

**South Florida Regional Transportation Authority
Tri-Rail Station Area Demographic Analysis**

Methodology for Census Information

Demographic data was collected for census block groups, the smallest level of geography for which 2000 Census data with detailed socio-economic characteristics is available. The data for housing units and resident population was drawn from Summary File 3, which contains the Census Bureau's detailed long-form (sample) tabulations. Block groups for each of the 19 stations were selected by drawing a ½ mile radius around the station and selecting all block groups that had some portion of their area within the diameter. Considering the average size and the irregular boundaries of block groups compared to the areas selected for each station, many of the block groups fell partially inside and partially outside of the target areas for analysis. It was decided in most cases to include the entire block group in the tabulations if any portion fell within the boundary around the station – this ensured that the generalized characteristics of the population that resides in the vicinity of the station would be reflected in the tabulated totals. However, when the piece of a block group inside the target area was very small compared to the overall size of the block group, we did not include it. Station totals, individual county totals and 3-county totals were produced for all selected block groups in the targeted areas. Note, however, that 3 variables contained in the demographic profiles are not suitable for aggregation: (1) median household income; (2) median contract rent; and (3) median value for owner-occupied housing. Given the statistical nature of medians, we were forced to use the weighted average of the block group medians for each of these variables as a proxy for station totals, county totals and 3-county totals.

Compiled by: South Florida Regional Planning Council
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