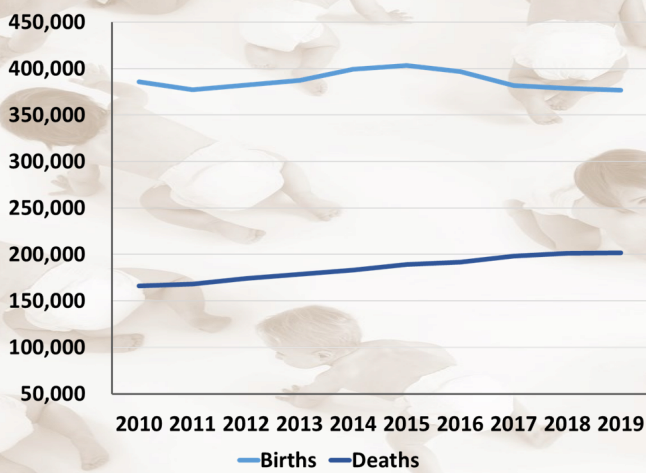




# Data Used to Inform the Texas Demographic Center POPULATION ESTIMATES

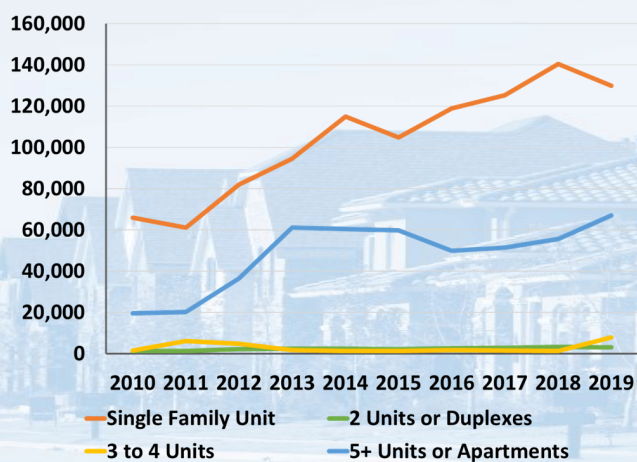
The Texas Demographic Center (TDC) produces annual population estimates for Texas and its counties and places. Population estimates are often used to allocate funds and resources to state and local governments. The TDC uses three methods to produce population estimates: ratio-correlation, component method II, and housing-unit method. The TDC relies on state agencies and local governments for much of the data used in these methods. The types of data used in these methods are described below. Visit [demographics.texas.gov](http://demographics.texas.gov) for more information.

## Vital Statistics Data



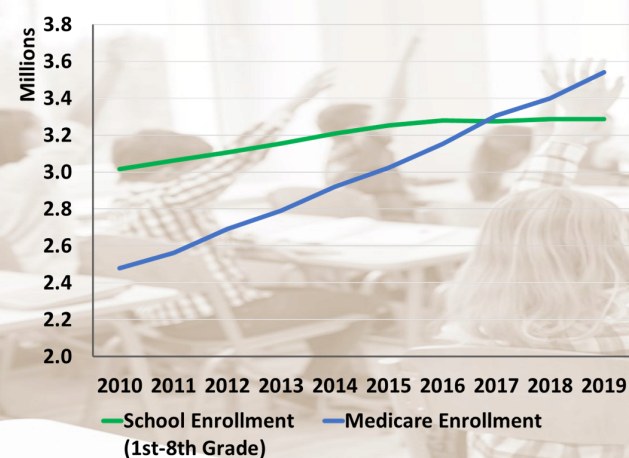
The main building blocks for population change are births and deaths. The TDC partners with the Texas Department of State Health Services to obtain these vital statistics. A look at these data indicates Texas adds an average of nearly 400,000 births and nearly 200,000 deaths per year, yielding a natural increase of about 200,000 per year. The data also suggest slower population growth in the latter part of the decade due to decreasing births and increasing deaths, a trend that is common in many parts of the country.

## Building Permit Data



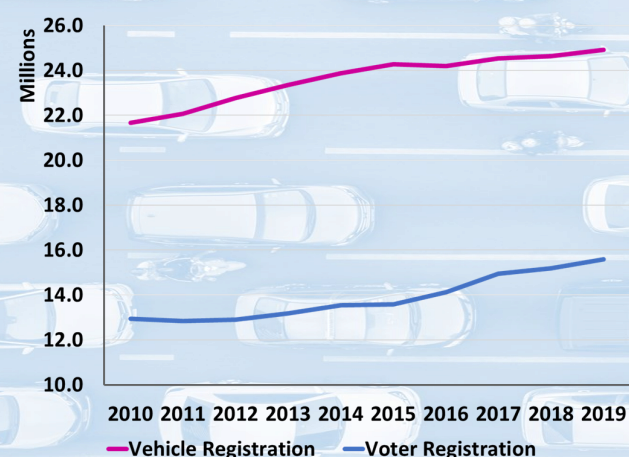
The construction or demolition of housing is strongly related to population change. The TDC relies on local governments to provide information on building permits for residential buildings in their area to estimate population change for Texas and its cities and counties. Data from the last decade indicate growth in most housing unit types, but especially in apartment buildings and single family units, although with a slight dip in single-family housing units in the last year.

## School and Medicare Enrollment Data



Migration is another key component of population change. The TDC utilizes school enrollment data from the Texas Education Agency and data collected by the TDC from private schools in the state to determine migration of the school-age population. These data serve as an indicator of overall migration. The TDC uses group quarters data from institutions such as prisons, nursing homes, and dormitories to estimate special populations. Similarly, Medicare enrollment data from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services are used to estimate changes in the elderly population.

## Vehicle and Voter Registration Data



New vehicle and voter registrations are other good indicators of population change. The TDC partners with the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles and the Office of the Secretary of State to obtain these data. These data are particularly good indicators of migration, both into the state and between Texas counties. Additionally, these measures also closely align with increases in the 18 and older population.