

Appendix

The 2004 and 2005 estimates in this publication are a slight modification of the Bridged-Race Postcensal Estimates produced for the National Center for Health Statistics by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

NCHS contracts with the Census Bureau to produce the Bridged-Race Postcensal Population estimates, which collapse the original estimates using the Census 2000 race and ethnicity categories into the categories in use prior to Census 2000, making trends analysis possible. For this reason, it was decided that the NCHS Bridged-Race estimates would be used as the starting point for the estimates which would be published by the Vermont Department of Health beginning with the 2003 estimates. Because the estimated populations for the under 5 age group were not consistent with what VDH was seeing in the vital records (birth) data, the NCHS estimates were modified slightly, resulting in the estimates published here. An explanation of the modifications follows.

The number of births in a given year should be a reasonably good estimate of the under 1 population for that year, but the Census Bureau estimates of the under 1 population have not been close to this number.. For example, the number of Vermont resident births for the year ending July 1, 2003 was 6,506 while the Census/NCHS estimate of the under 1 population on July 1, 2003 was 5,861. This discrepancy prompted a closer look at the estimates for the youngest age categories and it was decided that VDH would estimate the under 5 population by county using vital records data. A detailed explanation of the methodology used for calculating the under 5 population is available from VDH by calling 802-863-7300. The methodology for the original Census/NCHS estimates is available on the internet at

<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/major/dvs/popbridge/popbridge.htm>.

Because VDH estimates the under 5 population to be greater than the Census/NCHS estimate, some modifications were made to the estimates for other age groups so that county and state totals would be consistent with those published by NCHS. Because the Census/NCHS data utilize Medicare data for the 65 and older population, these were assumed to be the most accurate of the age group estimates and were not modified. Also, the 15-44 year old categories were left unchanged from the original Census/NCHS estimates because these were used in the calculation of fertility rates which were part of the VDH estimate process for the under 5 population. So, changes were made to the 5-14, and 45-64 year old age categories.

The town estimates for 2005 published here are those produced by the US Census Bureau, released June 21, 2006, with a minor exception. The Census Bureau estimated that one person lived in each of Lewis and Avery's Gore in Essex County. These places have previously been uninhabited, and VDH has received no compelling evidence to suggest that this has changed, so VDH continues to estimate zero population in these places and added those people to the largest neighboring town, Brighton. Information about the Census Bureau's estimate methodology is available at www.census.gov.