

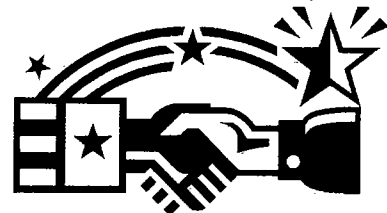
Census 2000: Geographic and Address List Partnerships

Linda Franz

For tribal, state, and local governments wanting to play a role, Census 2000 has already begun. Working hand in hand with these important government stakeholders is a keystone of the Census Bureau's strategy for achieving the best census ever, and the bureau wants to build these partnerships at every stage of Census 2000. This article focuses on the earliest partnership activities, the geographic preparations, and the census address list. Many officials working in the administration of local government will recognize some of these activities as familiar, ongoing joint efforts; others are new ventures for the Census Bureau and its partners.

Geographic infrastructure is key to planning and conducting the census. The two major components of this infrastructure are the Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing (TIGER) geographic database, which is a computer-readable map, and the census address list, which contains the address of each resident's living quarters. The partnership opportunities described in this paper include efforts to ensure that:

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- The TIGER database is current and accurate in its representation of legal boundaries for local governments.
- Local communities can delineate meaningful statistical areas for data tabulation.
- The TIGER database is current and accurate in its representation of streets and street names.
- The address list is as complete and accurate as possible for use in such tasks as questionnaire delivery; identifying and locating nonresponding households; identifying the addresses that will receive the questionnaire that gathers sample data; and so on.

Updating Legal Boundaries

The Census Bureau's primary vehicle for collecting data on the boundaries and status of the various legal and administrative areas is its annual Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS). To begin the process of ensuring that the correct boundaries are used for Census 2000, the Census Bureau will expand the survey universe to include the smallest incorporated places (those under 2,500 in population, which have not been included in the survey since 1990) beginning with the 1998 BAS and continuing through the 2000 BAS. (The survey also includes counties and, in some states, functioning minor civil divisions.)

For areas with city-style addresses (for example, 101 Main Street), the survey includes a request for information on which individual addresses exist on either side of municipal boundaries, where these boundaries intersect with streets. This information will assist the Census Bureau in tabulating correctly the data for each governmental unit. The 1998 BAS materials will be mailed beginning in the fall of 1997; they request information on corporate status and boundaries in effect on January 1, 1998. For more information on the BAS, contact Nancy Goodman at 301/457-1099; e-mail, ngoodman@geo.census.gov.

Resources in This Article

Here are the contacts for specific information identified in this article:

American Indian Geographic Programs

Dorothy Stroz, 301/457-1099;
e-mail, dstroz@census.gov

Statistical Areas

Jamie Rosenson, 301/457-1099;
e-mail, jrosenson@census.gov

Updating Streets and Street Names

Cathy McCully, 301/457-1100;
e-mail, cmccully@census.gov

Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA)

Joel Sobel, 301/457-1106;
e-mail, jsobel@census.gov

Census Bureau's Internet Site

<http://www.census.gov>

In a departure from the past approach of working through the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Census Bureau now works directly with each federally recognized tribal government to collect information on the boundaries for American Indian reservations and trust lands. This process began with a mailout to all tribes earlier in 1997; each tribe will again be sent maps for reviewing and reporting boundary information (along with other items). For more information on all American Indian geographic programs, contact Dorothy Stroz at 301/457-1099; e-mail, dstroz@census.gov.

Defining Statistical Areas

As used for the census, "statistical areas" include census tracts, block groups, census county divisions in some states, and census-designated places (CDPs). Local participants, typically county planning departments, already have volunteered

to lead community and regional efforts—which are open to all interested participants—to delineate these statistical areas. Following are the most significant departures from past approaches to statistical areas delineation:

- The delineation of census tracts will be nationwide; this will replace the 1990 approach, whereby participants defined census tracts for some areas while a state agency or the Census Bureau defined block-numbering areas (BNAs) for the remainder of the nation. Because the two types of areas were nearly identical in concept, the distinction caused confusion for program participants and data users and therefore is being discarded.
- After considering public comments on a *Federal Register* notice describing its proposed CDP criteria for Census 2000, the Census Bureau now will eliminate the minimum population threshold for these areas. The CDP program gives local participants a chance to identify as data tabulation areas communities or settlements without legal corporate status. Data users, particularly those from rural areas, have expressed great interest in this new opportunity to delineate CDPs that recognize smaller communities.
- The Census Bureau will supply local participants with a single set of maps on which they may draw the boundaries of all their statistical areas, rather than separate sets of maps for each area. Additionally, the bureau will offer an automated equivalency file option for the delineation.
- The bureau will, after updating the TIGER database to reflect the areas delineated by local participants, return verification products to the participants for them to review.

The Census Bureau began mailing materials for the statistical areas work to participants beginning in fall/winter 1997 and will continue through next spring. Participants will have six

months to perform their delineation activities after they receive their materials. For more information on the statistical areas, contact Jamie Rosenson at 301/457-1099; e-mail, jrosenson@census.gov.

Updating Streets and Street Names

Having up-to-date street and street-name information in the TIGER database makes census data collection more accurate and efficient and also enhances the later usefulness of the census data products. The bureau has developed a variety of methods for working with tribal, state, and local partners who are familiar with their communities' efforts on this task.

The Census Bureau updates its TIGER database continuously; for areas with mostly non-city-style addresses (i.e., rural route/box numbers, post of-



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ice box addresses, and general delivery addresses), however, it is important to obtain as many updates as possible before March 1998; this timing will allow

the bureau to reflect the updates on the maps used by field staff to build the address list for these areas starting in the summer of 1998.

The bureau can provide maps for updates by localities, and, for areas with mostly city-style addresses, it also can furnish listings of streets that the bureau's address-matching activities indicate are probably new and missing from TIGER, so as to provide a "leg up" for the update. For local partners who cannot update maps, giving current map references is useful, especially if new streets or developments can be highlighted.

Additionally, the bureau has developed an automated process for updating TIGER streets and street attributes using local digital geographic files that are street centerline-based, with streets and their attributes linked. For more information on updating streets and street names, contact Cathy McCully

at 301/457-1100; e-mail, cmccully@census.gov.

Improving the Census Address List

The Address List Improvement Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-430) vastly expands the opportunity for the Census Bureau and its tribal and local partners to work together to ensure that the census address list is as complete and accurate as possible. For areas with mostly city-style addresses, P.L. 103-430 also allows the Census Bureau to build its address list initially by supplementing its 1990 Census address list with periodic updates from the U.S. Postal Service.

Another key component of this expanded partnership is the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) Program, which will give locally designated census liaisons the chance to review (subject to confidentiality requirements) and to correct the list of individual addresses and structure location descriptions that the bureau will use in the census. Participants in LUCA also will receive maps and other materials to assist them in their reviews. LUCA replaces and improves upon the local review program from previous censuses, which allowed only for the review of *counts* at the block level, rather than of individual addresses.

Recently, the Census Bureau convened a group of tribal, state, and local government representatives to review plans and schedules for working with local partners to develop the census address list. The LUCA program was scheduled to begin in late calendar 1998, but the unanimous advice of these stakeholders was that the Census Bureau should start the LUCA process earlier—even if it meant obtaining a more preliminary version of the address list in some cases—and should allow more time and multiple opportunities for LUCA participants to review the census address list.

As a result, the Census Bureau will begin the process of sending LUCA materials to participating governments in

areas with mostly city-style addresses in early calendar 1998, nearly a year earlier than planned. For areas with mostly non-city-style addresses, the address list will be field-compiled between August 1998 and January 1999; the address list for these areas will be available for the LUCA process on a flow basis thereafter.

The emphasis of LUCA is on improving the address list *before* it is used in the census, with completion of the list's review by local partners being scheduled for spring 1999. For more information on the LUCA process, contact Joel Sobel at 301/457-1106; e-mail, jsobel@census.gov.

Getting in Touch with Regional Offices

The Census Bureau implements these geographic partnership programs through its regional offices nationwide. Local government officials who want information on how their communities can participate in these and other census-related efforts may contact the appropriate offices listed below:

Atlanta, Georgia 404/730-3955
Boston, Massachusetts 617/424-0513
Charlotte, North Carolina 704/344-6702
Chicago, Illinois 708/562-1736
Dallas, Texas 214/640-4472
Denver, Colorado 303/969-7760
Detroit, Michigan 313/259-2605
Kansas City, Kansas 913/551-6750
Los Angeles, California 818/904-6364
New York, New York 212/264-6272
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
215/597-1990
Seattle, Washington 206/728-5410. 

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