

# 2026 Regional Water Plans Population Projections for Region J

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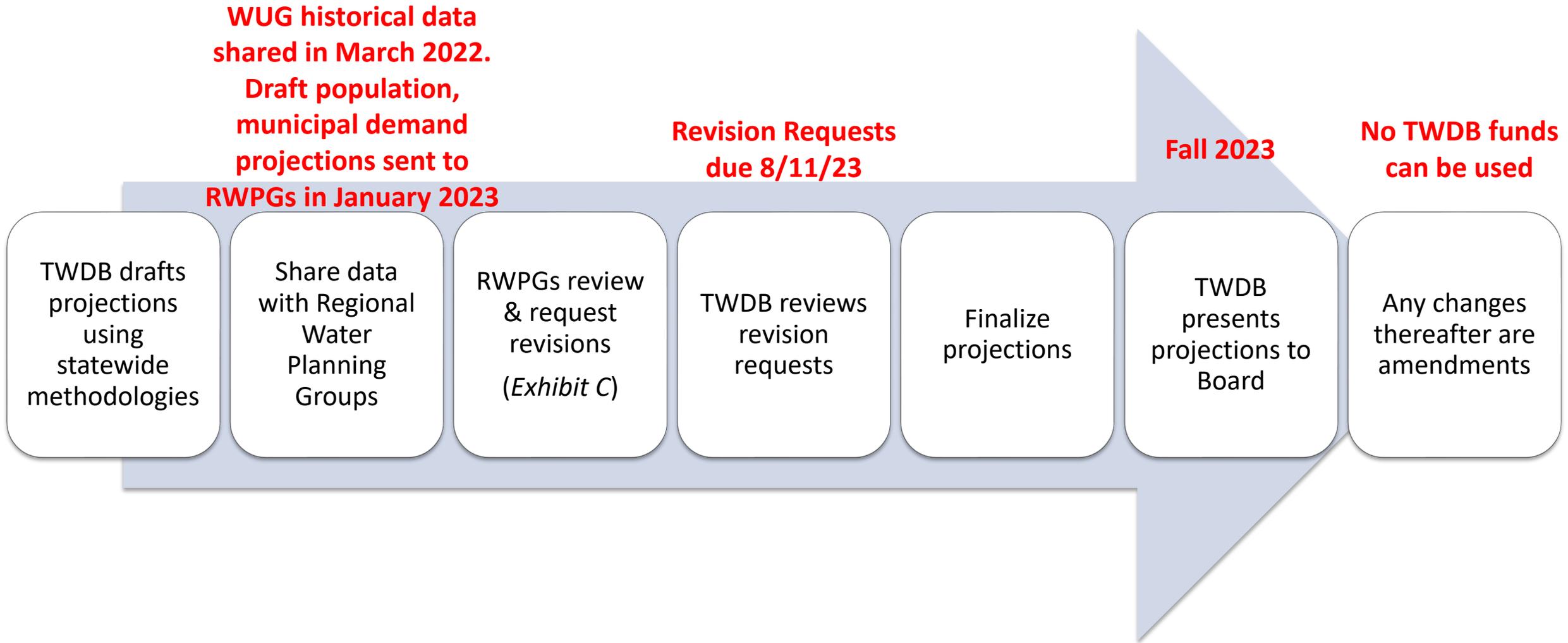
August 2, 2023  
Plateau Region J Planning Group Meeting

# Agenda

- Overview projections process
- Texas Demographic Center data
- What is new to the 2026 cycle
- Over-projection from previous cycles
- Declining birth rates and changing demographics
- County Data
- Transient population
- Revision options using local data



# Projections Process



# Texas Demographic Center (TDC) Methodology

- The TWDB has always relied on the county-level population projections from the TDC to develop the initial population projections for the Regional Water Plans.
- The TDC has used the **same methodology** in the past as they used in the most recent projections, which is a cohort component method.
- Using birth rates, death rates, and migration rates, they project population by age, sex, race, and ethnicity.
- The methodology stays the same with each iteration of their projections, while the **input data changes**.

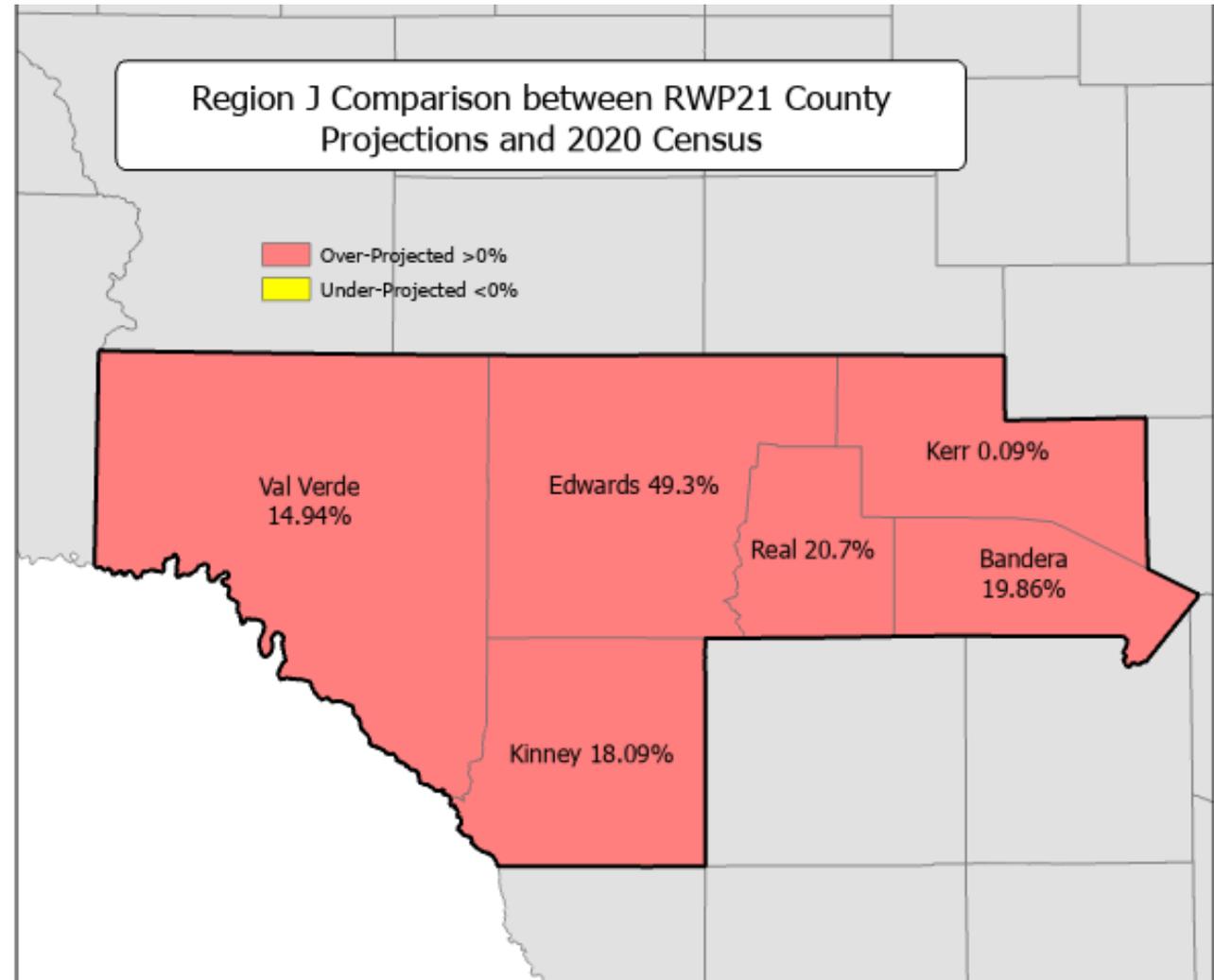
# Population Projections Methodology Comparison

## What has changed since 2021?

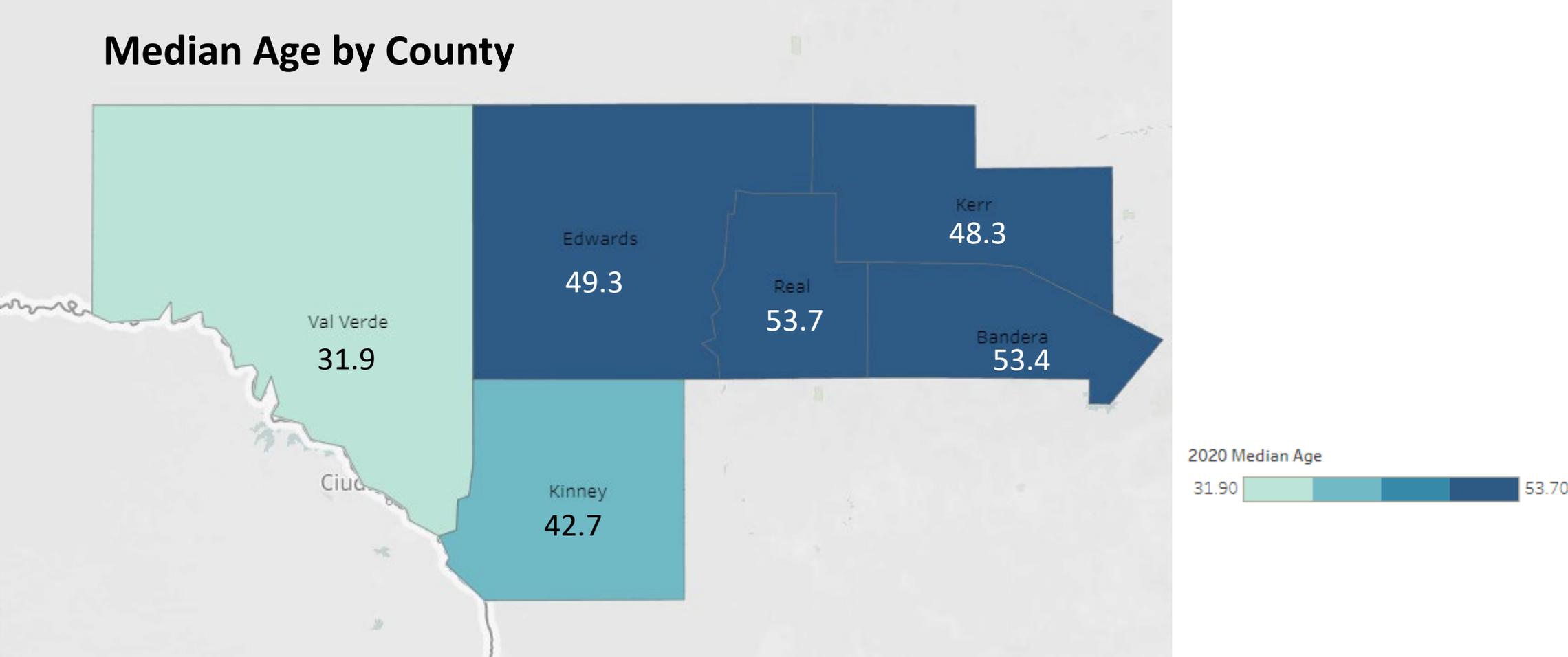
Item	2021 RWP	2026 RWP
Utility-based planning	Yes	Yes
Historical population data source	U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census	<b>U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census</b>
Migration rates	2000 – 2010	<b>2010 – 2020</b>
New base projections?	No, carried over from 2016 RWP	<b>Yes</b>
Projected population data source	2012 Texas Demographic Center Projections	<b>2022 Texas Demographic Center Projections</b>
Hold declining counties constant?	Yes	<b>No</b>
Planning horizon	2020 – 2070	2030 – 2080

# Over-projection in the 2021 RWP

- This map compares the 2020 Census counts to the 2020 projection in the 2021 RWP.
- This indicates how much county populations were over-projected in the 2021 RWP.



# Current Age Demographics



Source: demographics.texas.gov

# Declining Birth Rates from the TDC

	NH Whites	NH Blacks	Hispanics	NH Asians	NH Others
Actual 2010 Birth Rates	1.84	1.85	2.43	1.86	1.84
Actual 2020 Birth Rates	1.58	1.71	2.07	1.35	2.52

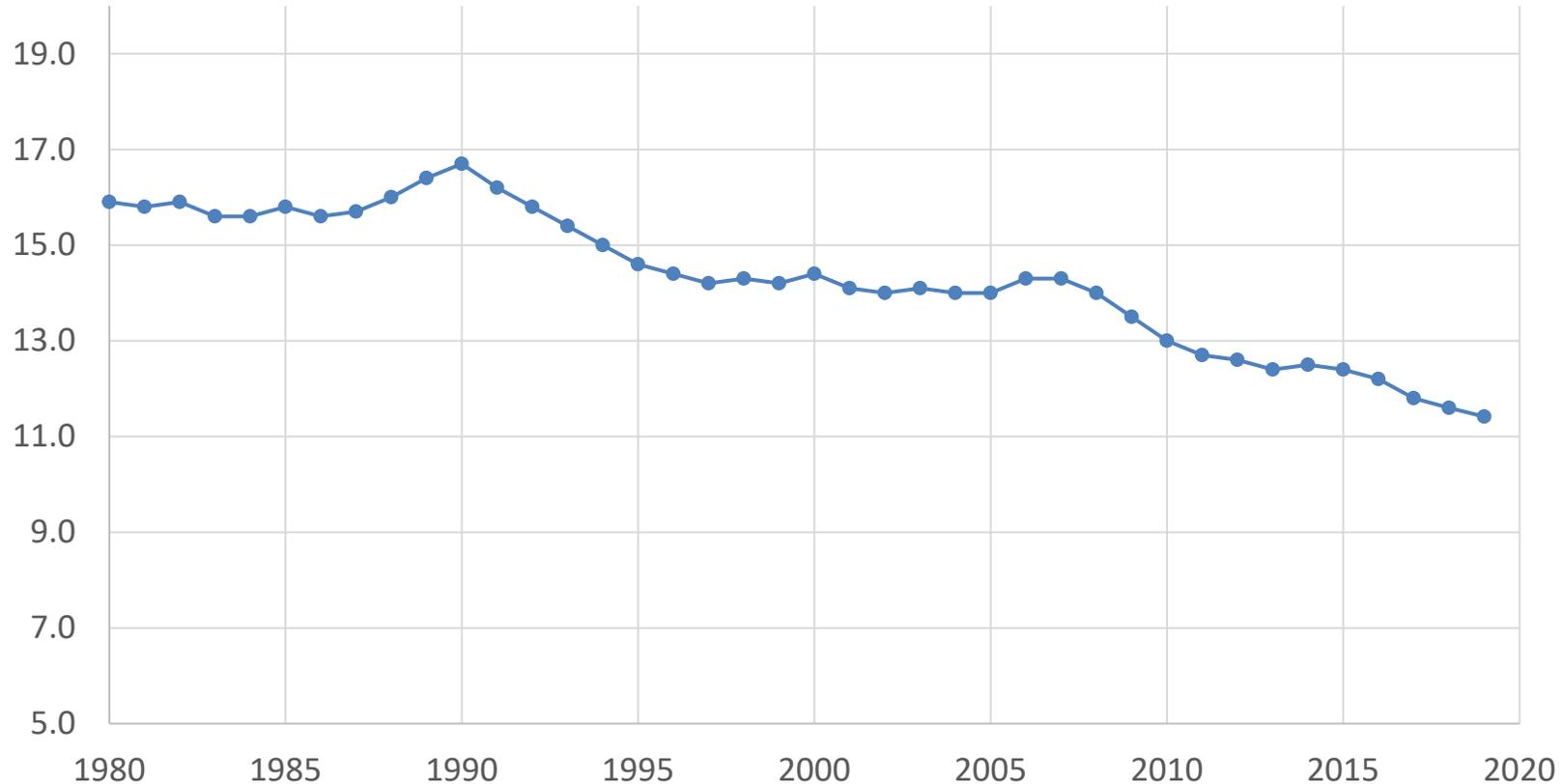
	NH Whites	NH Blacks	Hispanics	NH Asians	NH Others
Previously Projected from 2010 Census (for 2050)	1.81	1.81	2.14	1.81	1.81
Currently Projected from 2020 Census (for 2060)	1.55	1.71	1.88	1.39	1.64

\*NH = Non-Hispanic

<https://demographics.texas.gov/Data/TPEPP/Projections/Methodology2022.pdf>

# This is a National Trend

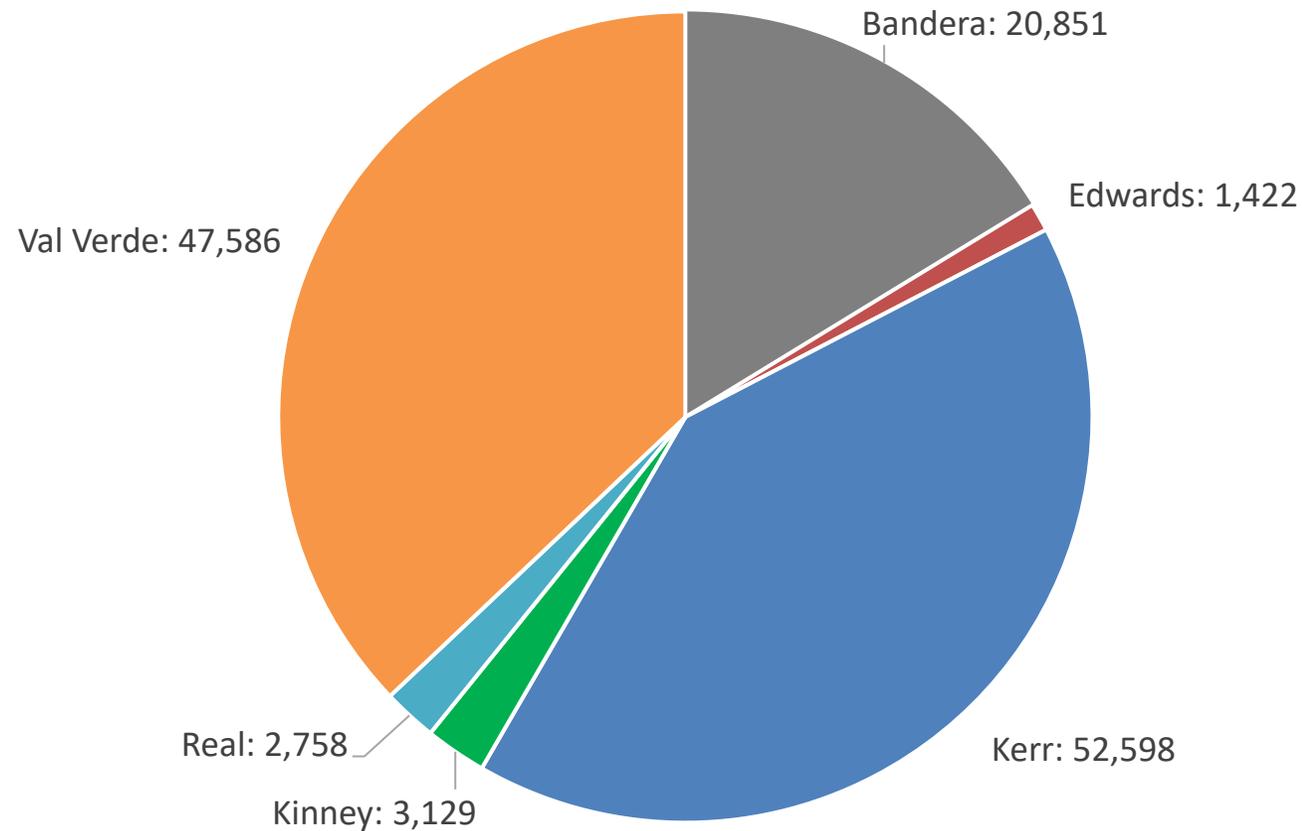
## Crude Birth Rates in the US Since 1980



**Crude Birth Rate:** The ratio between the number of live births in a population during a given year and the total mid-year population for the same year, usually multiplied by 1,000.

Source: CDC.gov

# 2020 Census Population by County

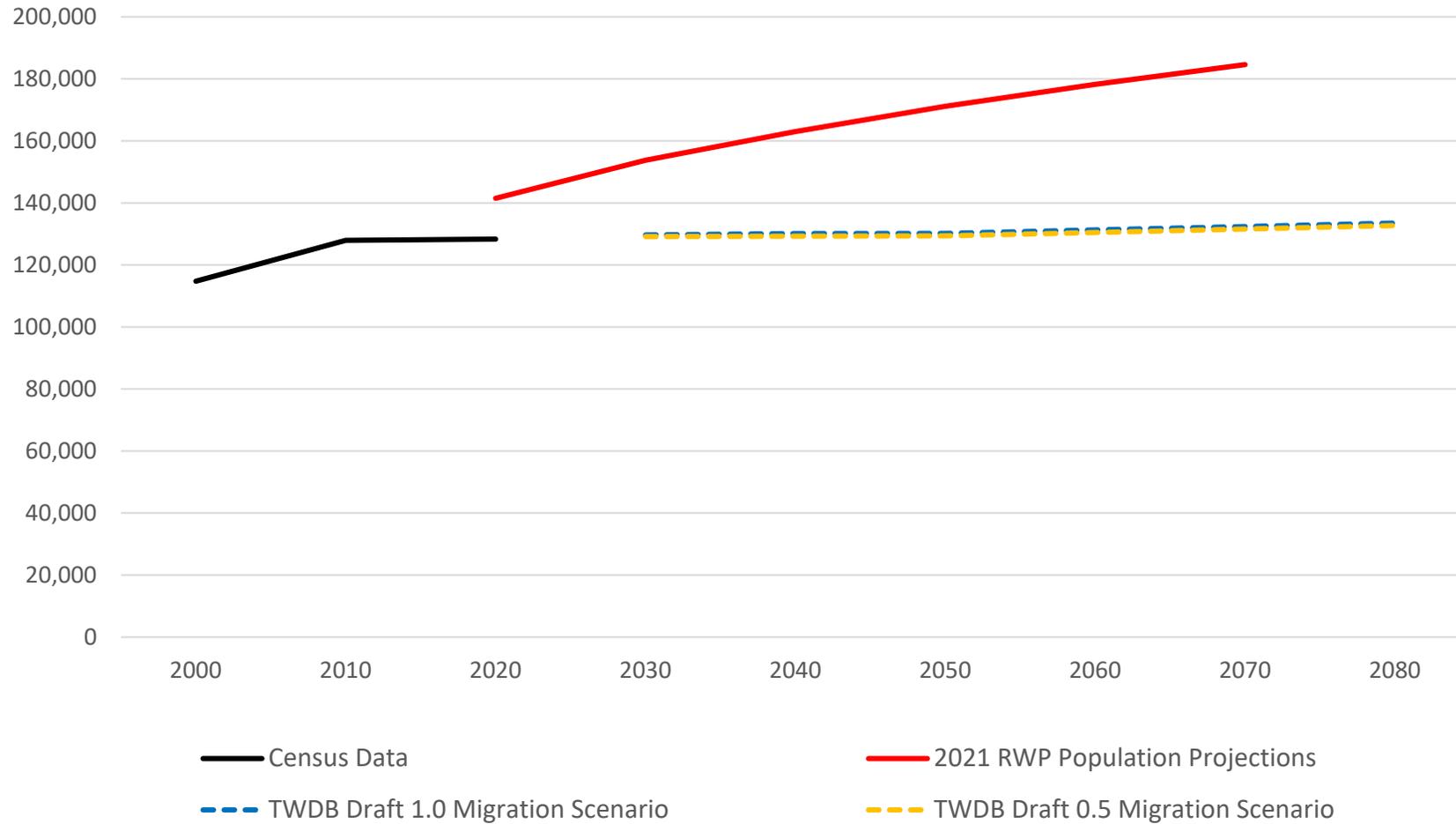


# Population Projections

- Cohort component method
- Age / sex / race / ethnicity
- Natural growth = births – deaths
- Net migration = in-migration – out-migration

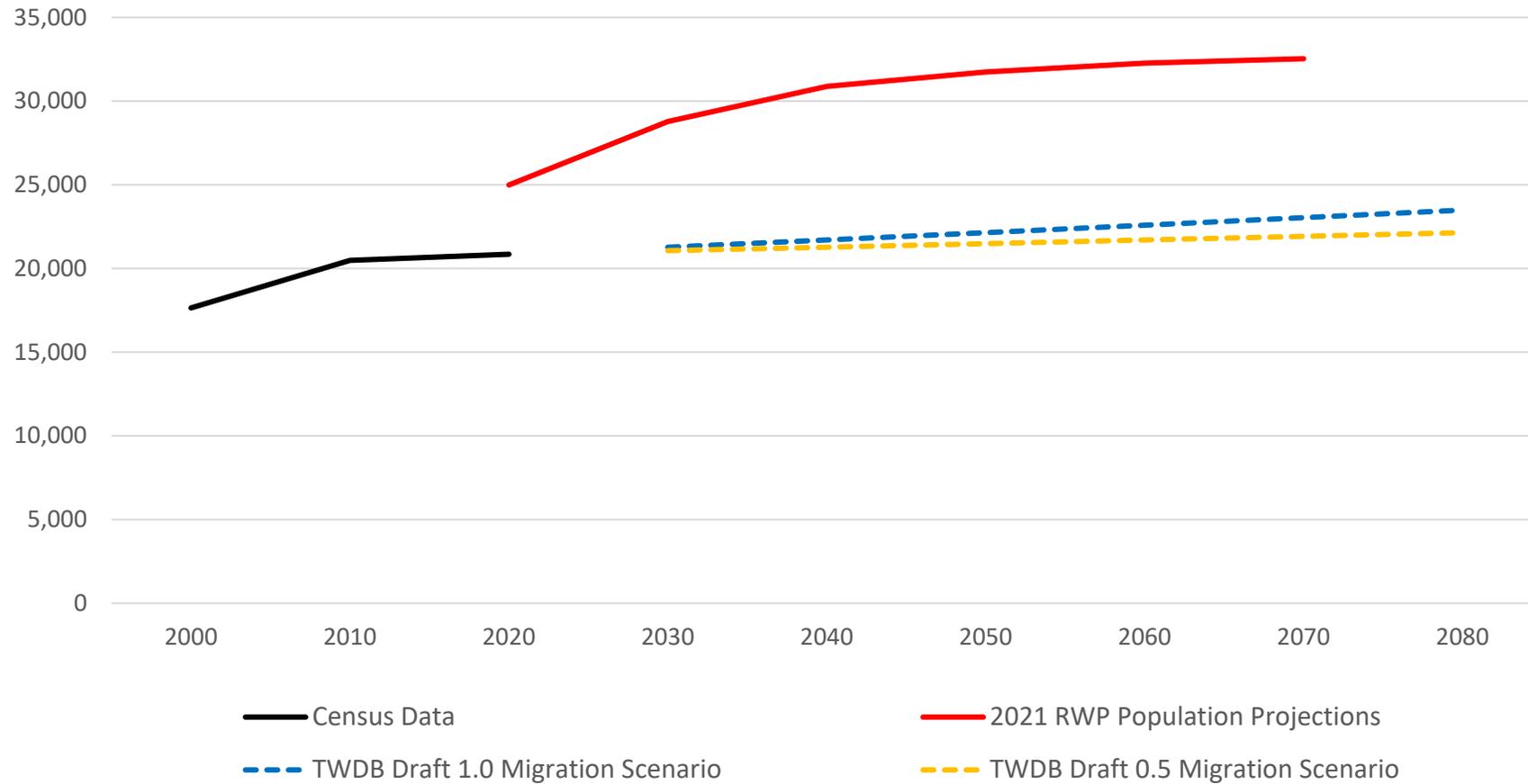
# Region J

Historical and Projected Population



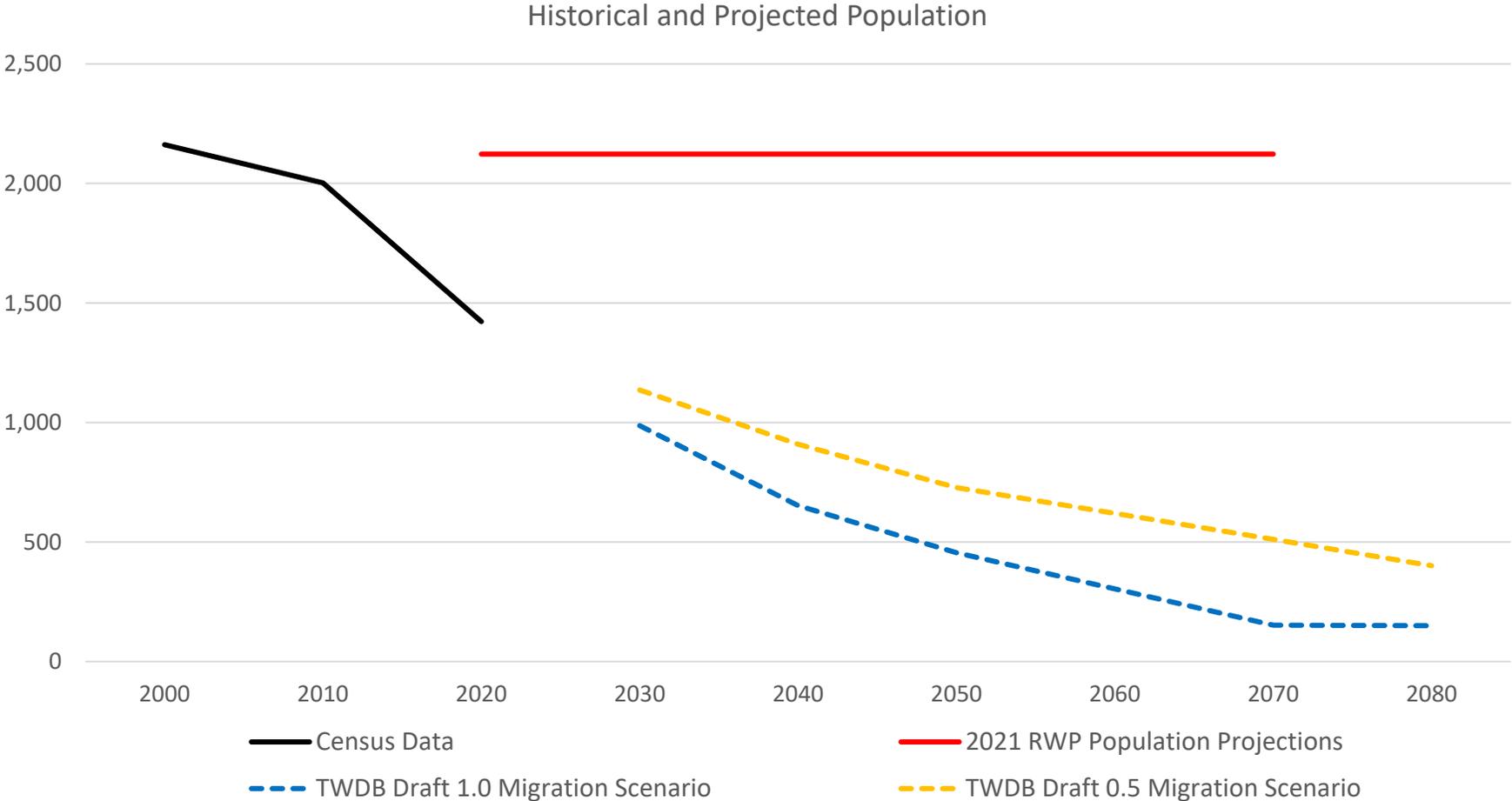
# Bandera County

Historical and Projected Population



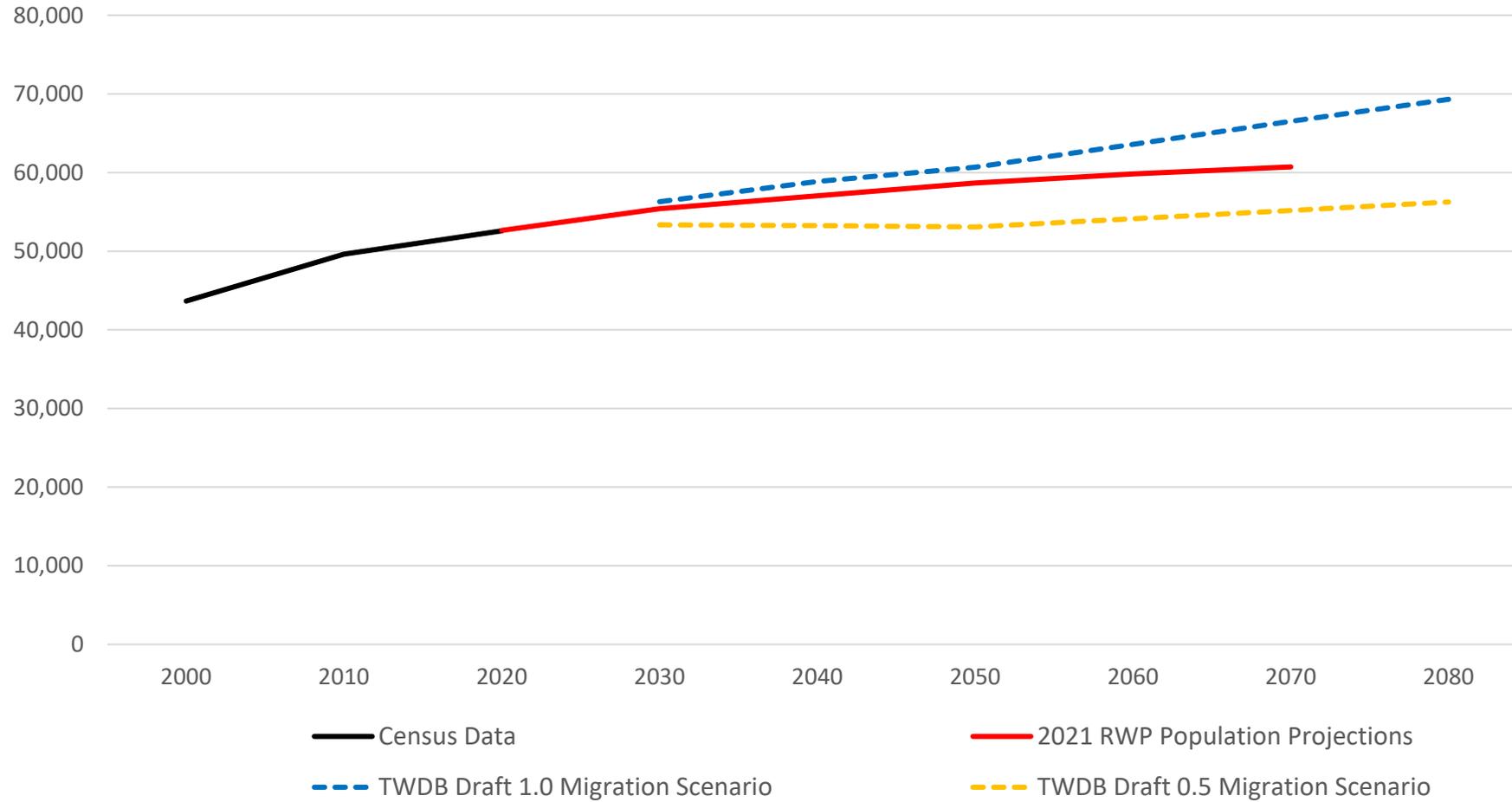
# Edwards County

Population projections held constant in 2021 RWP due to TDC-projected declines.



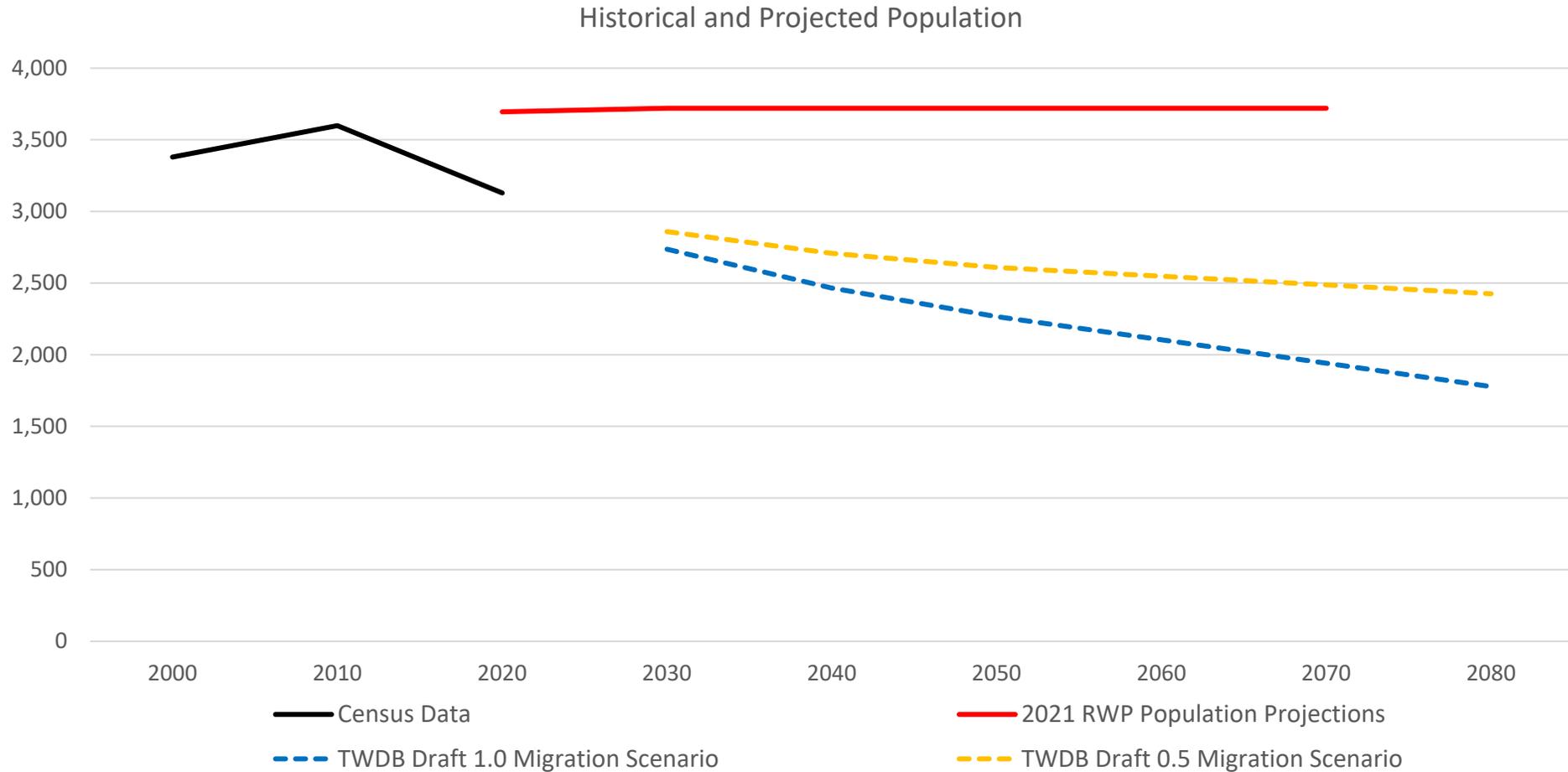
# Kerr County

Historical and Projected Population



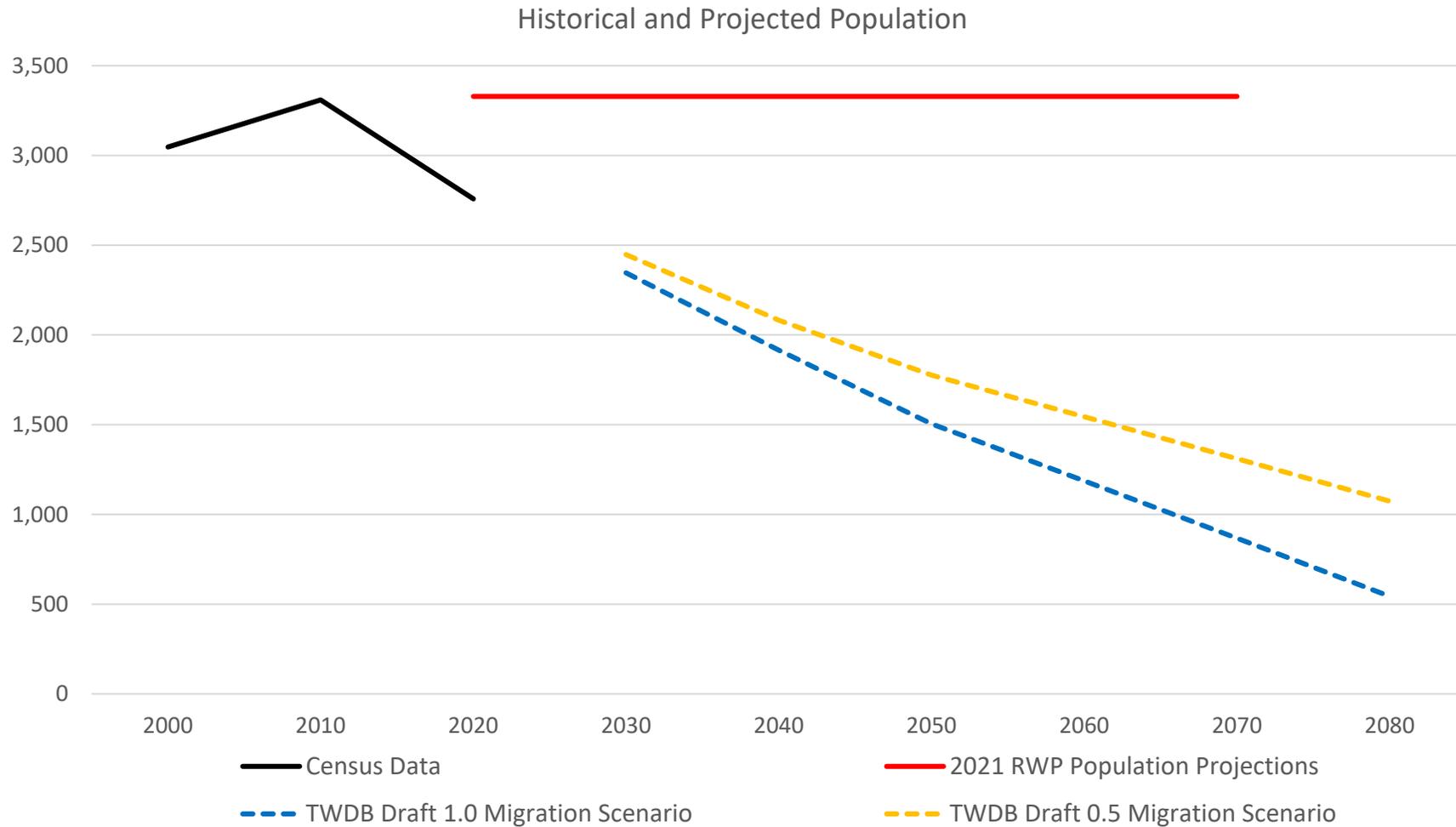
# Kinney County

Population projections held constant in 2021 RWP due to TDC-projected declines.



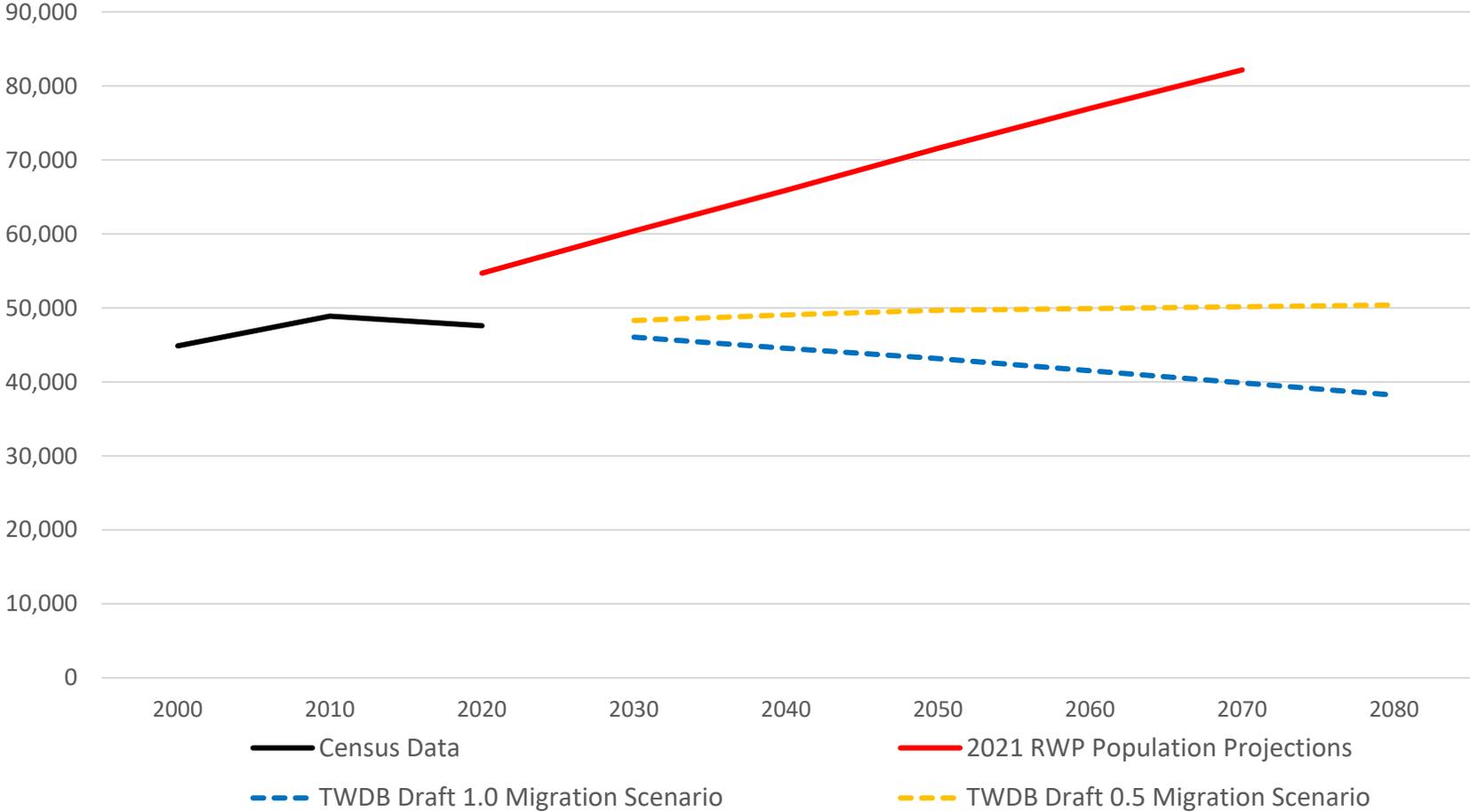
# Real County

Population projections held constant in 2021 RWP due to TDC-projected declines.



# Val Verde County

Historical and Projected Population



# Transient Population & Water Use

- Not part of population estimates or projections (TWDB, TDC, Census Bureau)
- Water use IS part of municipal demands
- Transient population within a PWS
  - Self-reported water use via TWDB Water Use Survey
  - Estimated water use for PWSs that do not respond (roll-over data)
- Transient population not within a PWS
  - Number of people coming/going unknown
  - Water use generally not metered or reported
  - GCD pumping data
  - Non-system population water use estimates

[https://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/education/RuralPopulation\\_WaterUseEstimates.pdf](https://www.twdb.texas.gov/waterplanning/rwp/education/RuralPopulation_WaterUseEstimates.pdf)



# Supporting Information for Revision Requests

- Exhibit C (General Guidelines for Development of 2026 RWPs), Section 2.2
- Active metered connections are useful as a proxy for how many people are *currently* in the utility. Growth in connections shows historical growth but does not necessarily indicate *long-term* growth (50 years across the planning horizon).
- Long-term growth is impacted by demographics, such as birth rates and age of the population.
- Census undercount.
- GPCD & Plumbing code savings projections.

# Questions?

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Stay connected:

