

Data Stewardship Executive Policy Committee (DSEP)

Monique Eleby

Assistant Office Chief, Policy Coordination Office

U.S. Census Bureau

Mission

To ensure that the Census Bureau can effectively and responsibly collect and use data about the nation's people and economy. Doing so requires protecting respondents' privacy and data confidentiality throughout the entire data lifecycle. This responsibility reflects the Census Bureau's firm commitment to fully meet the legal, ethical and reporting obligations levied by the Census Act, the Privacy Act, the Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act, and all other applicable statutes and legal authorities, including those of government agencies and other entities supplying data to the Census Bureau.

History

- Original Charter April 23, 2001
 - Chartered by Director William Barron
 - Shelly Wilkie Martinez took the first set of Minutes
- Former Chairs
 - John Thompson
 - Hermann Habermann
 - Jay Waite
 - Tom Messenbourg
 - Nancy Potok
 - Enrique Lamas
- Current Chair
 - Ron Jarmin

Membership

Associate Director for Decennial Census Programs
Al Fontenot

Associate Director for Demographic Programs
Tori Velkoff

Associate Director for Field Operations
Tim Olson

Associate Director for Economic Programs
Nick Orsini

Associate Director for Research and Methodology and Chief Scientist
John Abowd

Deputy Director/Chief Operating Officer
(Chair)
Ron Jarmin

Assistant Director for Communications
Misty Reed

Chief Information Officer
Luis Cano

Chief, Office of Program, Performance, and Stakeholder Integrations
Dave Ziaya

Chief of Staff
Christa Jones

Assistant Director for Research and Methodology
John Eltinge

Chief of the Policy Coordination Office/
Chief Privacy Officer
Mary Potter

At-Large Members (2 Designated by Chair on Rotation)

Currently:

Deidre Bishop – Chief, Geography Division

Paul Beatty – Chief, Center for Behavioral Science Methods

Policy Coordination Office

Provides Staff Support, Prepare/Vet Issues Policies, Set Agendas, Keep Committee Records

Scope

- Focus is on policy
- DSEP serves as the Census Bureau's enterprise-level focal point for policy issues related to respondent privacy, data security, data confidentiality, data management, record linkage, and administrative data

DSEP Policies

[DSEP Committee \(census.gov\)](https://www.census.gov/data-stewardship/policies/)



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DATA PROTECTION AND
PRIVACY POLICY

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Data Stewardship Executive Policy Committee

The Census Bureau maintains an unwavering commitment to protect the confidentiality of your information. The Data Stewardship Executive Policy Committee ensures the Census Bureau maintains its commitment, by fulfilling the legal, ethical, and reporting obligations levied by the Title 13 of the U.S. Code, the Privacy Act, and other applicable statutes, including those of governmental and other suppliers of data to the Census Bureau.



Download DSEP Charter [PDF] - [[1.0](#) MB]

Data Stewardship Policies

FILTER MATERIALS BY

	PP - Privacy Principles Policy	[<1.0 MB]
	DS001A - Administrative Data Acquisition, Access, and Use	[<1.0 MB]
	DS001B - Handbook for Administrative Data Projects	[<1.0 MB]
	DS002 - Policy on Title 13 Benefit Statements	[<1.0 MB]
	DS006 - Controlling Non-Employee Access Policy	[<1.0 MB]
	DS007 - Safeguarding and Managing Information	[<1.0 MB]
	DS012 - Negotiating Collaborative Arrangements Policy	[<1.0 MB]
	DS012 - Attachments	[<1.0 MB]
	DS014 - Data Linkage Policy	[<1.0 MB]
	DS014 - Attachment A: Data Linkage Checklist for Project Contacts	[<1.0 MB]
	DS014 - Attachment B: Legal Authorities, Ethical Guidance, and Relevant Policies and Procedures	[<1.0 MB]
	DS014 - Attachment C: Definition of Terms	[<1.0 MB]
	DS015 - Policy on Accepting Reimbursable Projects	[<1.0 MB]
	DS015 - Attachments	[<1.0 MB]
	DS016 - Policy on Respondent Identification and Sensitive Topics in Dependent Interviewing	[<1.0 MB]
	DS016 - Checklist for a Survey's Handling of Sensitive Topics and Very Sensitive Topics in Dependent Interviewing	[<1.0 MB]

Subcommittees

Five committees support DSEP:

1. Disclosure Review Board
2. Privacy Policy and Research Committee
3. Data Integration Policy Committee
4. Data Governance Board
5. Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act Privacy board

Examples of DSEP Issues

- Custom Tabulation Policy
- Controlling Non-Employee Access Policy – Telework, Virtual Access, Survey Sponsor Data Centers, Joint Statistical Projects
- Emerging Issues (e.g., Use of Email, Text Messaging, Web Scraping)
- Record Linkages
- Disclosure Avoidance Modernization

Disclosure Avoidance Modernization

- Modernized our approach to confidentiality protection for the 2020 Census in the face of new, digital-age threats
- A powerful new disclosure avoidance system (DAS) designed to withstand modern re-identification threats will protect 2020 Census data products (other than the apportionment data, those state-level totals remain unaltered by statistical noise)
- Inspired by cryptographic principles, the 2020 DAS is the only solution that can respond to this threat while maximizing the availability and utility of published census data
- Full timeline at [Disclosure Avoidance Modernization \(census.gov\)](https://www.census.gov/das/modernization)

Major DSEP Decisions on 2020 Census Disclosure Avoidance Modernization

January 2010

DSEP acknowledges that 2010 Census DA methods will likely be insufficient for 2020

June 2016

DSEP briefed on disclosure threat of Reconstruction-abetted Re-identification

December 2017

Threat of reconstruction of T13 Microdata added to Census Bureau Risk Register

February 2018

DSEP suspends planned 2020 Census products and mandates development and use of 2020 Census DAS

February 2019

DSEP briefed on results of Simulated Reconstruction-abetted Re-identification Attack

June 2021

DSEP sets production parameters (PLB) for 2020 Census P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data Summary File

Sub-State Operational and Quality Metrics

- DSEP's February 2018 decision regarding disclosure avoidance for the 2020 Census requires evaluation of documented use cases for all data products being considered for public release
- Operational and quality metrics are considered Census response information, thus are governed by that decision
- To date, we have no documented use cases requiring public release of sub-state operational and quality metrics

Sub-State Operational and Quality Metrics

Restricted Access Option:

- The Census Bureau can make Title 13-protected operational and quality metrics available for analysis by Special Sworn Status individuals on the NAS panel, or via the Federal Statistical Research Data Centers
- Disclosure avoidance would be applied to the results of those analyses

Public Release Option:

- If presented with documented use cases requiring public release of operational and quality metrics, DSEP could approve expenditure of privacy-loss budget for this purpose

References

- [Data Stewardship Executive Policy Committee Website](#)
- [Our Privacy Principles](#)
- [Transparency policy](#)
- [Organization of the Disclosure review board](#)
- [2020 Census Disclosure Avoidance System: Development and Release Timeline](#)
- [Disclosure Avoidance Modernization](#)
- Questions?
 - Mary Potter, Chief Policy Coordination Office
 - mary.catherine.potter@census.gov

Thank You!