



**Update on the 2020 Census
COPAFS Quarterly Meeting
December 4, 2020**

2020 Census Data Collection: Major Milestones



- **January 21:** The Census Bureau started counting the population in remote Alaska.
- **March 12:** The Census Bureau opened its phone lines and online self-response tool.
- **March 12-20:** Households received official Census Bureau mail inviting them to respond to the 2020 Census online, by phone, or by mail. Additional reminders were sent throughout the summer.
- **April 1:** Census Day was observed nationwide. By this date, most households had received an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census and were asked to state where they lived as of April 1, 2020.
- **April 16 - June 19:** Group quarters (colleges, senior centers, prisons, and other facilities) enumeration conducted.
- **August-October:** Non-Response Follow Up operations held.
- **September 23-24:** The Census Bureau counted people who were experiencing homelessness.
- **October 15:** Self-response data collection ended.

2020 Census The Data Collection Saga

On September 24, U.S. District Judge Lucy Koh of the Northern District of California issued a [Preliminary Injunction prohibiting the Trump administration from further implementing the “rushed census plan”](#) that had forced the Census Bureau to finish data collection by September 30 and to recommit to processing, tabulating, and reporting state population totals used for congressional apportionment by the current statutory deadline of December 31, 2020.

On October 1, Judge Koh issued [a clarification of stay and preliminary injunction](#), in response to an announcement which the Commerce Secretary made on September 28, that the Census Bureau would be concluding field operations on October 5—a direct violation of Judge Koh’s initial order.

On October 13, [the U.S. Supreme Court stayed a preliminary lower court injunction](#) that had prevented the White House from ending the 2020 Census early. Counting operations ended on October 15, with the Trump Administration still aiming to deliver apportionment data from the 2020 Census on December 31, 2020, as required by statute.

October 19—Census Bureau announces that “99.98% of all housing units and addresses nationwide were accounted for in the 2020 Census as of the end of self-response and field data collection operations on Oct. 15, 2020.”



2020 Census
The Data Collection Saga

What's wrong with 99.98% completion rate?



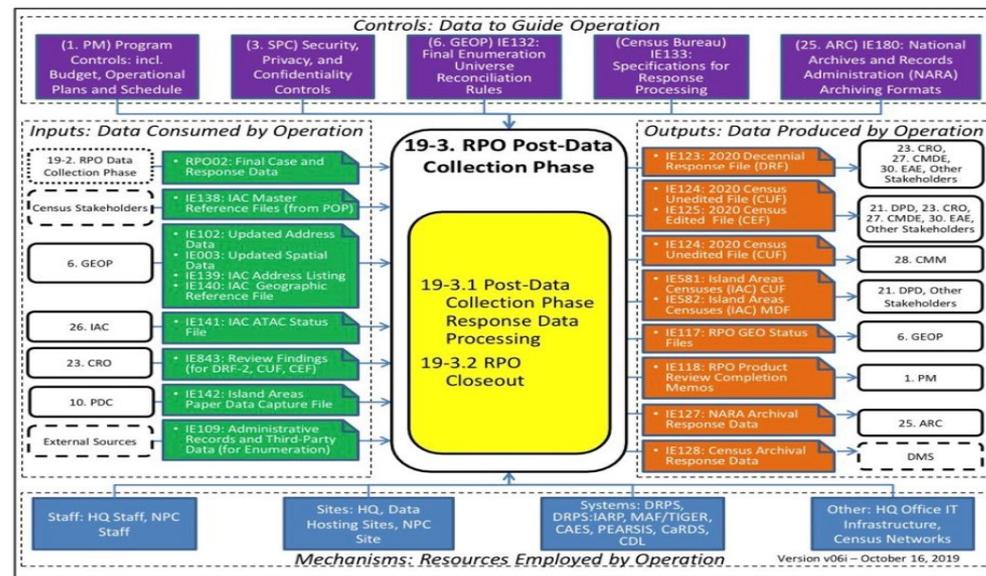
#1--Benchmark doesn't tell us anything about the quality and accuracy of the data collected.

#2--Doesn't cover millions of people who live in group facilities (college dorms and nursing homes) and transitory locations (RV parks and motels) or are experiencing homelessness.

2020 Census Post Data Collection Operation Underway!

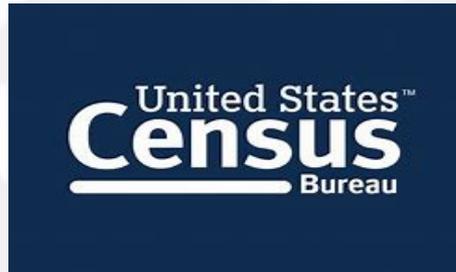
Currently, the Census Bureau, within the Post Data Collection Operation, is preparing the decennial response files leading up to production of the:

- 1) Census Unedited File--used to calculate the state populations for apportionment; and,
- 2) Census Edited File—used to prepare redistricting data.



Data processing phase cut in half in 2020 compared to 2010!

2020 Census: Post-Data Collection Challenges



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2020

Statement from Census Bureau Director Steve Dillingham

NOVEMBER 19, 2020

During post-collection processing, certain processing anomalies have been discovered. These types of processing anomalies have occurred in past censuses. I am directing the Census Bureau to utilize all resources available to resolve this as expeditiously as possible. As it has been all along, our goal remains an accurate and statistically sound Census.

2020 Census: Post-Data Collection Challenges

Processing Anomalies and Implications

13 anomalies affecting more than 900,000 census records.

Records include:

- Duplicate non-response follow-up records in every state.
- Data error from the group quarters count affecting >16,000 records.
- Coding error affecting about 46,000 records in nine states.

Internal census sources state:

- Anomalies “impacts overall end date by 20 days”
- Population count will **not** be complete until between Jan. 26 and Feb. 6.

2020 Census: Post-Data Collection Challenges



Major impact of anomalies—**APPORTIONMENT!**

- Inability to deliver apportionment data by December 31, 2020.
- Derail current Administration's plans to affect apportionment outcome.
- House Government Oversight and Reform hearing on December 3.



2020 Census: Post-Data Collection Challenges

SOLUTION?

Enactment of 2020 Census Deadline Extensions Act
S. 4571 (Senators Schatz/Murkowski)
H.R. 8250(Reps. Young/Gallego)



Both bills extend the reporting deadlines for apportionment and redistricting data by 120 days each, as Administration requested last April.

Stakeholders urging inclusion of language in next “must-pass” legislation, such as FY 2021 omnibus appropriations act or next COVID relief measure.

2020 Census: Post-Data Collection Challenges

Other Administration Apportionment Goal Exclude Undocumented Immigrants from Apportionment

- **July 21**--President issues [memoranda](#) to exclude undocumented immigrants from the apportionment base.
- **September-October**--Three federal courts (California, Maryland and New York) ruled proposal violates the Constitution, which provides that “representatives shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each State.”
- **November 30**--the U.S. Supreme Court heard arguments in *Trump vs. New York* case.



2020 Census: Funding

Census Bureau FY 2021 Funding

President's Request	\$1.672 billion
House Passed	\$1.681 billion
Senate CJS Proposed Mark	\$1.799 billion
Census Project Recommendation	\$1.681 billion

• Census [stakeholders support](#) Senate mark, which provides \$122 million above President's Request to support 2020 Census (full amount identified in FY 2021 Independent Cost Estimate for decennial census operations).

• Both House and Senate marks restore proposed cut to SIPP.

Census Advisory Committees

Census Scientific Advisory Committee

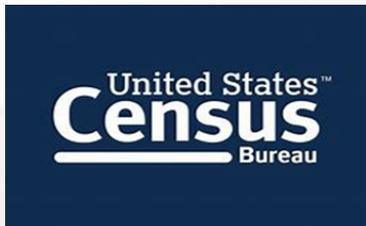
- November 24--the Census Bureau confirmed appointment of [Dr. William Clark, Pennsylvania State University](#), and [Dr. Thomas Brunell, University of Texas-Dallas](#), to fill 2 of 4 vacancies.
- Dr. Brunell's appointment drawn [criticism](#).

National Advisory Committee on Racial, Ethnic, and Other Populations

- 8 vacancies remain open
- Cannot meet until reach a quorum

ACS Data Users Working Group Steering Committee

- 15 openings
- Deadline December 11, 2020.
- [More information-- American Community Survey Data Users Group \(prb.org\)](#)



Census and the Transition

President Elect-Biden announced [Commerce Agency Review Team](#)



Stakeholders have submitted [recommendations](#) that include:

- Rescinding two Executive Orders regarding 2020 Census: 1) collection of data related to citizenship status and 2) the exclusion of undocumented immigrants in the 2020 Census apportionment count.
- Enacting one-time postponements of statutory reporting deadlines for apportionment and redistricting data.
- Using metrics identified in the independently developed [2020 Census Indicators Report](#) to determine the quality, accuracy, and coverage of the 2020 Census.

Thank you COPAFS!

Questions?

Mary Jo Hoeksema, Director
PAA/APC Government and Public Affairs
Co-Director, The Census Project
maryjo@popassoc.org



The Census Project

