

What Is the Census of Governments?

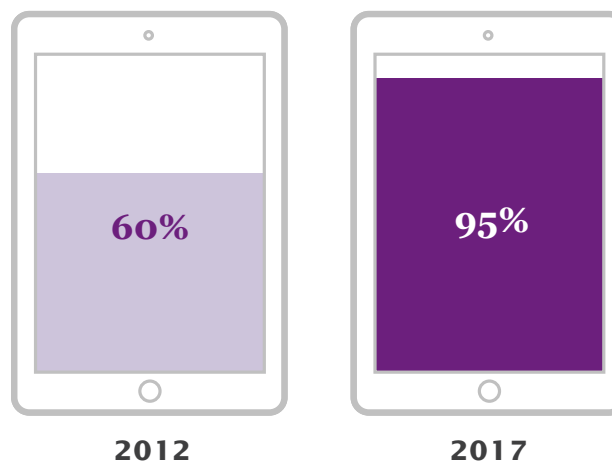
The Census of Governments is the most comprehensive, comparable, and precise measure of government economic activity. It identifies the scope and nature of the nation's public sector and provides authoritative benchmark figures of public finance, pensions, and employment. It classifies the complex and diverse state and local government organizations, powers, and activities, and measures federal, state, and local fiscal relationships.

With the release of each data product, the Census of Governments provides policy analysts, researchers, and the general public with a more complete and clear picture of the public sector. These data products present information to assist in addressing the issues that concern state and local governments and serve as the foundation for developing national economic and public policy.

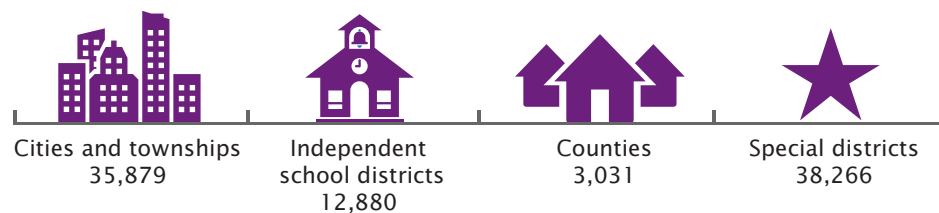
The ongoing improvements will help the Census Bureau better meet the needs of our data users.

A More Efficient Census of Governments

Electronic data collection for more than 90,000 governments is scheduled to increase to 95 percent by 2017.



Data Collection by Type of Government



*Special districts include water districts, fire districts, mosquito abatement districts, and more.

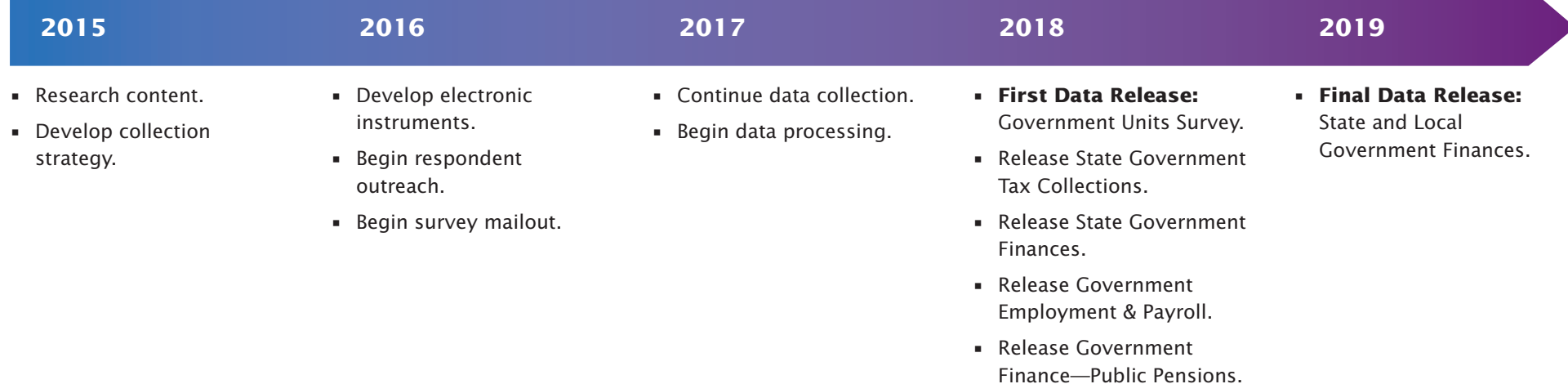
Elements of an Efficient Census of Governments

- 1 **Move towards 100 percent electronic collection to reduce cost and increase efficiency.**
- 2 **Reduce respondent burden for state and local governments through customized data collection.**
- 3 **Automate operations to increase productivity.**
- 4 **Improve data products to reflect the ever-changing public sector activity within the U.S. economy.**

**More Timely
+ Less Burden
Most Relevant
View of the
Public Sector**

Census of Governments Timeline

RESEARCH AND TESTING PHASE



BENEFITS OF IMPROVEMENTS

Reduce the burden on government resources while maintaining data quality.

Provide policy-makers the right tools to make data-driven decisions.

Four Elements of an Innovative and Cost Effective Census of Governments

1

Moving Towards 100 Percent Electronic Collection to Reduce Cost and Increase Efficiency

What are we talking about?

- Reducing reliance on paper processing.
- Streamlining the way governments respond.

What are we researching and developing?

- Partnering with state governments to expand electronic data collection.
- Expanding options for electronic data collection.

What are the intended outcomes?

- Increase electronic reporting.
- Improve response time.
- Improve frame coverage and data quality.
- Increase efficiency and reduce processing costs.

2

Reducing Respondent Burden for State and Local Governments Through Customized Data Collection

What are we talking about?

- Relying more on administrative records.

What are we researching and developing?

- Collecting data for many or all governments from a single state contact.
- Collecting data readily available by internal government accounting systems.
- Collecting data for multiple surveys from a single state contact.
- Using administrative data to reduce burden on governments.

What are the intended outcomes?

- Reduce respondent burden.
- Maintain or reduce costs.
- Improve coverage and data quality.

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3

Automating Operations to Increase Productivity

What are we talking about?

- Using Census Bureau-wide solutions to increase productivity and reduce cost.

What are we researching and developing?

- Integrating processing systems by using the Government Processing Interactive Console (GPIC).
- Developing a single delivery system for results by using the Center for Enterprise Dissemination Services and Consumer Innovation (CEDSCI) system.
- Improving statistical methods for better coverage and data quality.

What are the intended outcomes?

- Eliminate duplicate systems and processes.
- Increase productivity.
- Better allocate staff resources.
- Enable users to combine Census of Governments statistics with other information.

4

Improving Data Products to Reflect the Ever-Changing Public Sector Activity Within the U.S. Economy

What are we talking about?

- Updating content to reflect the changing public sector activity within the economy.
- Disseminating more timely and relevant data.

What are we researching and developing?

- Measuring new and dynamic government programs.
- Finding ways to release data more quickly.
- Better integrating content across survey areas and programs.
- Updating the official classification manual so that data content is captured more accurately.

What are the intended outcomes?

- Provide the most accurate picture of our changing public sector of the economy.
- Help users find better information to make data-driven decisions.
- Improve relationships with all data users.