

CENSUS INFORMATION CENTERS THE STEERING COMMITTEES OF FEDERAL STATE COOPERATIVE FOR POPULATION ESTIMATES STATE DATA CENTERS

January 28, 2020

Steven Dillingham, Director
U.S. Census Bureau
4600 Silver Hill Road, Room 8H001
Washington, DC 20233

Dear Director Dillingham,

The Census Bureau's key partnership programs (Census Information Centers (CIC), Federal-State Cooperative for Population Estimates (FSCPE), and State Data Centers (SDC)) submitted a letter on November 27, 2019 with questions and concerns about the Differential Privacy Disclosure Avoidance System (DAS). These questions and concerns were compiled by the partnership Steering Committees over weeks of research and discussion. The partnership programs looked forward to a discussion on these issues with the Census Bureau and requested a response to the letter by end of 2019.

To date, the partnership Steering Committees have not received a response to our letter or a formal acknowledgement that the letter was received, being reviewed, and that a response would be prepared and disseminated by a date certain. The lack of responsiveness to partners and stakeholders is disconcerting and is one of the concerns included in our initial letter.

The Steering Committees commend the Census Bureau for the continued commitment to confidentiality, and we look forward to collaborating with you to improve the privacy of Census data. However, having not received a response to our November letter, the Steering Committees on behalf of the partnership programs recommend the implementation of the Differential Privacy Disclosure Avoidance System be postponed until after the 2020 Census to allow appropriate assessment of DAS impacts.

Thank you for your attention. We look forward to improved communications with the Census Bureau as the most effective way to reach the common goal of high-quality, timely data to serve the needs of our nation. Our Steering Committees can be reached by:

Phone: 775.687.9961 (landline) or 775.313.8442 (cell)

Email: jhardcastle@tax.state.nv.us

Mail: Jeff Hardcastle, State Demographer
4600 Kietzke Lane, Building L, Suite 235
Reno, NV 89502

Sincerely,

CIC Steering Committee
FSCPE Steering Committee
SDC Steering Committee

Director Dillingham

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cc: John Abowd, Associate Director for Research and Methods
Stephen L. Buckner, Assistant Director of Communications
Misty L. Reed, Division Chief, Customer Liaison & Marketing Services Office
Lakiva N. Pullins, Assistant Division Chief, Customer Liaison and Marketing Services Office
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Marc J. Perry, Senior Demographic Reviewer, Population Division
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Population Division
CIC Steering Committee and Members
FSCPE Steering Committee and Members
SDC Steering Committee and Members