The National Academies of
SCIENCES · ENGINEERING · MEDICINE

Panel to Evaluate the Quality of the 2020 Census
Committee on National Statistics
Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education

Second Meeting, Panel to Evaluate the Quality of the 2020 Census

August 30–31 and September 2, 2021
Virtual Format

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Please note:

- *This meeting will be recorded for internal purposes only, to aid the panel's subsequent discussions, and the audio/video recordings will not be posted online.*
- *Floor discussion/question-and-answer periods are intended to permit panel members to ask questions.*
- *Should discussion in the open session periods wind down earlier than expected, the panel reserves the right to adjourn to closed/deliberative session at the discretion of the chair.*

Day 1: Monday, August 30 — *Open Session, 12:30–5:00pm, as necessary*

12:30pm **Call to Order, and Introductions**
10   TERESA SULLIVAN, *Chair, University of Virginia*

12:40pm **Overview of the Development of the Internet Response System**
Presentation to include (a) prehistory of Internet response in the 2010 and earlier censuses (e.g., the limited use in the 2000 Census and the deployment of Internet response using Centurion in major Census Bureau surveys), (b) planning, testing, and development during the 2010s of the technical systems to implement Internet response (more from a systems/capacity standpoint than specific time-and-yield differences between different reminder cues), (c) overview of how the Internet response channel functioned (or was planned to work in 2020) — including, importantly, the late decision to switch to Primus as the data collection platform — understanding that little can be said about effectiveness/quality of the systems until the Bureau's assessment is complete, and (d) again absent assessment results, initial clear takeaways or directions for 2030.
60   KRISTEN HEARNS, *U.S. Census Bureau*

1:40pm   **Overview of Non-ID Processing**
Presentation to include (a) prehistory of Non-ID Processing in the 2010 and earlier censuses (e.g., the historical "Be Counted" model and other instances in which questionnaires entered processing without pre-assigned Master Address File IDs), (b) planning, testing, and development during the 2010s of the technical systems to implement Non-ID Processing, (c) overview of how it functioned (or was planned to work) in 2020, understanding that little can be said about effectiveness/quality of the systems until the Bureau's assessment is complete, and (d) again absent assessment results, initial clear takeaways or directions along Non-ID lines for 2030.

60   DANIEL DONELLO, *U.S. Census Bureau*

2:40pm   ***BREAK***

3:00pm   **Roundtable Discussion: Lessons Learned and Suggested Improvements for 2030 from 2020 Census Field Staff**
Informal discussion involving a small group of 2020 Census enumerators, field operations supervisors, and Area Census Office personnel, identified through a combination of panel members' contacts and the Census Bureau's Field Division. This discussion is meant be evocative and preliminary, including a mix of geographic locations and staff positions but not intended to be a comprehensively representative canvass of the field experience. We anticipate that the staff members will take a few moments to introduce themselves and their role in the 2020 Census (and any previous censuses), before a general Q&A/discussion with the panel, including: (a) preparedness for the job and thoughts on the effectiveness of training, (b) experience with enumerator/supervisor communication processes in 2020 and the utility of automated alerts, (c) functionality of the technology for enumerator case assignment, data collection, and payroll information collection, (d) level of interaction, if any, between enumerators/supervisors and the area or regional census management, including partnership activities; (e) insights on the changes (and communication thereof) in operations made on the fly in response to the pandemic, wildfires, and other situations, and (f) suggestions for improvements in 2030, including the balance of decentralized vs. "brick and mortar" presence and staff support at the area and regional levels.

       ROBERT (BOB) LEIBOWITZ, *Area Census Office Manager (ACOM) in Maine; Regional Technician for Update/Leave and Update/Enumerate; Area Manager for Nonresponse Follow-Up (NRFU); currently on Post-Enumeration Survey (PES) [New York Region]*

       ROBERT (BOB) LEE, *Census Field Manager (CFM) and Lead Census Field Manager (LCFM) in Queens, New York; Area Manager for Peak Operations; currently on PES [New York Region]*

       JON HALLINGSTAD, *ACOM; currently a Regional Survey Manager (RSM) [Philadelphia Region]*

       ROBERT TOTH, *ACOM; currently Regional Technician on PES [Philadelphia Region]*

       DIANA HARRIS CANNON, *CFM and ACOM; currently an RSM for American Housing Survey [Atlanta Region]*

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4:30pm   **Discussion/Q&A on Day 1 Topics**

4:45pm   **Planned Adjournment of Day 1**

Day 2: Tuesday, August 31 — *Open Session, 12:30–5:00pm, as necessary*

12:30pm   **Call to Order, and Introductions**
10   TERESA SULLIVAN, *Chair, University of Virginia*

12:40pm   **Chronology of 2020 Census Field Collection Deadlines**
Follow-up to presentations at Meeting 1, to a more detailed articulation of the major field collection operational dates during 2020, from the Bureau's perspective: as planned ahead of time, as adjusted for COVID and contingencies, and as subsequently revised to try to meet statutory requirements and comply with legal decisions. This should also include whether and how interim dates within enumeration and nonresponse follow-up operations were readjusted based on new end targets (e.g., how specified "dates certain" for areas/cases being deemed eligible for proxy or closeout were realigned).
60   ALBERT FONTENOT, *U.S. Census Bureau*

1:40pm   **Deeper Dive on the 2020 Census Program of Experiments and Evaluations (CPEX)**
*Follow-up to presentation at Meeting 1, to include (a) capsule descriptions of the major 2030-facing experiments, particularly those involving use of administrative records and (b) an updated list of the planned operational assessments within CPEX and a clearer sense of additions/deletions/adjustments to the CPEX slate since late 2018. This discussion will **not** include the results of any evaluation or assessment that has not yet been completed by the Census Bureau.*
60   JENNIFER REICHERT AND JOAN HILL, *U.S. Census Bureau*

2:40pm   ***BREAK***

3:00pm   **Overview of Group Quarters Enumeration**
Presentation to include (a) recap of major features of group quarters enumeration in the 2010 Census, (b) planning, testing, and development during the 2010s of the technical systems to handle group quarters (including major GQ-related changes to the census Residence Rule and concepts for 2020 and what if anything was done during the preceding decade in terms of GQ frame development), (c) overview of how group quarters enumeration functioned (or was planned to work in 2020) — including continuing discussion from Meeting 1 of the phone recontact with group quarters — understanding that little can be said about effectiveness/quality of the systems until the Bureau's assessment is complete, and (d) again absent assessment results, initial clear takeaways or directions for 2030.
60   JUDY BELTON AND DORA DURANTE, *U.S. Census Bureau*

4:00pm	**Discussion/Q&A on Day 2 Topics**
4:30pm	**Planned Adjournment of Day 2**

Day 3: Thursday, September 2 — *Closed Session, Panel Members and Staff Only*

The panel will meet in closed/deliberative session for the entirety of 12:30pm–4:00pm to discuss the information received in the open sessions on Days 1–2 of the meeting and identify priority topics for presentation and discussion at Meeting 3.

PANEL TO EVALUATE THE QUALITY OF THE 2020 CENSUS

TERESA A. SULLIVAN *(Chair)*, Department of Sociology, University of Virginia
MARGO ANDERSON, Department of History, University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee (emerita)
ROBERT M. BELL, Google and AT&T Labs (retired)
KATHRYN EDIN, Department of Sociology, Princeton University
MARC HAMEL, Statistics Canada (retired)
GEORGE T. LIGLER, GTL Associates, Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina
THOMAS A. LOUIS, Department of Biostatistics, Johns Hopkins University (emeritus)
LLOYD B. POTTER, Texas Demographic Center, University of Texas at San Antonio
JOSEPH J. SALVO, New York City Department of City Planning (retired)
REGINA SHIH, Social and Behavioral Policy, RAND, Atlanta
C. MATTHEW SNIPP, Department of Sociology, Stanford University
EDWARD TELLES, Department of Sociology, University of California, Irvine
WENDY UNDERHILL, National Conference of State Legislatures, Denver
DAVID VAN RIPER, Minnesota Population Center, University of Minnesota

STATEMENT OF TASK

The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine will appoint an ad hoc panel to review and evaluate the quality of the data that were collected in the 2020 Census. As part of its work, the panel will:

1. Review information from the Census Bureau on the data collected as well as various process measures and indicators of data quality obtained as part of the 2020 Census operations;
2. Review other available information, such as results from demographic analysis, process measures and preliminary results from the post-enumeration survey; and analyses of administrative records; and
3. Consider the results from evaluations of similar indicators from the 2010 and 2000 Censuses.

The panel will produce an interim report with its initial findings and conclusions, and a final report that includes conclusions about the quality of the data collected in the 2020 Census and makes recommendations for further research by the Census Bureau to evaluate the quality of the 2020 data and to begin planning the 2030 Census. The panel's reports will be reviewed according to institutional review procedures and released publicly on the National Academies Press web site.

The panel's next meeting is currently scheduled for the week of **September 27, 2021,** in virtual format.