Potential Alternative Data Sources for Redistricting

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- Decennial Census remains best official source of complete count data as of Census date
- Other sources have strengths and weaknesses
  - Demographic data often not the focus
  - Individual population counts also typically not the focus
- Combining other data helps identify trends and generate estimates, but individual population counts elusive
- Confidentiality, privacy issues, cost, and need for outside expertise create barriers

Census and American Community Survey

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Census 2010	• Full count of population at small geographies • May still be helpful in locations which have not changed much	• Out of date • High inaccuracy in growth areas, of which Oregon has many
American Community Survey (ACS)	• Likely best source of current demographic data • Useful in identifying potential change	• Estimates, not counts • Margins of error grow substantially at smaller geographies and finer variables • Census tract likely the smallest useful geography • 5-year vs. 1-year data

Census 2010 *vs.* ACS 2010 5-year *vs.* ACS 2010 1-year
- **Oregon total:** 3,831,074 vs. 3,761,925 vs. 3,838,957
- **Crook County, Black alone:** 35 vs. 35 (+/- 29) vs. Unavailable
- **Multnomah County Tract 106, Hispanic:** 251 vs. 296 (+/- 85) vs. Unavailable

Note: 2019 ACS data is most current – released January 2021

Population Estimates (Population Research Center)

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Annual Population Estimates	• Closely tied to Census data • Updated annually • Local input factored in • Age groups, sex included	• Accuracy decreases as time from calibration date increases • Accuracy decreases at smaller geographies • Only available at statewide, county, and city levels • July 1st compared to Census' April 1st date • No race data
	2010 Census versus initial PRC estimates: • Oregon total: 3,831,074 vs. 3,844,195 • Crook County: 20,978 vs. 27,280 (least accurate % performance) • Klamath County: 66,380 vs. 66,475 (most accurate % performance)	
Population Allocation (Potential)	• Alternative to Census data; would use block-level geography • Combines ACS data and other records	• Estimate; not perfect count • Accuracy decreases at smaller geographies • Age data could be limited

HOUSING UNITS/TAXLOTS

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Taxlot data	• Updated regularly • Full coverage of state	• Inconsistent quality and data depth • Counts housing, not population • Proper data analysis very time-consuming
Local Update of Census Addresses Operation (LUCA)	• Used in preparation for Census 2020 • Local input	• Counts housing, not population • Last updated January 2018

ADMINISTRATIVE RECORDS AND SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

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DMV Records	• Relatively full coverage of adult population • Mostly up to date address information • Includes age, sex data	• Missing race data • May not capture movers or college students • Does not include many under 18
School Enrollment	• Child-age population • Geography more recognizable to general public • May help identify communities of interest	• Misses private school and home-school population • Larger geographies less useful for redistricting • Enrollment issues during COVID-19 • Not an exact location
Vital Statistics	• Exact location of mother • Usually includes race data • Newborns missed by Census likely included here	• Privacy concerns/confidentiality • Data about father inconsistent • Only counts people at time of a birth or death

- **Legal Issues**
  - Prohibition on using political data in redistricting
  - **Use caution.** Partisan data can be removed from these sources, but questions and perceptions may remain.

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Voting Precincts	• Existing geography that subdivides counties • Often based on municipal boundaries • Keeps clerks happy/reduces workload for counties	• Legal issues (election results) • No demographic data attached • Large size outside urban areas limits usefulness • Do not match Census boundaries • Not static
Voter Registration	• Exact address • Includes age, sex • Relatively current	• Legal issues (partisan identity) • How up to date/data vintage • Privacy concerns • No race category • Misses unregistered and those under 18

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Utility data	• Helps identify new construction • Usage data to approximate occupancy	• Not exact count • Assumes equal usage among persons • Differentiate between residential and non-residential • Numerous utility companies
Tax returns	• Comprehensive coverage • Addresses and count of dependents	• Privacy concerns • How to obtain; what would data look like?
Private data sources	• Private companies obtain demographic data • Some sources may have mostly comprehensive data	• Privacy concerns • Varying and/or unknown original sources, methodology, and quality