

NATIONAL STATE DATA CENTER STEERING COMMITTEE

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

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

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State Data Center Steering Committee February 21-23, 2007 U.S. Census Bureau **Agenda**

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, February 21, 2007

Welcome and Introductions

Barbara Harris, Acting Chief, Customer Liaison Office
Enrique Lamas, Chief, Population Division
Renee Jefferson-Copeland, Program Administrator, State and Governmental Programs, Customer Liaison Office
Melany Dela Cruz-Viesca, Chair, Census Information Center
Linda Gage, Chair, Federal-State Cooperative Program for Population Estimates
Xan Wedel, Chair, State Data Center

Demographic Programs Update

Howard Hogan, Associate Director for Demographic Programs

Howard reviewed changes in personnel and structure within the Census Bureau. He also discussed the budget situation and that the content has been locked down for the 2010 short-form. Consequently, the 2008 dress rehearsal will be a real dress rehearsal. The Bureau was not able to add foster-child as a relationship. He discussed some of the population program projects, such as daytime population and LEHD and that there is still no steady funding stream for these programs until the Bureau can prove the usefulness of the data/program. He also discussed the Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP) and its successor the Dynamics of Economic Well-being System (DEWS). SIPP was funded and will continue through at least this Fiscal Year.

Population Division/Branch/Team Updates

Enrique Lamas, Chief, Population Division
Tori Velkoff, Assistant Division Chief for Estimates and Projections, Population Division

Enrique Lamas discussed the new structure of the Population Division and that this structure enables more focus on counts and demographic composition. As a result of a July 16, 2006 meeting, the population estimates group will be evaluating a housing unit approach for population estimates.

Tori Velkoff discussed the population estimates for states, counties, subcounties and the uses of the data. She mentioned that the estimates are used as population controls for the American Community Survey (ACS) and Current Population Survey (CPS), in addition to federal funding allocations. She discussed that the population estimates (vintage 2006) incorporated the national change of address file

to estimate migration for Hurricane Katrina. She outlined the timeline for releases and also discussed changes for the vintage 2007 population estimates. The vintage 2007 estimates will use IRS migration data and the Bureau is looking at other sources of data, such as driver's licenses, etc. Also, the Bureau is working on how to reduce confusion between estimates and the ACS.

Introduction to Housing Unit Based Estimates Research Team (HUBERT)

Jason Devine and Manisha Sengupta, Team Leaders, Population Division

Jason discussed the HUBERT project, looking at an alternative method for producing estimates. This team is looking at trying to produce the best housing unit estimates and does not have input to how these estimates are used. The Census Bureau would like to have a year or two of housing unit estimates prepared prior to the 2010 Census for comparison purposes.

Discussion focused on the use of other administrative records data, such as building permits and property appraiser databases; and differences between urban and rural areas.

Population Estimates, The Challenge Process and Its Impact on the Estimates

<http://www.census.gov/sdc/www/1harper.ppt>

Greg Harper, Local Government Estimates and Migration Processing Branch, Population Division

Greg outlined the population estimate challenge process and reviewed the changes that have been made based on challenges. Currently the national population estimate is constant and adjustments are made to the county and subcounty level to reflect the challenge adjustment. Greg provided a handout displaying states that have had net gains or losses due to challenges. The challenge amount is wedged back to the Census year and is also used for future adjustments. The Census Bureau will implement some changes for 2007, but these changes are not set at this time.

Population Estimates & Projections, Recent Research - "A Comparison of Housing Unit Estimates to the ACS Aggregate Address Files"

<http://www.census.gov/sdc/www/2reese.ppt>

Andrew Jason Reese, Local Government Estimates and Migration Processing Branch, Population Division

Jason discussed the research that has been done in comparing the American Community Survey (ACS) Master Address File (MAF) and Vintage 2005 housing unit estimates. Data were examined at the national, state, and county level in order to improve housing unit estimates. The county level research employed a loss function which resulted in the largest positive and negative results seen in counties within MSAs. Predominantly, positive loss function patterns could be seen in the urban area and negative loss function in rural areas. This sparked a discussion on understanding the MAF and how it handles rural address, Indian reservations, etc.

American Community Survey

Update and ACS 2006 Content Test (<http://www.census.gov/sdc/www/3sgda.ppt>)

Susan Schechter, Chief, American Community Survey Office

Susan discussed the promotional materials and products that have been developed for the American Community Survey (ACS). These included: brochures, better training materials, webinars, books (Cynthia Taeuber), etc. The Bureau has been focusing on ways to use and understand ACS data. Any new question to the ACS has to show a demonstrated improvement. The 2006 Content Test included eight housing topics; twelve detailed person topics; and three new questions were tested. The new questions address Health Insurance Coverage, Marital History, and Veterans Service-connected Disability. Results are at: http://www.census.gov/acs/www/AdvMeth/content_test/ct_reports.htm. The proposed changes for the ACS 2008 test are available at <http://www.census.gov/sdc/www/07febstrmtg.htm>.

ACS Multi-Year Estimates Study (<http://www.census.gov/sdc/www/3sgda.ppt>)

Cynthia Davis, American Community Survey Office

Cynthia reviewed the many objectives of the ACS Multi-Year Estimates Study. The research that is being done addresses the reliability, quality, stability, and usability of the ACS multi-year estimates.

ACS Sample Disposition <http://www.census.gov/sdc/www/3sgda.ppt>

Deborah Griffin, Assistant to the Chief, American Community Survey

Deborah's presentation was in response to a request from the joint steering committees at their last meeting. Specifically, what happens to the initial sample selected for the ACS? A request previously had been made for "real" data by state to understand the implications on the reliability of data in each state. Deborah also cautioned against drawing response rate conclusions based on these unweighted data.

ACS Weighting and Estimation Research

<http://www.census.gov/sdc/www/3sgda.ppt>

Mark Asiala, Decennial Statistical Studies Division

Mark's discussed the disparity that has been growing over time since 2002 between occupied housing units, households, and householders. The problem lies with the use of weights, since before weights were applied, the relationships were consistent. The research discussed provides a method for improved weighting and estimation, providing more consistent estimates of spouses and married partner households; perfect agreement between the estimates of occupied housing units, households, and householders; and total housing units close to the controlled estimate but no longer equal. This methodology will be implemented with the 2006 ACS release scheduled this summer.

Evaluation/Use of Expanded Group Quarters Report

<http://www.census.gov/sdc/www/3faber.ppt>

Jim Farber, Data Integration Division

Jim discussed the preliminary research, requirements, and timeline for implementation of a group quarters project. A pilot project looked at group quarter data from the Federal State Cooperative Program for Population Estimates (FSCPE) for use in updating the Master Address File (MAF). The FSCPE records had a high rate of new addresses and were verified to be of high quality. Therefore the pilot project is planned to go national this year; inviting FSCPEs to participate around September 2007, providing program details around January 2008, acquiring files around May 2008, and updating the MAF for address canvassing around July 2008.

Summary of Report of Residence Rules (<http://www.census.gov/sdc/www/4ccc.ppt>)

Connie Citro, Director, Committee on National Statistics, National Academy of Sciences

Michael Cohen and Daniel Cork, Study Directors, Committee on National Statistics

Connie reviewed the status of current, concluding, and recently concluded Census Studies at the Committee on National Statistics. She focused on the recently concluded study of residence rules in the decennial census. The results of the research are published in a book entitled: "*Once, Only Once, and in the Right Place*". The panel recommends that people are counted at their "usual" residence and that residence should be made based on person, not by virtue of family membership or type of residence. Other recommendations are displayed in the linked PowerPoint. Connie also mentioned that the final report from the ACS Estimation Panel is in review stages and she outlined the advantages and challenges of the ACS. Also, members have been appointed to a new panel to work with the Bureau on identifying priorities and defining specific evaluations and experiments for the 2010 Census (CPEX - Census Program of Evaluations and Experiments).

Census Bureau Updates with the Director

Louis Kincannon, Director

The Director presented an overview of the recent personnel changes and the budget scenario for the current year. He was very optimistic on the outlook for the Bureau based on both the budget and the staffing changes. He also stated that the State Data Centers are an enormous asset to the Bureau, and the SDC steering committee thanked him for his dedication to the state program and for helping to strengthen the partnership over the years.

Thursday, February 22, 2007

2010 Content Determination, Census 2010 Timeline for Decennial Programs, Partnership and Outreach, 2010 Count Review

Teresa Angueira, Acting Associate Director for Decennial Census

Louisa Miller, Assistant Division Chief for Census Programs, Population Division

Teresa Angueira and Louisa Miller gave an update to the Decennial Census Program which includes the three major components, American Community Survey, MAF/TIGER Enhancement Program, 2010 Census. The operations for 2010 Census are already underway. Some of the highlights of research and testing for 2010 are:

Group Quarters (GQ):

- Simplify GQ definitions and reduce the number of types.
- Integrate addresses into LUCA, and improve the GQ inventory using information from FSCPE, QCEW (formerly ES202), and InfoUSA.
- Integrate housing and GQ better in 2010 to minimize duplication.

Self Response Options:

- Replacement questionnaire is a huge workload in a short time frame, but it is feasible and the Bureau will incorporate second mailing.
- Postal tracking
- Timing of mailing components.
- Internet was tested in 2003 and 2005 for lowering data capture cost. Tests showed use of Internet did not raise response rate and does not reduce cost of data capture. The increased security problems outweigh confidentiality issues. Therefore, the Bureau is not planning on using the Internet for 2010.

Increased Uses of Automation

- Hand held computers for field data collection is a technology that does work and field workers were receptive in the 2004 non-response follow-up.
- FDCA (Field Data Collection Automation) Contract was awarded to Harris Corporation. Harris Corp. is serving as the systems integrator, as well as providing overall program management for the FDCA program to obtain field census data for the 2010 Census. Harris Corp. will support the data collection activities of Census Bureau enumerators and local census offices during the 2008 dress rehearsal and the 2010 Decennial Census.

Census Count Review

- There will be no field verification program. A count review manager will be hired in about two months.

Planning Database

- The focus of the block level planning database has been for Census Bureau use. The Bureau will look at disclosure issues and determine how to develop a version that can be used by partners once the database has been developed. The partner version will most likely not be at the block level.

Update on Census 2010 Redistricting Data Program

Cathy McCully, Chief, [Census Redistricting Data Office](http://www.census.gov/rdo/www/) (<http://www.census.gov/rdo/www/>)

Cathy McCully presented an update on the five phases of the redistricting program for 2010.

Phase 1 - On January 4, 2007, her office successfully deployed the data and generalized maps for the 110th Congress and the State Legislative Districts used in the 06 election cycle via [American FactFinder](#) (AFF)

http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/DatasetMainPageServlet?_program=DEC&_ds_name=DEC_2000_SLDS&_submenuid=datasets_3&_lang=en.

A DVD is also being prepared and participants at the meeting were given one-off copies. DVDs will be sent to Governors and State/House leadership and the network.

Phase 2 - Voting District/Block Boundary Suggestion Project (VTD/BBSP) - 2007-2009

This phase will involve the collection of voting district boundaries and updates to legislative districts. ACS and Census 2000 data will be tabulated for legislative districts.

The verification phase will be ongoing and automated. Letters will go out to Governors and

- State Legislators in August 2007 with a December 15th deadline for response. The Federal Register Notice is anticipated to go out in late March or early April 2007.
- Phase 3 - Data Delivery for the 2010 Census Redistricting Data Program - 2010-2011
This phase involves the delivery of the geographic products and data products to the official designated liaisons. New for 2010, school districts will be included in the Public Law file released in 2011.
- Phase 4 - Collection of the Post-2010 Census Redistricting Plans - 2012-2013
This phase will involve the collection of State Legislative Districts and Congressional plans based on Phase 3 materials (113th Congress). Updates will be done every five years.
- Phase 5 - Evaluation and Recommendation for Census 2020 - 2012-2014
This phase will consist of a historical review of the successes and failures of the Census Bureau to meet the Public Law 94-171 requirements. What worked and what didn't work.

Geographic Programs Update, Including LUCA

Bob LaMacchia, Chief, [Geography Division](#) with John McKay and Linda Franz
<http://www.census.gov/geo/www/index.html>

Bob LaMacchia discussed the timeline for the MAF/TIGER accuracy improvement project and showed a map(http://ftp2.census.gov/geo/maps/mtaip_status/) of the counties that have been completed. A map of the status as of February 26, 2007 is at: As of late February 2007 there were 2,252 counties that had been updated. Some counties were processed early on in the cycle, and the Census Bureau may or may not be able to revisit these counties prior to the fall of 2008 when they need to deliver for LUCA canvassing. At that time, GPS will be used to add / modify addresses and streets. The team also discussed the Boundary Annexation Survey (BAS) and the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA).

BAS - Boundary Annexation Survey

Mail-out was completed in early January and responses are starting to return to Jeffersonville. There will be a secure website, password protected for those SDCs who agree to participate in non-response follow-up. CLO will send the information necessary to access these files to the lead agencies. Bob noted that the state assistance has improved response rates and he was very appreciative of the help. The population threshold was lowered to 2,500 to support the Economic Census. All areas will be surveyed in 2008, 2009 and 2010. In the summer of 2010, the plan is to send out the boundaries to the Highest Elected Officials (HEOs) for verification and quick changes. The MAF/TIGER partnership software has a BAS module. If a location signs up for LUCA prior to October 31, 2007, then they can submit BAS 2008 with their LUCA update.

LUCA - Local Update of Census Addresses

(http://www.esri.com/news/releases/06_3qtr/census_update.html)

LUCA letters are being sent out (should be completed) to Highest Elected Officials (HEOs), Tribal Chairs, Governors, and state representatives from Jeffersonville. Each Regional Office will be conducting promotional training for their states and a number of state SDCs have volunteered to assist their Regional Office with local arrangements (space, ensuring attendance, etc.).

There are three options for participation. For specific details of each option, click on the links below:

- Option 1 - [Full Address List Review with Count Review](#)
http://www.census.gov/geo/www/luca2010/luca_options.html#option1
- Option 2 - [Local Address List Submission](#)
http://www.census.gov/geo/www/luca2010/luca_options.html#option2
- Option 3 - [Non-Title 13 Local Address List Submission](#)
http://www.census.gov/geo/www/luca2010/luca_options.html#option3

There will be two types of toll-free help desks established for LUCA. One phone number will go to the Regional Office for questions regarding the program and procedures. The other phone number will go to Headquarters for processing issues, file formats, etc. A question was raised regarding an ESRI extension for their clients related to LUCA. This extension has not been released at this time, but a [press release \(http://www.esri.com/news/releases/06_3qtr/census_update.html\)](http://www.esri.com/news/releases/06_3qtr/census_update.html) is available on the ESRI website.

Transition of FIPS Codes to Geographic Names Information System (GNIS)

The 2010 Census will include both the new GNIS codes and the old FIPS codes (possibly renamed), however there will be a crosswalk between FIPS and GNIS created. The pros with the new codes is that they do not change, even when a name should change; however a drawback is that they do not correspond to an alpha order of the titles. To learn more about this new coding system go to the [US Board on Geographic Names \(http://geonames.usgs.gov/domestic/index.html\)](http://geonames.usgs.gov/domestic/index.html).

Local Employment Dynamics on the Map

<http://www.census.gov/sdc/www/5jeremy.ppt>

Jeremy Wu, Assistant Division Chief for Data Integration and LEHD Program, Data Integration Division

Jeremy gave a brief update on the [Local Employment Dynamics \(LED\)](http://lehd.dsd.census.gov/led/index.html)

(<http://lehd.dsd.census.gov/led/index.html>) partnership that currently includes 44 states and D.C. Two states, NY and Ohio are in the approval process; while five states have yet to join - Connecticut, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New Hampshire, and South Dakota. In the Quarterly Workforce Indicators (QWI) production, 37 states are under regular production with four states under experimental production. LED has been producing both SIC (Standard Industrial Classification) and NAICS (North American Industry Classification System)-based QWIs, but will be stopping production of the SIC-based data. There are 17 states that are currently participating in On the Map. [On the Map \(http://lehdmap.dsd.census.gov/\)](http://lehdmap.dsd.census.gov/) is a web-based, interactive mapping application used to show where people work and where workers live. A tentative schedule for states to be phased to a new version is as follows:

- Version 2.0 - February 2007 - AL, GA, NC
- Version 2.1 - April 2007, CA, CO, FL, ID, IL, IA, MN, MI, OK, OR, PA, TX, VA, WA
- Version 2.2 - July 2007, AR, DE, HA, IN, KA, KY, MA, MD, MT, NE, NJ, NM, SC, TN, VT, WV, WI
- Version 2.3 - September 2007, AZ, DC, LA, MI, MIS, ND, RI, UT, WY

Major features in version 2 are the addition of 2004 data to the 2002-2003 data from version 1; cross-state patterns (people with in-state jobs living in other states) for all participating states, including retrofitting the 2002-2003 data; expansion of reports to include side-by-side comparisons of 2002-2004 data; and workforce innovation of regional economic development (WIRED) regions and congressional districts as additional selectable geographical layers. [Project updates \(http://lehd.dsd.census.gov/led/datatools/onthemap.html#projectupdates\)](http://lehd.dsd.census.gov/led/datatools/onthemap.html#projectupdates) can be found on the LED website.

Program of Integrated Estimates Update (PIE)

<http://www.census.gov/sdc/www/6signe.ppt>

Signe Wetrogan, Senior Demographic Advisor, Population Division

Signe discussed the objectives of the PIE which are:

- How can ACS data be used to improve the intercensal population and housing unit estimates
- How can the intercensal population and housing unit estimates be used most effectively in the ACS

2007 Economic Census Update, SDC involvement in promotion

<http://www.census.gov/sdc/www/7paul.ppt>

Paul Zeisset, Special Assistant, Economic Planning and Coordination Division

Paul Zeisset and the SDC Steering Committee discussed upcoming plans for promotion of the 2007 Economic Census. Available to all SDCs will be an information kit containing press releases, news hooks, local data from 2002, data uses, and questions and answers which SDCs will be able to localize to their area. A special web site, business.census.gov, will help raise awareness about the usefulness and relevance of economic data to business respondents. SDCs will also be encouraged to create web pages of their own, include promotion in newsletters, send mailings, gather testimonials, and work with local media.

SDC Steering Committee Discussion

The discussion mainly centered on LUCA with Bob Scardamalia sharing a PowerPoint presentation he is using within his state to promote LUCA. New York has already begun promotional workshops and hopes to begin training workshops soon. Other discussion centered around Regional Offices (ROs) with some ROs involving SDCs and inviting them to training, and others not doing this. SDCs are encouraged to participate in LUCA and work with their lead agencies and ROs.

The steering committee also discussed the LED program and what SDCs could do to help market this resource. SDCs are encouraged to work with their state Labor Market Information (LMI) shop and to either link to these data or work in conjunction with their LMI shop to skin these data on the state SDC website.

Friday, February 23, 2007

SDC Steering Committee Discussion and Business Meeting

Friday's business meeting and discussion centered on two major items:

1) *Mid-Year meeting in NY*

The agenda for the Mid-Year meeting was fine tuned to meet the needs of both SDCs and Census Bureau staff. A full agenda will be available in mid-March. One item of discussion was to make sure agenda included time for more question and answers and less lecture. Also discussed was promotion and making sure that everyone throughout the network realized the importance of attending this meeting in relation to LUCA (all day Tuesday and Wednesday morning will be devoted to this topic). Everyone was urged to contact coordinating and affiliate agencies to promote the meeting. Also discussed (for future mid-year meetings) was the cost of coming to large cities and that budgeting to travel to these meetings is a problem for a large part of the network.

2) *Revision of the Annual Report*

The committee discussed the revision of the Annual Report to ensure that it is easier for reporting and to eliminate questions that are not used by CLO. It was determined that most SDCs do not use this report so the statistics collected need to be essential to CLO.

Access to the new secure website was also discussed. The recommendation from the steering committee was that both leads and coordinating agencies have access to the documents on this website. In addition, CLO discussed establishing a general email address to ensure that email is not missed when staff are on the road.

Also discussed was a draft letter, compiled by Julie Hoang (CA), from the committee to Susan Schechter, Chief, American Community Survey, requesting information about the ACS PUMS sample size. The committee agreed to send a letter and Julie will forward the draft to Xan, for her to finalize and send to Susan. Once a reply is received from the ACS office, the steering committee will decide what next steps will be taken.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

The next Steering Committee Meeting will be June 18-20, 2007 at the Census Bureau's office.