UPDATE

2020 CENSUS QUALITY INDICATORS:

A REPORT FROM THE AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION PREPARED BY THE 2020 CENSUS QUALITY INDICATORS TASK FORCE

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WHAT IS BEING LOOKED AT

• State population totals for apportionment of congressional seats

• Lower geographies (Census tracts) for state redistricting data files
QUALITY INDICATOR

• **Self-Response Data Collection** – data on self-response rates at geographic levels including state, county, city, township, and census tract.
  
  • Data analyzed to identify any lack of uniformity across geographic entities such as states, cities, counties, and rural areas, and population groups, which would indicate inequity of the counts across the U.S.
QUALITY INDICATOR

Field Data Collection – calculated for each of the field operations, e.g., Non-Response Follow Up (NRFU) visits

- Two types of quality indicators that can be produced for NRFU are:
  - indicators based on the NRFU process (paradata)
  - indicators based on the outcome of the actual NRFU enumeration
FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

• The indicators should be readily available and used expeditiously to assess the quality of the 2020 Census.

• Qualified external researchers should be granted access to the data to help conduct the analyses.

• Additional assessments should be conducted when more data become available.

• Early planning for the 2030 Census should build on the lessons of 2020, be conducted in public, and include extensive stakeholder input.

• The Census Bureau’s authorizing statute, Title 13 U.S. Code, should be updated.
NOT INCLUDED:

• Coverage evaluation
• Conclusions on fitness for use for various purposes
• Causal relationships regarding public policy and operational decision-making
• Effect of differential privacy protection
CURRENT STATUS

• Task Force still meeting
• Census has welcomed three outside experts chosen by ASA
• Work is underway to create the 2010 benchmark file
• 2020 data are not ready yet
• Not a lot of time for analyses between when the 2020 state population file is ready and public release of the numbers
• ASA publishing biweekly updates on progress
• Looking at work of other outside groups such as JASON