

Briefing Materials for Secretary Ross on the Status of Data Acquisition and Options for Estimating the Illegal Population Enumerated in the 2020 Census

August 10, 2020

Status of Data Acquisition to Support the Presidential Memorandum

- Presidential Memorandum work will build on data available and acquired over the past 8 months to support Executive Order 13880 to create Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP) estimate of citizen/non-citizens.
 - Available CVAP data sources are from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Social Security Administration (SSA), State Department, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Bureau of Prisons, U.S. Marshals, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Internal Revenue Services (IRS), Department of Interior (DOI) and Indian Health Services (IHS).

- Data identified as required to determine legal status:
 - Available Data: DOI data provided to support the CVAP work.
 - Additional data to be acquired: Department of Homeland Security:
 - USCIS data to include declined applications for Lawful Permanent Resident, DACA and Student Immigrant Juveniles data
 - ICE data to include Enforcement and Removal Operations data.
 - Additional data from USCIS and ICE are targeted for an August 31, 2020 delivery to the Census Bureau.

- MOU Status: modifications are in draft to acquire/and or authorize existing data for the project:
 - Acquisition of new data: Applies to ICE and CIS to directly support determination of documented/undocumented. Draft MOU's to acquire the data and authorize the additional use were reviewed by both ICE and CIS prior to Census Bureau Legal review.
 - Both MOU's have cleared Census Legal and are now in the signature process.
 - Authority to use existing data to determine documentation status: Applies to DOI data already acquired for CVAP.
 - MOU is in Census Legal review.
 - Authority to add the new work as an authorized use to the CVAP citizen/non-citizen work: Applies to data acquired/available for CVAP to estimate non-citizenship but not directly inform of documented/undocumented.

[DELIBERATIVE/PRE-DECISIONAL]

- MOUs in Census Legal review for DHS Customs and Border Protection, State Department, HUD, SSA, CMS, IRS, IHS, U.S. Marshalls, Bureau of Justice Statistics and Bureau of Prisons.

Options for Estimating the Illegal Population Enumerated in the 2020 Census

1. Tabulate the People Enumerated in the 2020 Census who were in ICE Detention Centers as of April 1, 2020

- a. Pros
 - i. This is an actual enumeration.
 - ii. Could meet the existing statutory, judicial and regulatory standards established for the resident population definition used in apportionment.
 - iii. Can complete this by December 31
 - iv. We can get a list of the centers from ICE and verify that we enumerated them in the Group Quarters operation
- b. Cons
 - i. Need to assume that either all prisoners living in the detention centers are here illegally or some proportion are here illegally (we can ask ICE for data on this)
 - ii. Some centers are part of county jails, we may not have enough information in what we collected to distinguish prisoners in the county jail from those in the detention center
 - iii. This is the lower end of the actual number of illegal people enumerated in the 2020 census

2. Match Administrative Records to the 2020 Census (Need 43 days from when the Census Unedited File (CUF) is complete for this option)^{1 2}

- a. Pros
 - i. Will be able to match various admin records to people enumerated in the 2020 Census
 - ii. Could meet the existing statutory, judicial and regulatory standards established for the resident population definition used in apportionment

¹ Note that this method assume a match and a definitive determination of status from the records. If we were instructed to determine status for the unmatched population using, for example, a hot deck methodology, statistical modeling, or utilizing the left over administrative records to better understand relevant, aggregate parameters of the unmatched census population, this would add additional days.

² Note that we plan to use production level matching to the Person Identification Validation System (PVS). The PVS will link people with social security numbers or individually taxpayer identification numbers (ITINs). The Experimental PVS (EPVS), developed for the Citizen Voting Age Population data, is not ready for production use. This EPVS potentially links additional administrative records to the 2020 Census by using PII found on DHS and State Department records. This EPVS is suitable for use in an experimental product but has not received either the internal or external peer review associated with apportionment.

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- iii. This option will match to a larger number of illegal immigrants than option 1 because we will also include the people identified in option 1.
- b. Cons
 - i. The number of illegal immigrants in both admin records and the 2020 census is likely to be low.
 - ii. Based on the 2010 Census, we expect about 10 percent of decennial records to not match an admin record. Many of the unmatched are U.S. citizens or legal immigrants who did not provide enough personally identifiable information to match.
- 3. **Use an Aggregate Residual Method to Estimate the Number of Illegal Immigrants by State who were Enumerated in the 2020 Census** This method begins with an estimate of the foreign-born population from the American Community Survey (ACS).
 - a. Pros
 - i. Can finish this by December 31, 2020 (if we start now).
 - ii. We have access to many administrative data sets at the Census Bureau that other organizations who do this type of estimate do not (ACS, mortality data, etc.)
 - b. Cons
 - i. This method will be based on the ACS which is based on a sample.
 - ii. We would need to make several adjustments to the foreign-born population that are based on limited data. This includes estimating how many illegal immigrants we think we enumerated in the 2020 Census based on coverage measurement samples.
 - iii. These numbers have limited precision, thousands or tens of thousands at best, and have a range of uncertainty around them.