

REQUIREMENTS FOR USE OF DRU STATISTICS

California law **requires** cities and counties to use population statistics from the Department of Finance's (DOF) **Demographic Research Unit (DRU)** for specific purposes, primarily related to the **Gann Initiative appropriations limit** (Article XIII B of the State Constitution) and the allocation of certain state funds.

Key Legal Requirements

- **Appropriations Limit (Gann Initiative):** The California Constitution, specifically Article XIII B (the Gann Initiative), mandates a limit on state and local government spending. To calculate this annual appropriations limit, local jurisdictions (cities and counties) are required to use population change data certified by the DOF. The DOF's DRU is the entity responsible for producing and certifying these official population estimates.
- **Revenue Allocation:** California Revenue and Taxation Code section 11005.6 mandates the DOF to automatically certify population estimates that exceed the current certified population to the State Controller's Office. These certified figures are used for the allocation of certain state revenues to cities and counties.
- **Housing Unit Estimates:** The DOF is also mandated to collect housing unit data annually from every city and county. This data is a basis for the housing unit method used to produce official population estimates.

Role of the Demographic Research Unit (DRU)

The DRU is the official source of demographic data for the State of California, producing population estimates and projections that state and local agencies are required to use for various planning and reporting purposes. These include:

- Annual city and county population estimates.
- Population projections with components of change (births, deaths, migration).
- Public school enrollment projections.

The use of this standardized, official data ensures consistency across different government entities within the state. For specific details on current data and methodology, you can visit the [California Department of Finance Demographics page](#).