Department of Local Affairs

Strengthening Colorado Communities

State Demography Office

Roles and Responsibilities

The State Demography Office is the primary state agency for population and demographic information. Its data are used by state agencies to forecast demand for facilities and services. These data are also used by local governments and non-profit organizations in the state to anticipate growth or decline and to plan and develop programs and community resources. The office's location in the Department of Local Affairs insures that its data and information is developed in ways that account for local input and needs. The office makes the data publicly available on their website, answers requests for economic and demographic data and provides training workshops on accessing and using the data.

Types of Population Data and Programs

Census

The U.S. Census Bureau conducts a complete survey of the population every ten years (ending in zero). The office represents state and local needs and concerns relating to the conduct of the decennial census. In addition, the U.S. Census Bureau collects social and economic characteristics of the population in part to determine the needs for federal grant programs. The State Demography Office processes these data and makes them available to the public on our website. Local governments use this information to better understand their communities and identify areas of need. In order to achieve the best census possible, the State Demography Office works with the Census Bureau and local governments in updating maps of all streets, and inventories of all housing units.

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Types of Population Data and Programs

Estimates

The office prepares annual estimates of the total population for Colorado counties, municipalities and special districts that provide park and recreation services. The estimates are based on data indicative of population change: births, deaths, migration, new housing units, jobs, school enrollment and Medicare enrollment. Local governments assist in the process by providing and reviewing data since Conservation Trust Fund allocations are tied to the population estimates.

Forecasts

The office prepares population forecasts for the counties and regions of the state by age and gender and ethnicity/race (state only) to the year 2035. Population change is tied to understandings of both economic and demographic change. An economic forecast establishes the demand for labor while our demographic cohort-survival model indicates supply of labor provided by existing populations. The difference between the demand and the labor supply sets the foundation for the net migration of population and households.

The economic forecast is prepared by analyzing and forecasting economic base or market "drivers" for the state and its counties. National and regional conditions are studied as well as local attitudes toward growth to determine the market potential for specific drivers. The final economic forecast includes local, regional and national perspectives.

The demographic forecast survives the current population from one year to the next by age and gender. Deaths are forecast according to age and gender specific death rates. Women of child-bearing age give birth to children according to age-specific fertility rates. Demographic migration for groups such as students, military, prisoners and retirees are also included. Characteristics of the population that are fundamental to understanding the relationship between the economy and the population include commuting, labor force participation rates, and multiple job holding rates.

The integration of the economic and demographic forecast balances labor demand (economic) with the labor supply (demographic) and sets the foundation for economic migration from either job growth or decline.

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Summary of Data Available

Population: Past, Present and Future
     Total
     Age and Gender Groups
     Race and Ethnic Groups
Components of Change
     Births and Deaths
     Migration
Households
     Type
     Age of Householder
Housing
     Housing Units
     Group Quarters
     Building Permits
Economic Characteristics of the Population
     Labor Force Status
     Occupation
     Industry of Work
     Place of Work; Journey to Work
     Income - Households, Families,
     Persons

Geographic Areas and Maps
     Boundary Maps
     Descriptions of Geographic Areas

The Economy
     Jobs
     Personal Income
     Industry Detail
     Economic Base Analyses
     Economic Forecasts
     Economic Profiles
Economic Characteristics of the Population
     Employed & Unemployed Persons
     Household Income
     Poverty
Profiles
     1985—2004 County Profiles
     School District Profiles, 1990 & 2000
Social Characteristics of the Population
     Ancestry; Citizenship; Place of Birth;
     Language Spoken at Home
     Ability to Speak English
     School Enrollment
     Educational Attainment
     Disability

Uses of the Data

In Land Use and Other Resource Use Planning.
- Base economic, population, and housing data for the analyses of land, water and other resource use.
- Forecasts of jobs, population and housing, for use in forecasting land, water and other resource demands.
- Understandings of various relationships between jobs and income and that of population, households, and household income, and of resource use as caused by particular projects and plans.

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Uses of the Data

Economic Development Analyses.
- Information on the existing economy: jobs by industry, sources of income.
- Identification of major components of the economy: basic industries, drivers, non-basic industries.
- SWOT analyses
- Forecasts of industry possibilities.

In Workforce Development Analyses.
- Forecasts of the demand for labor.
- Analysis of the existing supply of labor.
- Analysis of labor force potential and needs for training of all and special populations.
- Analysis of existing matches between labor demand and labor supply, including commuters.

In Population Surveys and Analyses.
- Base data on the population regarding age, gender, ethnicity, ancestry, income, other for evaluation of citizen, voter, consumer, and user preferences.
- In social analysis of living arrangements.
- Historical and base data on living arrangements over time.
- Existing and prepared cross-tabulations of many variables in relation to living arrangements.

In Health Services Planning.
- In the analysis of incidents or rates of diseases and other health problems to population and other characteristics.
- In the forecasting of needs for health services.
- In Education Planning.
- In the analysis of education levels in relationship to population and economic characteristics.
- In the forecasting of needs for educational services

In Housing Needs Assessments.
- Household income data for determining the demand or needs for housing
- Housing data -- on units in structure, occupancy, tenure, and characteristics – for analyses of existing supply.
- The analysis of housing demand in relation to population and other characteristics.
- Forecasts of housing demands and needs based on economic forecasts and in relation to household income.

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Uses of the Data

In Community Service Needs Assessments (public, private and non-profits)
- The analysis of service demands and/or needs in relation to demographic and other characteristics.
- Forecasts of community service demands / needs based on economic and demographic forecasts.

Other Services Available from the State Demography Office

- Answers to requests for economic and demographic data.
- Provides user-training workshops on accessing and using census, demographic, and economic data.
- Prepares thematic and reference maps.
- Performs County Commissioner redistricting analysis.

Contact Information

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