Fall Census Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting

Director's Remarks as Prepared for Delivery

September 21, 2023

- Good morning and thank you everyone for joining us. I wish I could be there, but I have contracted COVID and am navigating its journey.

- First, the Census Scientific Advisory Committee is so important. I thank the members for their time, their contributions, and their volunteerism.

- Now, let me start with some committee updates. Richelle Winkler has resigned after two terms on the committee. We thank her for her outstanding service and dedication; she will be greatly missed. And now for some good news; Jay Breidt has agreed to chair for a second term. Thank you, Jay, for your continued leadership.

- Next let me turn to a new committee—the 2030 Census Advisory Committee. Our preparations for the 2030 Census continue. Last fall, we eagerly announced that the U.S. Census Bureau actively sought your ideas for a better 2030 Census.

- And I hope you noticed that this August, we announced the establishment of a new Federal Advisory Committee to focus on the 2030 Census operations. Nominations are open not through the end of the month.

- Next, I'll talk about how the committee fits in with our other committees. CSAC and the National Advisory Committee are enterprise focused and provide feedback on the many programs and initiatives across our agency, not just the decennial census.

  ◦ The *Census Scientific Advisory Committee* focuses on science; this committee advises the Census Bureau on its research and methodology work across its programs enterprise-wide. For example, those programs include research on race, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, and gender identity, as well as research and methodology related to all surveys and censuses the agency conducts.

  ◦ Our *National Advisory Committee* focuses on people and communities—specifically: race, ethnicity, and other historically undercounted groups like people experiencing homelessness and young children in Census Bureau surveys and censuses.

  ◦ Finally, our *2030 Census Advisory Committee* will cover issue related to census operations, such as questionnaire content, enumeration strategies, outreach, communications, and data analysis, including how historically undercounted groups.

- CSAC and NAC will continue to inform fundamental enterprise-level aspects of the Census Bureau's work that impacts 2030 Census planning. There will be inevitable overlap and that's ok...more diverse voices are welcome and needed. In fact, more broadly we'll continue external engagement activities.

The Census Bureau's Advisory Committees

Census Scientific Advisory Committee	National Advisory Committee	2030 Census Advisory Committee
Focus: Science	*Focus: People and Communities*	*Focus: 2030 Census*
• Advises the Census Bureau on research and methodology work across its programs enterprise-wide 　• For example, research on race, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation and gender identity, as well as research and methodology related to all surveys and censuses the agency conducts	• Advises the Census Bureau on communication to various racial, ethnic, and other communities 　• Focus "on the identification of new strategies for improved Census Bureau operations, survey and data collection methods, including identifying cost-efficient ways to increase participation" 　• Reduce the undercount for *all* Census Bureau surveys and censuses enterprise-wide, including the American Community Survey, Household Pulse Survey, and Economic Census	• Advises the Census Bureau on 2030 Census questionnaire content, enumeration strategies, outreach, communications, and data analysis 　• Including work that will impact the count and how historically undercounted groups are included in the decennial's work

- Finally, please consider submitting a nomination if your organization has expertise in these areas for the 2030 Census Advisory Committee. We also invite multiple organizations to create a coalition and submit a single nomination as a group. We are accepting nominations until September 30, 2023.

- Now I want to turn to our research program for disclosure avoidance in the American Community Survey. As you know, at the Census Bureau, we are constantly in a balancing act between confidentiality and data accuracy.

- Right now, the ACS has a mix of disclosure avoidance methods which take an ad hoc approach to risk. Among ACS products, the ACS Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) has the most varied techniques: swapping, partial synthesis, perturbation, top- and bottom-coding, coarsening, and subsampling. These impact ACS accuracy and error structure.

- This means that PUMS analyses inherently undershoot total survey error. And frankly, with all these methods, there is no guarantee of confidentiality.

- Which brings us to our current research program on disclosure avoidance for ACS users. One avenue of research we're pursuing is tiered access, which allows for adaptive data publications that can support varying levels of accuracy and confidentiality.

- We're also exploring how to synthesize and then validate our data analysis results. The analysis of unadulterated ACS microdata in the validation process represents a clear advantage over our current PUMS approach because there is no infused error to protect against disclosure.

- We will keep you posted and ask for advice as we move forward.

- Next, I'll comment on the 2022 Economic Census. The economic census is very important for our nation—it's used for the official measure of the nation's businesses and economy.

- Economic indicators that use these data include the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), national income and products accounts (NIPAs), the producer price index (PPI), and other indicators of economic performance indices.

- There are also exciting new content items, such as:
  - Business technologies such as robotics, automation, additive manufacturing, and touchscreen interfaces for customers.
  - Human capital.
  - Remanufacturing.
  - Telemedicine services.
  - Space vehicle or satellite manufacturing.
  - Exports and imports of services.
- This new content was developed and tested with input from internal partners, federal stakeholders, and trade associations.
- Lastly, today is "Detailed DHC-A release" day! The 2020 Detailed Demographic and Housing Characteristic File A product is being released this morning along with an accompanying set of explanatory and technical documents.
- The 2020 DCH-A features detailed counts for 1,500 race, ethnicity, and AIAN categories. This includes counts for each of 1,200 AIAN tribes and 300 race-ethnicity combinations that show the wonderful diversity of our nation. Congratulations to the staff that produced this product.
- Thank you so much for joining us today, and for all your efforts on behalf of the Census Bureau. I look forward to today's presentations and discussions.