

Updates to Baseline 2019 Series

Finance is releasing a new population projection series, Vintage-20 Baseline 19 (V-20/B19), to help local governments and other partners base their forecasts on a baseline that recognizes some of the disruptions of 2020. A larger revision to projected trends will be released in 2022 after Census 2020 and other data is available for analysis. The Vintage-19 Baseline 2019 (V-19/B19) California projection series was released in January 2020. Compared to previous projection series, V-19 included updated estimates and assumptions. The most significant changes were new selections of fertility and mortality forecast paths and an updated migration profile where it was assumed that by 2025 migration would return to the average across 2009-19.

The V-20 California projections represent a minor revision to V-19, primarily accounting for changes in the latest July 1, 2020 estimates (released in December 2020). However, to reflect the changes in migration flows resulting from federal immigration policies and in response to COVID-19, the migration series' return to average was extended by five years to 2030. No other explicit changes were made to address COVID-19. V-20 incorporates confirmed prison closures and adds dorms and other group quarters populations that are approved and/or in construction through 2025. Group quarters are held constant after that date.

Some of the most recent data are reflected, such as lower births, higher deaths, and negative net-migration in 2020. This update does not address future potential changes that may result from the pandemic. The positive growth within the series is highly dependent on migration, and political and regulatory changes enacted by the Biden Administration will take time to affect migration flows. A new projection series, with an updated baseline and assumptions, will be released in 2022 when the 2020 Census data has been released and evaluated.

Key Projection Differences

Figure 1 shows the total components (births, deaths, and net migrants) of this vintage (V-20) and the previous vintage (V-19). A solid navy blue line shows the latest July 1st estimates (released December 2020). The light blue dashed line indicates the trajectory projected in V-19. The dashed navy blue line indicates the projected trajectory for V-20.

Driven by a drop in migration, V-20 shows a fall in 2060 population from 45.3 million to 44.2 million. Similarly, births drop to 392 thousand by 2060, and deaths will be slightly higher over time due to an aging population as seen in Figure 2. Population growth will remain positive throughout the forecast period although such growth is highly dependent on migration.

The overall age composition (Figure 2) of California remains largely unchanged between the two projection series. The largest differences are slightly fewer individuals

under age 25 due to the lower number of births in the new series; a direct result of the lower migration assumptions in V-20 for the 2020's.

Data and documentation available at:
<http://www.dof.ca.gov/Forecasting/Demographics/Projections/>

Figure 1: Comparing Key Results: V-19 and V-20 Population Projections, California 2010-2060.

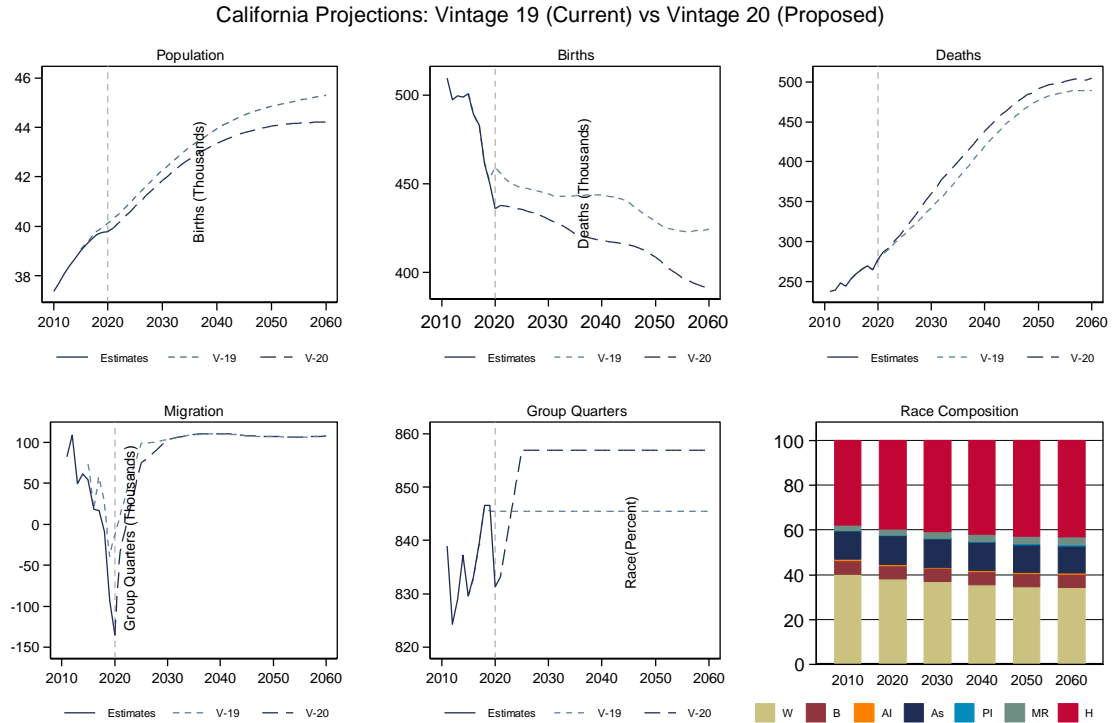
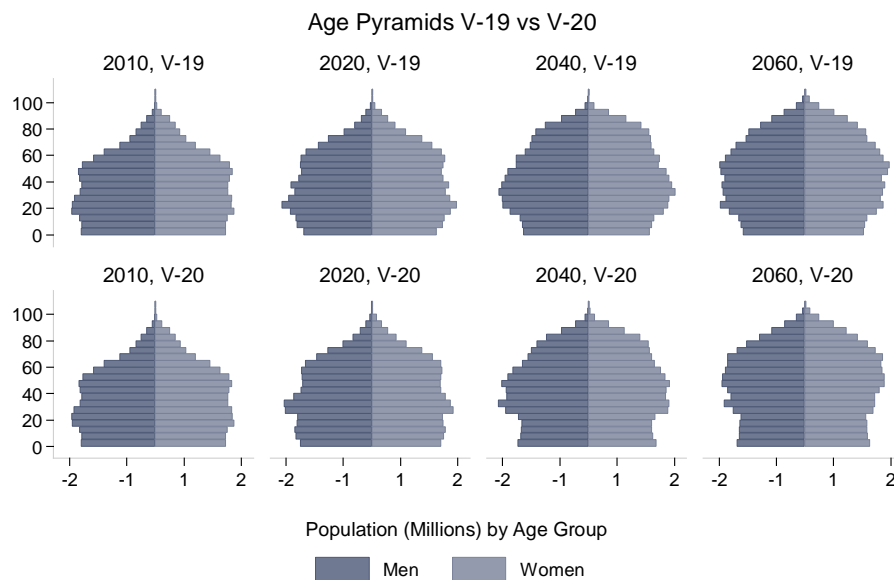


Figure 2: Age Pyramids Comparing V-19 and V-20, California 2010-2060.



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