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**User Notes and Errata, Small Area Demographic Estimates, Release 20201210_R01
Washington State Office of Financial Management, Forecasting and Research Division**

Small Area Demographic Estimates (SADE) data for 2020 are currently available. These SADE estimates include postcensal (2011–2020) estimates.

OFM recommends that end users limit their analysis to a specific SADE data release (e.g., 20201210_R01) because estimates for prior years are updated if new or more accurate information becomes available.

The SADE model utilizes OFM county race estimates, county age sex estimates and Small Area Estimates Program (SAEP) data. The SADE model uses an iterative proportional fitting procedure to produce estimates of age, sex, race and ethnicity by small geographic area and year.

The first results for the 2020 Census will be released later this year. Be aware that some time after they are released, the 2011-2020 estimates will be revised. There will likely be noticeable changes.

For the most part the input data for these estimates predates the COVID-19 crisis. As a result there will be very little impact seen in this release.

There are some small changes to the source data that affect SADE release 20201210_R01. These changes are reflected the postcensal estimates from 2019–2020.

SAEP Population Estimates

For 2020, OFM used new housing data sources for data in Clark and Spokane counties, users should expect population changes in these counties.

Please see the [SAEP User Guide](#) for additional information about the data and the methods behind the SAEP estimates as well as limitations in their use.

County Race Estimates

Race and Hispanic controls were created for 2020 and the 2019 controls were revised based on the latest data available.

In 2019 the Census Bureau made changes to their methods and estimates of international migration. As a result, OFM revised its 2015-2018 race estimates to include this updated information. In general, SADE users will see an increase in the number of people categorized as non-Hispanic Asian and a decrease in people categorized as non-Hispanic White when compared to vintages of SADE estimates prior to 2019.

County Age Sex Estimates

In 2019 OFM made revisions to the age structures of counties with high proportions of college students, and kept these changes for 2020. SADE users will see shifts in the distribution of 15-19 and 20-24 year olds in Kittitas, Whitman and Whatcom Counties for years 2015 thru 2018 when compared to vintages of SADE estimates prior 2019.

Changes to the SADE Model Code

There were no changes to the model code base from the prior release that would impact the estimates.

Long term effects of iterative proportional fitting

SADE relies on iterative proportionally fitting 2010 data to match the data sources mentioned above. Those sources are seeing increases in the elderly and the minority population in the state. However, our source for change in racial groups has no age component. As a result the increases in minorities are being fitted into the increase in the older population. This is likely an artifact of the model and extra care should be used when using those demographic intersections.