

# SUICIDE

- From 1985 to 1990, Pennsylvania's age-adjusted death rate for suicide stayed in the range of 10.9 to 11.3 per 100,000. Between 1990 and 1994, the state rate declined from 11.1 to 10.2. However, the 1995 rate rose back up again to 11.1.
- The annual number of suicides among residents during 1985-1995 ranged from a low of 1,328 in 1994 to a high of 1,489 in 1987. There were 1,450 residents deaths due to suicide in 1995.
- The national year 2000 objective is for an age-adjusted death rate of no more than 10.5 suicides per 100,000. Pennsylvania's rates have been above that goal every year since 1985 except in 1994 when a rate of 10.2 was recorded.
- Males, usually white males, had the highest annual age-adjusted death rates for suicide among the four sex/race groups during 1985-1995. The 1995 rate for white males was 19.8 per 100,000 – 68 percent higher than the second highest rate that year of 11.8 for black males.
- The annual age-adjusted death rates for suicide among all females during 1985-1995 were considerably lower than the rates for all males. In 1995, the female rate was 3.8, compared to 19.0 for all males.
- Annual age-adjusted death rates have not changed much over the years for all males but the rates for all females have been somewhat lower in recent years.
- As occurred with the age-adjusted death rates, the 1991-1995 age-specific death rates for suicide were highest among males, usually white males.
- Among males, age-specific death rates were highest for the age groups between the ages of 20 and 34 and those aged 70 and older. However, among females, the highest age-specific death rates were for those age groups from 40 to 54 years of age.
- Residents aged 20-64 years accounted for 74 percent or 5,157 of the total 6,943 deaths that were reported during the five-year period of 1991-1995. Elderly residents (aged 65+) accounted for another 20 percent or 1,402 of these deaths.
- Only one county, Schuylkill, had an average annual age-adjusted death rate for suicide that was determined to be significantly higher than the corresponding state rate for 1991-1995.
- Three counties (Bucks, Lebanon, and Montgomery) had average annual (1991-1995) age-adjusted death rates that were significantly lower than the corresponding state rate.
- Eleven small, rural counties had less than 20 suicides among residents during the five-year period of 1991-1995..

**HIGHEST AGE-ADJUSTED DEATH RATES – White and black males**  
**HIGHEST AGE-SPECIFIC DEATH RATES – Male residents**

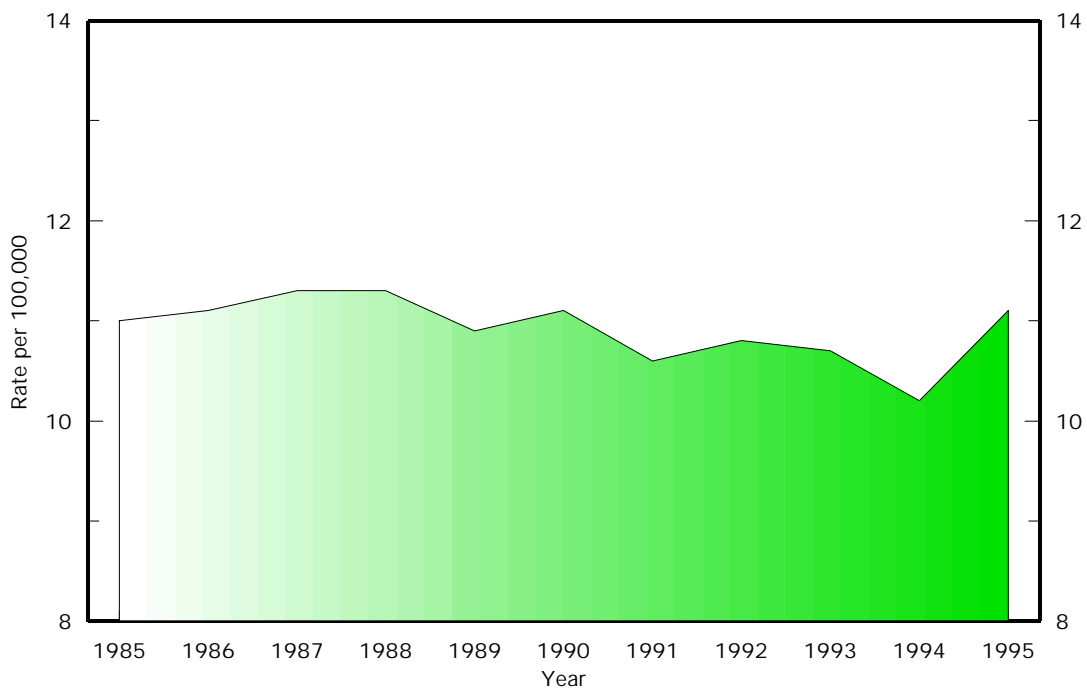
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**TABLE 7-A**  
**TOTAL NUMBER OF DEATHS AND AGE-ADJUSTED DEATH RATES, BY YEAR**  
**PENNSYLVANIA RESIDENTS, 1985-1995**

YEAR	NO.	RATE	YEAR	NO.	RATE
1985	1,432	11.0	1991	1,387	10.6
1986	1,443	11.1	1992	1,378	10.8
1987	1,489	11.3	1993	1,400	10.7
1988	1,479	11.3	1994	1,328	10.2
1989	1,439	10.9	1995	1,450	11.1
1990	1,446	11.1			

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

**FIGURE 7-A**  
**AGE-ADJUSTED DEATH RATE**  
**PENNSYLVANIA RESIDENTS, 1985-1995**



*National Year 2000 Health Objective 6.1\**  
 Reduce suicides to no more than 10.5 per 100,000.

\* also appears as Objective 7.2

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**TABLE 7-B**  
**NUMBER OF DEATHS AND AGE-ADJUSTED DEATH RATES BY SEX AND RACE, BY YEAR**  
**PENNSYLVANIA RESIDENTS, 1985-1995**

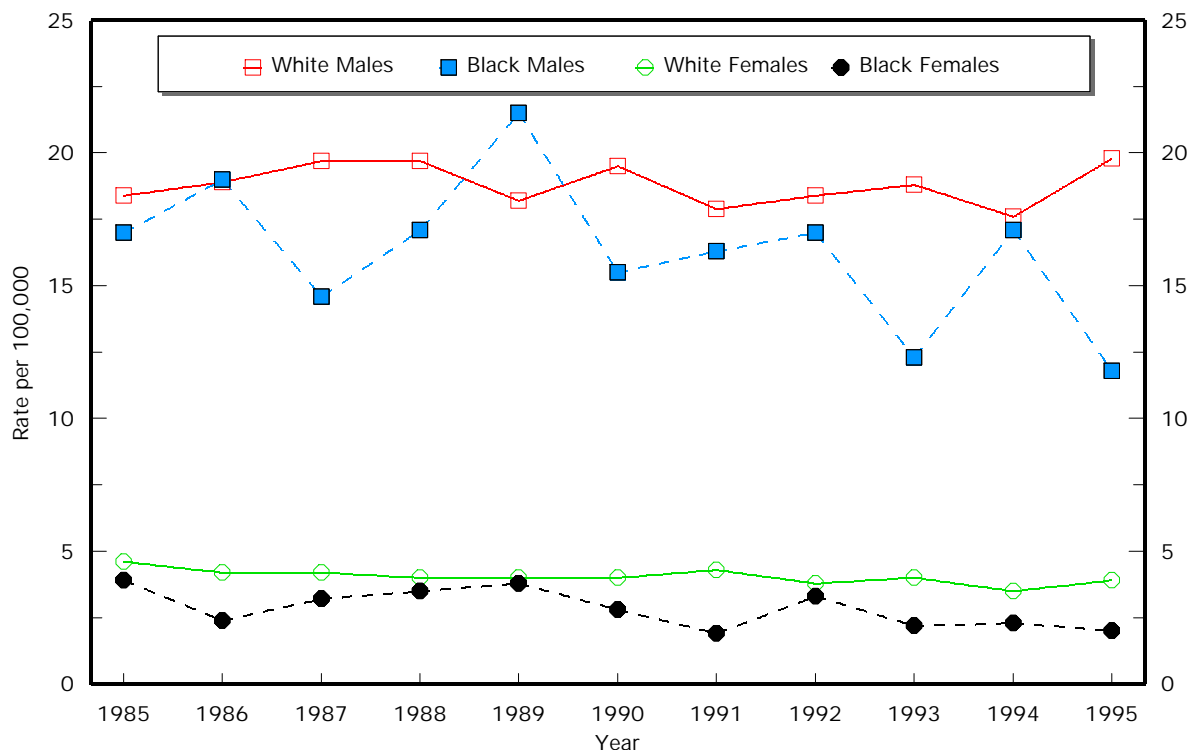
YEAR	M A L E S*						F E M A L E S					
	ALL RACES		WHITE**		BLACK		ALL RACES		WHITE**		BLACK	
	NO.	RATE	NO.	RATE	NO.	RATE	NO.	RATE	NO.	RATE	NO.	RATE
1985	1,127	18.2	1,043	18.4	82	17.0	305	4.6	281	4.6	22	3.9
1986	1,168	18.8	1,071	18.9	93	19.0	275	4.0	259	4.2	14	2.4
1987	1,210	19.2	1,132	19.7	72	14.6	279	4.2	253	4.2	19	3.2
1988	1,210	19.4	1,121	19.7	84	17.1	269	3.9	248	4.0	20	3.5
1989	1,170	18.5	1,056	18.2	107	21.5	269	4.0	246	4.0	21	3.8
1990	1,173	18.9	1,088	19.5	78	15.5	273	3.9	249	4.0	18	2.8
1991	1,109	17.7	1,015	17.9	84	16.3	278	4.0	262	4.3	11	1.9
1992	1,121	18.2	1,030	18.4	86	17.0	257	3.9	229	3.8	20	3.3
1993	1,136	18.1	1,063	18.8	63	12.3	264	3.9	245	4.0	14	2.2
1994	1,097	17.6	994	17.6	87	17.1	231	3.3	216	3.5	14	2.3
1995	1,197	19.0	1,124	19.8	63	11.8	253	3.8	236	3.9	12	2.0

\* 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 7-B**  
**AGE-ADJUSTED DEATH RATES BY SEX AND RACE**  
**PENNSYLVANIA RESIDENTS, 1985-1995**



# SUICIDE

**TABLE 7-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***	6,943	11.6	5,660	19.6	5,226	20.3	383	14.3	1,283	4.1	1,188	4.3	71	2.3
< 5	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
5-9	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
10-14	50	1.3	40	2.0	35	2.0	4	1.8	10	0.5	10	0.6	0	-
15-19	334	8.1	296	14.1	264	14.5	28	12.1	38	1.9	34	1.9	2	0.9
20-24	635	15.1	579	27.4	521	28.4	48	20.8	56	2.7	52	2.9	3	1.3
25-29	675	15.8	569	26.8	502	27.0	60	26.7	106	5.0	94	5.0	9	3.8
30-34	809	17.2	664	28.6	595	28.8	61	27.8	145	6.1	129	6.1	15	6.1
35-39	719	15.3	573	24.7	525	25.2	43	21.4	146	6.1	130	6.2	12	5.1
40-44	668	15.3	506	23.5	469	24.1	34	19.7	162	7.3	153	7.7	8	3.9
45-49	519	14.0	394	21.9	362	22.1	30	22.3	125	6.6	115	6.8	7	4.2
50-54	460	15.0	343	23.2	318	23.5	19	17.6	117	7.3	113	7.9	3	2.1
55-59	336	12.1	261	19.9	245	20.4	13	13.7	75	5.1	70	5.3	3	2.4
60-64	336	12.0	265	20.5	251	21.0	13	14.9	71	4.7	66	4.8	3	2.5
65-69	369	13.1	299	24.0	292	25.2	7	8.6	70	4.5	65	4.5	4	3.5
70-74	347	14.1	289	27.9	280	28.9	9	14.6	58	4.0	57	4.3	1	1.1
75-79	305	16.0	266	36.1	254	36.7	11	26.5	39	3.3	38	3.5	0	-
80-84	227	18.3	191	44.6	189	46.8	2	8.5	36	4.4	34	4.5	0	-
85+	154	15.2	125	43.8	124	46.2	1	6.4	29	4.0	28	4.1	1	2.5

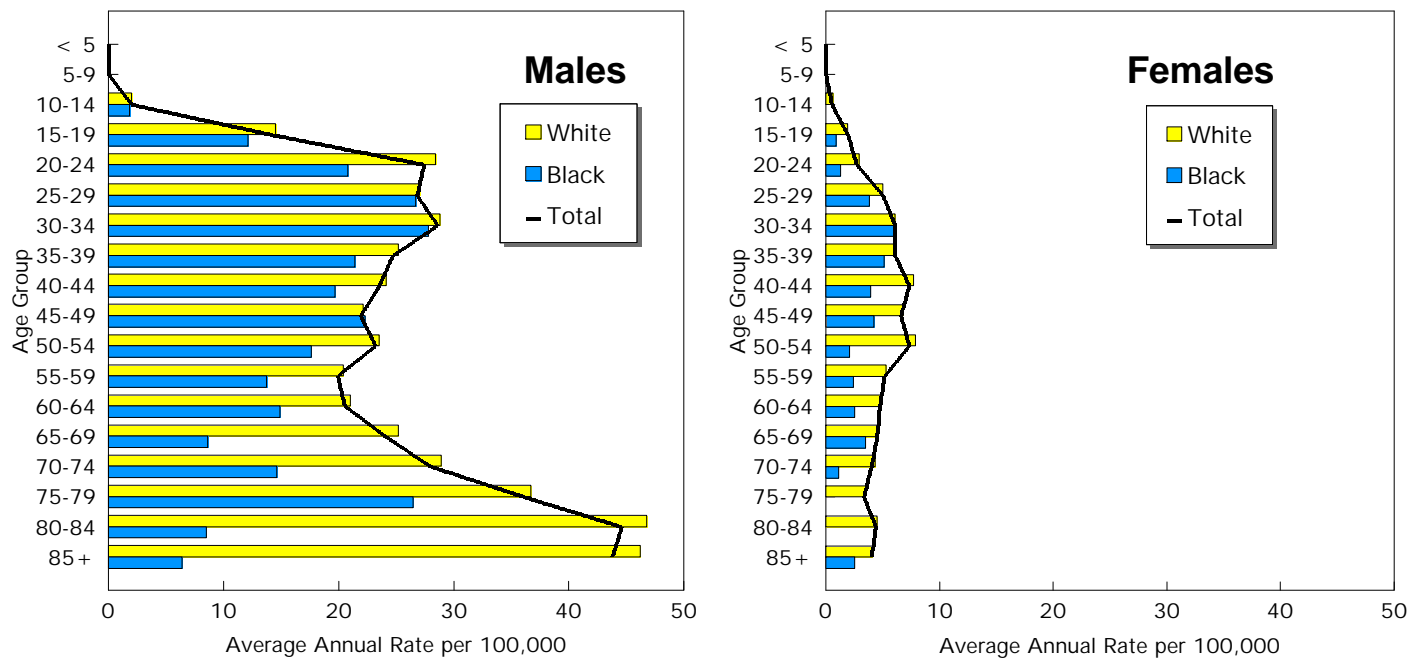
\* Unknown sex included in the male category.

\*\* 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 7-C**  
**AVERAGE ANNUAL AGE-SPECIFIC DEATH RATES**  
**BY SEX AND RACE, PENNSYLVANIA RESIDENTS, 1991-1995**



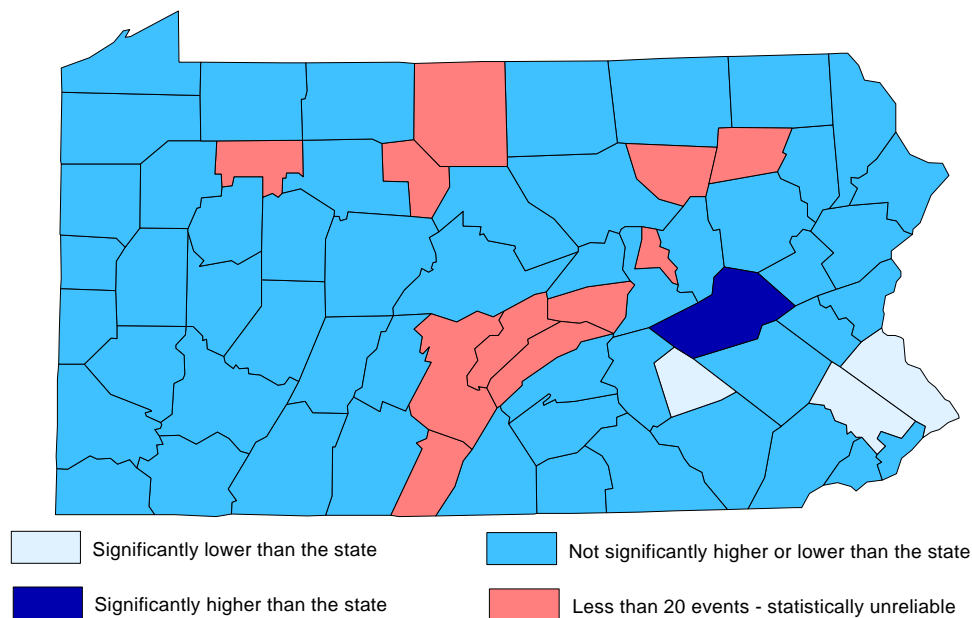
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**TABLE 7-D**  
**NUMBER OF DEATHS, AVERAGE ANNUAL AGE-ADJUSTED DEATH RATES, 95 PERCENT CONFIDENCE INTERVALS,**  
**AND SIGNIFICANCE TEST RESULTS, BY COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA RESIDENTS, 1991-1995**

COUNTY	NUMBER	RATE	CI (95%)	COUNTY	NUMBER	RATE	CI (95%)
Adams	46	10.2	7.3-13.1	Lackawanna	114	10.7	8.7-12.7
Allegheny	768	10.5	9.8-11.2	Lancaster	222	10.0	8.7-11.3
Armstrong	48	11.4	8.2-14.6	Lawrence	52	9.6	7.0-12.2
Beaver	110	10.3	8.4-12.2	Lebanon	50	7.7	5.6-9.8
Bedford	23	8.4	5.0-11.8	Lehigh	203	12.3	10.6-14.0
Berks	234	12.2	10.6-13.8	Luzerne	193	11.9	10.2-13.6
Blair	76	11.1	8.6-13.6	Lycoming	77	11.1	8.6-13.6
Bradford	44	13.4	9.4-17.4	McKean	30	11.7	7.5-15.9
Bucks	253	8.2	7.2-9.2	Mercer	72	11.1	8.5-13.7
Butler	97	11.8	9.5-14.1	Mifflin	16	5.2	
Cambria	107	11.8	9.6-14.0	Monroe	64	11.3	8.5-14.1
Cameron	5	16.7		Montgomery	359	9.4	8.4-10.4
Carbon	43	14.6	10.2-19.0	Montour	11	14.6	
Centre	59	9.0	6.7-11.3	Northampton	164	11.5	9.7-13.3
Chester	200	9.4	8.1-10.7	Northumberland	59	10.3	7.7-12.9
Clarion	24	10.6	6.4-14.8	Perry	23	10.6	6.3-14.9
Clearfield	47	11.9	8.5-15.3	Philadelphia	881	11.0	10.3-11.7
Clinton	20	10.6	6.0-15.2	Pike	27	14.1	8.8-19.4
Columbia	44	12.5	8.8-16.2	Potter	12	11.8	
Crawford	62	13.2	9.9-16.5	Schuylkill	132	16.4	13.6-19.2
Cumberland	108	9.7	7.9-11.5	Snyder	18	8.0	
Dauphin	135	9.7	8.1-11.3	Somerset	54	12.3	9.0-15.6
Delaware	300	10.1	9.0-11.2	Sullivan	4	12.0	
Elk	21	11.7	6.7-16.7	Susquehanna	21	10.1	5.8-14.4
Erie	168	11.4	9.7-13.1	Tioga	30	13.0	8.3-17.7
Fayette	96	12.4	9.9-14.9	Union	21	10.5	6.0-15.0
Forest	3	10.4		Venango	40	11.6	8.0-15.2
Franklin	58	8.5	6.3-10.7	Warren	27	12.4	7.7-17.1
Fulton	10	12.6		Washington	130	11.9	9.9-13.9
Greene	32	13.7	9.0-18.4	Wayne	27	11.3	7.0-15.6
Huntingdon	17	7.1		Westmoreland	242	12.1	10.6-13.6
Indiana	50	10.3	7.4-13.2	Wyoming	16	10.4	
Jefferson	24	9.5	5.7-13.3	York	205	10.9	9.4-12.4
Juniata	15	13.2					
				Pennsylvania	6,943	10.7	10.4-11.0

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



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TABLE 7-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	6,943	384	5,157	1,402					
Adams	46	1	36	9	Juniata	15	3	10	2
Allegheny	768	30	574	164	Lackawanna	114	12	83	19
Armstrong	48	6	25	17	Lancaster	222	23	167	32
Beaver	110	3	78	29	Lawrence	52	2	33	17
Bedford	23	3	13	7	Lebanon	50	1	37	12
Berks	234	21	159	54	Lehigh	203	7	152	44
Blair	76	4	59	13	Luzerne	193	12	149	32
Bradford	44	3	33	8	Lycoming	77	3	50	24
Bucks	253	10	196	47	McKean	30	1	21	8
Butler	97	6	79	12	Mercer	72	4	58	10
Cambria	107	5	75	27	Mifflin	16	0	8	8
Cameron	5	1	3	1	Monroe	64	2	53	9
Carbon	43	1	36	6	Montgomery	359	12	282	65
Centre	59	4	50	5	Montour	11	3	8	0
Chester	200	18	138	44	Northampton	164	10	113	41
Clarion	24	3	15	6	Northumberland	59	2	38	19
Clearfield	47	2	39	6	Perry	23	2	19	2
Clinton	20	0	16	4	Philadelphia	881	49	696	136
Columbia	44	3	28	13	Pike	27	0	21	6
Crawford	62	1	47	14	Potter	12	2	5	5
Cumberland	108	5	84	19	Schuylkill	132	7	95	30
Dauphin	135	5	100	30	Snyder	18	0	12	6
Delaware	300	11	224	65	Somerset	54	0	41	13
Elk	21	1	13	7	Sullivan	4	0	3	1
Erie	168	13	123	32	Susquehanna	21	1	17	3
Fayette	96	7	68	21	Tioga	30	4	18	8
Forest	3	0	3	0	Union	21	1	16	4
Franklin	58	3	42	13	Venango	40	2	26	12
Fulton	10	1	6	3	Warren	27	1	21	5
Greene	32	3	20	9	Washington	130	7	97	26
Huntingdon	17	0	13	4	Wayne	27	0	19	8
Indiana	50	3	36	11	Westmoreland	242	16	178	48
Jefferson	24	2	16	6	Wyoming	16	1	11	4
					York	205	15	153	37

\* Unknown age included in total.