

Federal-State Cooperative Program for Population Estimates

The U.S. Census Bureau's Premier State Partners
Promoting Cooperation between the Census Bureau and the States

November 23, 2020

Dear Members of the Data Stewardship Executive Policy Committee:

We understand that final decisions about the invariants used in the 2020 data products will be made soon. There are still a number of illogical and improbable values in the demonstration data and these issues must be addressed so the data can be evaluated properly. This is necessary so the invariants can be determined without these illogical and implausible values clouding the picture.

Removing illogical and implausible values introduced through the data processing is already being done. Negative values and fractionalized people have been removed from the data via the post processing algorithms and other illogical values are just as deserving of correction. At the root of these issues is the separation of people and housing in the DAS processing. To help eliminate some of the issues we urge you to add occupancy status to the list of invariants. We believe that achieving internal consistency in the published results will go a long way to restoring the credibility of the data.

In addition to adding occupied housing units to the list of invariants please:

- Limit the distribution of household population to blocks with occupied housing units.
- Force each occupied housing unit to have at least one person associated with it.

Limit extreme data:

- Correct/adjust the number of blocks with only children under 18 and no adults to reflect the number of occurrences that were enumerated.
- Correct/adjust the number of blocks with extremely high household size, greater than 15 for example, to reflect the number of occurrences that were enumerated.
- Maintain appropriate age, sex, race, and ethnicity composition of group quarters by type of quarters so the data represent the characteristics of people in each facility. Note that this goes beyond the standard GQ types, for example, Women's prisons and women's only dorms or sororities should be composed of only women, nursing facilities should be heavily weighted to older adults, etc..

This will help achieve the goal of counting people "Once, only once, and in the right place!"

Sincerely yours,

The Federal State Cooperative for Population Estimates Steering Committee
Eric Guthrie - Michigan
Jan Vink, New York
Jeff Hardcastle – Nevada
Mike Cline - North Carolina
Mike Mohrman - Washington
Robert Rhatigan - New Mexico
Susan Strate – Massachusetts