

COOPERATIVE FORECASTING GROUP

Oct 27, 2021

Virtual Meeting

10:07 A.M. to 11:28 A.M.

MINUTES

Mr. James Wilkerson, Howard County, called the meeting to order at 10:07 A.M.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Wilkerson moved to approve the minutes from the September meeting of the CFG, with Ms. Kui Zhao seconding the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

2. CENSUS BUREAU 2020 PUBLIC USE MICRODATA AREA PROGRAM - BOUNDARY DELINEATION

Mr. Al Sundara, Maryland Department of Planning, began his presentation by providing an introduction to the Census Bureau's Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) files, and explaining how the dataset enables users to create custom cross-tabulations, and to extract data that is not available through pretabulated American Community Survey (ACS) and decennial census data products. He explained that the most detailed geographic level at which the PUMS data is available is called a Public Use Microdata Area (PUMA), which has a population requirement of 100,000 persons.

Mr. Sundara then provided an overview of the boundary update process for PUMAs. He explained that the boundary update occurs once every ten years after the completion of the decennial census, as decennial population data serves as a critical input in the delineation process. He added that the boundary delineation process is run through each state's state data center (SDC), and final submissions of boundary updates to the Census Bureau are made via the SDC. In Maryland, the SDC is soliciting input from the counties and Metropolitan Planning Organizations on proposed updates to the current PUMA boundaries before final submissions are made to the Census Bureau.

Mr. Shawn Kimberly, Baltimore Metropolitan Council, offered to CFG membership the assistance of BMC staff in providing coordination and/or technical assistance for the PUMA boundary review and delineation. The Census Bureau has made materials available on their

website to assist in the boundary review process, and encourages the use of the downloadable Geographic Update Partnership Software (GUPS) for updating the PUMA boundaries.

Mr. Sundara outlined the preliminary schedule for delineating PUMAs, noting that the 90-day review period to delineate and submit PUMA updates is November 2021 through January 2022. While the submissions are not due to the Census Bureau until January 2022, Mr. Sundara noted that the SDC needs time to review suggested edits from counties and MPOs before the official submission is made. For this reason, Mr. Sundara is requesting that all suggested PUMA boundary updates be submitted to the SDC by December 31, 2021. The final PUMAs and their associated data are expected to be available online during the summer of 2022.

The Maryland SDC is scheduled to host a workshop on PUMA boundary delineation on November 17, from 10:00 am to 11:30 am.

[PowerPoint: PUMA Delineation, Oct 27, 2021]

3. UPDATES ON ROUND 10 AND CENSUS DATA RELEASE SCHEDULES

Mr. Kimberly, Baltimore Metropolitan Council, gave an update on the Round 10 schedule and provided information on anticipated release dates for selected Census data products.

Round 10 Schedule Notes:

- Round 10 jurisdiction level totals for population, households, and employment are due to BMC by Oct 31, 2021. The data is to be provided in five-year increments from 2020 through 2050.
- Round 10 TAZ level data is due Jan 15, 2022. The datapoints to be included in the TAZ level submission include: total population; group quarters population (with institutional and non-institutional populations broken out separately); households; and total employment. The data is to be provided in five-year increments from 2020 through 2050. Mr. Kimberly encouraged members to submit their Round 10 datasets prior to January 15, 2022 – if the files are completed ahead of schedule.

Census Data Release Notes:

2020 Decennial Census Data

- Apportionment results: Released on April 26, 2021, this dataset includes population totals down to the state level of geography.
- Redistricting data (PL 94-171): Released in legacy format on August 12, 2021, this dataset is provided down to the Census block level and includes population counts (for both household and group quarter populations), and basic population characteristics including race and ethnicity detail, as well as persons by voting age.

- Upcoming releases from the 2020 Decennial Census Data are Demographic Profiles, Demographic and Housing Characteristics (DHC) and Detailed Demographic and Housing Characteristics.
- The lowest level of geography for Demographic Profiles will be Places and Minor Civil Divisions. Geographic detail has yet to be determined for the DHC data.
- The release dates are tentatively set for mid-2022.

American Community Survey Data

The Census Bureau announced that it will not release the Standard 1-Year ACS data for 2020. The pandemic presented challenges to survey collection, causing the data to not meet their statistical data quality standards. Instead, “experimental” estimates for the 2020 1-Year ACS will be released by Nov 30th on a separate webpage from the standard Census products, and will include limited tables at limited levels of geography.

The 2016-2020 ACS 5-Year estimates are scheduled for release in December, 2021.

[PowerPoint: Round10 and Census Data Releases]

4. OPEN DISCUSSION: METHODS TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF ROUND 10 ESTIMATES AND FORECASTS

This item was a continuation from the September 1 meeting of the CFG. Multiple CFG members expressed interest in learning more about the details of the processes and methods that their peers utilize in the development of estimates and forecasts. This item provides an opportunity to ask specific questions, and to facilitate further communication on this topic between CFG members.

Ms. Jamie Williams asked how other jurisdictions are forecasting out for household size and employment. She noted that in her review of the previous work performed on Baltimore City’s forecasts that there was an underlying factor applied to the outer years of the forecasts. Ms. Williams said that Woods and Poole data had been utilized in the past.

- Mr. Kimberly said that he could not speak to how the specific factors in Baltimore City’s models were developed, but added that the State Data Center develops projections for several demographic and socioeconomic datapoints, including household size and employment by industry. He said that BMC had made Woods and Poole and IHS Global data available to CFG membership prior to Round 9 development, and that the data was available down to the county level (and not below). He noted that he had asked the group during the April 2021 CFG meeting about their interest in acquiring a third party dataset for Round 10, and no interest was expressed. He added that it is important to understand that employment projections developed from third party sources may not share the definition of employment utilized by the CFG – and therefore may not be

directly comparable. He noted that BMC did purchase the IHS Global data to assist in the development of income projections for the travel demand model.

- Mr. Sundara noted that the State Data Center has not yet updated their employment projections from 2015. He said that they developed household size projections in 2020, but cautioned that the calculations were based upon 2019 estimates, and not 2020 decennial census data. He added that he plans to update these projections after the detailed age data from the 2020 census is released later in 2022. Mr. Sundara said that in a previous presentation to the CFG he explained the methods they use in the development of their projections, and that for household size they start with the development of household population, then factor in households to arrive at average household size. This is counter to the approach of many at the jurisdictional level, where the focus is often on the housing unit side first, then considering average household size to develop population projections.

Ms. Kathleen Comber asked if it is okay to calculate the household size from the current Census data and use it as a constant in the projection.

- Mr. Sundara said that using the decennial Census data is a good way to calculate household size, and you *could* use it as a constant. He added that referencing trend information would be helpful as well, and referred to a table that Mr. Kimberly shared with the group on the screen, highlighting the average household size by jurisdiction, and calculated from each decennial census from 1970 through 2020. The table indicates declining household size over time, with the rate of decline decreasing in the more recent censuses. In fact, a few jurisdictions saw an increase in average household size in 2020.
- Ms. Deborah Grant said that she utilized historical trends and then used excel to make a linear projection to see what the population size will look like in 2050. She noted that it is important to remember that this is really the development of an educated guess, and to allow yourself some grace as you develop your assumptions and tweak your numbers. She added that the trend information shows a declining average household for the region and most local jurisdictions, and that the question for her became how and at what rate to incorporate a modest decline.
- Mr. Sundara added that if you hold the household size constant, you would need to also consider your growth in housing units and the vacancy rate, as household size is directly tied to the housing units. Many of the datapoints are interrelated, and the impacts upon one another should be monitored.
- Mr. Kimberly said that it can be helpful to consider the age composition of the population as well, because age can have an impact on household size. For example, areas with concentrations of senior populations would likely have a smaller household size than areas that contain more people in family formation years.
- Ms. Comber noted that there has been a trend among some elderly populations to receive services at their homes or move in with family members, as opposed to moving into

institutions, and wondered what the impacts on household size might be. Mr. Kimberly said that there may be changes in the number of multi-generational households (which are larger by definition), and that is something that could be considered as she develops assumptions regarding Carroll County's population and household projections.

5. NEW BUSINESS

The next CFG meeting will be Wednesday, December 15th. It will be a virtual meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:28 A.M.

ATTENDANCE

Members

Krishna Akundi, Maryland Department of Planning
Steve Cohoon, Queen Anne's County Department of Public Works
Kathleen Comber, Carroll County Department of Planning
Rick Fisher, Anne Arundel County Office of Planning and Zoning
Deborah Grant, Harford County Department of Planning
Sara Paraniham, Baltimore City Department of Planning
Alfred Sundara, Maryland Department of Planning
James Wilkerson, Howard County Department of Planning and Zoning
Jamie Williams, Baltimore City Department of Planning
Kui Zhao, Baltimore County Department of Planning

Staff and Guests

Greg Goodwin, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Shawn Kimberly, BMC
Crystal McDermott, BMC
Brian Ryder, BMC