

Including Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers in the 2010 Census

Spring 2006 Advisory Committee Meetings

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This document is being provided to the Census Bureau's Advisory Committees prior to upcoming meetings. It is preliminary in nature and in the early stages of development. As such, it is subject to revision. Our intent in making this working document available at this time is to inform ongoing discussions related to 2010 Census planning.

U S C E N S U S B U R E A U

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April 2006

Listed below are enhancements planned for the 2010 Census that will help with the identification of living quarters and the inclusion of migrant and seasonal farmworkers in the census.

- Conducting the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) earlier in the decade so that local officials will have more time to review the address list of living quarters. Also, local officials will review an integrated address list of all the housing units and group quarters in their area. In Census 2000, the review of housing unit addresses and special place addresses (not group quarters addresses) occurred in two separate LUCA operations.
- Conduct research earlier in the decade to update the list of counties with expected high concentrations of migrant and seasonal farmworkers in time for the 2010 Census. Additional data will be collected on the characteristics of housing conditions of migrant and seasonal farmworkers and, for major farmworker counties, provide additional observational/ethnographic data on within-county distributions of farmworkers and housing conditions. The information we learn from this research will be used to enhance census operations, such as Address Canvassing; to facilitate access to difficult areas and gain cooperation with the census.
- Ensure the integration of housing units and group quarters during address list updating and data collection operations so that all living quarters, regardless if it is a housing unit or group quarters, will be identified and listed.
- Conduct a 100-percent canvass of most blocks in the United States during the 2010 Census to verify and update the list of living quarters, both housing units and group quarters. In this operation, a lister will canvass assigned blocks looking for every place where people live or could live (called living quarters), and capture map coordinates for every structure containing living quarters. Listers also will contact someone at each structure containing living quarters to verify the address and ask about additional living quarters in the structure. Another enhancement is the use of an automated instrument to collect a GPS coordinate or a manual “mapspot” if GPS is not available for each structure and obtain address information for all living quarters found on the ground.
- Conduct a new field operation to determine the classification of living quarters that were not classified as housing units during the Address Canvassing operation. Examples of Other Living Quarters (OLQs) are assisted living facilities, worker’s dormitories, campgrounds, marinas, prisons, jails, hotels/motels, recreational vehicle parks, college residence halls and shelters for people experiencing homelessness. During this operation, listers will visit each identified OLQ and conduct an interview to determine if the address is a group quarters (GQ), a housing unit (HU), not a housing unit (such as a commercial establishment) or a transient location (such as a hotel or campground). If the address is

determined to be a group quarters (places such as worker dormitories, prisons, skilled nursing facilities, and college residence halls), additional questions will be asked.

- Began planning for the creation of the 2010 planning database that will be used to target areas where some special procedures, such as cultural facilitators, will be deployed. One area under consideration is to create graphic displays to help with the targeting of these areas. Different sources of information will be used to create the database.
- Attempts are being made by the Census Bureau to obtain waivers and hiring exemptions for the 2010 Census to facilitate hiring people from the area where they will work. One waiver that we are seeking includes the hiring of non-citizens for the 2010 Census. If this waiver is approved, the Census Bureau will be able to hire non-citizens to conduct the 2010 Census from the list of approved "allied nations" established by Congress. We also plan to use cultural agents with specific language skills in areas where we do not have eligible citizens or non-citizens to hire from. If our request for hiring non-citizens is not approved, we will still have the ability to use cultural agents for language-specific purposes where needed.
- Conducted a series of focus groups with partners from Census 2000 who were located in or provided services to rural residents to get feedback on conducting a more effective decennial census in rural areas. The three sites were Fresno, California., Charleston, West Virginia, and Jackson, Mississippi. Outreach issues for migrant and seasonal farmworkers were raised. Some of the key findings were:
 - Use more community workers who are key influencers and have one-on-one contact with families in migrant and seasonal farmworker communities.
 - Use more images with families and migrant workers in agricultural settings and service providers and community leaders they know and trust in our marketing materials.
 - Access to migrant workers is best achieved through their children, families, schools, churches, and through bilingual workers and outreach volunteers.

Questions for Discussion

1. How can the outreach program be enhanced to encourage migrant and seasonal farmworkers to participate in the Census?
2. Are there specific locations that could be designated as Be Counted sites that would provide opportunities for migrant and seasonal farmworkers to participate in the census?
3. What are effective methods for disseminating information/materials about the census to migrant and seasonal farmworkers and their families?

