

User Notes and Errata, Small Area Estimates Program, Fall 2022
Washington State Office of Financial Management, Forecasting and Research Division

Small Area Estimate Program (SAEP) data for 2020-2022 are currently available. This release uses 2020 Census geographies. The current release does not include 2010-2019 intercensal estimates, which are planned for release in 2023.

The current SAEP release includes two sets of 2020 data values; one set starting with the label '2020 Census (P.L. 94-171) <variable>' and one set starting with 'OFM Adjusted <variable>.' The '2020 Census (P.L. 94-171)' values come from the 2020 Census Public Law 94-171 redistricting data as released by the Census Bureau. The 'OFM Adjusted' values are the basis for the SAEP estimates and include corrections and adjustments for a variety of reasons. OFM adjusted the 2020 decennial census data more than prior decennial data because new privacy protection measures infused more noise into the census block data than in prior censuses. That noise infusion caused some statistical anomalies that needed to be accounted for in the SAEP model, see the [SAEP User Guide](#) for more information. It is our hope that by providing both versions' of 2020 values users will be able to better understand the adjustments OFM has made to the data and make more informed decisions.

In cases where OFM uses spatial weighting to develop custom geography estimates the spatial weighting is applied to the '2020 Census (P.L. 94-171)' and the 'OFM Adjusted' variables the same way.

OFM recommends that end users limit their analysis to a specific SAEP data release (e.g., Fall 2020) because the historical estimate series may change: 1) if new or more accurate information becomes available after the release date and 2) if changes occur in the underlying spatial data. Please see the [SAEP User Guide](#) for additional information about the data and the methods behind the estimates as well as limitations in their use.

The SAEP Fall 2020 data release includes some important changes from the prior release. These changes affect the postcensal estimates from 2011-2020.

1. OFM is using assessor records rather than building permit data for Clark County. The building permit data that we used to rely on is no longer available. Data users should expect to see changes to population and housing in certain areas.
2. OFM is using 2010-2020 building permit data collected by the Spokane Regional Transportation Council for Spokane County. The benefit of this data source is we now have countywide coverage of building permits. Data users should expect to see changes to population and housing in certain areas.

OFM would like to thank all of the people who graciously provide support and data for the SAEP. We could not provide this information without their hard work.

Sincerely,

Mike Mohrman, State Demographer