

# Baseline Survey Census Research Indiana County

The Federal population census is an important tool for understanding the history of a community and how that community has changed over time. The census provides data that can help us to better understand Pennsylvania's diverse racial and ethnic populations (referred to as underrepresented communities for purposes of this Baseline Survey effort), where these populations settled historically, and how they left their mark on the Commonwealth's landscape.

Pennsylvania has a history of being ethnically diverse in both the urban areas of Philadelphia and Pittsburgh and in the commonwealth's smaller cities and rural areas. Native Americans have called Pennsylvania's lands home for centuries. Dutch, Swedish, and Finnish settlers moved to Pennsylvania in the late 17th century, and were quickly followed by English, German and other Europeans by the turn of the 18th century. Both enslaved and free Africans and African Americans lived in Pennsylvania as early as 1690 and the commonwealth's Black communities grew exponentially with the First Great Migration in the early 20th century. By the mid-20th century, people from almost all racial and ethnic groups had settled in Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania's historical racial and ethnic diversity and the surviving older and historic places that embody that diversity is not well understood or well documented. By understanding what populations were present, when, and where they lived, the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office (PA SHPO) can identify and document the older and historic places associated with these underrepresented communities through targeted survey work.

Once this information is collected and added to PA-SHARE, Pennsylvania's online database of older and historic places, this important information will be available to professionals and the public alike, providing everyone with data to support the need to tell broader and more inclusive stories.

It is important to note that census data is only one part of the extensive research that is necessary to understand Pennsylvania's varied and changing communities over the last four hundred years. The information collected, methods for collecting it, and categories and definitions changed from census taker to census taker and from year to year.

Indiana County is one of the fifty-two counties in Pennsylvania where PA SHPO and its contractors will be working over the next two years to collect information about historic places that are underrepresented in Pennsylvania's statewide historic inventory.

It is important that PA SHPO collects information about the older and historic places that Pennsylvanian's value in their communities. PA SHPO welcomes public recommendations for places that should be documented in this survey. If you would like to provide your feedback, please fill out this [short survey form](#).



Historic Postcard of Penn Flour Mill, Indiana County

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[Historic Resources Survey in Pennsylvania](#)  
[PA SHPO's Baseline Survey Project](#)  
[PA-SHARE](#)

# Baseline Survey Census Research

## Indiana County

Indiana County was founded on November 3, 1806. There are 45 municipalities in Indiana County and as of the 2010 federal census, the total population was 88,880. The first recorded federal population census in Indiana County occurred in 1820. A total of 9,099 inhabitants were recorded, 61 of whom were Black, none of whom were enslaved. The total population of Indiana County experienced modest increases year by year throughout the 19th century. At the turn of the 20th century, the total population increased by 20,000 individuals between 1900 to 1910. The total population increased again between 1910 and 1920, peaking at 80,910. From 1930 to 1960, the total population remained steady around 70,000.

The population of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) of Indiana County remained a small proportion of the total population throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries. The total BIPOC population increased significantly from 1910 to 1920, peaking in 1930 before declining in the mid-20th century. The majority of BIPOC individuals in Indiana County identify as Black.

Native Americans were counted in the 1890 and 1960 censuses. Asians were counted from 1880 to 1900, from 1920 to 1930, and in 1960. Most Asians in Indiana County were of Chinese descent. One Hispanic person, categorized as “Mexicans”, was documented in the 1930 census. It is inconclusive whether the “Other” category includes only mixed-race people or people of Black, Native American, Asian, or Hispanic descent during any given decade.

	White	Black	Native American	Asian	Hispanic	Other
<b>1790</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>1800</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>1810</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>1820</b>	9038	61	0	0	0	0
<b>1830</b>	0	11	0	0	0	0
<b>1840</b>	20627	155	0	0	0	0
<b>1850</b>	26916	254	0	0	0	0
<b>1860</b>	33501	186	0	0	0	0
<b>1870</b>	35952	186	0	0	0	0
<b>1880</b>	40299	227	0	1	0	0
<b>1890</b>	41960	212	1	2	0	0
<b>1900</b>	42389	160	0	7	0	0
<b>1910</b>	66024	183	0	0	0	3
<b>1920</b>	80468	439	0	3	0	0
<b>1930</b>	74644	747	0	3	1	0
<b>1940</b>	79257	597	0	0	0	0
<b>1950</b>	76551	540	0	0	0	15
<b>1960</b>	74907	439	10	9	0	1

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This graph shows the relationship between total BIPOC populations (right side axis) and total population (left side axis) in Indiana County from 1790 to 1960. Significant events that have a bearing on the population are included below the graph to show Indiana County's total populations at these important points in time.

No data is available prior to 1820 because Indiana County was not yet established and the 1810 federal census is not publically available online. The 1830 census only provided the total population, total number of free persons, and total number of enslaved persons. Indiana County had 11 enslaved people in 1830.

