

Texas Demographic Conference

Participant Open Questions*

1. Any trends or comments on north/west Texas demographics? Greater Wichita Falls region.
 - a. The greater Wichita Falls region lost population between 2010 and 2020.
 - b. The population of City of Wichita Falls declined by 2.1% from 2010 to 2020. We see the same trend in Wichita and surrounding counties, as all have lost population between 2010 and 2020.
 - c. The overall Texas trend indicates that the share of NH-White population will continue to decline, while the share of the Hispanic population will continue to increase. For example, the share of NH-White population in Wichita Falls declined by 7.2%, while the share of Hispanic population grew by 3.8% over the past decade).

2. What are the typical reasons for over counting?
 - a. The Post-Enumeration Survey (PES) found statistically significant overcounts for the White alone or in combination, Non-Hispanic White Alone, and Asian alone or in combination populations. The results also indicate large overcounts for the retirement ages and the oldest age groups. The overcounts are larger for females than for males, except for the ages 85 and older.
 - b. Typical reasons for overcounting are when a person is counted more than once; for example, persons with multiple residences submitted a form for every residence. Examples of these are college students who are counted both at their dormitory and their permanent residence or migrant workers.
 - c. The overcount and undercount of certain age groups is usually due to the misreporting of age. This results in “age heaping” and age valleys, which is the result of people incorrectly reporting their age or date of birth.

3. Are fertility rates expected to bounce back (even a little) after the pandemic? (Are births delayed temporarily or permanently foregone?)

The sharp decline of birth rates for all race/ethnic groups started a decade ago with the 2008 recession. The pandemic only exacerbated the trend. There have been signs of slight return of births but fertility rates will likely stay at the low pre-pandemic level and may continue to decline in the future.

* The questions highlighted in this document are ones that were not addressed verbally or through the online Q&A platform. All other questions were answered during the conference.

4. Does this data reflect the state's changes in abortion policy affecting birth rate projections?

Our fertility projections are based on research in the short-term and long-term historical trends. We also look at global and U.S. trends. Fertility decline has taken place in many developed countries in the world and all states in the U.S. We don't have data or information to evaluate the direct impact of public policy on fertility trends, as there are multiple factors that affect fertility.

5. In looking at the growth trends, what should municipalities focus on right now to prepare for growth, say in central Texas or higher projected growth areas?

We encourage local governments to closely monitor the demographic trends. For example, the TDC and the Census Bureau develop population estimates every year and TDC produces population projections every other year to inform strategic planning on roads, housing and other infrastructure. We also urge local governments to respond to both the TDC and the Census Bureau boundary, annexation and new residential housing unit surveys to ensure more accurate and timely population estimates and projections. As the population increase is mostly driven by domestic migration, vigilant monitoring of these trends can help local governments prepare for immediate infrastructure needs such as roads, housing units, water and power supplies.

6. We saw large differences in city populations in the 2020 Census relative to their evaluation estimates and the January 1, 2020 SDC estimates, though pretty close county-level estimates. For instance, the Georgetown 2020 Census was about 20% lower than the 2020 Evaluation estimate. Is the difference because of how county-level population estimates are allocated to city vs. unincorporated areas?

It's difficult to know the source of differences between estimates and census counts. Both are subject to error. Often error for estimates is associated with inaccurate estimation of the migration component of population change. For census counts, error is often the result of undercount as a result of missing addresses or inaccurate reporting or overcount as a result of duplicate reports. Given that the post-enumeration survey estimated that Texas had an undercount of about 1.9%, the difference between the evaluation estimates and the census count at local levels may be a function of census undercount.

7. Do you use only US Census Data for your population projections/estimates? Or are there other data you use?

We use multiple data sources to produce our population estimates and projections. For example, vital statistics data, school and Medicare enrollment data, vehicle and voter registration data as well as group quarters data from institutions such as prisons, nursing homes, and dormitories to estimate and project special population.

8. Is the Demographic Center considering drought in the western portion of the state as far as possible moving to the wetter east side of the state, which can drive economic development?

There are many factors that may impact migration. We closely monitor the past and current migration trends to understand the combined effect of these factors on migration. Although we don't have the data and the model to explicitly incorporate environmental impact on migration, we do make adjustments based on our understanding of the different regions in Texas. However, environmental changes are certainly a factor for migration (either international or domestic).

9. Are there any notable differences you see in growth for Tarrant Co compared to Dallas Co?

The main difference between the growth for these two counties is that Tarrant county's growth is driven by natural increase and domestic migration, whereas Dallas county's population growth between 2010 and 2020 is driven by natural increase and international migration.

10. Regarding the PES, the 2010 PES showed the under/overcount % by counties of a certain size - will we see this for 2020?

The 2020 PES will not produce sub-state estimates, such as those for places and counties. This blog discusses the reason for this difference from 2010; please see the section at end titled "PES Results."

<https://www.census.gov/newsroom/blogs/random-samplings/2021/12/post-enumeration-measuring-coverage-error.html>