

State and Local Population Projections: Methods, Challenges, Opportunities

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Projection Methods

- **Trend Extrapolation**
- **Cohort-Component**
- **Structural Models**
- **Microsimulation**
- **Spatial Diffusion**

Roles of Population Projections

- **Predicting future population change**
- **Analyzing determinants of population change**
- **Presenting alternative scenarios**
- **Promoting agendas and sounding warnings**
- **Providing a base for other projections**

Mean Absolute Percent Errors

Length of Horizon	States	Counties	Census Tracts
5	3	6	9
10	6	12	18
15	9	18	27
20	12	24	36

Challenges and Opportunities

- **Challenge: Full funding of the American Community Survey (ACS)**
- **Opportunity: Big Data**

Accounting for Uncertainty

- **Alternative Scenarios**
- **Prediction Intervals**