**NNIP Camp Session 1**

Title: Preparing for Census 2020

Facilitator: Kathy Pettit

May 5, 2021

Links - <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/about/rdo/program-management.html#P3>

New boundaries - <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2021/2020-census-geographic-products.html>

Links to share - <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/decade/2020/planning-management/process/disclosure-avoidance.html>

sign up for newsletters: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/USCENSUS/signup/15409>

actions - <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/technical-documentation/complete-tech-docs/summary-file/2020Census_PL94_171Redistricting_StatesTechDoc_English.pdf>

Three potential issues to discuss

1) Converting current tools and profiles and summarized data sets to new tract boundaries

2) Thinking about products/analysis with data to be released - redistricting data to the states and the public by Sept. 30, 2021.

3) Thinking about differential privacy (still alot unknown)

**Attendees**

* Troy Rosencrants - GIS/Data Manager
* Sarah Diez - Houston, Kinder Institute at Rice University, assist with indicator projects. Voting election data for example came up recently
* Katie  Pritchard - Milwaukee, Data You Can Use. Neighborhood data "portraits." The neighborhoods use them for their planning, they're very eager for an update, so thinking about what we can do in advance for this, production, design.
* Anna Casey - Cape Fear/Wilmington, Data Scientist, work within 8 county region around Wilmington. Working on social determinants of health dashboard, localizing state targets, have been working with census data, and excited about block-level data.
* Shaohui Zhai - statistician at Michigan Public Health Institute, work for Dash, often analyze Medicaid data, use geographical/census data a lot. I want to learn what pitfalls we should avoid in using the
* Seema Iyer - Baltimore
* Kathy lists out potential issues to discuss
  + Next set of products are people-characteristics or the housing-characteristics. Mixing people and household records is harder, so they need to come up with better methodology. Cross-tab data won't be available probably until the summer.
  + Specifications for the Spring release have also been published.
* Katie: haven't given this a lot of thought but we do a lot with data literacy, so possibility of starting in small chunks, appetite for information, we are passed it. If we were to wait until everything is realeased... from an absorption point of view might make sense to do it in small chunks, what does this allow you to think or do?
* Kathy: does anyone get invovled in redistricting debates?
* Troy: Michigan passed in 2018 a new redistricting policy, going to public opinion. Board must be made 1/3 rep, dem, and independent. The difficult part we found was that the sec of state is working on a system for public opinion,  for reaching out to individual cities for this. Their worry is that in Flint and Detroit, with large Arab American population, district can be divided downt he middle so won't be able to vote with same voice. Racial data there comes to play. Want to make sure they are reaching out to the correct people. Right now, everyone is playing a waiting game. Nothing to do until the data comes out. Trying to help out in rural areas, especially, facilitate conversations where blocks are really small in urban areas as well.
* Anna: Wasn't on this particular project, but director of data science helped with brunswick county being placed in same place as South Carolina and were trying to make the argument why they should be redistricted with Wilmington.
* Sarah: in Houston, we haven't been contacted about redistricting. Houston is in Harris County but one of the most interesting areas in (Fort Bend?) Horpin (?), very diverse. trying to expand neighborhood data to account for that. In Houston, I can walk to my congressman's house but she is not my congressman, I have to drive 45 min north to do that.
* Kathy: interesting to use this data as an outreach strategy for new conversations with groups you haven't worked with.
* Kathy: some also have more interactive systems/tools, are those more static? thinking about new systems?
* Anna: the other difficult thing is that if you are comparing across years how do you say this census tract has changes x percent, but that is a different census tract.
* Kathy: we did the neighborhood change database which standardized data across the last 5 censuses. I think the block weights will be up. We have standardized that to do the longitudinal work. Those weight files are pretty manageable now. Mable-Corr 2k and check with Brown to see what their plans are for non-governmental groups that did supplemental data products.
* Kathy: differential privacy is the new method they are using to protect from the re-identification of the census. Still figuring out a lot about differential privacy. Last Friday, they released new demonstration files that created 2010 data with the new methods so you can compare to the old methods. Have heard people struggling to do the country but for just your county it might be possible because some of the data is going to be off, but they are trying to figure out the analogous margins of error to try to tell the quality of the data. New guidebooks as well to try to help us explain differential privacy to regular people. This is a controversial subject, some people trying to stop from doing differential privacy.
* Anna: Like Alabama, my home state.

KP to find out - NYC Get out the count map -

PRB - who writing the guide - ask timing?

* Kathy: any questions?
  + Anna: would love to hear about any tools for working with this census data.
    - Kathy: I should do a scan about this like the NYC get out the count map.
* Kathy: things that we should be doing as a network? We can organize another call in 3 months as we get closer.
  + Katie: I think that would be helpful, as a reminder, here's what's coming. Also gives opportunities for people who are working on segments (?) to chime in.
* Kathy: Sarah, some possible state collaboration possible
  + Sara: I know Jake in San Antonio
* Kathy: TX cities seem pretty competitive
  + Sarah: they are, they want to have more indicators than others.
* Kathy: I'll go back to the 2010 archives to see if there are examples for the redistricting data. But think it's the narrative point that's important.
  + Sarah: people want a good narrative around their data and trying to build a continuation is going to be a new challenge.
* Kathy: Presentation of Charlotte, mobility. What is the interesting data on top of the census data?
* Seema Iyer: From Baltimore. I also think that when the numbers come out, we will need NNIP city data. Some of us lost population and some gained and might be increasing political representation. Would be interesting to see where all our partners are, as an affinity group. Last time we went from like 18th in the nation to like 26th.
  + Kathy: will affect communications, framing
  + Seema: could also lead to what other NNIP cities you would like to bring in, if you see there was a gap. What if Baltimore is the only city that is continuing to decline. Oakland for example won't be in the same boat as us.
* Kathy: the census bureau is rethinking the population estimates challenge process, which has been strict, and they are thinking about loosening it up. New rules for cities to challenge pop estimates, probably will be for 2022 estimates. NNIP alumni work on this to have local people the ability to challenge the numbers. NNIP might come to you for help in putting the evidence together. Rules are supposed to come out in December.
* Kathy: how else could NNIP be helpful? open calls, different themes for different kind of conversations.
* Seema: There's just so much going on. Would be awesome to get guidance on what is the analysis that needs to get done quickly when the data come out, so I can give it to my RA. My staff probably don't have experience with the 2010 census, top 5 data quality checks, a guidance to research associates within NNIP partners
* Seema; when are we getting city rankings?
* Kathy: you will get block level redistricting files.
* Kathy: will get link to specification files.
* Shaohui: is redistricting blocks within counties? but they can cross cities?
* Kathy: right, within and they can cross. Probably for the small places. Blocks are supposed to go along jursidictional/natural boundaries.
* Shaohui: should have min population?
* Kathy: about 40 to the block. Block data should probably be aggregated up to get more accurate data. They have promised me that aggregation will get more accuracy. Just like we don't trust block groups in ACS, but it depends on your place.