

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

Third Meeting, Panel to Evaluate the Quality of the 2020 Census September 28, 29, and 30, 2021 Virtual Format

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Please note:

- All times are Eastern Daylight Time.
- 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: Tuesday, September 28 — Open Session, 12:30–5:00pm, as necessary
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12:30pm **Call to Order, and Introductions**

5 TERESA SULLIVAN, *Chair, University of Virginia*

12:35pm **Changes to Race and Ethnicity Coding in the 2020 Census**

Building off of material presented accompanying the August 2021 release of P.L. 94-171 data in legacy file format, presentation to include (a) background on coding of race and ethnicity information in 2010; (b) planning, testing, and development during the 2010s of race/ethnicity items and coding; (c) overview of how the coding was done in 2020; and (d) absent assessment results, any clear directions for 2030 resulting from this work.

55 NICHOLAS JONES, ROBERTO RAMIREZ, AND RACHEL MARKS, *U.S. Census Bureau*

1:40pm **Census Budget and Possible Impact of Budget Reductions**

In the presentations at the first two meetings and from other context, we have heard about various points from 2015 onward in which scale or extent of operations or tests had to be reframed on cost concerns (e.g., the cutback in sites for the End-to-End Census Test, the discontinuance of Active Block Resolution in In-Office Address Canvassing). The panel would like to hear more about these various budgetary forks-in-the-road, any rough conjecture of what was lost, and whether/how capabilities that were set aside might be picked up again for 2030.

55 BEN TAYLOR, *U.S. Census Bureau*

2:40pm **Break**

3:00pm **Disclosure Avoidance in the 2020 Census**

Much has already been said in other forums about differential privacy and the TopDown Algorithm as it has been applied to the redistricting data. This presentation should include some of that material and rationale, but the hope is that it should build from and extend the presentation that seems likely to occur with the Census Scientific Advisory Committee on 9/24 — focusing attention on extant work and initial directions for disclosure avoidance in the 2020 Demographic and Housing Characteristics and other data products beyond the P.L. 94-171 release.

60 MICHAEL HAWES AND CYNTHIA DAVIS HOLLINGSWORTH, U.S. Census Bureau

4:00pm **Discussion/Q&A on Day 1 Topics**

4:30pm **Planned Adjournment of Day 1**

Day 2: Wednesday, September 29 — Open Session, 12:30–5:00pm, as necessary
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12:30pm **Call to Order, and Introductions**

5 TERESA SULLIVAN, *Chair, University of Virginia*

12:35pm **Report of the American Statistical Association Task Force on Census Quality Indicators**

The American Statistical Association's Task Force on Census Quality Indicators released its report on state-level 2020 Census apportionment numbers on September 14, 2021.

NANCY A. POTOK, *Independent Consultant and Co-Chair, ASA Task Force*

JOHN H. THOMPSON, *Biocomplexity Institute and Initiative, University of Virginia, and ASA Task Force*

[Panel members THOMAS LOUIS and MATTHEW SNIPP and panel staff

60 *CONSTANCE CITRO are also members of the ASA Task Force, and panel member JOSEPH SALVO served on the task force's research team.]*

1:35pm **Overview of Update/Leave and Update/Enumerate Operations**

Continuing series of operational overviews, presentation to include (a) ways in which Update/Leave and Update/Enumerate was used in 2010 and earlier censuses; (b) planning, testing, and development during the 2010s related to U/L and U/E; (c) overview of how these types of enumeration worked (or were planned to work) in 2020 and the impacts of the pandemic or other disruptions, including impacts of Area Census Office closing and reopening in heavy U/E and U/L areas; and (d) absent assessment results, any initial clear takeaways or directions for 2030.

60 JULIA LOPEZ, U.S. Census Bureau

2:30pm **Break**

2:45pm **National Processing Center**

Like the other operational overviews heard by the panel but broader than a single census operation, this is meant to be an opportunity for staff/leadership of the Census Bureau's National Processing Center (NPC) in Jeffersonville, Indiana, to describe and discuss: (a) overview of decennial and non-decennial operations at NPC; (b) description of what changes in mobilization/capacity were made in 2010; (c) the planned role for NPC in the 2020 Census and development of support systems during the 2010s; (d) adapting to the pandemic, adapting workflows, and other major challenges in 2020; and (e) legacies of 2020 and initial directions for 2030. [This could also include discussion of pandemic/workflow adjustments at other contracted 2020 Census locations, such as the other paper data capture centers and telephone call centers.]

60 LEANNA MAYO AND RITA SCHULER, *U.S. Census Bureau*

3:45pm **Overview of Census Questionnaire Assistance and Coverage Improvement
Interviewing**

Continuing the series of operational overviews, presentation to include (a) ways in which phone-based operations were used in 2010 and earlier censuses; (b) planning, testing, and development during the 2010s of phone-based interviewing and response; (c) overview of how these operations worked (or were planned to work) in 2020 and the impacts of the pandemic or other disruptions; and (d) absent assessment results, any initial clear takeaways or directions for 2030.

60 KEVIN ZAJAC AND MARY FRANCES ZELENAK, *U.S. Census Bureau*

4:45pm **Discussion/Q&A on Day 2 Topics**

5:00pm **Planned Adjournment of Day 2**

Day 3: Thursday, September 30 — 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 (including discussion of the ASA Task Force report on the quality of 2020 Census apportionment totals), refine themes for the panel's first report, and identify any topics and concepts for which open-session discussion may be necessary in Meeting 4.

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 fourth meeting is currently scheduled for the week of **November 15, 2021**, in virtual format, and this meeting may include an open/public session.