

Release Notes

Vintage 2013 Population Estimates

The Vintage 2013 population estimates reflect the following changes made in the methodology and inputs since the release of the Vintage 2012 estimates.

State and County Total Population

The Vintage 2013 state and county total population estimates reflect improvements in the estimates methodology and data inputs. One major change is that these estimates are calculated in three age groups. In Vintage 2012 (and previous years), we calculated the population in two age groups: age 0 to 64 and 65 and over. Calculations were performed for each county separately, and then controlled to the national total within each age group. Finally, we combined both age groups to get county totals and summed counties to get state totals. We estimated the two age groups separately because we use different input data to estimate each age group's domestic migration. In addition to group quarters information, data from Internal Revenue Service tax exemptions provide net domestic migration rates for the population age 0 to 64 while we use data from Medicare enrollment records to calculate rates for the population age 65 and over.

In Vintage 2013, we further separate the population into three age groups by separating the age 0 to 64 group into the population age 0 to 17 and 18 to 64. We then calculate separate components (births, deaths, domestic migration, and international migration) for each age group. After estimating the population age 0 to 17, 18 to 64, and 65 and over, we control each group separately to the national total in that age category. We then create county and state total population estimates by summation as we did previously. There are two principal advantages to calculating three age groups. First, it allows more time to review our data products prior to their scheduled release at the end of the year (national and state total population and the state population age 18 and over). Second, it allows for more flexibility in the methodology as we continually explore ways to further refine the accuracy of our state and county total population estimates.

Military Characteristics and Movement

In Vintage 2013, Defense Manpower Data Center (DMDC) data were used to directly assign race characteristic detail to military personnel when they were available. If DMDC race data were unavailable, we used modeled race data based on known DMDC race proportions. In Vintage 2012, all military personnel had modeled race characteristics data based on Census 2000 proportions.

The national-level estimate of net overseas movement of the Armed Forces population is distributed to states and counties by demographic characteristics using DMDC information, supplemented in some cases with the American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates. Net overseas movement of the Armed Forces population indicates movement of personnel in and out of the United States. For Vintage 2013, county-level DMDC geographic distributions were

applied to the estimates of state military movement by demographic characteristics (age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin) to derive estimates of military movement by characteristic at the county level. Some county-level movement was re-allocated using the characteristic and geographic distribution from the ACS 5-year estimates in conjunction with DMDC totals.

Vital Statistics

The methodology used to produce Vintage 2013 estimates of state and county deaths differs in one important respect from the methodology used to produce the Vintage 2012 death estimates. Since the final calendar year 2011 person-record mortality file (including age, sex, race, and Hispanic origin characteristics) was not available from the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), the final calendar year 2010 person-record mortality file provided by NCHS for Vintage 2012 estimates was used in its place, along with advance 2011 resident death totals provided by NCHS for states and counties.

The methodologies used to produce Vintage 2013 estimates of national deaths and national, state, and county births are the same as the methodologies used to produce Vintage 2012 estimates for those areas.

Housing Unit Estimates

In Vintage 2013, we used 2009 and 2011 American Housing Survey (AHS) estimates to calculate national housing loss rates by housing age and type of structure. In Vintage 2012, these loss rates were based on 1999 and 2007 AHS national estimates (with the same housing age and type categories). Overall, the new input data slightly increased the estimates of housing unit loss compared to last vintage.