Profiles of Change in the City of Pittsburgh

by Christopher Briem

UCSUR has released a new report summarizing recent demographic trends impacting the City of Pittsburgh and the pattern of change within the city. Using multiple years of data from the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS), a profile of change is compiled for the City of Pittsburgh and each of its component neighborhoods.

Historical population data typically cite the city’s peak population as the 676,806 residents enumerated in the 1950 decennial census, with ongoing decline recorded in all subsequent decades. In contrast with that long-term decline, the city’s population has remained relatively stable since 2010. The most recent data from the Census Bureau’s Population Estimates Program (PEP) show that the city’s population increased slightly between 2010 and 2011 for the first time in several decades. More recent population estimates do not indicate that the city sustained population gains, but only minimal population decline has been reported in subsequent years. Between 2010 and 2016, Census Bureau estimates show that the city’s population declined from 305,760 to 303,625, an average annual population decline of less than 0.1%, the slowest rate of population decline in more than six decades.

Recent stability in the City of Pittsburgh’s overall population level contrasts with continuing change in the characteristics of city residents—that change that can be described using data from ACS. ACS uses a series of monthly samples to produce estimates of a broad range of socioeconomic variables for all areas within the United States. For geographic areas with a population larger than 65,000, ACS produces annual updates of population characteristics. For small geographic areas, including census tracts and block groups, ACS reports data aggregated over five years of survey responses. City of Pittsburgh neighborhoods

2017 Manners Award Recipients

UCSUR has announced the winners of the 17th Annual Faculty Development Awards.” This year two grants were awarded to Courtenay Dunn-Lewis, PhD, Visiting Assistant Professor of Sports Medicine and Nutrition in the Department of Health and Physical Activity at the University of Pittsburgh, and Aidan G.C. Wright, PhD, Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Pittsburgh.

Dunn-Lewis’ proposed project will examine social, structural, and personal barriers and facilitators to engagement in resistance exercise (RE) among older adults. The project will explore enjoyability, tolerability, and acceptability of different RE exercises, techniques, and methods with the goal of ultimately developing an optimal exercise physiology-based training intervention (EPTI).

Wright’s project will use ecological momentary assessment (EMA) techniques and passive sensing via smartphones to study the dynamic processes of stress and responses to that stress and how levels of personality disorder (PD) traits amplify or dampen those processes. Over the course of two weeks, the project will follow a group of individuals with a range of personality disorder traits using smartphones to intensively sample their stressors, behaviors, and social context in daily life as it is lived. Participants will
2017 Manners Award Recipients

respond to brief momentary questionnaires throughout the course of their day with responses married to passive measurement of social context (e.g., audio sampling of milieu, location tracking, use of social media) and ambulatory psychophysiology (i.e., wrist-worn activity and heart rate tracking).

UCSUR's Annual Faculty Development Awards are presented in honor of Steven D. Manners, a longtime center researcher and administrator. Grants are intended to support pilot research primarily in the social, behavioral, and policy sciences. Special consideration is given to applications that are related to areas of particular interest to the center or applications using data collected by the center.

UCSUR's Faculty Development Awards are awarded annually in honor of Steven D. Manners, who served as a researcher and administrator at the center between 1974 and his passing in 2000. Originally hired as a programmer and analyst, Steve eventually rose to the rank of assistant director. His efforts were instrumental in building a major survey research center at UCSUR and promoting interdisciplinary applied and basic research in the social and behavioral sciences. Manners earned a BS in biological sciences and chemistry at Pitt in 1973 and did postbaccalaureate studies in computer science between 1974 and 1976 before earning an MS in radiation health physics in 1980. Upon his passing in 2000, UCSUR created the Manners Faculty Development Awards to honor his memory.

Courtenay Dunn-Lewis, PhD
Visiting Assistant Professor of Sports Medicine and Nutrition
Department of Health and Physical Activity
University of Pittsburgh

Project:
Determining Barriers, Facilitators, and Preferences Related to Resistance Exercise in Older Adults

Aidan G.C. Wright, PhD
Assistant Professor
Department of Psychology
University of Pittsburgh

Project:
Multimethod Assessment of Momentary Stress Processes in Personality Pathology

Steven D. Manners
Are you a researcher looking for resources?

The University Center for Social and Urban Research (UCSUR) at the University of Pittsburgh provides a permanent infrastructure to assist in conducting quantitative, qualitative, and integrative mixed-methods research using state-of-the-art technology. UCSUR actively supports a wide range of research projects in collaboration with a wide range of organizations. Contact UCSUR if any of our programs can support your research needs.

**UCSUR RESEARCH RESOURCES**

**SURVEY RESEARCH PROGRAM (SRP)**
Designs and conducts social science, public policy, and epidemiological surveys and telephone-based recruitment and screening studies. Features a 40-station call center for data collection using computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI); and expertise in Qualtrics Web survey software

**UCSUR RESEARCH REGISTRY**
An actively maintained IRB-approved local registry currently containing 5,000 residents with detailed sociodemographic information who are willing to take part in research studies

**QUALITATIVE DATA ANALYSIS PROGRAM (QDAP)**
Resource for all aspects of qualitative research including design/management, data collection (focus groups, in-depth interviews, Web-based information), transcription, coding/analysis, and reporting

**WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA REGIONAL DATA CENTER (WPRDC)**
Supports key community initiatives and research, by making regional public information easier to find and use. WPRDC provides infrastructure for data sharing in partnership with Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh. WPRDC serves as the open-data portal for the region.
Web: wprdc.org

**SOUTHWESTERN PENNSYLVANIA COMMUNITY PROFILES**
Web site that presents community data and indicators in a series of interactive tables, maps, graphs, and charts across 11 areas in order to provide community and neighborhood information in a user-friendly setting
Web: profiles.ucsur.pitt.edu

For more information:
ucsur.pitt.edu
412-624-5442
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...are currently defined as either a single census tract or a collection of census tracts and block groups, making the five-year estimates the only ACS data available for neighborhood-level analysis. The data profiles compiled for the new report compare ACS data for two five-year time periods: 2006–10 and 2011–15. The full report compiles a profile of change for a summary of socioeconomic measures, including age, race, educational attainment, poverty, veteran status, and home ownership (housing tenure) for the City of Pittsburgh and each of its component neighborhoods. These profiles indicate that significant shifts are taking place in the characteristics of Pittsburgh’s resident population and describe the pattern of change across individual city neighborhoods.

Recent ACS data indicate that the age characteristics of city residents continue to diverge from trends typical across the nation. A quarter century ago, the City of Pittsburgh was relatively older than both the nation and most other parts of the Pittsburgh region. More than two decades ago, the City of Pittsburgh began shifting toward a relatively younger population. The latest ACS data indicate those trends are continuing. Between the 2006–10 and 2011–15 periods, the population age 65 and over in the City of Pittsburgh declined by 4.7%, while the population between the ages of 25 and 44 experienced a gain of 10.0%. At the same time, the population age 18–24 remained mostly flat, and the population age 18 and younger declined by 8.2%. While the elderly have made up a declining proportion of the population within the city of Pittsburgh, the proportion of elderly in the national population and other parts of the Pittsburgh region has increased. The latest ACS estimates for 2015 (based on ACS one-year estimates data) show that the proportion of elderly within the city of Pittsburgh (14.6%) is slightly below the national average (14.9%).

Also shifting are the characteristics by race for the city’s population. Between the 2006–10 and 2011–15 periods, the Black-alone population within the City of Pittsburgh decreased by 4,138 (-5.2%), while the city’s White-alone population declined by 2,209 (-1.1%). Much of that decline was offset by a significant


Source: U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates Program

Proportion of Population Age 65 and Older, 1970–2015

increase in the Asian-alone population, which jumped by 3,615 (+28.7%) over the same period. In areas within Allegheny County but outside the City of Pittsburgh, the Black-alone population increased by 5,111 (+7.1%). Together, this data show a continuation of a shift of the Black population within Allegheny County. In 1970, just under 72% of Allegheny County’s Black population lived within the city of Pittsburgh. ACS one-year estimates since 2012 consistently indicate that the majority of Allegheny County’s Black population now lives outside the City of Pittsburgh.

City of Pittsburgh Population Change by Age Group Between 2006-2010 and 2011-2015 Periods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Change 2006-2010</th>
<th>Change 2011-2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>65 and over</td>
<td>-2,085</td>
<td>8,284</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45 to 64</td>
<td>-3,886</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 to 44</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 to 24</td>
<td>-35</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 18</td>
<td>-4,353</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

City of Pittsburgh Population Change by Race between 2006–10 and 2011–15 Periods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race Category</th>
<th>Change 2006–10</th>
<th>Change 2011–15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White Alone</td>
<td>-2,209</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Alone</td>
<td>-4,138</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Alone</td>
<td></td>
<td>+3,615</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Other Races Alone</td>
<td>-609</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or More Races</td>
<td></td>
<td>+1,266</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The full report compiles the characteristics of residents’ educational attainment, poverty status, mode of commuting, housing tenure (home ownership vs. rental occupancy), and changes in the local veteran population. In addition to a profile for the City of Pittsburgh and each of its component neighborhoods, comparable data is presented for Allegheny County and the Pittsburgh metropolitan region.

While the ACS data for the 2011–15 period are the most recent five-year data available as of fall 2017, they nonetheless represent historical data. Comparing data for the 2006–10 and 2011–15 periods incorporates data over a 10-year period, but estimates for each period are presented as averages over each five-year period. Any trends identified by comparing the two periods can be interpreted as change over a five-year period. Not all trends identified in these profiles have necessarily continued, and some trends may have accelerated.

ACS is a sample-based data collection program. The five-year estimates, by amalgamating a larger amount of survey responses, have smaller errors than one-year ACS estimates for the same geography. Nonetheless, sample and other measurement errors can impact the data presented here, especially for smaller geographies, including neighborhoods and estimates produced for small population groups. These profiles are intended to be one data source used in conjunction with other data for those studying change within the city of Pittsburgh and its component neighborhoods. The full report is available on the UCSUR Web site at ucsur.pitt.edu.
WPRDC a Partner in 2017 National Leadership Grant for Libraries

The Institute of Museum and Library Services has awarded a 2017 National Leadership Grant for Libraries to the University Library System at the University of Pittsburgh in partnership with the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh; the Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center (WPRDC), and the Urban Institute, which supports and coordinates the National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership. WPRDC and its partners will help public and academic libraries to serve as key partners in local open civic data ecosystems. A guide and tool kit will be developed to help public and academic libraries to identify local needs and contexts around open civic data; consider roles, opportunities, practices, and governance in the civic data ecosystem; anticipate and address common challenges; measure local civic open data health and capacity; and learn from examples of successful civic data partnerships.

About the Institute of Museum and Library Services

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s approximately 123,000 libraries and 35,000 museums. Its mission is to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. Its grant making, policy development, and research help libraries and museums to deliver valuable services that make it possible for communities and individuals to thrive.

About WPRDC

WPRDC supports key community initiatives by making public information easier to find and use. It provides a technological and legal infrastructure for data sharing to support a growing ecosystem of data providers and data users. WPRDC maintains Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh’s open data portal and provides a number of services to data publishers and users. It also hosts data sets from these and other public sector agencies, academic institutions, and nonprofit organizations. WPRDC is managed by the University Center for Social and Urban Research, and is a partnership of the University, Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh.

UCSUR Personnel Administrator Receives Diversity Certification

UCSUR’s Personnel Administrator, Donna King, was among the first University of Pittsburgh staff members to be awarded a certificate from the University of Pittsburgh Office of Diversity and Inclusion for successfully completing all of the requirements of the Diversity and Inclusion Certificate Program. Donna was awarded the certificate on June 13, 2017, by Pamela W. Connelly, Vice Chancellor for Diversity and Inclusion. The Diversity and Inclusion Certificate Program (DICP) is designed to reinforce the University’s core values of diversity and inclusion through a series of six workshops open to all faculty and staff. The workshops address both individual behaviors and University policies that can impact an environment of opportunity and success for all members of the University community. Participants will leave these workshops with an increased awareness of the importance of diversity and inclusion in an environment of academic and workplace success as well as tools and strategies to foster inclusion.
Bring your lunch and join us for presentations that highlight neighborhood, community, economic, and other social research by our esteemed colleagues. Presenters include local, national, and international social research experts. Lectures are from noon to 1:15 p.m.

Please note the location of the seminars: 3911 Wesley W. Posvar Hall, at 230 South Bouquet Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15260 (next to the Hillman Library on the Schenley Oval in the center of University of Pittsburgh Oakland campus).

On-street metered parking is available as is a metered parking lot at Semple and Bouquet streets. Other parking is available at the parking garage underneath Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall & Museum at the corner of Fifth Avenue and Bigelow Boulevard.

More information and schedule updates are available online at ucsur.org/ura-brown-bag.

RSVP before attending one of our sessions by phone 412-624-1019 or e-mail SWPA@pitt.edu.

Urban and Regional Brown Bag Seminar Series

Fall 2017 Events

November 3, 2017
Can Participatory Mapping Platforms Change the Way We Work With Urban Perceptions?

Jiří Pánek, PhD
Assistant Professor
Department of Development and Environmental Studies, Palacky University Olomouc, Czech Republic
2017 Ruth Crawford Mitchell Fellow in the Urban Studies Program University of Pittsburgh

November 10, 2017
“Are Entrepreneurial Ecosystems Exacerbating Urban Inequality? Evidence from Four Cities”

Elsie Harper-Anderson, PhD
Assistant Professor
L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs
Virginia Commonwealth University

December 1, 2017
“What Helps and Hinders Green Infrastructure on Vacant Land in Legacy Cities?”

Margi Dewar, PhD
Emeritus Professor of Urban and Regional Planning
Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning
University of Michigan

December 8, 2017
“Looking Ahead—What the Trump Administration Means for Brownfield Redevelopment”

Charlie Bartsch
Senior Fellow
Northeast-Midwest Institute
Note:

With this issue, Christopher Briem will again take up his role as editor of *Pittsburgh Economic Quarterly*. Chris has been a regional economist in UCSUR’s Urban and Regional Analysis Program since 1995. He founded *PEQ* and served as its editor between 2000 and 2003. Feel free to contact him at cbriem@pitt.edu or 412-624-3791.

UCSUR thanks Dr. Sabina Deitrick for 15 years of editorial leadership at *PEQ*. As a result of Dr. Deitrick’s steadfast commitment to cultivating content describing our communities, she oversaw the publication of more than 50 *PEQ* issues. We are grateful that she leaves the *PEQ* in such excellent standing.

UCSUR recently appointed Dr. Michael Blackhurst Co-Director of the Urban and Regional Analysis program. Dr. Blackhurst has grown UCSUR’s quantitative policy analysis capabilities, particularly with respect to energy, water, and climate. Congratulations to Dr. Blackhurst.

UCSUR Programs and Resources

Southwestern Pennsylvania Community Profiles profiles.ucsur.pitt.edu

Pittsburgh Today Regional Indicators Program pittsburghtoday.org

Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center www.wprdc.org