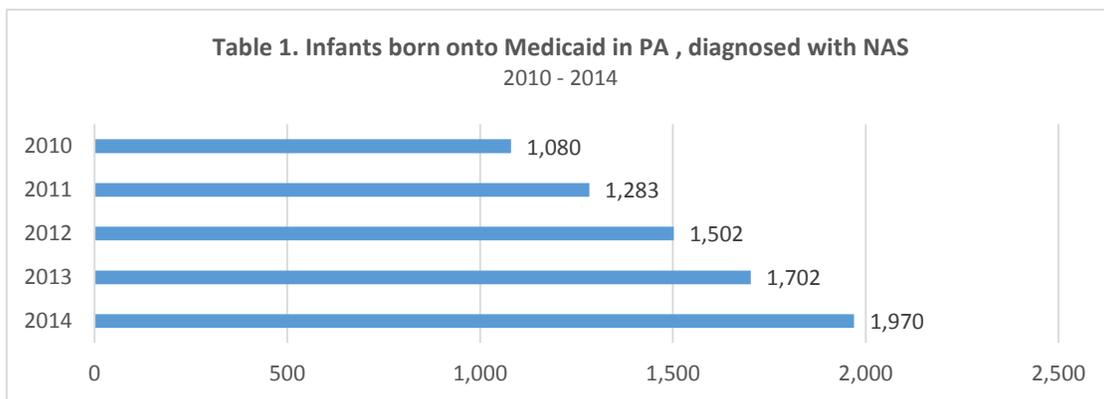


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Background on the population of children central to the March 29th roundtable

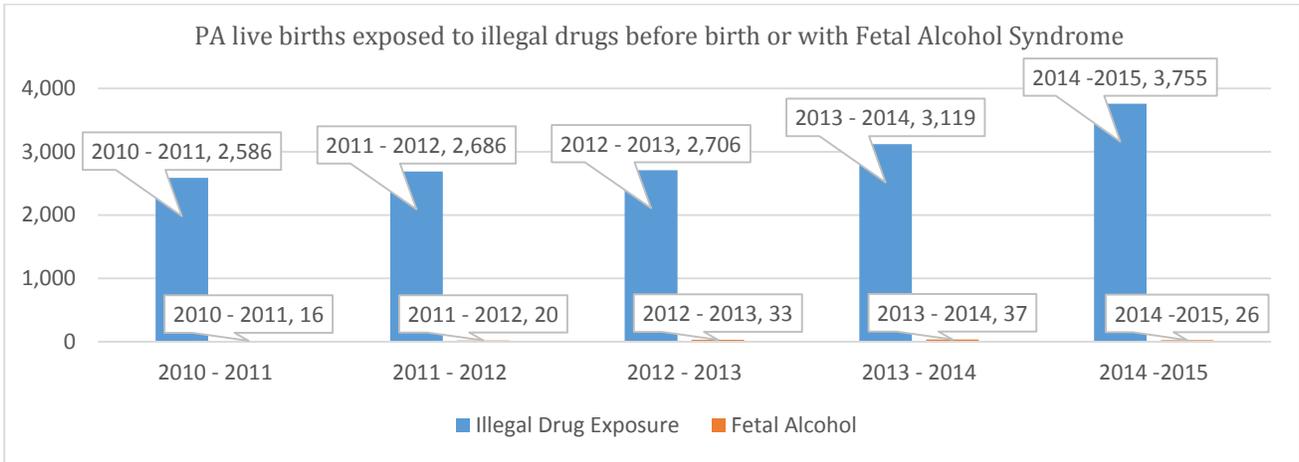
Substance-exposed infants: An infant can be exposed prenatally to illegal substances (e.g., heroin) and legal substances that are prescribed and taken as directed (e.g., prescribed pain medicine), including substances that are part of medication-assisted treatment for the pregnant woman with a substance use disorder (e.g., Methadone and Buprenorphine). Infants are also exposed to other legal substances like alcohol or tobacco products that can impact health and development. Assessing the number of infants affected by opioids, including those legally prescribed as part of medication-assisted treatment, is difficult to ascertain. Some perspective is gained by examining data about the number of infants diagnosed with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS). More than 7,500 infants were born onto Medicaid and diagnosed with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) in Pennsylvania between 2010 and 2014 (*Table 1*).¹ In 2014, NAS diagnosed infants represented approximately 3 percent (n=1,970) of the babies born onto Medicaid (n=64,001) in Pennsylvania and the average length of stay (ALOS) in an inpatient setting immediately following the infant's birth was 15.53 days. Sixty one infants born onto Medicaid and diagnosed with NAS, between 2010 and 2014, died before celebrating their 1st birthday.



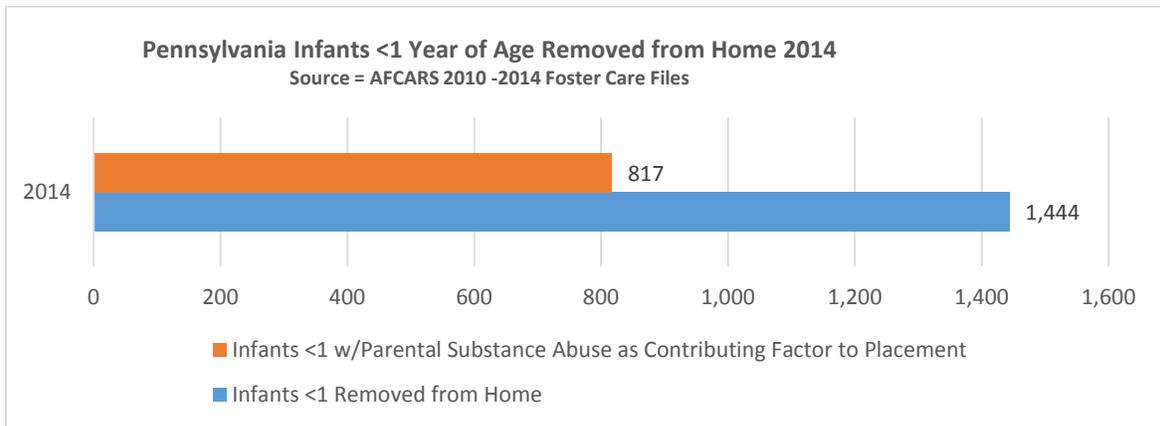
Separate from the Medicaid specific data, hospitals submit data to the PA Department of Health (DOH) through the Annual Hospital Questionnaire. Infant/Neonatal Services and Utilization data specific to the

¹ This document identifies the number of infants born onto Medicaid that were diagnosed with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) in Pennsylvania between calendar years 2010 and 2014. The data was obtained through a Right to Know (RTK) request filed with the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) in September 2015. PA DHS supplied the data on January 15, 2016. PA DHS supplied the data about the number of infants born onto Medicaid and having the diagnosis code of 779.5 (Neonatal withdrawal symptoms from maternal use of drugs of addiction).

number of Live Births Exposed to Illegal Drugs Before Birth and the number of Live Births with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome is captured in the chart below.² Not readily understood is the interplay between this data and the earlier cited NAS data or the degree to which these births trigger a referral from a health care provider to the child welfare agency in order to develop a Plan of Safe Care, as required by federal CAPTA. The data for 2014-2015 indicates that Erie County recorded the highest number of live births where the infant was exposed to illegal drugs before birth with 393 births. Erie was followed by Philadelphia (388), Allegheny (385), Montgomery (267), Dauphin (254), Delaware (193), Franklin (175), Luzerne (138), Cambria (125), and York (122).

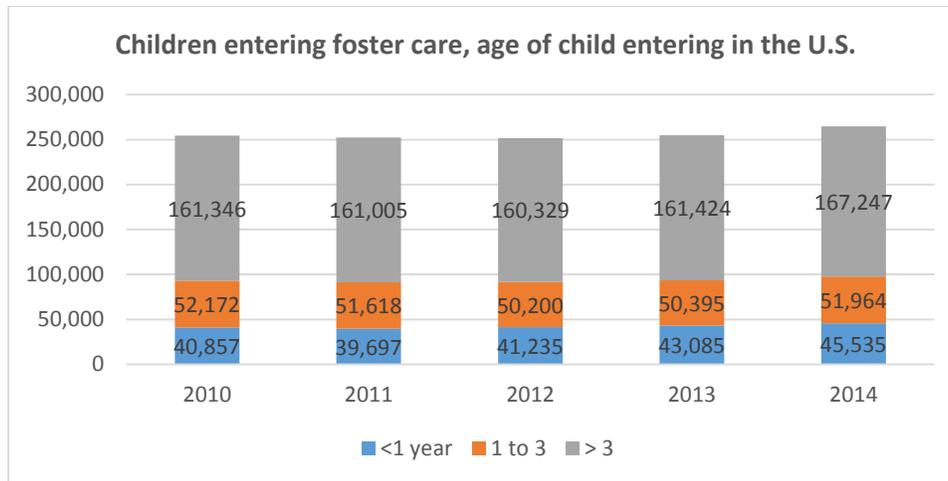


Children birth to 3 placed in foster care related to parental substance abuse: Many Pennsylvania infants become involved with the formal child welfare system and many are placed in foster care. Child welfare involvement and foster care placement can be precipitated by parental substance use that has led to harm or puts the infant at imminent risk of harm. There is no specific reliable measure of how many infants have been removed from home and placed in foster care due to parental substance use let alone how many of such placements then are directly related to opioid abuse. Still, the federal Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) data does provide some insight. In 2014, more than 1,400 infants in Pennsylvania were removed from home and 817 (more than 56 percent of those removed) had parental substance abuse as a contributing factor to placement.



²<http://www.statistics.health.pa.gov/HealthStatistics/HealthFacilities/HospitalReports/Pages/HospitalReports.aspx#.VtHFecAo454>

Review of the most recent (2014) AFCARS data for all 50 states proves eye-opening. In 2014, the number of children in foster care across America increased by 3.5 percent. 264,746 children entered foster care, including 45,535 infants. More than a third of the children entering foster care in the United States were three years of age or younger. Again, it proves difficult to reliably state how many of these children are entering care because of parental substance abuse. It also, however, is important to recognize that given the significant body of research about the importance of brain development and early childhood, these numbers merit an intentional response whatever the catalyst for young children entering foster care.



Children who have died or nearly-died: A diagnosis of NAS, in and of itself, is rarely fatal and yet some NAS diagnosed infants and other substance-exposed infants have died in Pennsylvania in that critical first year of life linked, in part, to existing medical conditions but also as a consequence of the child and family's life circumstances. Examples include:

- A 2-month-old died in Beaver County in March 2015. According to the PA DHS, the child died “as a result of serious physical neglect” after the victim child, the mother and the child’s sibling “were all sleeping in the mother’s bed.”³ Initially all tests were “inconclusive” and the child’s death “appeared to be accidental.” A later toxicology report issued in July 2015, “indicated the child died from Methadone poisoning, and the child’s death was ruled a homicide.”⁴
- A 1-month-old died in Carbon County in October 2014 due to hazardous sleep conditions while in the same bed with his mother.⁵ The baby and mother were both prescribed Methadone, but on the night of his death his mother used other non-prescribed drugs as well.
- A 3-month-old died in Fayette County in March 2014. PA DHS’ summary notes that the “mother had fresh track marks and has a long history of heroin addiction.” Also that the mother had been prescribed Subutex and the infant “tested positive for this at birth.”
- A 7-week-old infant died in Lackawanna County in January 2015. According to PA DHS, the baby was born “drug addicted.”⁶

³ http://www.dhs.pa.gov/cs/groups/webcontent/documents/report/c_219870.pdf

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ http://www.dhs.pa.gov/cs/groups/webcontent/documents/document/c_211247.pdf

⁶ 2015 1st Quarter Fatalities/Near Fatalities published by the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, page 2. Retrieved at http://www.dhs.state.pa.us/cs/groups/webcontent/documents/document/c_211247.pdf.

Additional insight is found within a report released from the PA State Coroners Association. In it the state's coroners reveal that in 2014 "at least 2,489 individuals" died from "drug related deaths."⁷ The report further notes, "The age of the deceased ranges from 4 months to 85 years of age." Pennsylvania's Annual Child Abuse Report published by the PA Department of Human Services' (DHS) also proves revealing. This report and information from the media provide some added, but still limited, lens into the degree to which children are dying or nearly-dying linked to drug ingestions and/or child abuse where there is a history of parental substance use. Examples in recent years include:

- **Armstrong:** Media reports revealed that an 11-year-old boy died in December 2015. The "results of an autopsy and toxicology test showed he had overdosed on methadone, a powerful prescription painkiller." The boy's mother, who was prescribed the methadone, has been criminally charged.⁸
- **Bucks:** A 2-year-old boy died in October 2014. An autopsy was conducted the following day, where 1200 mg of Oxycodone was found in the boy's system. According to the forensic pathologist, the child died from three times the amount of Oxycodone it would take to kill an average adult.⁹
- **Crawford:** It was 2012 when a 3-year-old died "as a result of ingesting his father's medication." At the hospital, "blood testing was conducted and it was determined that the child had ingested methadone." Initially the father said he had been prescribed the methadone for at-home use, but "later admitted to illegally obtaining the methadone from a friend."
- **Delaware:** An 11-month-old infant died "due to an acute heroin overdose." The family was known to the children and youth agency after the deceased child was born and the mother "tested positive for opiates."
- **Erie:** A 10-month-old infant nearly died in 2012. According to PA DHS, "the father admitted that he overdosed on methadone a few weeks prior and some pills fell on the floor but were cleaned up." On the day of the near-fatality, the child, who was experiencing "impaired breathing," was flown to a hospital where her toxicology screen was "positive for methadone."
- **Lancaster:** According to media reports in January 2015, a 4-year-old child "fell unconscious after ingesting a drug that is commonly used to treat heroin addiction." The media report continues, "Medics administered Narcan to the girl multiple times before she regained consciousness."¹⁰
- **Luzerne:** A 6-year-old PA nearly-died "after accidentally drinking her mother's methadone." On the night of the incident the child drank the liquid methadone when she thought it was a soda. The parents upon realizing she had drunk the methadone researched how to treat her on the Internet. "Based on the parent's statement it was indicated that the child may have ingested up to 50 milligrams of methadone." The child was taken to the hospital approximately 4 hours after the parents realized she ingested the methadone. "At the time of the incident there were four children in the household, including an 8 month old infant, as well as a 4 year old, 6 year old and 17 year old."
- **Montgomery:** According to a media report, the 2-year-old child's "death was ruled an accidental combined drug intoxication by a Montgomery County forensic pathologist on July 31, 2015. A toxicology report later identified the presence of both Klonopin — a Schedule IV narcotic — and Subutex — a drug used to treat addiction — in Trinity's system."¹¹

⁷ http://www.pacoroners.org/Uploads/Pennsylvania_State_Coroners_Association_Drug_Report_2014.pdf

⁸ <http://triblive.com/news/adminpage/9998362-74/methadone-armstrong-police>

⁹ <http://levittownnow.com/2014/11/18/man-charged-in-toddler-sons-drug-overdose/>

¹⁰ http://lancasteronline.com/news/local/police-medics-use-narcan-to-revive-girl-who-ingested-methadone/article_c4aa7b5a-e223-11e5-a363-b3ad71a50c6b.html

¹¹ http://www.timesherald.com/general-news/20160120/lower-providence-woman-charged-in-death-of-2-year-old-daughter?source=most_viewed

- **Philadelphia:** A 1-year-old child died in Philadelphia in 2015.¹² The child was found in her crib by her mother. The child was “not breathing” and transported to the hospital. “At the hospital it was found that the child tested positive for methadone. The mother said she did not know how the child had ingested methadone. The mother was receiving prescribed methadone treatments at a local clinic. According to the mother, she kept the medication in a locked box out of the way of the children.”
- **Philadelphia:** Twin infants nearly-died taken to the hospital after it was difficult to awake the infants. At the hospital, “both girls tested positive for Tetra Hydro Cannabinol and Opioids.” There was no explanation as to how the girls may have ingested the drugs.
- **Washington:** A 7-month-old infant nearly-died later the caregiver of the child “admitted to using heroin the day he was caring for the child.” The caregiver told authorities that “he dropped the child on his head.” The child was determined to have “a bilateral subdural hematoma with a non-displaced left parietal bone fracture, bilateral retinal hemorrhages and facial bruising.” The family “was not known to the agency prior to this report” but the PA DHS summary also notes that the mother “has a history of illegal drug usage” and the mother is now “receiving parenting instruction and drug and alcohol services.”

Recommendations from fatality/near-fatality teams have included:

- As children ingesting medication has been a common theme for near fatality and fatality, there should be statewide public service announcements that discuss child safety regarding medication storage.¹³
- Agency staff will be instructed to request toxicology screens for children who are unconscious and unresponsive, a toxicology screen should be done.¹⁴
- Improve the communication between BCCYSSA and the drug and alcohol providers in the area and improvement of services by drug/alcohol providers by prioritizing services to mothers of babies/young children.¹⁵
- The agency has recently had a few cases involving “accidental” ingestion of medication by young children. The Team discussed providing agency staff with education on the appropriate storage of medication so that staff can then review with and educate caregivers.¹⁶
- A recommendation from MDT that a more efficient collaboration between Delaware County Children & Youth Services and the Office of Behavioral Health is pursued to assist with identifying licensed treatment professionals.¹⁷
- Determine whether Methadone clinics have a protocol in place for allowing patients with small children to have “take homes” of their methadone and whether they receive education on the dangers of ingestion of the medicine by small children.¹⁸
- The Department recommends continuous Drug and Alcohol education with particular emphasis on the effect substance abuse can have on young children, including accidental and intentional ingestion by children.¹⁹

¹² The PA DHS summary includes this child as a 1-year-old child, but an Act 33 Report that appears to be for the same child lists her as a 3-year-old child.

¹³ http://www.dhs.pa.gov/cs/groups/webcontent/documents/document/c_211654.pdf

¹⁴ http://www.dhs.pa.gov/cs/groups/webcontent/documents/document/p_019116.pdf

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ http://www.dhs.pa.gov/cs/groups/webcontent/documents/document/p_019115.pdf

¹⁷ http://www.dhs.pa.gov/cs/groups/webcontent/documents/document/c_112064.pdf

¹⁸ http://www.dhs.pa.gov/cs/groups/webcontent/documents/document/c_124450.pdf

¹⁹ http://www.dhs.pa.gov/cs/groups/webcontent/documents/document/p_035328.pdf

NAS and Pennsylvania's Congressional Districts

The data included below was prepared in order to provide some overall understanding of the number of infants born onto Medicaid and diagnosed with NAS by Pennsylvania Congressional district. It is important, however, to underscore that these districts can include the cited county, in whole or in part so this NAS data is ultimately difficult to definitively classify by Congressional district.

United States Senator Bob Casey, Jr.

CONTACT: https://www.casey.senate.gov/contact						
On Twitter: @SenBobCasey						
Pennsylvania	1,080	1,283	1,502	1,702	1,970	7,537

United States Senator Pat Toomey

CONTACT: http://www.toomey.senate.gov/?p=offices						
On Twitter: @SenToomey						
Pennsylvania	1,080	1,283	1,502	1,702	1,970	7,537

Congressman Brady - 1st District

CONTACT: https://brady.house.gov/contact-me/email-me						
On Twitter: @RepBrady						
County	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Total
Delaware	57	67	68	75	108	375
Philadelphia	160	156	227	223	256	1,022
1st Congressional District	217	223	295	298	364	1,397
Pennsylvania	1,080	1,283	1,502	1,702	1,970	7,537

Congressman Fattah - 2nd District

CONTACT: https://fattah.house.gov/contact-rep-fattah						
On Twitter: @chakafattah						
County	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Total
Montgomery	32	31	41	66	75	245
Philadelphia	160	156	227	223	256	1,022
2nd Congressional District	192	187	268	289	331	1,267
Pennsylvania	1,080	1,283	1,502	1,702	1,970	7,537

Congressman Kelly - 3rd District

CONTACT: https://kelly.house.gov/contact-me						
On Twitter: @MikeKellyPa						
County	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Total
Armstrong	8	14	21	23	19	85
Butler	23	37	23	37	36	156
Clarion	8	2	6	10	8	34
Crawford	4	7	8	24	14	57
Erie	22	29	37	32	43	163
Lawrence	23	47	44	39	38	191
Mercer	7	28	19	26	34	114
3rd Congressional District	95	164	158	191	192	800
Pennsylvania	1,080	1,283	1,502	1,702	1,970	7,537

Congressman Perry - 4th District

CONTACT: <http://perry.house.gov/contact/>

On Twitter: @RepScottPerry

County	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Total
Adams	6	5	10	12	11	44
Cumberland	7	6	12	9	23	57
Dauphin	11	14	23	18	27	93
York	21	32	32	44	57	186
4th Congressional District	45	57	77	83	118	380
Pennsylvania	1,080	1,283	1,502	1,702	1,970	7,537

Congressman Thompson - 5th District

CONTACT: <https://thompson.house.gov/contact-me>

On Twitter: @CongressmanGT

County	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Total
Cameron	1	3	6	3	5	18
Centre	3	5	3	4	12	27
Clarion	8	2	6	10	8	34
Clearfield	21	26	32	41	28	148
Clinton	4	3	2	5	4	18
Crawford	4	7	8	24	14	57
Elk	6	8	13	11	19	57
Erie	22	29	37	32	43	163
Forest	0	0	0	0	0	0
Huntingdon	1	3	4	7	5	20
Jefferson	4	4	3	15	8	34
McKean	7	9	8	7	13	44
Potter	1	1	5	0	5	12
Tioga	0	2	3	0	2	7
Venango	13	15	17	24	34	103
Warren	0	2	2	5	8	17
5th Congressional District	95	119	149	188	208	759
Pennsylvania	1,080	1,283	1,502	1,702	1,970	7,537

Congressman Costello - 6th District

CONTACT: <https://costello.house.gov/contact>

On Twitter: @RepRyanCostello

County	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Total
Berks	25	36	24	47	39	171
Chester	31	20	18	26	22	117
Lehigh	5	5	10	9	24	53
Montgomery	32	31	41	66	75	245
6th Congressional District	93	92	93	148	160	586
Pennsylvania	1,080	1,283	1,502	1,702	1,970	7,537

Congressman Meehan - 7th District

CONTACT: <https://meehan.house.gov/contact>
 On Twitter: @RepMeehan

County	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Total
Berks	25	36	24	47	39	171
Chester	31	20	18	26	22	117
Delaware	57	67	68	75	108	375
Lancaster	27	39	41	41	58	206
Montgomery	32	31	41	66	75	245
7th Congressional District	172	193	192	255	302	1,114
Pennsylvania	1,080	1,283	1,502	1,702	1,970	7,537

Congressman Fitzpatrick - 8th District

CONTACT: <http://fitzpatrick.house.gov/contact>
 On Twitter: @RepFitzpatrick

County	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Total
Bucks	46	61	67	64	71	309
Montgomery	32	31	41	66	75	245
8th Congressional District	78	92	108	130	146	554
Pennsylvania	1,080	1,283	1,502	1,702	1,970	7,537

Congressman Shuster - 9th District

CONTACT: <http://shuster.house.gov/contact-bill/>
 On Twitter: @RepBillShuster

County	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Total
Bedford	0	4	5	4	6	19
Blair	33	32	40	52	42	199
Cambria	37	37	45	46	41	206
Fayette	31	44	56	66	89	286
Franklin	9	15	15	17	20	76
Fulton	0	0	1	3	1	5
Greene	6	10	11	22	23	72
Huntingdon	1	3	4	7	5	20
Indiana	5	4	16	9	10	44
Somerset	8	8	13	11	21	61
Washington	20	30	41	35	51	177
Westmoreland	49	62	71	69	84	335
9th Congressional District	199	249	318	341	393	1,500
Pennsylvania	1,080	1,283	1,502	1,702	1,970	7,537

Congressman Marino - 10th District

CONTACT: <https://marino.house.gov/contact>

On Twitter: @RepTomMarino

County	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Total
Bradford	0	1	4	3	4	12
Juniata	1	0	2	0	0	3
Lackawanna	14	15	16	18	39	102
Lycoming	7	4	3	14	9	37
Mifflin	1	3	7	2	5	18
Monroe	7	7	16	17	19	66
Northumberland	2	3	3	6	7	21
Perry	1	1	10	11	5	28
Pike	2	2	2	4	7	17
Snyder	0	0	0	3	1	4
Sullivan	0	0	0	0	0	0
Susquehanna	1	3	3	1	8	16
Tioga	0	2	3	0	2	7
Union	0	0	0	0	2	2
Wayne	5	6	0	5	9	25
10th Congressional District	41	47	69	84	117	358
Pennsylvania	1,080	1,283	1,502	1,702	1,970	7,537

Congressman Barletta - 11th District

CONTACT: <https://barletta.house.gov/contact/email-me>

On Twitter: @RepLouBarletta

County	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Total
Carbon	5	5	4	3	9	26
Columbia	0	1	7	5	5	18
Cumberland	7	6	12	9	23	57
Dauphin	11	14	23	18	27	93
Luzerne	39	31	39	51	41	201
Montour	0	0	1	1	1	3
Northumberland	2	3	3	6	7	21
Perry	1	1	10	11	5	28
Wyoming	2	3	2	6	2	15
11th Congressional District	67	64	101	110	120	462
Pennsylvania	1,080	1,283	1,502	1,702	1,970	7,537

Congressman Rothfus - 12th District

CONTACT: <https://rothfus.house.gov/contact>

On Twitter: @KeithRothfus

County	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Total
Allegheny	179	192	195	196	222	984
Beaver	17	23	21	34	39	134
Cambria	37	37	45	46	41	206
Lawrence	23	47	44	39	38	191
Somerset	8	8	13	11	21	61
Westmoreland	49	62	71	69	84	335
12th Congressional District	313	369	389	395	445	1,911
Pennsylvania	1,080	1,283	1,502	1,702	1,970	7,537

Congressman Boyle - 13th District

CONTACT: <https://boyle.house.gov/contact>

On Twitter: @CongBoyle

County	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Total
Montgomery	32	31	41	66	75	245
Philadelphia	160	156	227	223	256	1,022
13th Congressional District	192	187	268	289	331	1,267
Pennsylvania	1,080	1,283	1,502	1,702	1,970	7,537

Congressman Doyle - 14th District

CONTACT: <https://doyle.house.gov/contact-me>

On Twitter: @UsRepMikeDoyle

County	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Total
Allegheny	179	192	195	196	222	984
Westmoreland	49	62	71	69	84	335
14th Congressional District	228	254	266	265	306	1,319
Pennsylvania	1,080	1,283	1,502	1,702	1,970	7,537

Congressman Dent - 15th District

CONTACT: <https://dent.house.gov/?p=ContactForm>

On Twitter: @

County	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Total
Berks	25	36	24	47	39	171
Dauphin	11	14	23	18	27	93
Lebanon	2	8	9	15	13	47
Lehigh	5	5	10	9	24	53
Northampton	8	7	6	15	16	52
15th Congressional District	51	70	72	104	119	416
Pennsylvania	1,080	1,283	1,502	1,702	1,970	7,537

Congressman Pitts - 16th District

CONTACT: <https://pitts.house.gov/contact-me>

On Twitter: @RepJoePitts

County	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Total
Berks	25	36	24	47	39	171
Chester	31	20	18	26	22	117
Lancaster	27	39	41	41	58	206
16th Congressional District	83	95	83	114	119	494
Pennsylvania	1,080	1,283	1,502	1,702	1,970	7,537

Congressman Cartwright - 17th District

CONTACT: <http://cartwright.house.gov/contact>

On Twitter: @RepCartwright

County	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Total
Lackawanna	14	15	16	18	39	102
Luzerne	39	31	39	51	41	201
Northampton	8	7	6	15	16	52
Schuylkill	5	5	9	11	13	43
17th Congressional District	66	58	70	95	109	398
Pennsylvania	1,080	1,283	1,502	1,702	1,970	7,537

Congressman Murphy - 18th District

CONTACT: <http://murphy.house.gov/contact-me1/>

On Twitter: @RepTimMurphy

County	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Total
Allegheny	179	192	195	196	222	984
Greene	6	10	11	22	23	72
Washington	20	30	41	35	51	177
Westmoreland	49	62	71	69	84	335
18th Congressional District	254	294	318	322	380	1,568
Pennsylvania	1,080	1,283	1,502	1,702	1,970	7,537