

NATIONAL STATE DATA CENTER STEERING COMMITTEE

Robert Scardamalia (NY)
Chair
Annette Waters (AL)
Vice-Chair
Xan Wedel (KS)
Secretary

*Representing a Network of 1,800
SDC/BIDC Data Centers and Affiliates Nationwide*

Julie Hoang (CA)
Richard Rathge (ND)
Carol Rogers (IN)
Barbara Ronningen (MN)
Dan Veroff (WI)
Jane Traynham (MD)

We Bring Value-Added Census Data and Education to the User

SDC Steering Committee Meeting, February 8-10, 2006

Introductions were followed by welcome and greetings from Stan Rolark (CLO), Signe Wetrogan (Population Estimates), Linda Gage (FSCPE Chair), and Bob Scardamalia (SDC Chair).

Frank Vitrano provided an update from the **DECENNIAL MANAGEMENT DIVISION**.

2004 test is complete and evaluation report is available upon request from CLO. The key result from this test was the encouraging use of handheld computers in field collections resulting in a 14.4% reduction in non-response follow-up workload.

2005 test objective to improve accuracy of race and ethnicity responses. 420,000 questionnaires mailed covering approximately 20 panels. Coverage follow-up to take place in March of 2006 followed by an evaluation of this test.

2006 test to take place April 1, 2006 in two sites; Travis County, Texas and the Cheyenne River Reservation in South Dakota. This will be the first test where address canvassing is to be performed with handheld computers. The bilingual mail out was cancelled due to budget constraints.

2008 dress rehearsal being planned to fine tune procedures for the 2010 Census. A study is expected later this year on defining residency for the 2010 Census.

AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

Lisa Blumerman provided an overview of changes and developments with ACS.

There were some operational changes in the affected gulf coast areas of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. The initial mailing was made before the hurricanes while the second mailing and CATI calls were held for respondents within affected zip codes. Starting in October 2005, the introductory letter was revised to specifically request respondents to include any individuals temporarily staying in the household as a result of the gulf coast hurricanes.

Data collection for group quarters began in January 2006. Also, data collection now includes both households and group quarters in Puerto Rico.

ACS Data Users Guide expected late Spring or early Summer. Design and methodology paper also in the works and nearing completion.

Special product being developed this year that will cover the 8 month period before hurricanes Katrina and Rita and 4 months following. This product is still in the early phase of development and will focus on the 117 FEMA designated areas.

Fern Bradshaw briefed us on ACS Field Operations.

The field operations directorate has 9,000 employees who handle the mailing and receiving of surveys, as well as telephone and personal interviews for non-response follow up. Operations have been scaled up to handle the full implementation of the ACS. The ACS mails 250,000 pre-notice letters, followed by the ACS questionnaire and a reminder card every month.

An update on ACS Sample Design, Weighting, and Controls was given by **David Hubble**.

The first single year estimates are expected this year for areas with 65,000+ population. Three-year estimates for areas of 20,000+ population are expected to start in 2008 with five-year estimates beginning in 2010 for all areas. David Hubble explained that ACS multi-year estimates should be conceptualized as "period" estimates. One-year estimates reflect the characteristics of interviews conducted over a period of 12 months.

Several clarifications on the multi-year estimates were given:

- Multi-year estimates are the simple average of the best estimates available over the time period of the data. There will be no lag time for areas changing population thresholds. Thus, an area reaching the population threshold for the single- or three- year estimates will have data released in the year that the threshold is met.
- ACS will use the same practice as the population estimates program such that the estimates will be tabulated using the most recent set of geographic definitions.
- Multi-year dollar-value estimates will be adjusted for inflation. The reported values for the period will be the dollar values adjusted to the last calendar year of the period. This adjustment is accomplished using the CPI.

Debbie Griffin presented information on the ACS Language Program. Language needs have been monitored with the full implementation of the ACS which aids in the recruiting of CATI and CAPI personnel. Planning is underway to test multilingual assistance with the ACS brochure and letter. Translation options for the CATI and CAPI interviews are also being investigated.

An update on ACS Data Products was provided by **Doug Hillmer**.

Currently there are seven aggregated data products; detailed tables (approximately 850), data profiles similar to those in the 2000 Census, subject tables covering about 40 topics, ranking tables, narrative profiles, selected population profiles, and state-level thematic maps. Geographic comparison tables will be introduced in the future. Restrictions on disclosure are nearly identical to those in the 2000 Census. The restrictions of producing workplace profile tables are under discussion.

Five-year products will be available for all summary levels in the 2000 Census. USD's will be produced regardless of population as the Department of Education has made a request for this summary level.

Working on summary-file style data product and welcome any suggestions. Email: Doug Hillmer at Douglas.W.Hillmer@census.gov with suggestions.

An update from the **ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR COMMUNICATIONS (ADCOM)** was provided by **Jacque Mason**.

Mark Newman has been appointed chair of the 2010 Census Planning Committee.

Jacque Mason will be conducting media training at the Mid-March meeting in Los Angeles. This training will focus on contacts with radio and newspaper reporters since the majority of media contacts for the SDC network are not televised.

The population of the United States is expected to reach 300 million later year. This milestone will be marked in the media. The Census Bureau will also be producing a series of data products around this event.

Linda Franz gave an update on the **2010 GEOGRAPHIC PROGRAM**.

2006 BAS Survey is currently underway. The deadline for response is April 1st. All responses received by this date will be used for the ACS and population estimates programs. Changes received after April 1st yet before May 1st will still be recorded, but these changes will not be in effect until 2007.

LUCA – Survey almost complete, polled both governmental units that respond to previous LUCA and those that did not. Found that LUCA poses more of an issue in smaller communities though very few responded (8%) that they would not participate. The item of most interest was review of individual addresses.

2008 Dress Rehearsal will mail LUCA packet to eligible governmental units including a brochure explaining LUCA and a contact list of the highest elected officials on file asking for any corrections.

A pilot test of state-level participation was conducted in the states of Indiana and Wisconsin. This was not allowed in the 2000 Census and is under review for the 2010 Census. Linda extended appreciation of those involved in this pilot test. At this time, geography division resources suggest not having state-level participation in LUCA as part of the 2008 dress rehearsal.

The contract for the development of a computer-based LUCA update tool has been awarded. This will allow local governments to submit BAS and LUCA changes electronically. This tool is expected to be ready in a year or so. Regional office staff will be available to conduct training at various locations in each state.

Several questions on the transition from FIPS to GNIS were posed. The Census Bureau is NOT discontinuing FIPS. The FIPS55 system will be maintained with new codes being added as needed. The new 8-digit codes will be reflected in 2008 with a bridge product between FIPS and GNIS.

Signe Wetrogan provided an update on **POPULATION ESTIMATES AND PROJECTIONS**.

Current production is the number one priority from the estimates division. Though, international migration remains high in the list as well. Looking toward the ACS to quantify the change in the foreign-born from one year to the next to improve population estimates. International movement is now down to the county and municipio level.

Domestic migration relies on administrative records, so there is a high degree of coverage. Strides have been made in geocoding address on IRS form down to the county-level quickly. There is a move from a returns-based system, which misses first-time filers, to a person-based system, which will have SSN's of every person on tax form to capture those individuals that appear as exemptions on another's tax form. A person-based system may also allow association of some characteristics like age and race to each person.

Sub-national estimates of population by characteristics uses an antiquated equation developed in the 1980s. This procedure is being investigated for areas of improvement as well as procedures for determining vacant units. Signe stressed that group quarters estimates are only as good as data from state partners.

New products from the population estimates division include:

- Puerto Rico municipio populations by age and gender
- Administrative records being used to tabulate Vintage 2005 data in the FEMA-designated counties. These will NOT be official population estimates, but rather a count intended to help area policymakers. No release date as yet.
- A series of data products around the United States reaching the 300 million mark are planned. These are not expected until Fall 2006.

Director Kincannon spoke Thursday morning giving an overview of activities. He highlighted the data efforts in response to the hurricanes in the gulf coast area. The 2007 federal budget signaled a change for the Census Bureau with a 2% reduction in funding. This reduction was not a one time cut, but rather a continuing reduction in funding. After reviewing the implications of this budget cut, it was determined that an across the board cut to all divisions would be unwise. In light of this, the limitations of the SIPP program came into question. Therefore, SIPP will be discontinued and the focus for longitudinal income dynamics for low-levels of geography will turn to the ACS. MAF/TIGER enhancement to carry on as planned. Two sites selected for the 2008 Dress Rehearsal. The work of the Census Bureau and the SDC Network will intensify over the next few years as the 2010 re-engineered census gears up.

A question was posed to the Director regarding the count of prisoners. Director Kincannon stated that a report was under development and due to the Congress on February 20, 2006. Since this is a federal holiday, the aim is to deliver the report in February 17th. There are powerful arguments against changing the residency definition that have been upheld by several Supreme Court decisions.

The Director was also questioned about the delay in releasing the ACS User Guide that we were shown at the annual meeting in September. He was unaware of the delay and will look into this.

Bob Scardamalia stressed that the Census Bureau's partnerships with local entities are key and inquired about the timing for the request of funding in the budget process to encourage local assistance. Director Kincannon replied that local assistance had great benefits in 2000, but these benefits are not quantifiable. Looking now at the general promotion of the 2010 Census and the need to start this promotion earlier than in the 2000 Census.

The **DEMOGRAPHIC PROGRAM** update was presented by **Howard Hogan**.

There have been several personnel changes with the retirements of three chiefs. New division chief of HHES, David Johnson, from BLS, should start in March. Cheryl Landman will replace Chet Bowie who has retired to take a position at a private firm. In the process of filling the chief of the population division, though expect to be announced at the March meeting.

Reorganization of the directorate is underway to take greater advantage of the use of administrative records. The use of administrative records in conjunction with surveys strengthens small area data program plus has the added benefits of being cheaper and quicker.

Focus is on support of ACS. ACS gives a better measure of migration and opportunities for more focused areas of survey. SIPP will likely end in 2006, though no final decision has been made. SIP was designed in the early 80s and it is showing its age in relevancy and processing time. The current vision is to use administrative records in conjunction with following up with select ACS participants. Hope is to have this in the field in 2008 or 2009.

Poverty estimates are due to be released soon. SAIPE data for 2003 were released in November 2005. New program in development to integrate the estimates of poverty from ACS and CPS into one single poverty estimate.

Daniel Weinberg presented a brief on the **RESEARCH DATA CENTER NETWORK**.

All research data centers (RDC's) have the same data. However, the administrators at each facility differ in their expertise. Collaboration across centers is allowed to take advantage of this expertise. There is a discussion paper series on the Center for Economic Studies web site (<http://webserver01.ces.census.gov/index.php/ces/1.00/cespapers>), as well as an annual report, that lists all work products that originate in the RDC network. RDC's can currently accommodate approximately 200 researchers. There is a fee for this access which varies depending on the project.

Jennifer Marks offered an update on **LOCAL EMPLOYMENT DYNAMICS (LED)**.

Fourteen states are now participating in the "On the Map" application. This application is now officially a public tool containing 2002 and 2003 data. Plan is to add 2004 data as soon as five states sign up to participate. ETA funded the original twelve states in On the Map with Alabama and Texas paying on their own. Any other states interested in joining would need to pay (~\$60,000) for the 2002-03 data to serve as a base and then pay annually for updates, maintenance, and enhancements (~\$30,000 for 2004 data). Discussions are ongoing with Base Realignment and Closing (BRAC) regarding the potential addition of states affected by military base closures.

LED program appears in the 2006 budget for the first time. Over the past six months, progress has been made on integrating LED data into Data-FERRETT. Specifically the hot report functionality of Data-FERRETT should ease this process and create easy access to LED data for the public.

Four e-learning modules for users have been developed:

- 1) LED Web Site
- 2) Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWI) Online
- 3) Industry Focus
- 4) On the Map

These e-learning modules can be found online at: <http://lehd.dsd.census.gov/led/datatools/elearning.html>.

Within the next four to six months, a new series of reports on older workers will be available. These reports will be by county, by metropolitan area, or by workforce area. States will have to request these as state LMI's are asked to review the data before release.

Worker origin-destination matrix is available upon request for any On the Map state subject to that state's LMI approving the release of data. This is possible as these data are synthetic to ensure confidentiality yet preserve trends and relations in the data.

Work is underway to enhance QWI by adding more characteristics such as race, ethnicity, and educational attainment as well as using administrative data from the Office of Personnel Management to add federal workers to LED.

SDC BUSINESS MEETING

Present were Bob Scardamalia (NY), Dan Veroff (WI), Barbara Ronningen (MN), Jane Traynham (MD), Richard Rathge (ND), Julie Hoang (CA), and Xan Wedel (KS) joined later by Frank Ambrose, Barbara LaFleur, Renée Jefferson-Copeland, and Stan Rolark of the Census Bureau's Customer Liaison Office (CLO).

Voted to dismiss business meeting early to join the FSCPE Steering Committee meeting with Ron Thompson.

Agenda items:

- Report of excess CD's and DVD's being received in some states
- Speaker evaluation form
- Census Bureau speakers bureau
- 2010 Action Plan
- Training
- ACS Staff Q&A
- Spring Meeting
- CLO Administrative Items

Some states have reported that they are receiving excess CD's & DVD's that are not wanted or needed by the affiliates in their network. Frank Ambrose noted that a column could be added to the address list to indicate the number of CD's & DVD's needed for each state. CLO will continue to mail copies to all

lead and coordinating agencies. This count will only affect the number of copies received by the lead agencies to in turn mail to affiliates.

A revised speaker evaluation form is need by the March meeting. Julie brought a draft of a revised evaluation. This item was tabled as Annette Watters also sent a revised form to the steering committee. Bob Scardamalia will send both drafts via email for further discussion.

2010 Action Plan

The 2000 Action Plan was reviewed. Should we lobby to aid in the MAF/TIGER update? The geography division seems aware that the SDC network is willing to help on this, but not sure how to incorporate local support in the current process. CLO will stay engaged in the conversation and possibly have Greg join a steering committee conference call to further this discussion. It was suggested that the SDC network draft a letter to Stan Rolark formally requesting SDC involvement in MAF/TIGER update for the 2008 Dress Rehearsal.

Bob Scardamalia inquired about the revised definitions for group quarters. CLO can request the most recent definition, but final language not yet available. The state of New York is compiling a list of college dormitories including the latitude and longitude of each facility. While the Bureau is not equipped to handle lat/long at this time, it would be good to develop some standard data structure with the FSCPE network for future collaboration.

Some discussion took place on the desperate need for ACS materials including a brief guide explaining ACS and the statistics used in ACS to novice data users. In the line of this discussion it was mentioned that it would be helpful if the SDC network were given the opportunity to review training materials before they are made available. Renée Jefferson-Copeland said she will extend this offer, specifically for the LUCA training materials that are currently in development. She also suggested that all leads are encouraged to contact their Regional Offices to strengthen the partnership between states and regions as the 2010 Census approaches.

Lisa Blumerman, Doug Hillmer, Kevin Holley, and Mike Ratcliffe joined us to address any questions or concerns the committee might have regarding ACS. A discussion ensued on adding a summary level for rural area within states. This is not an official level of geography at this time and might be useful in sparsely populated states that have few areas with 65,000 or more people. These areas will not have ACS data for several years and an added rural geography would fill this gap. The process could be started to make this an official summary level, but this will take between one and two years to complete. A special tabulation is possible, but given the current budget constraints this will not happen unless outside funding is secured. The committee also stressed the need for ACS User Guide. Lisa Blumerman said she was hopeful that she will have news on this for the March meeting. The idea of a one-page digestible guide on ACS was presented by the SDC steering committee. Lisa Blumerman commented that she could not go into specific, but assured us that such a product was forthcoming.

Once the ACS group left, the business meeting resumed. After Jacque Mason's presentation several members of the CIC network expressed interest in the media training. No objections were heard so it was decided to extend the Mid-March meeting invitation to the entire CIC network. There was speculation that only the few who are in close proximity to Los Angeles might attend. There is also the possibility of pro-rated registration for those who only want to attend the media training.

Online/Technology-based Training

Stan Rolark has been an active member of a team discussing the use of technology in training over the past few years. At this time, it appears that Live Meeting is the product of choice. Primary concerns are security based as use of this product would allow users behind the Census Bureau's firewall.

[More information on Microsoft's Live Meeting including system requirements and a free two-week trial can be found at: <http://www.microsoft.com/office/livemeeting/prodinfo/default.mspix>]

The field division conducted focus groups and the consensus was to develop three guidebooks to for states to gear up for the 2010 Census; one for state government, one for local governments in larger cities, and a third guidebook for rural areas.

Spring Meeting

There are currently 34 people registered representing 12 states. The format and content of the service centers were discussed. These sessions will provide a way for states to share best practices and new ideas. Bob Scardamalia will poll the members registered for the Spring Meeting to identify presenters.

Administrative Items

Renée Jefferson-Copeland mentioned that several states have yet to return their MOA's. Committee members were asked to contact any state in their tree without an MOA. Any state that fails to return their MOA as soon as possible will lose all access to embargo data.

The annual report form will be out to the network soon. This year the annual report will be online and several of the questions have been re-worded.

Please note the peak travel period for CLO staff is March through August.

We adjourned the business meeting to join the FSCPE Steering Committee meeting with **Ron Thompson**.

Ron Thompson briefed the steering committees on the **DATA ACQUISITION AND DISSEMINATION SYSTEM (DADS)**. DADS I is the system currently in operation behind American FactFinder. The thought is to replace this system. An RFP has been issued for DADS II. This RFP is expected to be awarded by September 2006. This opportunity will open the dialogue for improvement and enhancements to American FactFinder.

There was some discussion regarding population estimates by characteristics being added to American FactFinder. Signe Wetrogan was present and both Signe and Ron agreed to investigate this possibility.

JOINT BUSINESS MEETING WITH FSCPE STEERING COMMITTEE

Lengthy discussion on potential cooperative efforts for the two networks especially in the area of improving group quarters counts. It was generally agreed that both networks would encourage members to put forth a concerted effort to strengthen the bond between the SDC and FSCPE.