

THE LESLIE MATRIX AND FEMALE POPULATION IN THE UNITED STATES

Brittney Nelson and Antonija Tangar, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science

Faculty Sponsors: Drs. Denise T. Reid and José A. Vélez-Marulanda, Department of Mathematics and Computer Science

This research tests the accuracy of the Leslie matrix, which is a discrete age-structured method that uses fertility and survival rates, as a tool for predicting women population. Based on available data for the year 2000, we have constructed a Leslie matrix that predicts female population in the United States for every five years from the years 2000 to 2020. To test the accuracy of this method, we compare the aforementioned obtained projected data for the year 2010 with the actual data for women population in the United States obtained by the 2010 U.S. Census.