



2020 Census Update

**Presentation to the Census Scientific Advisory Committee
March 18, 2021**

Albert E. Fontenot, Jr., Associate Director Decennial Census Programs

**Deborah M. Stempowski, Assistant Director for Decennial Census
Programs, Operations and Schedule Management**

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Operational Timelines: Original and Pandemic-Adjusted

Activity / Operation	Original Dates	Replan Dates (as presented to CSAC on Sept. 17, 2020)	Final Dates
Update Leave (Stateside)	March 15 – April 17	Phased re-opening occurred between May 4 and June 12	Phased re-opening occurred between May 4 and June 12
Service Based Enumeration	March 30 – April 1	September 22 – 24	September 22 – 24
Targeted Non-Sheltered Outdoor Locations	March 31 – April 1	September 23 – 24	September 23 – 24
Group Quarters Enumeration	April 2 – June 5	April 2 – September 3	April 2 – September 3
Enumeration of Transitory Locations	April 9 – May 4	September 3 – 28	September 3 – 28
Nonresponse Followup*	May 13 – July 31	August 9 – September 30	August 9 – October 15
Delivery of Apportionment Data**	By Statutory Deadline: December 31, 2020	By Statutory Deadline: December 31, 2020	April 30, 2021
Delivery Redistricting Data**	By Statutory Deadline: March 30, 2021	Plan in Development	September 30, 2021

*For a period of time, NRFU was 8/11/20-10/31/20.

**For a period of time, delivery of apportionment data by 4/30/21 and redistricting data by 7/31/21, were considered.

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Overall Data Collection Successes

- **99.9% resolution** In all 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, more than 99% of all addresses have been resolved. In all but one state that number tops 99.9%.
- **2 in 3 households responded on their own**
 - Final self-response rate of 67.0%, exceeding the final self-response rate of 66.5% for the 2010 Census.
 - 99.0M Self-Responding Housing Units (79.8% responded by internet, 18.3% by paper, 1.9% by phone)
- **Not 1 second of downtime on ISR** Internet Self-Response option successfully managed our highest traffic demand and operated throughout the census without one second of downtime.
- **Increased use of technology at every level** Automation and increased use of technology such as enumerator use of iPhones for case routing optimization, assignment management, and data collection contributed to increased enumerator productivity.
- **1.92 cases completed per hour** Achieved enumerator productivity rate of 1.92 cases per hour, compared to 1.05 cases per hour for the 2010 Census.

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Summary of Self-Response

Original Dates: March 12 – July 31, 2020

Adjusted Dates: March 12 – October 15, 2020

- **Final Self-Response Rate: 67.0%**
 - Exceeded Final 2010 Census Self-Response Rate of 66.5%
- Self-Response Volumes by Mode:
 - **Total: 99.02 million self-responses**
 - **Internet: 79.08 million (79.86%)**
 - **Paper: 18.11 million (18.29%)**
 - **Phone: 1.83 million (1.85%)**
- 14 States with a Self-Response Rate at or above 70% vs 7 States in 2010
- 47 States with a Self-Response Rate at or above 60% vs 47 States in 2010
- 28 States that met or exceeded their final 2010 Census Self-Response Rate

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Nonresponse Followup Summary

- Operational Dates: August 9 – October 15, 2020
- Successful implementation of a rolling soft launch that began July 16, 2020
- **Completed Housing Units (HUs): 60.8M**
 - **Completed via Self-Response: 6.3M** (these are included in the total self-response rate of 67%)
 - **Total Enumerated Occupied HUs: 30.7M**
 - **Enumerated via Householder: 17.1M (55.6%)**
 - **Enumerated via Proxy: 7.4M (24.1%)**

This proxy response rate of 24.1% is similar to the 2010 proxy response rate of 23.8%.
 - **Enumerated via Administrative Records: 6.3M (20.4%)***
 - **Vacant HUs: 13.5M**
 - **Deleted HUs: 10.3M**

Approximately 13.9% of the full NRFU workload (including vacant and deleted housing units) were completed using high-quality administrative records, lower than the expected rate of 22.5%.

Note: All numbers are subject to change upon completion of post collection processing.

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Factors that Enabled Progress

- Smooth Launch of Self-Response options - Online, by Phone, by Paper
- Phased resumption of field data collection activities
- Transitioned key training activities from classroom to virtual training, affecting training for nearly 500,000 workers
- Incorporated the use of pay flexibilities to minimize turnover of trained operational staff
- Used alternate means of data collection, including adapted processes to incorporate broader use of administrative records, such as lists of students from colleges and universities
- Remained flexible and agile to adapt to ever changing on-the-ground conditions, including instituting outbound telephone enumeration and additional mailings.
- Contingency funding, on various fronts, supported operational adjustments necessary to complete data collection.

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Post Processing

Post processing activities are conducted once all data collection is complete

- Turning all of the response data we received into usable statistics is complex work that is guided by our statistical quality standards.
- We start by taking all of the responses we received across response modes and operations and integrate that data with our information about addresses. We then follow established statistical methods for verifying whether we have a response from every address, resolving duplicates, and filling in missing information.
- Just as we did during data collection, we are continuously checking the quality of the data throughout data processing.
- As with all prior censuses we have found issues as we prepare the data for tabulation. While some issues appear to be pandemic related, most are what we experience with every decennial census and other Census Bureau surveys. We expect these kinds of anomalies and issues, and they are similar to the Census Bureau's experience in prior decennial censuses.
- Importantly, we have not uncovered anything so far that would suggest that the 2020 Census will not be fit for its constitutional and statutory purposes.
- **Census Bureau is working to thoroughly correct and address all issues and anomalies** as a part of our mission to deliver accurate 2020 Census data products as close to the statutory deadline as possible.

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Data Products: First Tier

Apportionment Product – by April 30, 2021

The Apportionment Product will be the first release of the 2020 Census and will provide the apportionment population and the number of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives by state. The product will also include the resident population of the 50 states plus the overseas federal employees (military and civilian) and their dependents living with them, who are included in their home states.

Redistricting File (P.L. 94-171) – by September 30, 2021

Public Law 94-171 directs the Census Bureau to provide data to the governors and legislative leadership in each of the 50 states for redistricting purposes. This product will be the first file released that will include demographic and housing characteristics about detailed geographic areas.

Demographic Profile

This product will provide critical demographic and housing characteristics about local communities as soon after the release of the Redistricting file as possible.

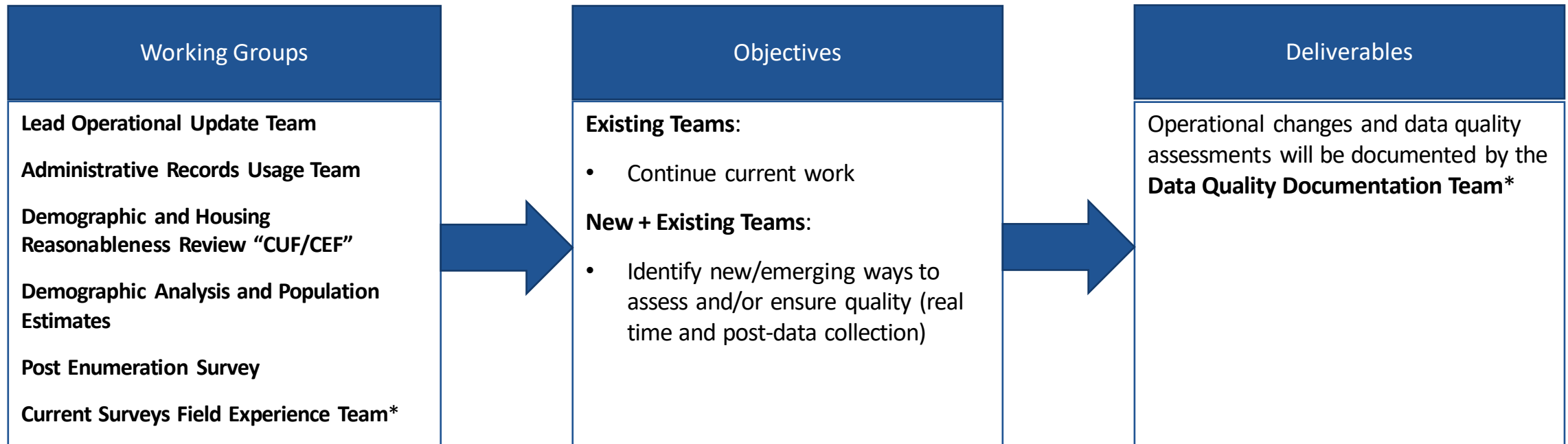
Demographic and Housing Characteristics File (DHC)

The DHC will include many of the demographic and housing tables previously included in Summary File 1.

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Ensuring High Quality Data from the 2020 Census

The 2020 Data Quality Executive Governance Group (EGG) was chartered in April 2020 by the Deputy Director/Chief Operating Officer to ensure that we had the right focus and resources dedicated to detecting and addressing data quality issues related to the 2020 Census. The EGG is comprised of career technical leadership and led by the Associate Director for Demographic Programs and Chief Demographer, Associate Director for Research and Methodology and Chief Scientist, and Assistant Director for Decennial Programs, Operations and Schedule Management. This new special team, with expertise from the entire Census Bureau, supplements the existing expert teams and provides extra focus on data quality.



*New team, not previously part of 2020 Census operations

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Data Quality Assessment Efforts and Timeline

Asking outside experts to review our work is standard operating procedure at the U.S. Census Bureau. It underscores our commitment to quality and transparency.

- **Releasing** information and metrics on data quality on an earlier schedule than typical with a decennial census.
- **Leveraging** external engagement opportunities with organizations such as the American Statistical Association.
- **Engaging** with the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) Committee on National Statistics, American Statistical Association Quality Indicators Task Force, and JASON.
 - These three groups will tackle different aspects of assessing the Census Bureau's work. Their reports will advise the Census Bureau on improving future censuses and will help the public understand the quality of the 2020 Census data.
 - JASON report, *Assessment of 2020 Census Data Quality Processes*, was released on February 23, 2021.
- **Exploring** additional quality assessments, beyond those planned in operational assessments and evaluations.

Critical Milestones for Release of Data Quality Assessment Metrics:

- Release of Demographic Analysis Results: Released December 15, 2020
- Release of 2020 Census Operational Quality Metrics to accompany Resident Population Counts: April 2021
- Release of 2020 Census Operational Quality Metrics to accompany Redistricting Data Products: September 2021

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Upcoming 2020 Census Research Publications: Assessments and Evaluations

Assessments are designed to document final volumes, rates, and costs for individual operations or processes using data from production files and activities and information collected from debriefings and lessons learned. A total of 54 Operational Assessments on the 2020 Census will be published, beginning in Summer 2021. Assessments of note include:

- In-Office Address Canvassing Operational Assessment (Summer 2021)
- In-Field Address Canvassing Operational Assessment (Summer 2021)
- Nonresponse Followup Operational Assessment (Summer 2021)
- Demographic Analysis Operational Assessment (Summer 2022)

Evaluations are designed to analyze, interpret, and synthesize the effectiveness and efficiencies of census components and their impact on data quality and coverage. A total of 14 Evaluations on the 2020 Census will be published, beginning in Spring 2021. Evaluations of note include:

- Research on Hard to Count Populations: Non-English Speakers and Complex Household Residents including Undercount of Children (Spring 2021)
- Analysis of Census Internet Self-Response Paradata by Language (Winter 2022)

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Communications and Blog Post Plan

What's Planned

- A series of accessible blogs in the voices of the Census Bureau's internal, career experts about the quality and progress of the 2020 Census.
- We published a series of similar blogs prior to release of the 2010 apportionment counts.
- One or two blogs per week, corresponding to other releases and events.

Why We're Doing It

- To help restore the Census Bureau's credibility as an independent statistical agency
- To educate the public and our stakeholders about the quality of the 2020 Census
- To set expectations for what is coming

Overall Status

- Five blogs posted already.
- Fluid schedule – we may add additional subjects.

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Blog Post Schedule

Blog Title	Date
Pandemic and All its Effects	Feb. 2, 2021 POSTED
Census Processing 101	Feb. 11, 2021 POSTED
Timeline Context for Redistricting	Feb. 12, 2021 POSTED
Ensuring a Robust and Accurate Data Quality Analysis in the 2020 Census	Feb. 23, 2021 POSTED
Adapting Field Operations to Meet Unprecedented Challenges	March 1, 2021 POSTED
Group Quarters Enumeration	Early March
Part 2: Processing anomalies	Early March
Administrative Records	Mid March
Subject Matter Expert Review Process	Mid March
Introduction to Quality Indications	Mid March
Imputation	Late March
Unduplication	Late March
Post Enumeration Survey	Early April
Apportionment Process and What to Expect on Release Day	Early April
Director's Blog about first 2020 Census Data Release	April 16-30, 2021
Comparisons to Benchmarks and Examining Operational Quality Metrics	April 16-30, 2021
Release of Table 2 of quality metrics	Mid to late May

Thank You

Albert E. Fontenot, Jr.

Associate Director for Decennial Census Programs

Deborah M. Stempowski

Assistant Director for Decennial Census Programs, Operations and Schedule Management

U.S. Department of Commerce
U.S. Census Bureau
4600 Silver Hill Rd.
Suitland, Maryland 20746