

# FIREARM-RELATED INJURIES

NOTE: Firearm-related injury deaths include unintentional injury deaths, suicides and homicides.

- The annual number and age-adjusted rate for firearm-related deaths among state residents increased between 1985 and 1995. The 1995 rate of 11.6 per 100,000 was 26 percent higher than the 1985 rate of 9.2 and the 1,389 deaths reported for 1995 was 22 percent higher than the 1,140 recorded for 1985.
- The national year 2000 objective is an age-adjusted death rate for firearm-related injuries of no more than 11.6 per 100,000. Pennsylvania's rate has been on the rise since 1985 and now stands at 11.6 in 1995. A consistent downward trend is necessary in the near future for Pennsylvania to meet this national goal.
- Among the four sex/race groups, black males had, by far, the highest annual age-adjusted death rates during 1985-1995. For example, the 1995 rate for black males was 64.5 per 100,000, over four times higher than the rate for white males (15.4) which was the second highest in 1995.
- While the annual age-adjusted death rates for white males, white females, and black females have remained about the same throughout the period of 1985-1995, the 1995 rate for black males was almost twice as high as their 1985 rate.
- The 1991-1995 age-specific death rates were, by far, the highest for black males for all the age groups under age 65. White males then had the highest age-specific death rates for all the age groups from age 65 and older.
- The 1991-1995 age-specific death rates for black males rose dramatically from 8.4 per 100,000 for ages 10-14 to 148.2 for ages 15-19; peaked at 200.2 for ages 20-24; and, then declined slowly. The rates for white males were high among the young (ages 20-34), then declined but rose again to their highest levels for the oldest age groups (ages 75+). The rates for females were highest between the ages of 20 and 44.
- Thirty percent or 2,021 of the total 6,750 firearm-related deaths during 1991-1995 were to residents of Philadelphia.
- While firearm-related deaths in 1991-1995 accounted for less than one percent of all resident deaths due to unintentional injuries, 66 percent of homicides and 56 percent of suicides were firearm-related during 1991-1995.
- The percentages of firearm-related deaths for unintentional injuries and suicides have remained about the same since 1991. However, the percent of firearm-related homicides has increased slightly since 1991.
- Two counties, Fayette and Philadelphia, had average annual age-adjusted death rates for firearm-related injuries that were significantly higher than the corresponding state rate.

**HIGHEST AGE-ADJUSTED DEATH RATES – Black males**  
**HIGHEST AGE-SPECIFIC DEATH RATES – Young black males (ages 15-44)**

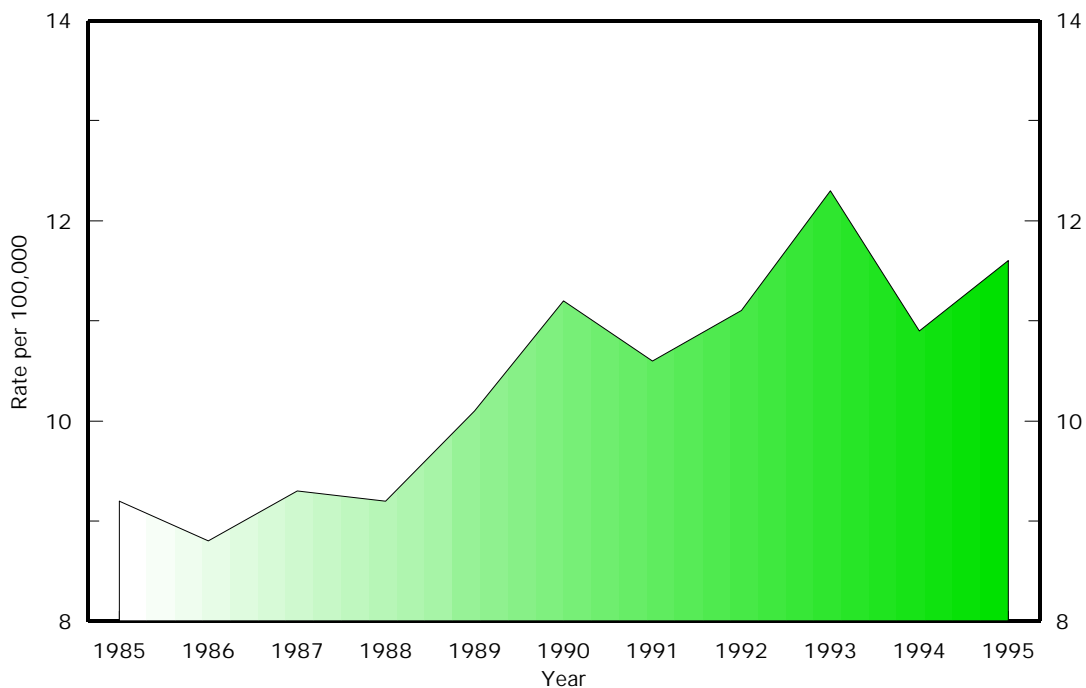
# FIREARM-RELATED INJURIES

**TABLE 9-A**  
**TOTAL NUMBER OF DEATHS AND AGE-ADJUSTED DEATH RATES, BY YEAR**  
**PENNSYLVANIA RESIDENTS, 1985-1995**

YEAR	NO.	RATE	YEAR	NO.	RATE
1985	1,140	9.2	1991	1,289	10.6
1986	1,113	8.8	1992	1,306	11.1
1987	1,171	9.3	1993	1,461	12.3
1988	1,153	9.2	1994	1,305	10.9
1989	1,261	10.1	1995	1,389	11.6
1990	1,373	11.2			

NOTE: Age-adjusted rates are computed by the direct method using the 1940 standard million population. Rates are per 100,000.

**FIGURE 9-A**  
**AGE-ADJUSTED DEATH RATE**  
**PENNSYLVANIA RESIDENTS, 1985-1995**



*National Year 2000 Health Objective 7.3*  
 Reduce firearm-related violent deaths to no more than 11.6 per 100,000.

# FIREARM-RELATED INJURIES

**TABLE 9-B**  
**NUMBER OF DEATHS AND AGE-ADJUSTED DEATH RATES BY SEX AND RACE, BY YEAR**  
**PENNSYLVANIA RESIDENTS, 1985-1995**

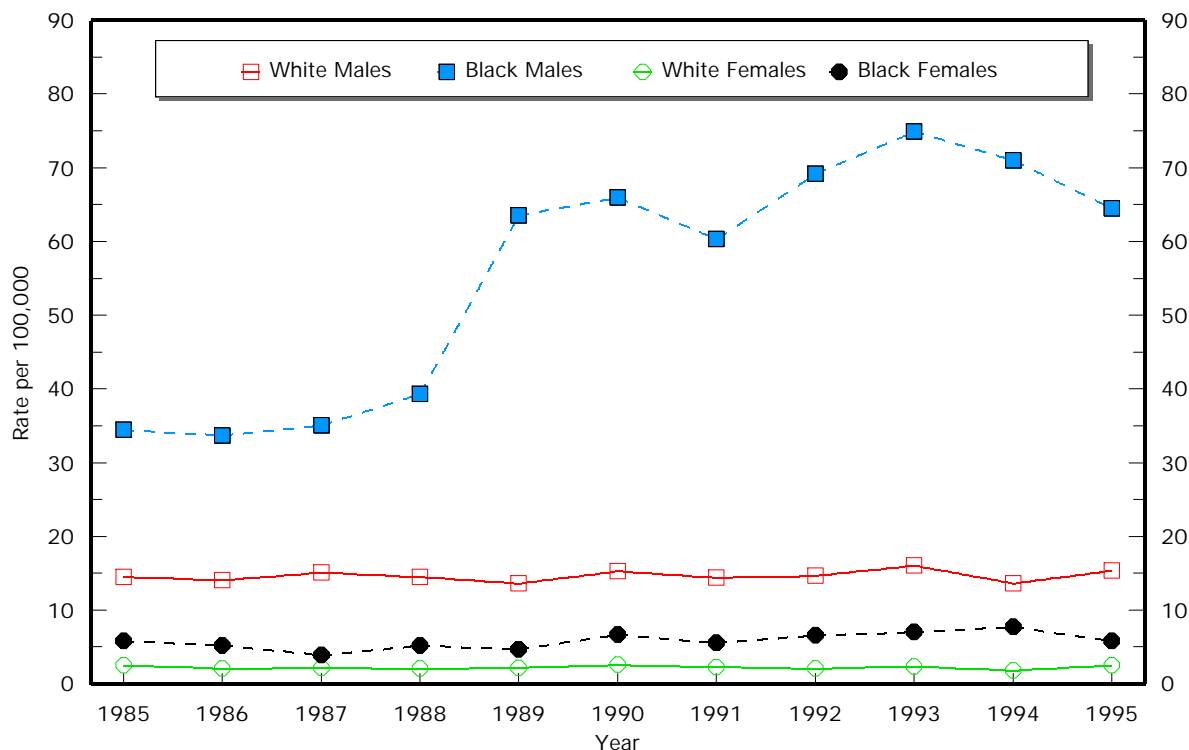
YEAR	M A L E S*						F E M A L E S					
	ALL RACES		WHITE**		BLACK		ALL RACES		WHITE**		BLACK	
	NO.	RATE	NO.	RATE	NO.	RATE	NO.	RATE	NO.	RATE	NO.	RATE
1985	972	16.1	808	14.5	164	34.5	168	2.8	134	2.5	33	5.8
1986	958	15.7	791	14.1	163	33.7	155	2.4	125	2.1	29	5.2
1987	1,029	16.9	850	15.1	174	35.1	142	2.4	121	2.2	21	3.9
1988	1,008	16.6	812	14.5	196	39.3	145	2.4	116	2.1	29	5.2
1989	1,107	18.2	783	13.7	318	63.5	154	2.5	125	2.2	26	4.7
1990	1,183	20.0	847	15.3	331	66.0	190	3.1	147	2.6	38	6.7
1991	1,126	19.0	804	14.4	313	60.3	163	2.6	129	2.3	31	5.6
1992	1,154	19.9	801	14.7	351	69.2	152	2.6	112	2.1	38	6.6
1993	1,287	22.2	888	16.1	386	74.9	174	2.9	132	2.4	40	7.1
1994	1,147	19.6	763	13.7	369	71.0	158	2.5	110	1.9	46	7.7
1995	1,216	20.7	858	15.4	341	64.5	173	2.9	135	2.5	33	5.8

\* Unknown sex included in the male category.

\*\* Unknown race included in the white category.

NOTE: Age-adjusted rates are computed by the direct method using the 1940 U.S. standard million population.  
 Rates are per 100,000.

**FIGURE 9-B**  
**AGE-ADJUSTED DEATH RATES BY SEX AND RACE**  
**PENNSYLVANIA RESIDENTS, 1985-1995**



# FIREARM-RELATED INJURIES

**TABLE 9-C**  
**TOTAL NUMBER OF DEATHS AND AVERAGE ANNUAL AGE-SPECIFIC DEATH RATES BY SEX AND RACE**  
**PENNSYLVANIA RESIDENTS, 1991-1995**

AGE GROUP	ALL DEATHS NO. RATE		M A L E S*						F E M A L E S					
			ALL RACES		WHITE**		BLACK		ALL RACES		WHITE**		BLACK	
	NO.	RATE	NO.	RATE	NO.	RATE	NO.	RATE	NO.	RATE	NO.	RATE	NO.	RATE
TOTAL***	6,750	11.2	5,930	20.5	4,114	16.0	1,760	65.7	820	2.6	618	2.2	188	6.2
< 5	10	0.2	8	0.4	6	0.3	1	0.4	2	0.1	1	0.1	1	0.4
5-9	14	0.3	8	0.4	3	0.2	5	2.0	6	0.3	4	0.2	2	0.8
10-14	67	1.7	58	2.9	39	2.3	19	8.4	9	0.5	7	0.4	2	0.9
15-19	692	16.7	630	30.0	285	15.6	342	148.2	62	3.0	39	2.2	22	9.6
20-24	1,050	25.0	964	45.7	489	26.6	461	200.2	86	4.1	54	3.0	32	13.8
25-29	840	19.7	739	34.8	411	22.1	320	142.3	101	4.7	64	3.4	36	15.4
30-34	779	16.5	666	28.6	453	21.9	204	92.9	113	4.7	84	4.0	27	11.0
35-39	621	13.2	523	22.6	377	18.1	141	70.0	98	4.1	74	3.5	21	8.9
40-44	515	11.8	425	19.8	327	16.8	93	54.0	90	4.1	70	3.5	19	9.3
45-49	385	10.4	325	18.0	267	16.3	55	40.8	60	3.2	50	2.9	8	4.8
50-54	326	10.6	275	18.6	232	17.2	39	36.1	51	3.2	41	2.9	7	5.0
55-59	226	8.2	202	15.4	177	14.7	23	24.3	24	1.6	23	1.7	1	0.8
60-64	249	8.9	217	16.8	194	16.3	21	24.0	32	2.1	27	2.0	5	4.1
65-69	256	9.1	228	18.3	218	18.8	10	12.3	28	1.8	25	1.7	3	2.7
70-74	257	10.4	227	21.9	215	22.2	12	19.5	30	2.1	29	2.2	1	1.1
75-79	223	11.7	207	28.1	198	28.6	9	21.7	16	1.4	15	1.4	0	-
80-84	156	12.6	148	34.5	144	35.7	4	17.1	8	1.0	8	1.0	0	-
85+	84	8.3	80	28.1	79	29.5	1	6.4	4	0.6	3	0.4	1	2.5

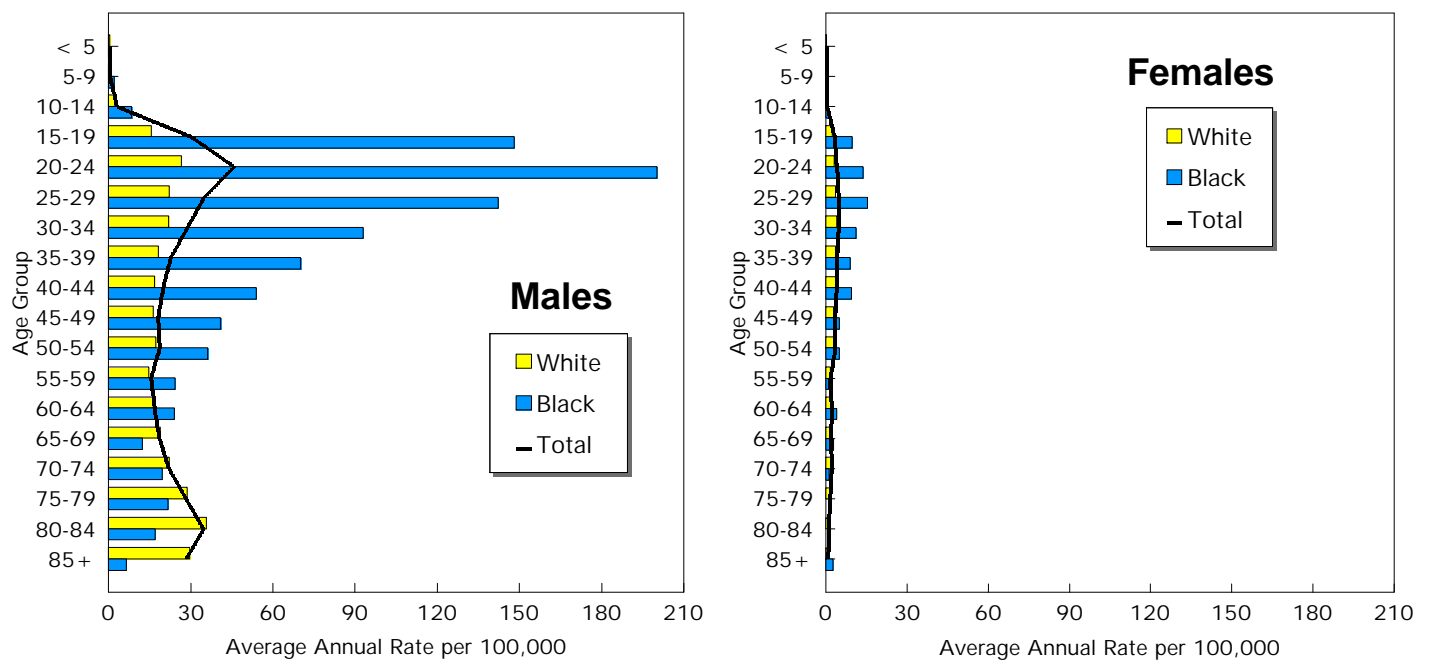
\* Unknown sex included in the male category.

\*\* Unknown race included in the white category.

\*\*\* Unknown age included in totals.

NOTE: Rates are per 100,000 population (1991-1995) for each specified group.

**FIGURE 9-C**  
**AVERAGE ANNUAL AGE-SPECIFIC DEATH RATES**  
**BY SEX AND RACE, PENNSYLVANIA RESIDENTS, 1991-1995**



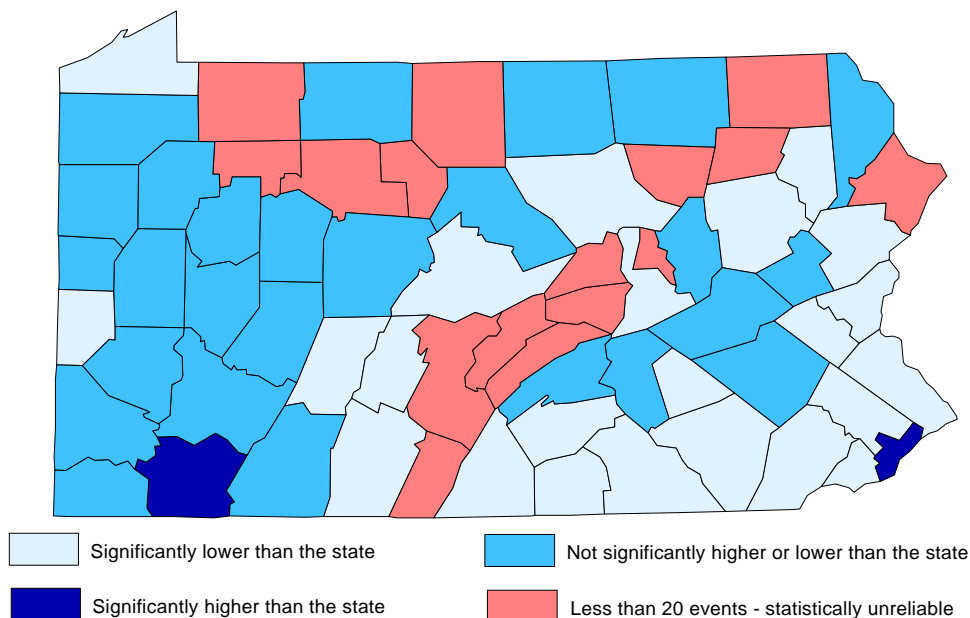
# FIREARM-RELATED INJURIES

**TABLE 9-D**  
**NUMBER OF DEATHS, AVERAGE ANNUAL AGE-ADJUSTED DEATH RATES, 95 PERCENT CONFIDENCE INTERVALS,**  
**AND SIGNIFICANCE TEST RESULTS, BY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA RESIDENTS, 1991-1995**

COUNTY	NUMBER	RATE	CI (95%)	COUNTY	NUMBER	RATE	CI (95%)
Adams	32	7.3	4.8-9.8 -	Lackawanna	74	7.0	5.4-8.6 -
Allegheny	687	10.8	10.0-11.6	Lancaster	160	7.4	6.3-8.5 -
Armstrong	38	8.5	5.8-11.2	Lawrence	44	8.8	6.2-11.4
Beaver	90	8.8	7.0-10.6 -	Lebanon	44	7.6	5.4-9.8 -
Bedford	21	7.6	4.3-10.9 -	Lehigh	118	7.4	6.1-8.7 -
Berks	181	10.1	8.6-11.6	Luzerne	134	8.2	6.8-9.6 -
Blair	61	8.7	6.5-10.9 -	Lycoming	55	7.8	5.7-9.9 -
Bradford	40	12.5	8.6-16.4	McKean	24	9.5	5.7-13.3
Bucks	168	5.7	4.8-6.6 -	Mercer	61	9.5	7.1-11.9
Butler	75	9.1	7.0-11.2	Mifflin	14	4.8	
Cambria	75	8.3	6.4-10.2 -	Monroe	43	7.8	5.5-10.1 -
Cameron	5	16.7		Montgomery	221	6.2	5.4-7.0 -
Carbon	27	9.3	5.8-12.8	Montour	6	8.8	
Centre	35	5.1	3.4-6.8 -	Northampton	109	7.6	6.2-9.0 -
Chester	129	6.1	5.0-7.2 -	Northumberland	47	8.4	6.0-10.8 -
Clarion	23	10.0	5.9-14.1	Perry	26	11.8	7.3-16.3
Clearfield	40	9.9	6.8-13.0	Philadelphia	2,021	28.2	27.0-29.4 +
Clinton	22	13.0	7.6-18.4	Pike	18	9.4	
Columbia	33	8.9	5.9-11.9	Potter	12	11.7	
Crawford	51	10.9	7.9-13.9	Schuylkill	94	11.7	9.3-14.1
Cumberland	69	6.5	5.0-8.0 -	Snyder	15	7.1	
Dauphin	145	11.8	9.9-13.7	Somerset	44	10.2	7.2-13.2
Delaware	263	9.6	8.4-10.8 -	Sullivan	5	16.4	
Elk	17	10.2		Susquehanna	18	8.7	
Erie	118	8.3	6.8-9.8 -	Tioga	28	12.9	8.1-17.7
Fayette	109	14.9	12.1-17.7 +	Union	14	6.3	
Forest	3	10.4		Venango	37	11.7	7.9-15.5
Franklin	49	7.4	5.3-9.5 -	Warren	18	7.4	
Fulton	12	16.1		Washington	100	9.5	7.6-11.4
Greene	25	10.3	6.3-14.3	Wayne	26	11.8	7.3-16.3
Huntingdon	18	8.1		Westmoreland	195	9.9	8.5-11.3
Indiana	52	11.1	8.1-14.1	Wyoming	11	8.0	
Jefferson	22	9.4	5.5-13.3	York	163	8.9	7.5-10.3 -
Juniata	16	14.3					
				Pennsylvania	6,750	11.3	11.0-11.6

NOTE: A + or - after the confidence interval (CI) denotes if the county rate was higher or lower than the state rate.  
 No + or - after a CI denotes no significant difference. CIs and testing results were not calculated and shown  
 for rates based on less than 20 events. See Technical Notes.

**FIGURE 9-D**  
**AVERAGE ANNUAL AGE-ADJUSTED DEATH RATES AND SIGNIFICANCE TEST RESULTS, BY COUNTY**  
**PENNSYLVANIA RESIDENTS, 1991-1995**



# FIREARM-RELATED INJURIES

TABLE 9-E  
NUMBER OF DEATHS, TOTAL AND BY SELECTED AGE GROUPS, BY COUNTY  
PENNSYLVANIA RESIDENTS, 1991-1995

COUNTY	TOTAL DEATHS*	AGE AT DEATH (IN YEARS)			COUNTY	TOTAL DEATHS*	AGE AT DEATH (IN YEARS)		
		< 20	20-64	65+			< 20	20-64	65+
Pennsylvania	6,750	783	4,991	976					
Adams	32	2	23	7	Juniata	16	4	10	2
Allegheny	687	88	493	106	Lackawanna	74	8	52	14
Armstrong	38	3	19	16	Lancaster	160	25	115	20
Beaver	90	5	63	22	Lawrence	44	6	27	11
Bedford	21	2	13	6	Lebanon	44	3	34	7
Berks	181	24	123	34	Lehigh	118	10	79	29
Blair	61	3	46	12	Luzerne	134	8	103	23
Bradford	40	4	29	7	Lycoming	55	1	37	17
Bucks	168	11	130	27	McKean	24	1	16	7
Butler	75	4	62	9	Mercer	61	4	48	9
Cambria	75	7	45	23	Mifflin	14	0	7	7
Cameron	5	1	3	1	Monroe	43	3	35	5
Carbon	27	0	24	3	Montgomery	221	12	181	28
Centre	35	3	29	3	Montour	6	2	4	0
Chester	129	12	87	30	Northampton	109	6	74	29
Clarion	23	3	14	6	Northumberland	47	2	30	15
Clearfield	40	1	32	7	Perry	26	2	23	1
Clinton	22	4	15	3	Philadelphia	2,021	356	1,575	90
Columbia	33	2	20	11	Pike	18	0	15	3
Crawford	51	2	39	10	Potter	12	3	3	6
Cumberland	69	7	52	10	Schuylkill	94	8	65	21
Dauphin	145	12	109	24	Snyder	15	0	11	4
Delaware	263	25	197	41	Somerset	44	0	35	9
Elk	17	2	10	5	Sullivan	5	0	4	1
Erie	118	14	84	20	Susquehanna	18	2	13	3
Fayette	109	11	79	19	Tioga	28	3	19	6
Forest	3	0	3	0	Union	14	2	8	4
Franklin	49	3	37	9	Venango	37	3	25	9
Fulton	12	3	6	3	Warren	18	0	13	5
Greene	25	3	14	8	Washington	100	6	76	18
Huntingdon	18	2	13	3	Wayne	26	1	19	6
Indiana	52	8	35	9	Westmoreland	195	10	145	40
Jefferson	22	2	17	3	Wyoming	11	2	8	1
					York	163	17	117	29

\* Unknown age included in total.