

National Advisory Committee on Racial, Ethnic, and Other Populations

Hard to Count Working Group Presentation Julie A. Dowling

October 9, 2015

Who are the “hard to count”?

- racial and ethnic minorities
- persons who do not speak English fluently
- lower income persons
- homeless persons
- undocumented immigrants
- young mobile persons
- children
- persons who are angry at and/or distrust the government
- LGBT

This is not an exhaustive list above, and hard-to-count persons exist across and within each category above.

Working Group Mission

- The working group mission is to explore how plans for the 2020 Census may impact hard-to-count populations.
- Specifically, the working group focuses on proposed plans that include the use of sources such as administrative records and third party data and the utilization of the internet. How will this impact counting hard-to-count populations?

Working Group Goals

- Review interim findings from 2020 Research and Testing projects using administrative records and third party data and findings from research and testing using the Internet as a mode for data collection.
- Focus on methods to enumerate the hard to count population through Administrative Records and the Internet.
- Identify topics for further research

Update on Progress

- Since we began in January 2015, the group has had 10 conference calls:
 - **January:** Going over our WG mission
 - **February:** Intro to the Demographics of the HTC
 - **March:** Focused on Non-Response Follow-up (NRFU) operations from 2010
 - **April:** Had a re-cap call of first few presentations for new members who had just joined
 - **April:** Quality and Coverage of Admin Records

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- **May:** Admin Records Modeling During Non-response Follow-up Operation
- **June:** How Utilizing Internet and Mobile Devices Impact Self-Response Rates
- **July:** 2015 Census Test, Admin Record Identification for Non-Response Follow-up
- **August:** Discussion on our Next Steps
- **September:** Digital Divide- Inequalities in Internet and mobile phone usage (Outside Expert: Lee Rainie from Pew Research Center)

Administrative Records

- It is more difficult to match Admin records with persons who are:
 - children
 - homeless
 - lower income
 - lower education
 - not English-speaking (immigrants)
 - do not have a social security number (undocumented immigrants)
 - racial/ethnic minorities - all were lower than whites, “Some Other Race” is the lowest

Internet Access

- Persons are less likely to have internet access at home and are less likely to have a smart phone if they are:
 - homeless
 - lower income
 - lower education
 - older
 - live in rural areas
 - persons with disabilities
 - primarily Spanish-speaking
 - Latino, Black, or American Indian/Alaskan Native (note: Asians had highest percent usage above whites, and Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander not included as a category in data we have examined so far.)

What We Will Work On

- Seek more information on racial divisions in internet/mobile phone use for specific groups. In particular, American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders.
- We are currently working on creating a matrix with each population group and the gaps in admin records coverage and internet usage for each group.

What We Will Work On (con't)

- We will then determine other information needed to proceed with recommendations.
- We will devise recommendations for additional research and outreach concerning various groups that will be hard to count.
- We plan to incorporate these suggested outreach solutions into our matrix outline and then into our longer report.

Summary: WG Plans

1. WG meetings will continue to have conference calls held once a month to proceed with these plans. And we will include outside experts as needed.
2. WG will draft a report in early Spring.
3. A final report will be submitted to the Census Bureau at the April 28-29, 2016 NAC meeting.

Questions & Discussion