

Census Scientific Advisory Committee

Working Group Guidelines

American Community Survey (ACS) – Reducing Respondent Burden

Purpose

This group will review, assess, and provide feedback on topics related to reducing respondent burden in the American Community Survey (ACS). The group will provide scientific and technical expertise from the following disciplines: statistics, survey sample design and estimation, administrative records usage, cost-benefit analysis, and other fields of expertise, as appropriate, to address Census Bureau program needs and objectives.

Working Group Focus

The group will focus on the following topics:

- Matrix sampling and methods to ask ACS questions less frequently or of fewer respondents
 - Are there other designs or approaches that the Census Bureau should consider?
 - Are there methods or criteria we should consider that would expand the set of potential questions for periodic inclusion or subsampling and increase the potential benefits?
 - What statistical tools would be most promising in mitigating some of the negative impacts on reliability associated with matrix sampling?
 - Matrix sampling designs would involve some degradation in the reliability of the survey estimates—what levels of reliability would the working group think are important to preserve?
- Using administrative records to replace some of the questions included on the ACS questionnaire
 - Types of alternative data sources.
 - How best to use administrative records knowing its limitations.
 - Use of different types of statistical models or refining models that use administrative records.

Additionally, the group will provide review and feedback on selected working papers, reports, or other documents related to reducing respondent burden in the ACS.

Working Group Meetings and Members

- Working Group meetings will be held once a month.
- Membership in the group will consist of 3-6 Scientific Advisory Committee (CSAC) members.

Working Group Deliverables

- A work plan that details the Working Group's activities
- Findings and report

CSAC Members

- **Barbara Anderson**, Ronald Freedman Collegiate Professor of Sociology and Population Studies, University of Michigan
- **Robert Hummer**, Howard W. Odum Distinguished Professor of Sociology, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- **Irma Elo**, Professor of Sociology, Director of Population Aging Research Center, University of Pennsylvania
- **Gary Gates**, Williams Distinguished Scholar, Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law, The Charles R. Williams Institute on Sexual Orientation Law
- **Noel Cressie**, Distinguished Professor, National Institute for Applied Statistics Research Australia (NIASRA), University of Wollolong

Census Bureau Staffing/Subject Matter Experts

- **Maria Olmedo-Malagon**, Assistant Division Chief for Program Management, Communications and Data User Education, American Community Survey Office
- **Brenda Holmes**, Chief, Customer Services Branch, American Community Survey Office
- **Todd Hughes**, Assistant Division Chief for Survey Methods and Measures, American Community Survey Office
- **David Raglin**, Chief, Survey Analytics and Measures Branch, American Community Survey Office
- **Mark Asiala**, Assistant Division Chief for American Community Survey Statistical Studies, Decennial Statistical Studies Division