

The counties with the lowest losses tend to be more rural, agrarian and aged in character. The counties with the largest losses tend to be more industrialized, urban/suburban, and a larger population of younger people.

In Allegheny County, females comprise 53% of the population. Caucasians comprise the majority of the population at 87.5%, while African - Americans comprise 11.2% of the population. Per capita income is \$15,115, with a median family income of \$35,338. The median household income is \$28,136.

SWPA is shifting demographically to an older population. Currently, Allegheny County has the highest percent of "senior" citizens in the U.S. As of the 1990 census, persons 65 years and older comprise 17.5% of the population. The greatest rate of increase in the population is occurring in the 65 - 74 year old group, the 75 - 84 age group, and the 85+ age group. These increases were 10.5%, 26.0%, and 24.1% respectively. This is in relation to the 1980 census. Interestingly, there was a 23.0% increase in the 30 - 39 age group. All other age groups show a decrease.

Employment and Education

Allegheny County's total labor force consists of 669,900 people. Approximately 23.0% of the county residents are college graduates, while 80% of the population are high school graduates. The high school dropout rate is 7.4%, which is 2.0% lower than the state rate. The current unemployment rate is 5.3%. This is comparable to the national rate of unemployment.

Service industries comprise 35.0% of the employment of the county, followed by the retail trade at 18.5%. Manufacturing employs 11.3%, while 11.0% are employed by local, state, and federal governments.

In the consulate territory, approximately 26.0 - 30.0% of the population earns \$15,000 or less. This is 4.0 - 5.0% below the state average. The region's earnings are close to the state average, until the \$75,000 or greater category. Allegheny County exceeds the state average, with the remaining counties significantly below the state range. Approximately 11.3% of county residents receive some sort of medical assistance.

Hospitals, Health Systems, and Networks

The acute care hospitals in SWPA are undergoing dramatic changes. There was a gradual decline in admissions until 1995, when a 4.8% drop in admissions occurred. This is a three - fold decrease from 1994. As managed care takes deeper roots in SWPA, this trend will continue. Results of an analysis published in the January 5, 1996 issue of Hospitals & Health Networks places Pittsburgh second to Boston nationally in the number of staffed beds per 1,000 in a fully capitated market. In 1994 there were 6 staffed beds per 1,000 population. Boston is first with 6.1 staffed beds with 3.2 current inpatient usage, and 1.6 beds needed per 1,000 relative