

U.S. Census Bureau Census Scientific Advisory Committee
Working Group Charter

Administrative Data and Third Party Data Use

PURPOSE

The Census Bureau is committed to completing a 2020 Census that reduces cost in operation, is accurate and allows for use of administrative data to minimize non-response follow-up per housing unit. In years past, the Bureau has spent billions to follow-up on non-responses. These may have been vacant housing units, addresses that did not exist, or locations that were considered commercial.

The Census Bureau makes extensive use of administrative data from federal, state and private data sources. Currently the Bureau is investigating ways to integrate more uses of administrative data to reduce respondent burden and increase the depth of our statistics and analysis and cross tabulating data for more timely and unbiased data to support more effective policy.

The purpose of the administrative data working group is to offer recommendations on

- the need to reinforce the urgency to collect and use state-specific data sets that will be useful in determining vacant, non-existent and occupied housing units. Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) are willing to share usage, sources, and coverage. Will be sharing the final resources later in the year. Exploring administrative data for addresses in NRFU (includes parcel & MLS), in determining the characteristics of those households and individuals
- what resources are available at state level for administrative records
- the effects on differential undercounts
- examining alternative statistical algorithms and their impact on variance relating to state based on data availability as one size does not fit all for the nation
- comparisons of cases that are administrative record outcomes vs. data collected from actual household respondents at the same address
- assessing current approach in using administrative data. Research how cutoffs are used in research determinations

Working Group Focus

Assess current research – Assess current research, plans and procedures in what is being used and how from administrative and third party records. Identify discrepancies and inefficiencies that can be improved in identifying occupied, vacant and non-existent addresses. Consider criteria in selecting what is used from the records and their impact on current disparities in reporting on households and individuals.

Uses of administrative records – Consider interpretations and actions resulting in the use of administrative and third party records. Investigate what other resources are available from various states and what information to capture and the consistency of data available by state. Discuss if these are a more cost effective means that will offer any benefit in research and analysis than what is currently being used the Bureau.

Strategies of use of administrative and third party data – Assist the Census Bureau in developing a strategy in using various resources for data and increase awareness through an outreach plan amongst state level organizations so they understand how all can benefit from the use of these types of records.

Working Group

- Working group meetings will be held once a month
- Members of the working group will consist of at least 5-8 members with one member as the convener
- Supported by Census Bureau subject matter experts

Working Group Deliverables

- A work plan that details the working group activities from July 2017-September 2018 with group presenting in the September 2017 Census Scientific Advisory Committee (CSAC)
- A final report of recommendations submitted to the Census Bureau at the CSAC meeting by September 2018

Administrative Resources

End of the year 2017, the Census Bureau will be making the final decision on the list of administrative record sources and how we will use them for administrative record enumeration. Additional resources and information will be shared with the working group over the upcoming year including what is still being researched.

Administrative Records Data Sources

- United States Postal Service (USPS)
- Internal Revenue Service (IRS)
- Medicare Enrollment Database
- Indian Health Service Patient Database
- Third-party Veterans Service Group of Illinois (VSGI) files
- Social Security Administration Number Identification (Numident) file
- Center for Administrative Records Research and Applications (CARRA)
- Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- Selective Service System registration
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and other state program participation data
- Parcel and MLS data
- Other public and private data sources as available and appropriate

Core Data Sources Additional Data Sources Used to Corroborate Information in Core Sources and/or Used In Models

- IRS 1040 Individual Tax Returns
- IRS 1099 Informational Returns

- CMS Medicare Enrollment Database
- IHS Patient Registration File
- USPS Undeliverable-As-Addressed
- NIXIE reasons From Census Mailings

Additional Data Sources Used to Corroborate Information in Core Sources and/or Used in Models

- IRS 1040 Individual Tax Returns
- IRS 1099 Informational Returns
- CMS Medicare Enrollment Database
- IHS Patient Registration File
- CMS Medicaid Statistical Information System
- SSA Numerical Identification (NUMIDENT) file
- HUD Public and Indian Housing Information Center
- HUD Tenant Rental Assistance Certification System
- HUD Computerized Homes Underwriting Management System
- SSS Registration File
- USPS National Change of Address
- 2010 Census
- Census Bureau Master Address File
- American Community Survey 5-year Block Group estimates
- CARRA Best Race and Best Hispanic Research

Members of the Working Group

Barbara Battenfield, convener
Allison Plyer – CSAC member
Ken Simonson – CSAC Member
Jack Levis – CSAC Member
Krishna Raos- CSAC Member

Main Subject Matter Experts

Tom Mule – Census (Decennial)
Quentin Brummet – Census (CARRA)
Andy Keller - Census