10.2%	29.3%	16.7%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	13.0%	7.1%	46.8%	19.5%
Asian alone	7.5%	5.4%	4.4%	7.3%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	0.0%	7.5%	0.0%	16.3%
Some other race alone	13.3%	10.9%	19.4%	17.9%
Two or more races	12.7%	18.2%	17.8%	12.0%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	16.4%	16.5%	18.0%	13.9%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	12.4%	13.1%	20.7%	14.2%
Age	Lackawanna	Luzerne	Wayne	PA
Under 5 years	0.3%	0.9%	0.0%	0.7%
5 to 17 years	9.5%	9.9%	7.1%	7.3%
18 to 34 years	9.3%	8.1%	9.3%	7.8%
35 to 64 years	15.3%	15.3%	16.6%	13.4%
65 to 74 years	22.5%	25.8%	27.7%	22.9%
75 years and over	49.0%	45.4%	46.3%	46.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS 3-year estimates

LGBTQIA+ Equity



“The most recent statewide LGBTQIA+ health needs assessment found that those who identify as LGBTQIA+ have a higher rate of unemployment and a higher rate of being uninsured than people who identify as heterosexual and cisgender.”

LGBTQIA+ EQUITY

Promoting social equity in both the public and private sectors can be advanced by first understanding a variety of indicators across the LGBTQIA+ population. As of 2022, four percent of adults in Pennsylvania identify as LGBTQ+ and they represent five percent of the workforce. Twenty-seven percent of the LGBTQIA+ population aged 25 and over are raising children.

The most recent statewide LGBTQIA+ health needs assessment found that those who identify as LGBTQIA+ have a higher rate of unemployment and a higher rate of being uninsured than people who identify as heterosexual and cisgender. Additionally, people in the LGBTQIA+ community have a significantly higher rate of food insecurity and a higher rate of income below \$24,000. Respondents also noted various barriers to care for their physical health. These barriers include the fear of a negative reaction to their LGBTQIA+ identity, lack of proximity to LGBTQIA+ affirming health providers, insurance that does not cover LGBTQ-affirming physical health care, and others, such as cost. Furthermore, 38.5 percent noted barriers to seeking mental health care.

With regard to self-reported lifetime experiences, a significant majority (nearly 62.5 percent) have experienced discrimination based on LGBTQIA+ status, over 50.5 percent contemplated suicide, and 48 percent have had thoughts of self-harm.

While just over half of those identifying as LGBTQIA+ in Pennsylvania often or always feel respected for their LGBTQIA+ identity (almost 56 percent), nearly 30 percent only feel respected sometimes, and 14.5 percent never or rarely feel respected. The majority self-reported that they often (nearly 33 percent) or sometimes (36 percent) receive the social and emotional support they need (rather than those who always receive such support - 10 percent).

Statewide LGBTQIA+ Community	
Population	Rate
Percent of adults (18+) who are LGBTQIA+	4.10%
Total LGBTQIA+ population (13+)	490,000
Percent of workforce that is LGBTQIA+	5%
Total LGBTQIA+ workers	307,000
Percent of LGBTQIA+ adults (25+) raising children	27%

Source: Movement Advancement Project | State Profiles (gutmap.org)

Pennsylvania LGBTQ Health Needs Assessment (2022)	
Feel Respected in their LGBTQIA+ Identity	
Never or rarely	14.5%
Sometimes	29.8%
Often or Always	55.7%
Receive the social and emotional support they need	
Never	5.3%
Rarely	16.0%
Sometimes	35.8%
Often	32.6%
Always	10.3%
Lifetime experiences	
Experienced discrimination based on LGBTQ status	62.4%
Thoughts of suicide	50.6%
Thoughts of self-harm	48.0%

Source: Pennsylvania LGBTQ Health Needs Assessment, Research & Evaluation Group and Bradbury Sullivan LGBT Center

The Institute

Turning Information into Insight

The Institute was founded on the belief that good decisions are driven by good data. Our mission is to provide empirical, objective information that drives discussion and informs decisions.

Institute research helps policymakers and community leaders from the public, private, and non-profit sectors understand and address some of the region's most challenging problems.

For the past 19 years, underwriting donations from our generous partners have produced research initiatives that have improved the region and changed people's lives in tangible ways and have supported student stipends for research interns from our 13 member higher education consortium.

The following pages are profiles from our most current research underwriters. The Institute would also like to thank the Sordoni Family Foundation and the Andrew J. Sordoni Foundation for their generosity. Both foundations provided the seed capital to start The Institute and have provided annual support since its inception.

If you would like to ensure that regional data and research continues to support informed choices leading to greater economic vitality for business, residents, and the region as a whole, please consider research underwriting support to The Institute.

Best Regards,

Teri, Andrew, Jill, Jo, Mark, Sarah, and Ethan





A Great Place to Live, Work and Play!

Luzerne County is an exciting and growing community in Northeastern Pennsylvania. This picturesque region, with its rolling mountains, vast valleys and plentiful waterways, is home to approximately 326,000 residents. Once fueled by the anthracite coal industry, Luzerne County is experiencing a rebirth as a variety of businesses, both large and small, discover the benefits of the area. The evidence of this is seen every day as more big-name corporations, tech companies, restaurants and shops choose to settle in Luzerne County. An exceptional collection of colleges can also be found here, attracting students to the area from around the country and the globe.

Seventy-six municipal jurisdictions, including four cities: Hazleton, Nanticoke, Pittston and Wilkes-Barre, make up Luzerne County. County government is under the direction of County Council and a County Manager. Collaboration among the local governments and private and public organizations contribute to the success of the region.

Those living throughout Luzerne County enjoy the natural beauty of the area, including four state parks, a thriving arts community with local theater and big stage performances, along with sporting events from the Wilkes-Barre/ Scranton Penguins, AHL affiliate of the Pittsburgh Penguins, and the Scranton/ Wilkes-Barre RailRiders, Triple-A affiliate of the New York Yankees.

The County's Convention and Visitors' Bureau has recently relocated to the historic train station located at 200 Old Train Station Road and is visible from Wilkes-Barre Boulevard. Please visit the Bureau to see what is happening in Luzerne County.

Countless opportunities, a strong sense of community and plenty to see and do make Luzerne County a great place to live, work and play!



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keystone edition

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For more than 50 years, WVIA has served the people of Northeastern and Central Pennsylvania by identifying and addressing the region's most pressing needs through constructive journalism. WVIA connects viewers and listeners with resources to affect change in their neighborhoods.

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In its first season, Keystone Edition partnered with over 80 community partners and utilized research from the institute for Public Policy & Economic Development and ideas from a volunteer editorial advisory panel, including veteran journalists throughout the region to explore important topics such as the ongoing pandemic and its effects on our region, evictions, voting, the PA university integration, mental health, food insecurity, genomics, the veteran's experience, working from home and so much more, all to improve the quality of life in our region.

Each week, our hosts inspire audiences to engage in conversations that highlight critical stories in our region. WVIA's Larry Vojtko and Erika Funke, as well as Steve Stumbris (Director of the Bucknell SBDC) and Tonyehn Verkitus (Executive Director of the Lackawanna and Luzerne County Medical Societies), serve as moderators.

Currently, in its third season, Keystone Edition has explored topics such as food insecurity, female entrepreneurship, inclusivity and diversity in the theatre, barriers to care for older adults, and so much more.

Learn more, wvia.org/keystone



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WVIA News serves the communities of northeastern and central Pennsylvania by providing in-depth, fact-based, issue-oriented local journalism that aims to create a more informed public. WVIA News provides local stories during NPR's Morning Edition & All Things Considered on WVIA Radio as well as journalistic content for WVIA multi-platform programs such as Keystone Edition & Call the Doctor among others.

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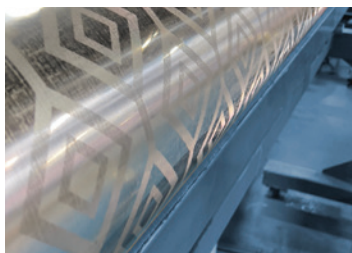
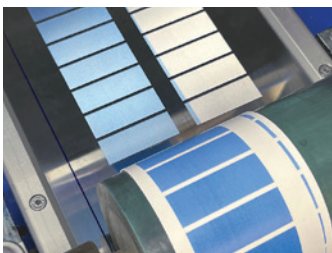
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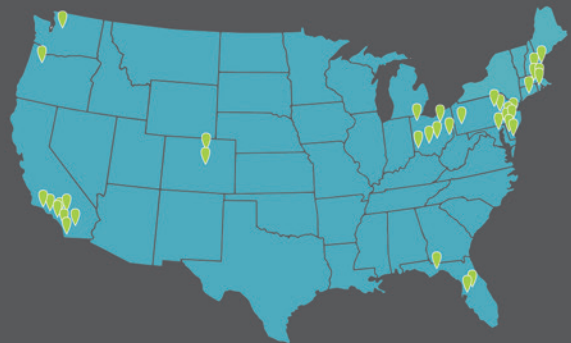
What started as one hospital in rural Pennsylvania is now a health and wellness organization of 24,000 employees and 1,800 employed physicians working together to bring preventive health and advanced medical care to the people who depend on us.

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Geisinger



Borton-Lawson a Verdantas Company leverages cutting edge technology with engineering expertise to deliver solutions in multiple industries. Dedicated to being a thriving company for both its employees and clients, Borton-Lawson has focused on creating a strong engaging culture to drive its business to success. With its recent partnership with Top 500 ENR Verdantas, Borton-Lawson strengthens Verdantas' position with facilities, transportation, real estate, water, and energy clients, propelling its digital transformation strategies. Verdantas is a global firm enabling clients to solve complex environmental and infrastructure challenges, supporting its strategic and overall sustainability and climate change resiliency goals.



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Here's to making every day in Northeastern Pennsylvania the best it can be.



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for
COMMUNITY HEALTH

THE WRIGHT CENTER
for
GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION

For more than 45 years, The Wright Center has been committed to providing non-discriminatory, high-quality, safety-net health services to the region's most vulnerable populations while creating the primary care workforce pipeline America needs.

This mission is carried out in two complementary entities: **The Wright Center for Community Health**, a Federally Qualified Health Center Look-Alike with a growing network of community health centers throughout Lackawanna, Luzerne and Wayne counties, and **The Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education**, recognized as the largest national Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education Consortium dedicated to training compassionate, highly skilled primary care physicians.

By mission and design, our physician-led nonprofit is community-based and patient-directed. We exist to serve those who have limited access to healthcare, with a vision to integrate patient care delivery, workforce development and innovation to be the leading model of primary healthcare in America.

TheWrightCenter.org

M&T Bank

M&T Bank Corporation is a financial holding company headquartered in Buffalo, New York. M&T's principal banking subsidiary, M&T Bank, provides banking products and services in 12 states across the northeastern U.S. from Maine to Virginia and Washington, D.C. Trust-related services are provided in select markets in the U.S. and abroad by M&T's Wilmington Trust-affiliated companies and by M&T Bank. For more information on M&T Bank, visit www.mtb.com

M&T Bank is organized around 19 community bank regions led by local regional presidents. This means decisions about loans and community activities are made locally, by the people in the bank who know the community best.

Fast Facts

- One of the 20 largest U.S.-based commercial banks
- As of April 2, 2022, People's United Financial, Inc. is now part of M&T Bank
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For over 65 years, CAN DO, Inc. has worked to improve the quality of life in the Greater Hazleton Area through the creation and retention of a full range of employment opportunities. Through the development of the organization's four business and industrial parks, CAN DO has assisted in the attraction of over 30,000 high-quality jobs within the region.

In addition to a strategic focus on development and real estate, CAN DO offers a variety of services to promote economic activity and job creation within the community including business financing, small business & entrepreneurial consulting, as well as the facilitation of workforce development solutions.

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