



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. Census Bureau
Washington, DC 20233-0001

2020 CENSUS PROGRAM MEMORANDUM SERIES: 2017.20

Date: October 27, 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Record

From: Albert Fontenot (**signed October 27, 2017**)
Associate Director, Decennial Census Programs

Subject: The 2020 Census Operational Plan version 3.0

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This memorandum documents the release of version 3.0 of the 2020 Census Operational Plan. The 2020 Census Operational Plan describes the current design of the 2020 Census. The purpose of this document is to provide the background information that supports evidence-based decision making in our 2020 Census design. It reflects the most current status of our operations and planning for conducting the census. This version of the 2020 Census Operational Plan provides updates on: which operations are to be included in the 2020 Census, planned tests and milestone schedules, results from previous tests, program and project risks, descriptions of the census operations, the quality analysis process, and design decisions, including those decisions that have been made and those that remain.

The purpose of the 2020 Census is to conduct a census of population and housing and disseminate the results to the President, the states, and the American people. The goal of the 2020 Census is to count everyone once, only once, and in the right place, and the challenge is to conduct a 2020 Census at a lower cost per household (adjusted for inflation) than the 2010 Census, while maintaining high quality results.

The 2020 Census Memorandum Series

The 2020 Census Memorandum Series documents significant decisions, actions, and accomplishments of the 2020 Census Program for the purpose of informing stakeholders, coordinating interdivisional efforts, and documenting important historical changes.

A memorandum generally will be added to this series for any decision or documentation that meets the following criteria:

1. A major program-level decision that will affect the overall design or have significant effect on 2020 Census operations or systems.
2. A major policy decision or change that will affect the overall design or significantly impact 2020 Census operations or systems.
3. A report that documents the research and testing for 2020 Census operations or systems.

Visit [2020 Census on Census.gov](https://www.census.gov) to access the Memorandum Series, the 2020 Census Operational Plan, and other information about preparations for the 2020 Census.