

Methods

Data

Two primary sources of population and demographic data were used to compile this report: U.S. Census Bureau and Woods and Poole Economics, Inc. Data synthesized from the U.S. Census Bureau 2000 decennial census that were common among all study areas include the following variables: population (as displayed on the maps), gender, age, race/ethnicity, households, language, birthplace, median household income, educational attainment, employment, industry, place of work, means of transportation to work, housing units, and plumbing facilities. U.S. Census Bureau variables such as source of water, sewage disposal, and building permit data were not available for all study areas and thus, were presented only in certain chapters.

Population projection data was obtained from Woods and Poole Economics, Inc. for the years 2008 to 2015. Making estimates of future data is not an exact science. The methods that Woods and Poole Economics, Inc., employ to make population projections are based on analysis of historical data. Consequently, limitations are inherent to the data and projections should not be interpreted as future predictions. Woods and Poole Economics, Inc. (2007) notes that economic and demographic events may result in outcomes different from the projections, and that limitations may result from making projections for small geographic areas.

Geography

As stated in the National Summary, the differences in geographic scale among the study areas made it challenging to present data and maps consistently across chapters. For instance, Guam is considered a county, and in order to understand where the population resides on the island, it was necessary to present data by county subdivision (or district). For Southeast Florida and the Florida Keys, however, presenting county-level data was appropriate for the geographic scale and large population. Further, the maps for each study area present the total population data at differing scales (Table 30). As a result, data presented in each chapter are not intended to be compared to other chapters at these varying geographic levels. Rather, the data are intended to provide a baseline of information from which to compare future population and demographic data for each study area.

U.S. Coral Jurisdiction	Geographic Levels Discussed in Report	Geographic Levels Population is Presented on Maps
Guam <i>U.S. Territory</i> <i>U.S. County Equivalent</i>	County, County Subdivision	Census Tracts
CNMI <i>U.S. Territory</i>	Territory, County	Census Blockgroups
American Samoa <i>U.S. Territory</i>	Territory, County, Village	Census Blockgroups
Hawaii <i>U.S. State</i>	State, County	County Subdivision
Southeast Florida and the Florida Keys <i>Portion of U.S. State</i> <i>Six U.S. Counties</i>	Portion of State, County	County Subdivision
USVI <i>U.S. Territory</i>	Territory, County	Census Tracts
Puerto Rico <i>U.S. Territory</i>	Territory, County	<i>Municipio</i> (county equivalent)

Table 30. Varying levels of geographies used to present population and other demographic data in this report.

End Notes

¹*Mapped Coral Habitat*

Coral Reef and Hardbottom - This category is defined as hardened substrate of unspecified relief formed by the deposition of calcium carbonate by reef-building corals and other organisms, or existing as exposed bedrock or volcanic rock. Examples of habitats include: spur and groove; individual or aggregated patch reefs; pavement; and pavement with sand channels.

Submerged Vegetation - This category is defined as various types of continuously submerged rooted vegetation that is densely, patchily, or sparsely distributed on the sea floor. The vegetation includes various species of sea grass (e.g., *Thalassia testudinum*, *Halophila decipiens*, *Syringodium filiforme*, or *Halodule wrightii*); various species of macroalgae (e.g., *Caulerpa spp.*, *Laurencia spp.*, *Halimeda spp.*, or *Dictyota spp.*); encrusting/coralline algae (e.g., *Porolithon gardineri*); or various species of turf algae (e.g., *Sargassum spp.*, *Dictyota spp.*, *Cladophora spp.*, or *Caulerpa spp.*).

Unconsolidated Sediment - This category is defined as coarse sediment (i.e., sand) typically found in areas exposed to currents or wave energy, or fine sediment (i.e., mud) often associated with river discharge or the buildup of organic material in areas sheltered from high-energy waves and currents.

Other Delineations - This category is defined as other types of artificial man-made area or habitat, such as submerged wrecks, large piers, submerged portions of rip-rap jetties, and the shoreline of islands created from dredge spoil, land, or unknown features that cannot be identified due to water turbidity, cloud cover, water depth, or other interference.

²*Building Permit Data*

Data on building permits was available only through disparate data sources, including the U.S. Census Bureau, statistical yearbooks, agency Web sites and personal communications. Therefore, building permit data are not easily comparable across jurisdictions, but are included within each jurisdiction for reference.

Guam - The Guam Statistical Yearbook provides building permit data for several categories, including new residential construction permits from 2000 to 2005.

CNMI - The CNMI Economic Indicators report provides total number of permits issued per year for residential and commercial construction. It does not distinguish between permits for brand-new and permits for alterations. The data covered the years 2003 to 2006.

American Samoa - The American Samoa Statistical Yearbook reports on numbers of permits issued for new structures. New structures are defined as including any new building, Samoan guest fale, or fale and shack. The data covered the years 1980 to 2006.

Puerto Rico - Data on new commercial and residential construction for the years 2000 to 2007 were obtained from the Puerto Rico Rules and Permitting Administration through personal communications.

Hawaii, Southeast Florida and the Florida Keys - The U.S. Census Bureau building permit data for Florida and Hawaii report numbers for single-unit housing, two-unit housing, three- and four-unit housing, and five-or-more-unit housing structures. For purposes of this report, data for two or more units were aggregated to the “multi-unit” category. The reporting period was 2002 to 2006.

According to the Census Bureau, statistics on housing units authorized by building permits include housing units issued in local permit-issuing jurisdictions by a building or zoning permit. Construction is undertaken for all but a very small percentage of housing units authorized by building permits, but there may be months-long delays in the actual start of construction. Building permit statistics should not be directly interpreted as “housing starts.” For more information on building permit data, see the Census Bureau new residential construction Web page at: <http://www.census.gov/const/www/newresconstdoc.html>.

USVI - Data was not readily available.

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