

User Notes and Errata, Small Area Demographic Estimates, Release 20191224_R01
Washington State Office of Financial Management, Forecasting and Research Division

Small Area Demographic Estimates (SADE) data for 2019 are currently available. The SADE estimates include both intercensal (2000–2009) and postcensal (2011–2019) estimates.

OFM recommends that end users limit their analysis to a specific SADE data release (e.g., 20191224_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.

There are some important changes to the source data that affect SADE release 20191224_R01. These changes are reflected the postcensal estimates from 2011–2019.

SAEP Population Estimates

In 2019 OFM made corrections to the coding of data in Franklin, Grant, and Jefferson Counties. These changes had small impacts to the distribution of population in these counties early in the decade.

Ongoing improvements to our housing unit counts can result in shifts in population at small levels of geography.

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

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, when compared to previous vintages of SADE estimates SADE users will see an increase in the number of people categorized as non-Hispanic Asian and non-Hispanic Black and a decrease in people categorized as non-Hispanic White in King, Pierce, and Snohomish counties. Spokane will show an increase in non-Hispanic White.

County Age Sex Estimates

In 2019 OFM made revisions to the age structures of counties with high proportions of college students. 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 previous vintages of SADE estimates. This population was redistributed, resulting in increases in other age groups.

User will notice increases in older age groups across the state as the “baby boomer” generation ages.

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.