

STATISTICAL RESEARCH DIVISION (SRD)

SRD assists and supports the Decennial Census research, development, and assessment efforts for a number of methodology and technology areas. They also interact with DMD, DSSD, and other organizations on the development of specifications and procedures. SRD acts as a research and technical consultant during census tests and the dress rehearsal. Specific areas of current interest are:

Sampling, Imputation, and Estimation

SRD conducts research and evaluations studies. They design the Integrated Coverage Measurement (ICM) samples, imputation, and estimation methodology. SRD also interacts with DSSD on sampling specifications, reviews survey results and prepares evaluation studies. They also provide disclosure limitations, along with DSSD on data files.

Disclosure

SRD conducts research, development, and evaluations studies. They design the disclosure limitation methodology and interact with DSSD and DMD on its testing and implementation. They help develop specifications, review results, and conduct evaluation studies. They also act as an intermediary between the decennial area and the Disclosure Review Board.

Metadata

SRD conducts research, development, and evaluations studies associated with the collection, storage, classification, use and dissemination of statistical metadata. Statistical Metadata is descriptive information or documentation written to facilitate a better understanding of the data and the methodologies and technologies used to collect, process, analysis, and disseminate the data.

Record Linking, Matching and Unduplication

Computerized Data Collection

Center for Survey Methods Research (CSMR)

CSMR conducts topic/issue oriented item non-response questionnaire evaluations, evaluation studies and small-scale questionnaire design experiments (split panels, classroom tests, and so forth) based on their own pre-established specifications. CSMR's evaluation may establish that a particular race, geographic area, and so forth, respond to specific items in the same manner. While CSMR's evaluation may be question specific, DSSD completes an item non-response evaluation based on the total questionnaire response.

Special or cognitive testing is a relatively new form of pretesting used by CSMR that utilizes a very small sampling universe (may be as little as 15 people) to obtain information. This form of testing may take place in a classroom setting and may include behavior coding, focus groups, validation studies and interviewer/respondent debriefings. **Many of the pretests are performed using a special generic OMB clearance which allows for quick turn-around.**