

Meeting Minutes

Delaware Population Consortium

July 15, 2010

Room 321, Haslet Armory

Dover

Attendance:

Jim Galvin, Dover/Kent MPO
Ben Johnson, Dover/Kent MPO
Ed Ratledge, UD CADSR
Janelle Cornwell, Dover
Marlena Gibson, DSHA
Barbara Gladders, Public Health
Megan Nehrbas, Sussex Co.

Kelly Crumpley, Kent Co.
Don Berry, DOE
Dab Blevins, WILMAPCO
Mike Duross, DeIDOT
Derrick Lightfoot, Wilmington
Mike Mahaffie, OSP

The meeting was called to order by Jim Galvin at approximately 10:06 a.m.

Ed Ratledge led a **walkthrough a first draft of the population projections for the state and counties**, out to 2040. Ed asked the group to review it and to flag anything that looks out of place.

Ed explained that he is still working on approaches to projecting Hispanic population. He noted that the federal population estimates data for Hispanic persons doesn't quite match what one would expect, based on the distribution of Hispanic persons suggested by the American Community Survey (ACS) data. He hopes to have a first cut of a Hispanic distribution in the near future.

Ed also gave an overview of the age structure work. He has re-benchmarked age distributions using ACS data. He noted the continued high percentage of persons aged 65 and older in the projections. There was a brief discussion of some of the policy implications of an older population.

Ed explained that the birth and death data in the draft is based on the birth and death data for Delaware published by the Census Bureau. He added that the numbers don't match the birth and death data reported to the federal government by the state's Division of Public Health. He noted that the federal data may include other information and may have been adjusted to match a federal methodology.

Ed led a review of the draft numbers, looking at the state as a whole and at each individual county. There was a focus on the migration data, since migration is a driver of population growth in Delaware. In Kent and New Castle Counties, there was a marked increase in migration in the early 2000s, followed by a sharp drop-off in the middle of the decade. Migration rates are now starting to return to close to their long-term averages. This was not the case in Sussex, where there was a slight increase before a return to the long term average.

In Kent County, Ed reported a slight realignment of the racial distribution to match the federal estimates and the data from the ACS.

Ed repeated that he would like the group to review the data and submit any comments or questions directly to him.

Dan Blevins gave a brief update on **a project related to the census Transportation Planning Program (CTPP)**. The state will need to match Census blocks and block groups to Traffic Analysis Zones (TAZs) and to create larger Traffic Analysis Districts (TADs) for reporting of journey to work data from the 2010 Census. There was a general discussion about the usefulness to Delaware of data at different levels of geography.

Don Berry led a general discussion on **ways to aggregate constituent data** in such a way as to allow for public use of data without compromising constituent privacy. There was a discussion of the value of different forms of data analysis related to public policy questions.

There being no further business, Jim Galvin adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:25 a.m.