



# Gen3 Model Development Project

Travel Forecasting Subcommittee Meeting

November 20, 2020

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Metropolitan Washington  
Council of Governments

# Discussion Topics

- Synthetic population update
- Household travel survey data coding and visualization tool update





# Synthetic Population Update

# Refresher

- See last TFS meeting slide deck for explanation of
  - PopulationSim software and algorithm
  - Seed data
  - Marginal controls (revisited later in this presentation)



# Implementation Features

- Python based implementation
- Fully automated Census data download
- Runs multiple years in a single run
- Generates residential and group quarters population
- Auto generation of validation charts and summaries



# GitHub Repository

RSGInc / MWCOG\_PopulationSynthesis Private

Unwatch 4

Code Issues Pull requests Actions Projects Wiki Security Insights Settings

base 1 branch 0 tags

Go to file

Add file

Code

landisrm	Minor updates -- overwrite switch, changes to GQ seed, grouped parame...	573734e 5 days ago	115 commits
configs	Minor updates -- overwrite switch, changes to GQ seed, grouped parame...	5 days ago	
data	Including land use data for easier setup	11 days ago	
scripts	Minor updates -- overwrite switch, changes to GQ seed, grouped parame...	5 days ago	
.gitignore	Including land use data for easier setup	11 days ago	
README.md	minor bug fixes in census variables download	12 days ago	
run_scripts.py	Minor updates -- overwrite switch, changes to GQ seed, grouped parame...	5 days ago	

README.md

## MWCOG\_PopulationSynthesis

Repo for developing population synthesis for MWCOG.

### Setup

1. Obtain a US Census API key and store it in a text file. Enter path in `run_scripts.py`
2. Install Miniconda3 via installer to user directory
3. Create Conda environment: `conda create -f configs/popsim_env.yml`
4. Activate conda environment: `conda activate popsim`

### About

Repo for developing population synthesis for MWCOG.

Readme

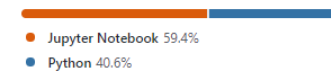
### Releases

No releases published  
[Create a new release](#)

### Packages

No packages published  
[Publish your first package](#)

### Languages



# Software Requirements & Installation

- Get and install **Anaconda** 64bit Python 3
  - Pre-built collection of Python libraries (and underlying C/C++)
- Obtain a **US Census API Key**
  - For auto download of Census data
- Install **PopulationSim** package and dependencies
  - Custom PopulationSim environment
- Download and unzip **MWCOG Population Synthesizer Package**



## Request A Key

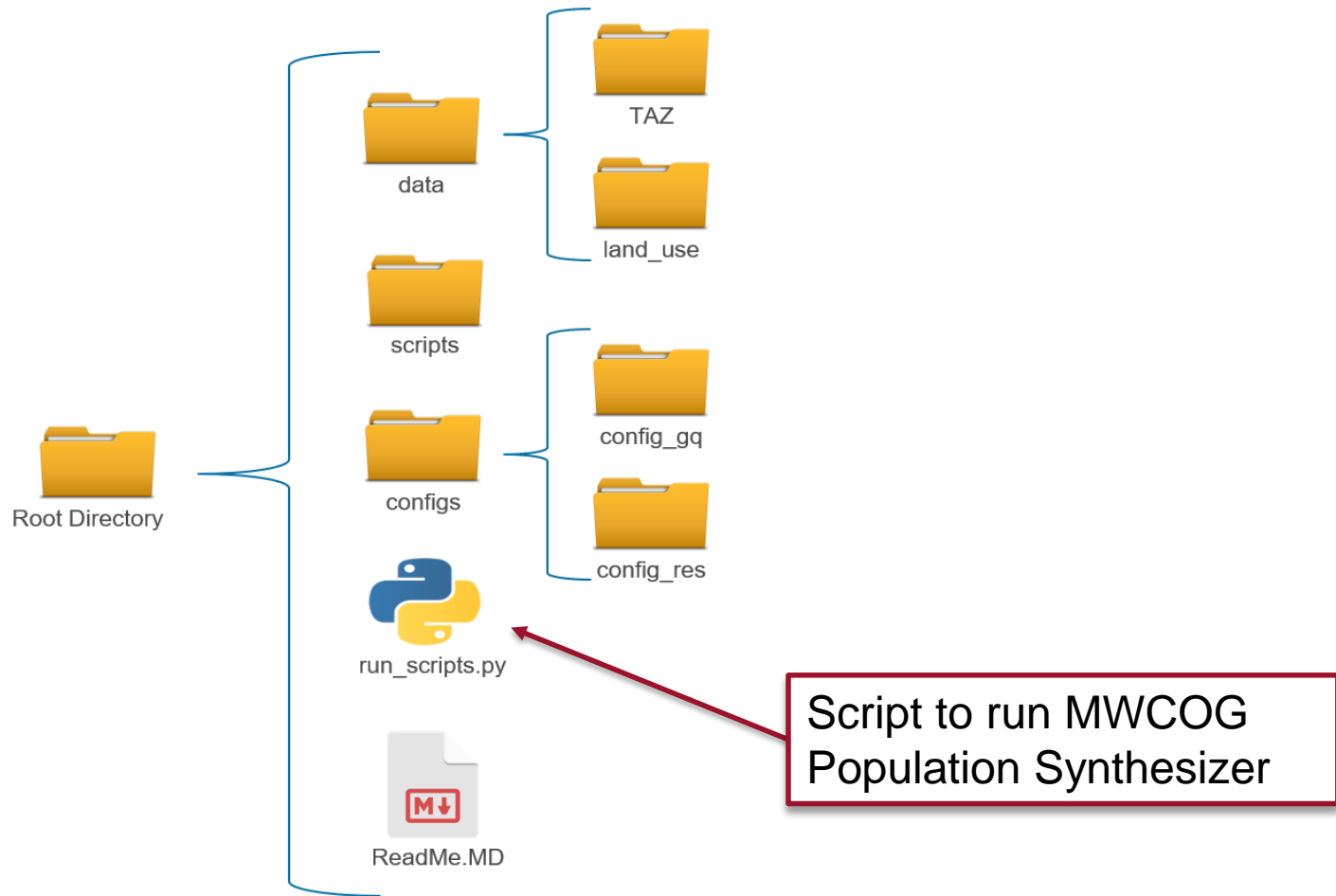
Organization Name:

Email Address:

I agree to the [terms of service](#)



# Directory Setup





# Run Steps

## Data Download

- 01\_get\_pums.py
- 02\_get\_census\_geography.py
- 03\_get\_census.py

## Data preparation

- 04\_create\_crosswalk.py
- 05\_create\_seed\_sample.py
- 06\_create\_controls.py

## Run PopulationSim

- 07\_run\_populationsim.py – launches residential and GQ runs

## Post-processing

- 08\_postprocessing.py

## Validation

- validation.py



## Python-based implementation

A Python script for each step



# Data Preparation

## ☐ Seed Sample

- 2014-18 5-year ACS PUMS
- Variable transformations
  - Adjust income to 2018 \$
  - Number of workers

## ☐ Geographic crosswalk

- PUMA, Tract, and TAZ shape files
- Tract-to-TAZ, TAZ-to-PUMA

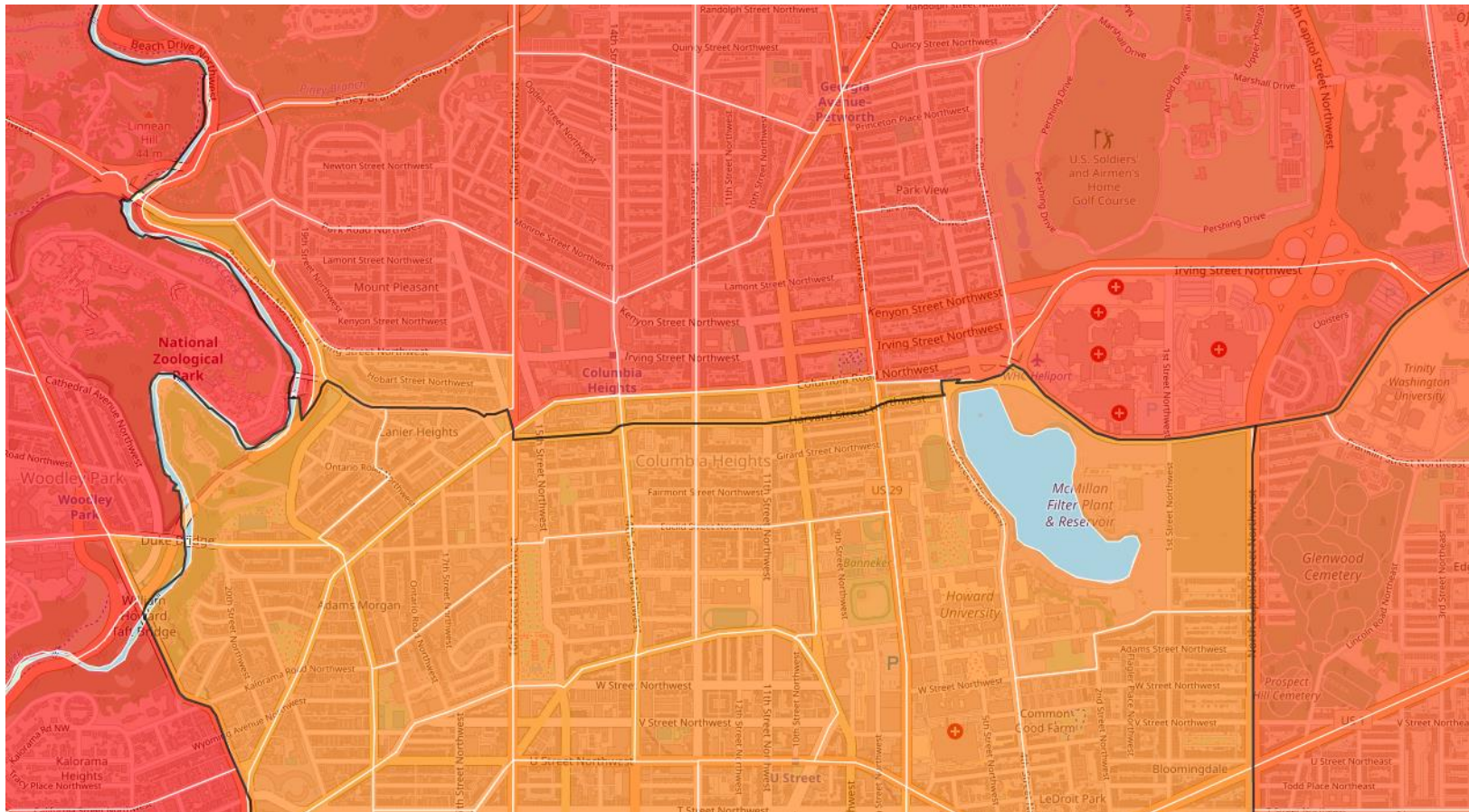
## ☐ Marginal Controls

- Tract level Census distributions (2018 ACS)
- Tract to TAZ disaggregation
- Rescaling at TAZ level using Round 9.1a Forecasts



# TAZ-PUMA Crosswalk

TAZs are assigned to PUMAs with maximum overlap



# Census Distributions

## *Tract-to-TAZ Disaggregation*



TRACTCE	TAZ	Fraction of Tract in TAZ
701701	250	0.00129
701701	613	0.00411
701701	616	0.15714
701701	617	0.31864
701701	618	0.00014
701701	619	0.31679
701701	620	0.20189

### Tract to TAZ Disaggregation

Tracts to TAZs



Sum TAZs



Rescale TAZs



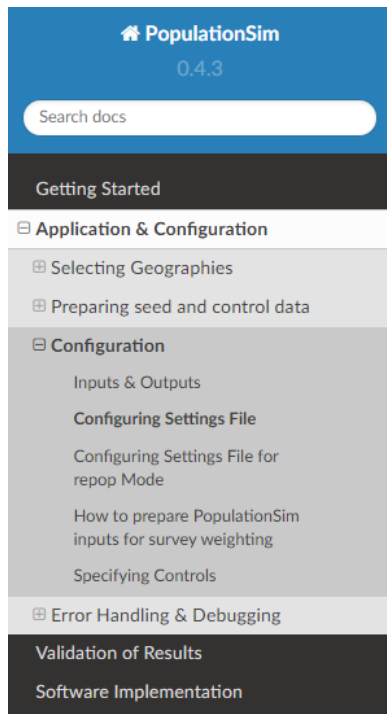
TAZ-level Controls

Round 9.1a CF



# Configuration – core PopulationSim

- Settings.YAML and controls.csv for residential and GQ runs
- Online wiki: <https://activitysim.github.io/populationsim/>



## Configuring Settings File

PopulationSim is configured using the `configs/settings.YAML` file. The user has the flexibility to specify algorithm functionality, list geographies, invoke tracing, provide inputs specific to the application, and list the steps to run. The settings shown below are from the PopulationSim configuration for the CALM region as an example of how a run can be configured. The meta geography region is named as *Region*, the seed geography is *PUMA* and the two sub-seed geographies are *TRACT* and *TAZ*. The settings below are for this four geography application, but the user can configure PopulationSim for any number of geographies and use different geography names.

Some of the settings are configured differently for the *repop* mode. The settings specific to *repop* mode are described in the [Configuring Settings File for repop Mode](#) section.

### Algorithm/Software Configuration:

These settings control the functionality of the PopulationSim algorithm. The settings shown below are currently the defaults as they were the ones used to validate the final PopulationSim application for the CALM region. They should not be changed by the casual user, with the possible exception of the `max_expansion_factor` setting, as explained below.

```
INTEGERIZE_WITH_BACKSTOPPED_CONTROLS: True
SUB_BALANCE_WITH_FLOAT_SEED_WEIGHTS: False
GROUP_BY_INCIDENCE_SIGNATURE: True
USE_SIMUL_INTEGERIZER: True
```



# Configuration – run\_scripts.py

## User Inputs

```
# %% User parameters-----  
  
# Years for which to synthesize data  
sim_years = [2018, 2030, 2045]  
  
# Should existing PopSim output be overwritten?  
# Does not affect downloaded input data.  
overwrite_output = False  
  
# Enter the path to your census API key here.  
census_key_path = os.path.join(os.getenv('HOMEDRIVE'), os.getenv('HOMEPATH'),  
                               'Documents', 'census-api-key.txt')
```



# Add a new forecast year

- Requires TAZ level land use data for the forecast year
- Add the land use data to the ***data/land\_use*** directory
- Use same data and filename format
- Update ***sim\_years*** in ***run\_scripts.py*** to include the new forecast year

```
# Years for which to synthesize data  
sim_years = [2018, 2030, 2045]
```

```
land_use/  
├── LU_taz3722_rnd91a_2015_adj.dbf  
├── LU_taz3722_rnd91a_2018_adj.dbf  
├── LU_taz3722_rnd91a_2020_adj.dbf  
├── LU_taz3722_rnd91a_2025_adj.dbf  
├── LU_taz3722_rnd91a_2030_adj.dbf  
├── LU_taz3722_rnd91a_2035_adj.dbf  
├── LU_taz3722_rnd91a_2040_adj.dbf  
└── LU_taz3722_rnd91a_2045_adj.dbf
```



# Input Data Updates

- To select a different vintage of PUMS data
  - Configure the following settings in `run_scripts.py`

```
# PUMS data download settings
pums_dir = os.path.join(data_dir, 'PUMS') # Path to save the PUMS data
pums_year = 2018
pums_period = '5-Year' # '5-Year' or '1-Year'
```

- To select a different source of control data
  - Configure `configs/census_variables_needed.csv` file
- To change TAZ level HH totals or population
  - Update the land use data for the forecast year in the `data/land_use` directory





# Example – changing HH Income Thresholds

- New thresholds should be consistent with Census income groups
- Update the 06\_create\_controls.py script to generate appropriate marginal control fields
- Update the expressions and control\_field names in the configs/controls.csv

Less than \$10,000
\$10,000 to \$14,999
\$15,000 to \$19,999
\$20,000 to \$24,999
\$25,000 to \$29,999
\$30,000 to \$34,999
\$35,000 to \$39,999
\$40,000 to \$44,999
\$45,000 to \$49,999
\$50,000 to \$59,999
\$60,000 to \$74,999
\$75,000 to \$99,999
\$100,000 to \$124,999
\$125,000 to \$149,999
\$150,000 to \$199,999
\$200,000 or more

Census income groups

## Controls.csv file

target	geography	seed_table	importance	control_field	expression
hh_inc_0_25	TAZ	households	1000	income_0to25	(households.hhincadj > -999999999) & (households.hhincadj <= 25000)
hh_inc_25_50	TAZ	households	1000	income_25to50	(households.hhincadj >25000) & (households.hhincadj <= 50000)
hh_inc_50_100	TAZ	households	1000	income_50to100	(households.hhincadj > 50000) & (households.hhincadj <= 100000)
hh_inc_100_150	TAZ	households	1000	income_100to150	(households.hhincadj > 100000) & (households.hhincadj <= 150000)
hh_inc_150_200	TAZ	households	1000	income_150to200	(households.hhincadj > 150000) & (households.hhincadj <= 200000)
hh_inc_200_plus	TAZ	households	1000	income_200plus	(households.hhincadj > 200000) & (households.hhincadj <= 999999999)

PopulationSim wiki instructions on specifying controls

[https://activitysim.github.io/populationsim/application\\_configuration.html#specifying-controls](https://activitysim.github.io/populationsim/application_configuration.html#specifying-controls)



# MWCOG PopulationSim Controls

CONTROL VARIABLE	CATEGORIES	CONTROL SOURCE	GEOG
<b>Household Variables</b>			
<b>Total number of households</b>		Round 9.1 Cooperative Forecast	TAZ
<b>Household Size</b>	1, 2, 3, 4+	2018 ACS 5-year. Census Tract [Table S2501]	TAZ
<b>Household Income</b>	0-\$25K, \$25K-\$50K, \$50K-\$100K, \$100k-\$150K, \$150K-\$200K, \$200K+	2018 ACS 5-year. Census Tract [Table B19001]	TAZ
<b>Number of Workers</b>	0, 1, 2, 3+	2018 ACS 5-year. Census Tract [Table B08202]	TAZ
<b>Presence of Children</b>	0, 1	2018 ACS 5-year. Census Tract [Table S1101]	TAZ
<b>Person Variables</b>			
<b>Person Age</b>	0-4, 5-19, 20-34, 35-64, 65+	2018 ACS 5-year. Census Tract [Table S0101]	TAZ
<b>Person Race</b>	White, Hispanic, Black, Asian, Other	2018 ACS 5-year. Census Tract [Table DP05]	TAZ



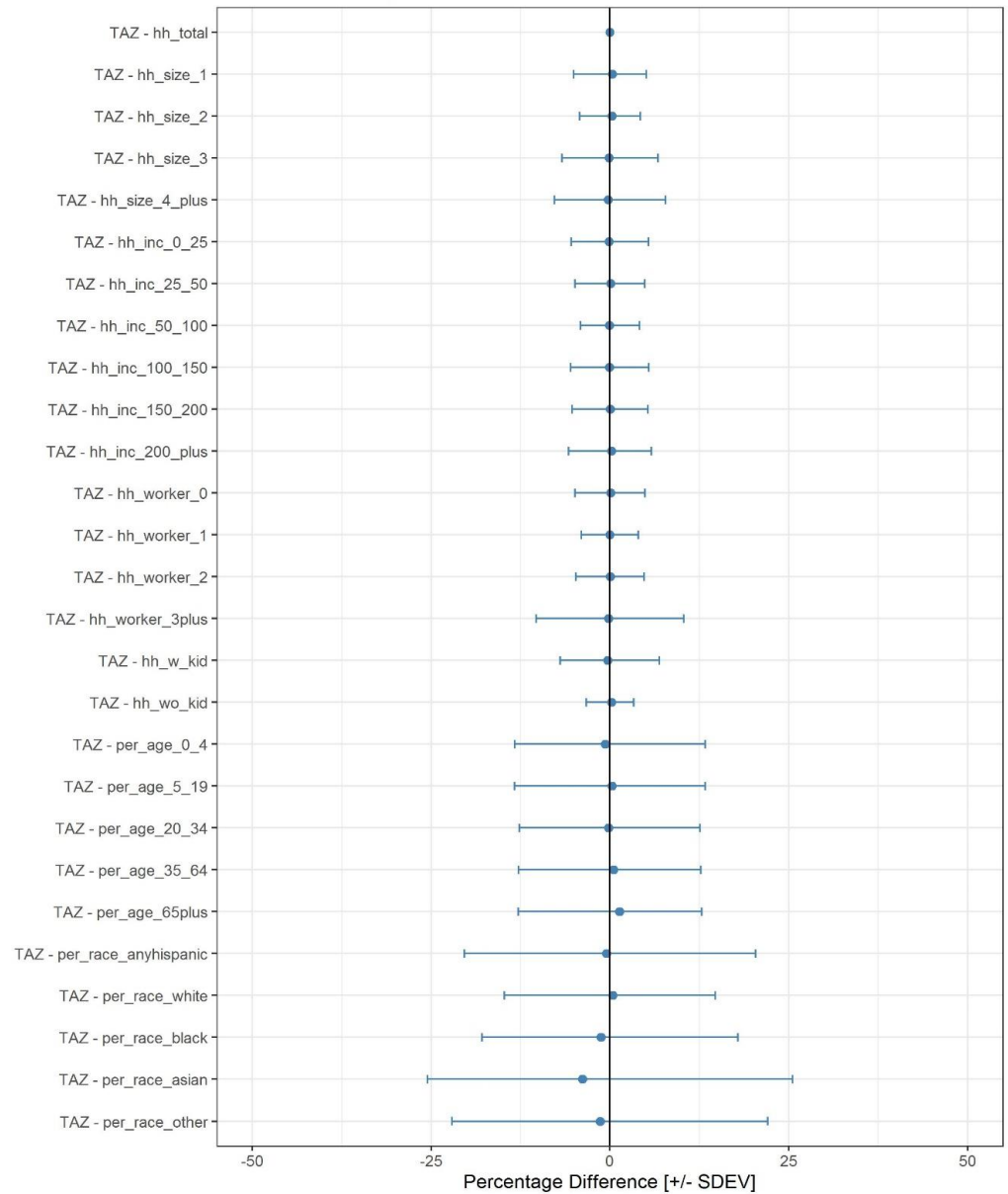
# GQ Controls

CONTROL VARIABLE	CATEGORIES	SOURCE	GEOG
Total GQ units		Round 9.1 Cooperative Forecast, and 2010 SF1	TAZ
GQ Type	University, Military, Other Non-Institutional	Round 9.1 Cooperative Forecast, and 2010 SF1	TAZ



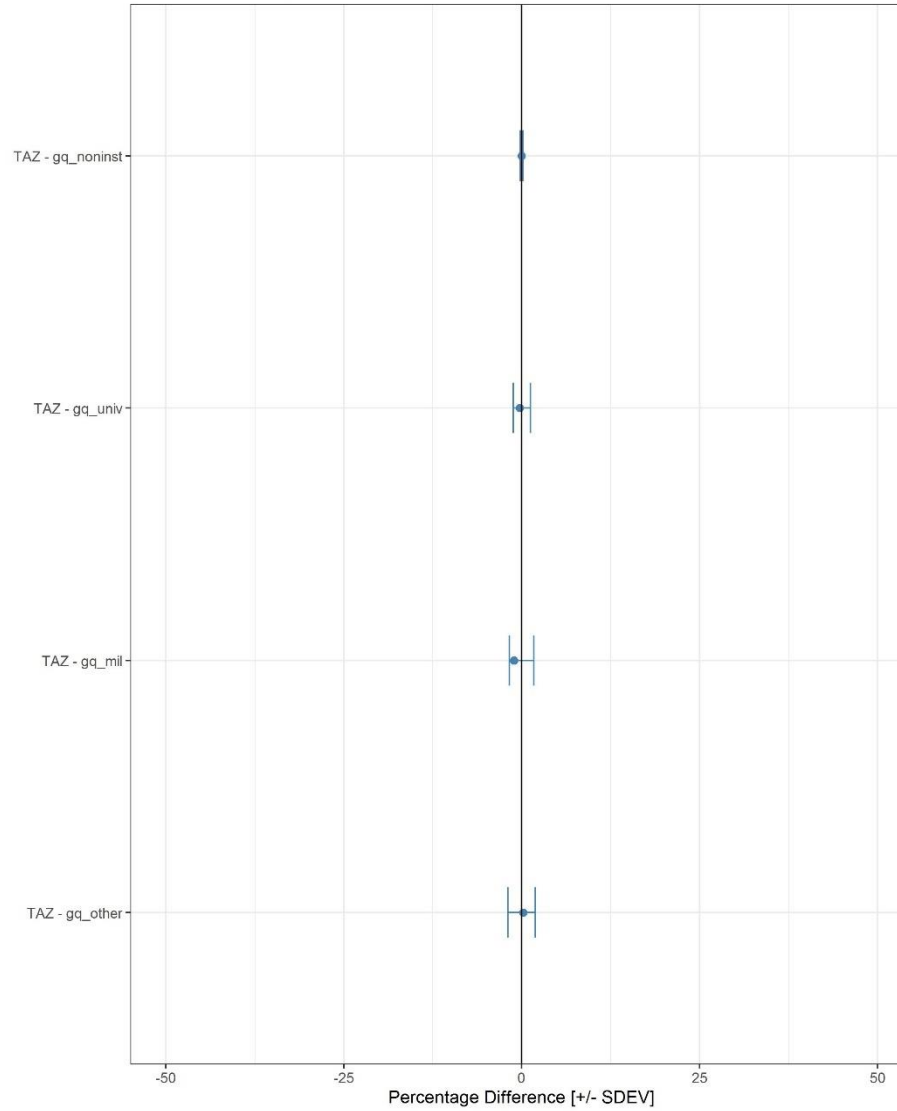
# 2018 Residential

MWCOG 2018 PopulationSim Controls Validation



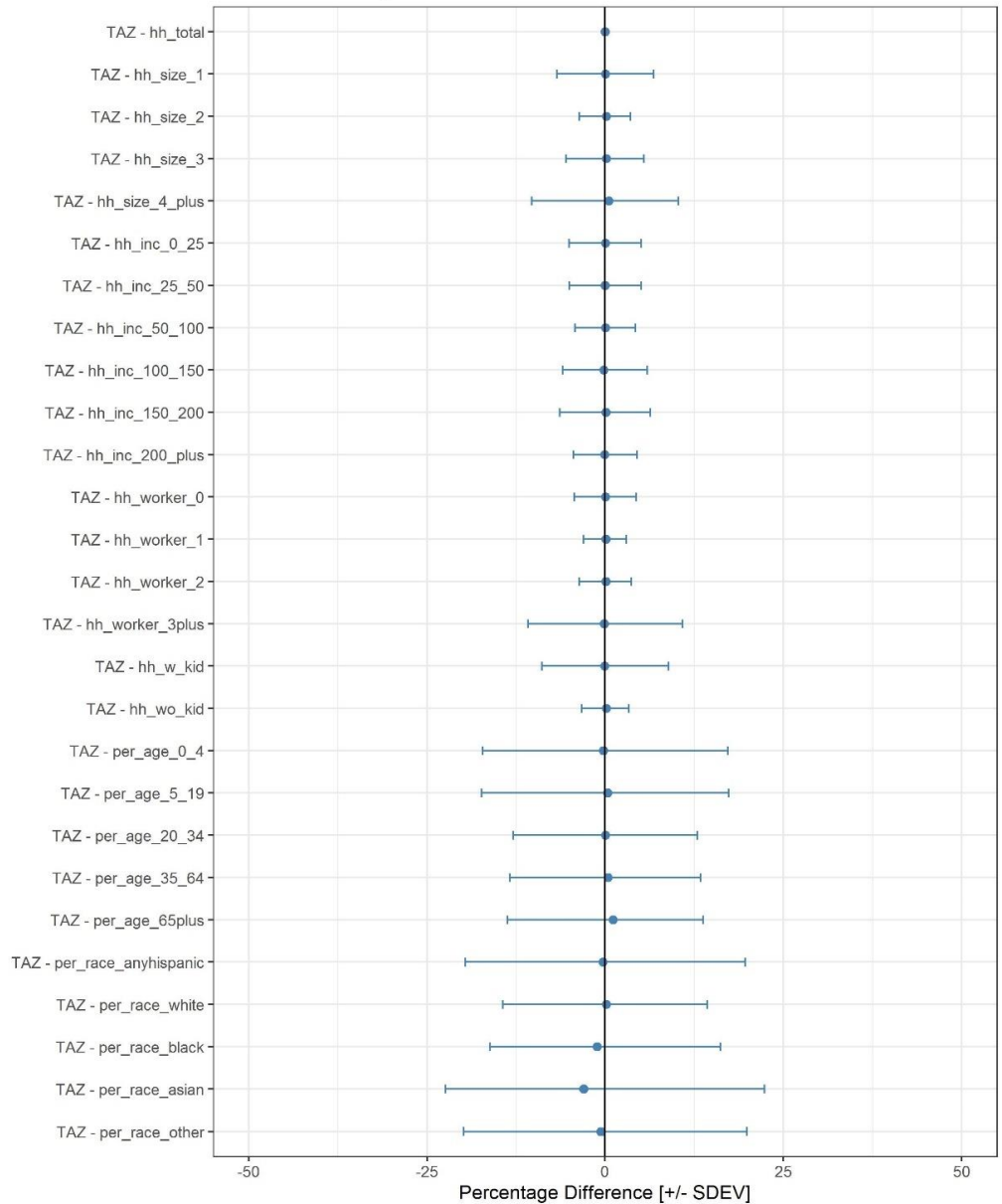
# 2018 GQ

MWCOG 2018 PopulationSim Controls Validation



# 2045 Residential

MWCOG 2045 PopulationSim Controls Validation



# Documentation



**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL  
OF GOVERNMENTS (MWCOC)**

## **MWCOG POPULATION SYNTHESIZER**

Final Report | November 18, 2020



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(MWCOC)

SUBMITTED BY:  
RSG



**Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC)  
MWCOG POPULATION SYNTHESIZER**

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# Household Survey Coding Update



# Household Survey Data Processing Overview

- Combined Regional Travel Survey/Maryland Travel Survey
- Sample of 18,022 households containing 39,251 persons
- Includes 126,900 trips
- Survey Processing Application transforms data into *ActivitySim* format



# ActivitySim Data Format

## Households:

- Size
- Income
- Workers
- Vehicles
- Number of children
- Home TAZ

## Persons:

- Age
- Employment status
- Student Status
- Work TAZ
- School TAZ
- Person Type

## Tours:

- Purpose
- Mode
- Type
- Origin TAZ
- Destination TAZ
- Start Time
- End Time
- Joint Status

## Joint Tours:

- Household members on tour

## Trips:

- Purpose
- Mode
- Origin TAZ
- Destination TAZ
- Start Time
- End Time

## Survey Processing Requires:

- Person Type Coding
- Grouping trips into tours
- Mode and purposes to match those in ActivitySim

Generated by  
Survey  
Processing  
Application



# Person Type Coding

Output	Input Condition		
Person type [PERSONTYPE]	AGE [AGE]	Employment Category [EMP_CAT]	Student Category [STU_CAT]
1: Full-time worker	>=16	Full-time (1)	any
2: Part-time worker	>=16	Part-time (2)	Not attending (3)
3: University student	>=17	Not full-time (2,3)	College+ (2)
4: Non-worker	>=16 and <=64	No (3)	No (3)
5: Retired	>=65	No (3)	No (3)
6: Student of driving age	>=16 and <=19	Not full-time 2,3	K-12 (1)
7: Student of non-driving age	>=6 and <=15	Not in labor force (4)	K-12 (1)
8: Child too young for school	>=0 and <=5	Not in labor force (4)	K-12, Not attending (1,3)

## No part-time worker information in Household Travel Survey!

- Neither work hours per week or part-time work status was asked
- Part-time work status needs to be imputed



# Part Time Status Imputation

## SEMCOG Part-Time Status Imputation Model

- Trained Machine Learning (Random Classification) model on 2005 dataset
- Household, person, activity, travel variables
- Applied the 2005 model to impute part-time status in 2015 dataset

## MWCOG Part-Time Status Imputation Steps:

- Process relevant variables in the format required for SEMCOG model
- Deploy SEMCOG model to workers in MWCOG RTS



# Survey Processing Application (SPA)

The SPA tool cleans and processes HTS's into CT-RAMP format

## SPA Algorithm:

- ▶ For each observed household
- ▶ Create a HOUSEHOLD object
- ▶ For each observed person
  - ▶ Create a PERSON object for the HOUSEHOLD
  - ▶ Compute person type
  - ▶ For each series of observed place records that start and end at home
    - ▶ Create a TOUR object for the PERSON
    - ▶ For each series of observed place records that make up a linked trip within the tour
      - ▶ Create and attribute a TRIP object
      - ▶ For each leg of the trip involving joint travel
        - ▶ Create a JOINT\_ULTRIP object for the HOUSEHOLD
    - ▶ Populate tour attributes
    - ▶ Match JOINT\_ULTRIP objects into joint travel episodes
  - ▶ Compute escort related attributes for TRIPs
  - ▶ Create and attribute a JOINT\_TOUR object for each fully joint tour
  - ▶ Compute escort related attributes for partially joint tours



# Visualizer

## MWCOG HTS vs. MWCOG HTS\_2 Calibration Summary

- Welcome
- Overview
- Long Term
- Tour Level
- Trip Level
- Assignment
- District Summaries

Source Code

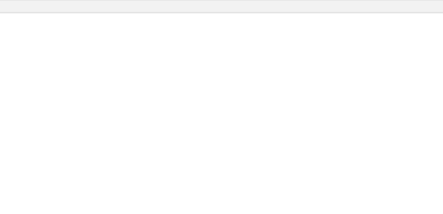
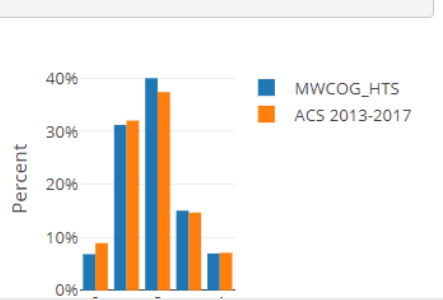
Results of household auto ownership model, which predicts number of vehicles per household.

### Mandatory TLFD

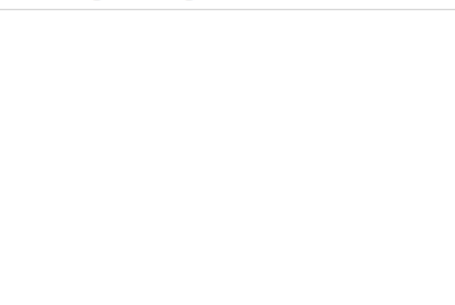
Results of work and school location choice models.

Distribution of workers by distance between home and usual work place, and students by distance between home and school location.

Census source: ACS 2013-2017

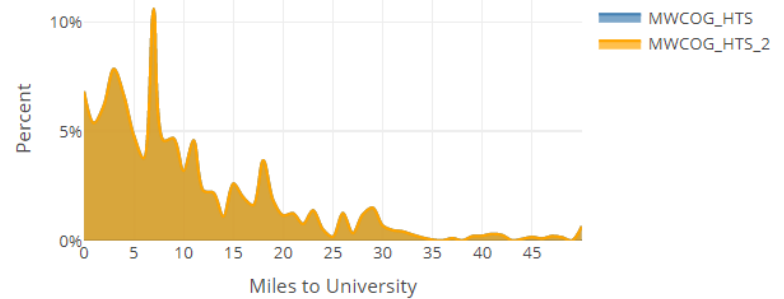
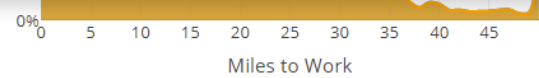


Percentage Working From Home



### Select District

- Total
- Montgomery
- Prince Georges
- Prince William
- Spotsylvania
- St. Marys
- Stafford
- Washington
- Total



# Visualizer

This page summarizes day-pattern and tour generation model results.

### Daily Activity Pattern

Results of Coordinated Daily Activity Pattern (CDAP) model, summarized for each person.

*M*: One or more mandatory tours

*N*: No mandatory tours but one or more non-mandatory tours

*H*: No tours (either home all day or out of area)

### Percentage of Households with Joint Tour

Also the result of the CDAP model, summarized for each household.

### Mandatory Tour Frequency

Result of the mandatory tour frequency model, summarized for each person with a daily activity pattern type *M*

### Tour rate by person type

Summary of tours per person resulting from all tour generation models. Joint tours are counted for each participant.

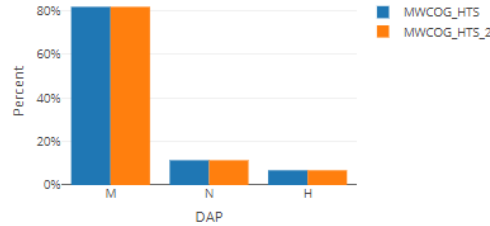
### Individual non-mandatory tour frequency

Results of individual non-mandatory tour frequency model, summarized for each person with a daily activity pattern type *M* or *N*.

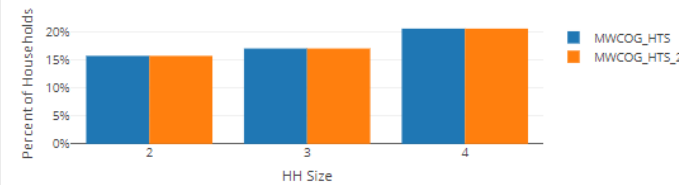
#### Daily Activity Pattern

##### Select Person Type

FT Worker



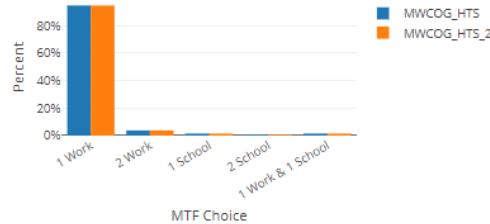
#### Percentage of Households with a Joint Tour



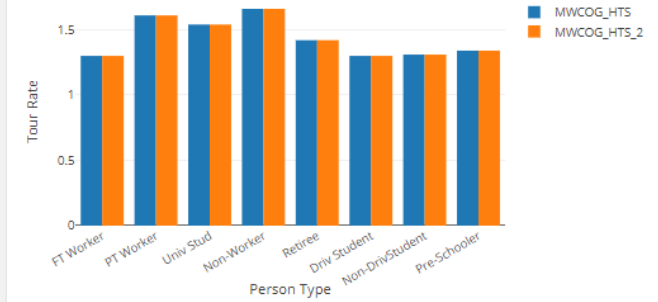
#### Mandatory Tour Frequency

##### Select Person Type

FT Worker



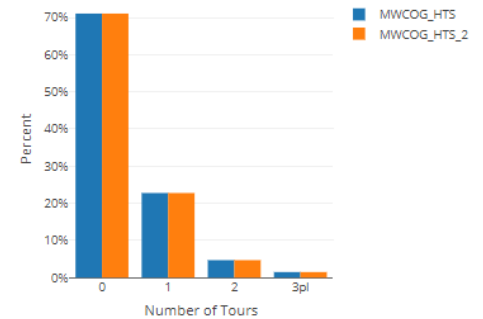
#### Total Tour Rate (only active Persons)



#### Persons by Individual Non-Mandatory Tours

##### Select Person Type

FT Worker



# Visualizer

## Tour Departure Arrival & Duration

Tour Time-of-day Choice Model results.

Each tour is assigned a time period of departure (time leaving home or work) and arrival (time arriving back at home or work). The entire day is divided into 18 one-hour bins (the first bin includes 3:00 AM to 6:00 AM and the last bin includes 11:00 PM to 3:00 AM).

Tour duration is calculated as a function of departure and arrival period. It includes travel time and time spent at the primary destination and all intermediate stops.

Results are shown for tours, filtered by tour purpose.

## Aggregate Tour Arrival-Departure

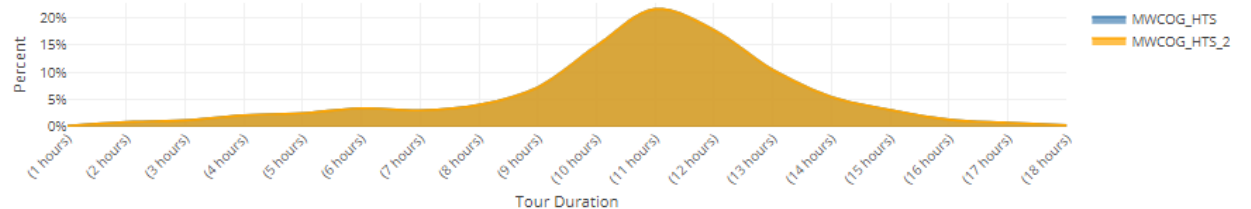
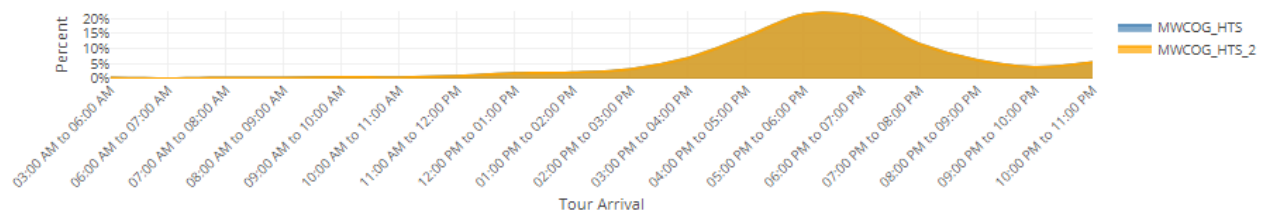
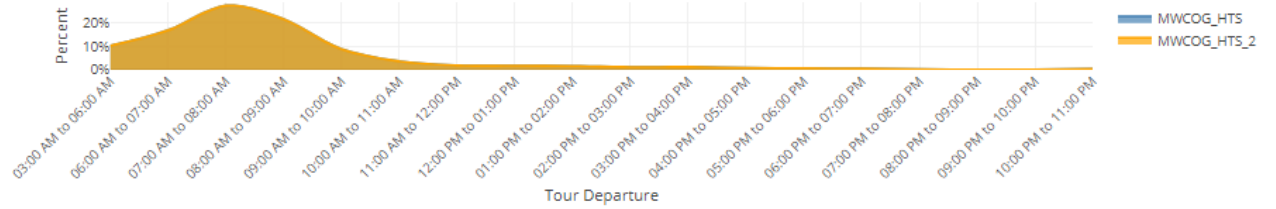
- EA: 3:00 AM to 5:59 AM
- AM: 6:00 AM to 8:59 AM
- MD: 9:00 AM to 2:59 PM
- PM: 3:00 PM to 6:59 PM
- EV: 7:00 PM to 2:59 AM

### Tour Departure-Arrival Profile

#### Select Tour Purpose

- Work
- Indiscretionary
- Indi-Maintenance
- Joint-Discretionary
- Joint-Maintenance
- School
- Total
- University
- Work

### Tour Aggregate Departure-Arrival Profile





# Immediate Next/Ongoing Activities

- Household survey re-expansion
  - With MTS data
- Transit on-board data coding
  - Internal/external trip tables
- ActivitySim implementation





the science of insight



---

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