This is Rural Pennsylvania

- Rural Pennsylvanians (nearly 3.4 million) represent almost 27% of the state’s population.
- Rural Pennsylvania comprises 75% of the state’s land area.
- According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Pennsylvania has the third largest rural population in the nation: Texas is first, followed by North Carolina.
- 48 of Pennsylvania’s 67 counties are classified as rural.
- Only Delaware and Philadelphia counties have no rural population.

The Center’s definition of rural is based on population density. A county is rural when the number of persons per square mile within the county is less than 284 (the statewide average, as of the 2010 Census). The Center’s rural definition also addresses rural school districts and municipalities.
% Change in County Population, 2010-2019

% Change in County Population, 2010-2019

Population in Southeastern Pennsylvania and Rest of Pennsylvania 1950 to 2019 (In Millions)

Data sources: Decennial Censuses and the 2019, 5-year Average, American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau.
Rural and Urban Pennsylvania Population, 1900 to 2040 (projected)

(Population in Millions, Current Rural Definition)

Data sources: Decennial Censuses, 2019, 5-year Average, American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau and Pennsylvania State Data Center.
Population Change, 2010 to 2019

- **Population, 2010 (In millions):**
  - United States: 304.0
  - Rural Counties: 79.6
  - Urban Counties: 224.3

- **Population, 2019 (In millions):**
  - United States: 324.7
  - Rural Counties: 81.4
  - Urban Counties: 243.3

- **% Change, 2010-2019:**
  - United States: 6.8%
  - Rural Counties: 2.2%
  - Urban Counties: 8.5%

- **Total # Counties:**
  - United States: 3,142
  - Rural Counties: 2,362
  - Urban Counties: 780

- **# Counties with Population Gains, 2010-2019:**
  - United States: 1,559
  - Rural Counties: 928
  - Urban Counties: 631

- **# Counties with Population Loss or No Change, 2010-2019:**
  - United States: 1,583
  - Rural Counties: 1,434
  - Urban Counties: 149

Percent of Youth and Older Residents in Rural Pennsylvania, 1950 to 2040 (projected)

Shaded counties have more residents 65+ than residents <20 years old.

Data sources: Decennial Censuses, 2019, 5-year Average, American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau and Pennsylvania State Data Center.
Number of Births and Deaths in Rural Pennsylvania, 1970 to 2020

Data source: Pennsylvania Department of Health.
According to the CDC, the total fertility rate (TFR) estimates the number of births that a hypothetical group of women would have over their lifetimes, based on age-specific birth rates in a given year. Replacement level for the TFR is the level at which a given generation can exactly replace itself (generally considered to be 2.1 births per woman). Data for Pennsylvania counties is for women age 15 to 44 years old. Data sources: Pennsylvania Department of Health and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
66% of people who moved out of rural Pennsylvania went to a county <100 miles away.

78% of people who moved into rural Pennsylvania came from a county <100 miles away.

Data source: 2018, 5-year Average, American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau.
Number of Non-whites by Municipality, 1990 and 2019

Number of Non-whites, 1990
(n=1,361,442)

Number of Non-whites, 2019
(n=2,490,928)

1 Dot = 10 People

Thank You

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