COOPERATIVE FORECASTING GROUP
August 24, 2022
Virtual Meeting
10:00 A.M. to 11:50 A.M.

MINUTES

Mr. Jeff Bronow, Howard County, called the meeting to order at 10:04 A.M.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ms. Deborah Price, Harford County, moved to approve the minutes from the June meeting of the Cooperative Forecasting Group (CFG), with Ms. Kathleen Comber, Carroll County, seconding the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

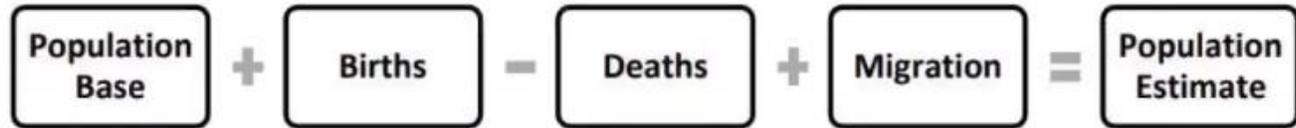## 2. POPULATION ESTIMATES PROGRAM DATA – VINTAGE 2021

Mr. Shawn Kimberly, Baltimore Metropolitan Council, provided an overview of the U.S. Census Bureau's vintage 2021 Population Estimates Program data.

The Population Estimates Program produces annual estimates of the population for the nation, states, metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas, counties, cities, towns, and for Puerto Rico. The PEP data has a wide variety of applications including the allocation of federal funds to State, County and local governments, to set controls for national surveys and to monitor demographic change over time.

Data products produced by the PEP include:

- Population estimates and components of change (US/State/MSA/County)

- Resident Population by age/sex/race/Hispanic origin (US/State/County)

- Total resident population (Sub-county levels including City/Town)

- Housing Units (US/State/County)

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Voting: City of Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, Carroll County, Harford County, Howard County, Queen Anne's County, MD Department of Transportation and Annapolis Transit. Non-Voting: MD Department of the Environment, MD Department of Planning, and MD Transit Administration.

Mr. Kimberly's presentation focused on the population estimates of the components of change data product. The estimates are produced by accounting for the components of change (births, deaths, and migration), as depicted below:

| Population Base | + | Births | − | Deaths | + | Migration | = | Population Estimate |

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

PEP Components of Change Data Sources include:

- Natural Increase – Vital statistics records

    o National Center for Health Statistics

    o Federal-State Cooperative for Population Estimates

- Migration

    o Domestic (Internal Revenue Service and Medicare)

    o International (American Community Survey)

Estimated change from the Decennial 2020 census through the PEP July 2021 estimate shows historically low national growth of 0.1%. Maryland and the Baltimore Region both show a decline of 0.2% in population. The decline in population at the regional level was driven by decreases in Baltimore City and Baltimore County. All other jurisdictions in the Baltimore Region showed an increase in population.

Mr. Kimberly reviewed the year over year population change and components of change for the Baltimore region, and each jurisdiction within the region. He noted that two different vintages of population estimates were utilized for the analysis: Vintage 2020 estimates were utilized for annual population change between the years 2010 and 2020; and Vintage 2021 estimates were appended for the change between 2020 and 2021. The vintage 2020 estimates are based on the 2010 census and were created without consideration for the 2020 census results. In the presentation slides, the vintage 2021 estimates are represented by a crosshatch pattern and the vintage 2020 estimates are represented with solid color.

For the Baltimore Region, the estimated average annual numeric growth between 2010 and 2021 was about 7,400 persons per year. Annual numeric population growth has slowed each year since 2012 (with the exception of 2017), and starting in 2020 annual population growth became negative. To provide some context, the data indicates that the region is growing slower than the state, and the state is growing slower than the nation.

Looking at the Baltimore Region's components of change, both natural increase and net migration experienced decline over the time-period. Population growth by natural increase

declined by over 100%, becoming a natural decrease in 2021. Birth rates and death rates are converging, with births decreasing and deaths increasing. Net migration declined by about 150%, and was less negative in 2021 than it was in 2020. International migration was consistent at about 7,000 persons annually in the first half of the decade, but has declined since 2015. Domestic migration has been negative for all but the first two years of the time-period. While domestic out migration was more significant during the latter half of the time-period, the 2021 estimate indicates a slowing of the domestic outward migration.

Mr. Kimberly discussed in detail the methods and sources for the PEP base estimates for vintage 2021. Because of the COVID-19 related delays in 2020 decennial census operations and data processing schedules, combined with complications resulting from the application of differential privacy, Census Bureau PEP staff could not adopt the 2020 census as the base for vintage 2021 products. As a result, they developed a "blended base" approach in order to produce the best estimates given the data constraints. The "blended base" supplements data from the 2020 decennial census (redistricting file PL 94-171) with the 2020 Demographic Analysis estimates, and the vintage 2020 PEP estimates. Census staff have noted that in the development of the "blended base" the 2020 decennial census was used for population totals (for nation, states, and counties), the Demographic Analysis data was used as a control for age and sex distributions at lower geographies, and the vintage 2020 PEP estimates accounted for the remaining demographic detail (including race and Hispanic origin and split between household and group quarter populations).

[PowerPoint: U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates − Jurisdiction Level Components of Change − v2021]

ROUND 10: LESSONS LEARNED

Mr. Kimberly provided a final update on Round 10, noting that the BRTB endorsed the forecasts at the July 15 meeting of the group. He asked how BMC could improve upon the data and technical assistance provided in the Round 10 effort. The CFG members discussed the two-year long Round 10 development process, and shared what they found helpful and made suggestions for improvement to consider for future rounds.

What CFG Members found beneficial in the Round 10 development process:
- Peer information exchange. Group members supported each other through the process. Discussion of each group member's own processes can help other group members decide whether they are on the right track.
  - Q&A sessions and work sessions provided by BMC at various stages of the process.
  - The longer-term CFG members preserve institutional knowledge.
  - Individual group members can reach out to other group members for information on specific topics or questions.

- The development and distribution of 2020 decennial census data at the new TAZ geography.
- The development and distribution of jurisdiction level base-year employment totals.
- The detailed review and comment on draft submissions by BMC staff, and the opportunity to make revisions before the dataset was finalized.

CFG Member recommendations to improve the Round 10 development process:
- Share with membership the most recent methodology statement from each jurisdiction.
- Outline a defined set of steps for the process.
- Provide a list of recommended data sources (and the pros and cons of each).
- To prepare for new forecast rounds CFG members could review their current methods and consider adjustments based upon examination of alternate approaches.
- Presentations from member jurisdictions about development / re-development, land use, and growth trends could help inform the work of other group members.
- Explore the potential for a consultant task to help inform planning assumptions.

3. NEW BUSINESS

The Cooperative Forecasting Group has the opportunity to make adjustments to the UPWP, and can make requests for additional tasks. Membership has expressed interest in learning more about how recent trends might affect future planning assumptions. For example, how might Work from Home adoption impact commercial real estate and home location choice? The CFG can request technical assistance from a consultant to help identify and quantify trends and their potential longer-term impacts. This topic will be on the agenda for the October CFG meeting for further consideration and group input.

Ms. Krishna Akundi informed CFG members that the Maryland State Data Center is holding their Annual Meeting of Affiliates and Census Data Users, virtually, on Oct 19, 2022. For more information, and to register for the meeting, visit the Maryland State Data Center.

The next CFG meeting will be held Wednesday, October 26th. The meeting format will be hybrid. Members can attend the meeting virtually or in person.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 A.M.

ATTENDANCE

Members
Krishna Akundi, Maryland Department of Planning
Austin Broderick, Baltimore County Department of Planning
Jeff Bronow, Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning
Kathleen Comber, Carroll County Department of Planning

Rick Fisher, Anne Arundel County Department of Planning
Deborah Price, Harford County Department of Planning
Alfred Sundara, Maryland Department of Planning
Kristopher Weaver, Baltimore County Department of Planning
James Wilkerson, Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning

Staff and Guests

Jennifer Duffy, Baltimore Development Corporation
Blake Fisher, BMC
Shawn Kimberly, BMC
Crystal McDermott, BMC