

Tribal Consultation Handbook

Background Materials for Tribal Consultations on the 2020 Census

Issued Fall 2015



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. Census Bureau
Washington, DC 20233-0001
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Dear Honorable Tribal Leader:

I am writing to welcome you and your tribal community/village to the tribal consultation process for the 2020 Census. We appreciate your past support and input on our American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) policy statement and for your contributions to the 2010 Census.

The U.S. Census Bureau is committed to the tenets of *Executive Order 13175*. As part of our ongoing government-to-government relationship with federally recognized tribes, we are conducting a series of tribal consultation meetings and one national webinar in preparation for the planning of operations and communications for the 2020 Census. We would like to invite you to participate in one of these sessions or our national webinar between October 2015 and April 2016. These meetings will provide a forum for you to share insights, make recommendations, and discuss your concerns regarding the 2020 Census. Prior to the meetings, you will receive a booklet containing background information, subjects, and questions that seek your input through comment and participation in the consultation meetings.

These sessions will be held at annual tribal leader meetings and tribal association conferences. The Census Bureau has contracted with an American Indian-owned firm, Kauffman and Associates of Spokane, Washington, to help with the logistics and implementation of these consultation meetings. The firm will be reaching out to identify and confirm your participation. In an effort to meet with as many federally recognized tribes as possible, the Census Bureau plans to enlist the assistance of regional intertribal alliances and organizations.

We would also like you to submit questions or topics you would like us to consider for discussion during these meetings. For additional information, please visit http://www.census.gov/aian/census_2020/ or contact Dee Alexander, Intergovernmental Tribal Affairs Specialist, at (301) 763-9335, or via email at dee.a.alexander@census.gov.

We are excited about the upcoming consultation meetings and are dedicated to making these consultations a success. We look forward to working with you to ensure that we have comprehensive tribal input in anticipation of the 2020 Census.

Sincerely,

John H. Thompson
Director



How to Use This Document

This document was created as a tool to help tribal leaders prepare for the U.S. Census Bureau's consultations on the 2020 Census. This tool contains background materials and information on the following elements of the upcoming census:

- ◆ Enumeration (the act of counting a population)
- ◆ Communications
- ◆ Partnerships
- ◆ Classification and tabulation of response data
- ◆ Geography
- ◆ Recruitment for census jobs

Each section related to the above topics contains discussion questions. Your input on these discussion questions or other issues is requested both before and during the consultation meetings.

This document also responds to common concerns about participation in the census, provides a brief history of the census within American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) populations, identifies the changes that are planned for the 2020 Census, introduces the American Community Survey (ACS) and the Data Dissemination Program, and provides contact information for Census Bureau regional offices.

All tribal governments are encouraged to share insights, make recommendations, and discuss issues or concerns about the 2020 Census at the upcoming consultations. Your input will help the Census Bureau prepare for a more effective, accurate 2020 Census for AIANs. This document provides information to help tribal leaders make informed decisions and join the discussion about census operations in preparation for the 2020 Census.

How to Submit Your Input and Comments

Tribal leaders are encouraged to submit comments and feedback about the topics covered in this document by February 2015, using one or more of the three options below:

- ◆ **Submit your comments by mail.** Send comments to:
Dee Alexander
Intergovernmental Tribal Affairs Specialist
c/o U.S. Census Bureau
4600 Silver Hill Road, Room 8H160A
Washington, DC 20233
- ◆ **Submit your comments by email.** Send comments to:
dee.a.alexander@census.gov
- ◆ **Bring your comments** to the consultation meeting.



Two Important Questions for All Tribal Governments and Community Members



Two Important Questions

Tribal leaders and community members often want to know more about how and why censuses are conducted. Below are two common questions with accompanying answers.

Why Is It Important for Tribal Community Members to Respond to the 2020 Census?



The information collected by the census is an important tool for federal and tribal decision-making. The U.S. Constitution requires a census every 10 years to determine how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives. Census data also help guide how billions of dollars in federal, state, and tribal funding are distributed. Accurate census data leads to fairer allocations of funds that support tribal programs in meeting community member needs.

Census data help tribal leaders understand what their communities need. Many tribal communities use census information to attract new business and plan for growth. In fact, many tribes and tribal organizations use census data to plan new facilities and programs for the communities they serve. However, if some segments of the tribal population do not respond to the census, the AIAN population could be underrepresented.


How Is Personal Information Protected?

The Census Bureau respects the privacy of people who answer the census and is bound by strict confidentiality requirements. The Census Bureau cannot share the answers it receives with anyone, including welfare agencies, U.S. Citizen and Immigration Services (formerly known as the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service), the Internal Revenue Service, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, tribal officials, tribal courts, tribal police, or the military. Census employees take an oath of nondisclosure and are sworn for life to protect all information that could identify individuals. Anyone who breaks this law can receive up to five years in prison, a \$250,000 fine, or both.

The Census Bureau also uses technology to protect your information through many security measures, including electronic barriers and encryption devices. Data from an individual are combined with other data to produce the statistical summaries that are published. The Census Bureau does not produce data that can identify any individual.



Brief History of the Decennial Census and American Indians and Alaska Natives



Brief History

American Indians were counted in the census as a separate population category for the first time in 1860. Since that time, the Census Bureau has made many changes in the way it counts populations to ensure accurate, complete counts for AIANs. Today, the Census Bureau continues those efforts, with a portion of research and testing in preparation for the 2020 Census involving race and ancestry questions geared toward identifying the tribal affiliation of AIAN respondents.

Table 1 provides a historical account of censuses and related tests, research, and programs specific to AIAN populations.

Table 1. Timeline of Census Activities Related to AIAN Counts

Year(s)	Steps Taken to Ensure Accurate AIAN Counts
1790	The first population census in the United States was taken.
1860	For the first time, American Indians were counted as a separate population category.
1890–1950	Census takers mainly used observation to identify AIANs.
1960	Self-identification replaced observation as the way to identify AIANs.
1970	For the first time, the Census Bureau tabulated American Indian data for individual American Indian reservations. Data were produced for 115 separate reservations.

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Brief History

Year(s)	Steps Taken to Ensure Accurate AIAN Counts
1980	<p>The Census Bureau began to actively seek AIAN input into the census process by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Holding regional meetings with tribal leaders to discuss the census process;◆ Conducting workshops and distributing materials at national American Indian conferences;◆ Providing AIAN media with the Census Bureau's public relations materials;◆ Hiring AIANs to work at the regional and headquarters levels; and◆ Identifying and presenting data for a more complete inventory of American Indian reservations (working with the Bureau of Indian Affairs).
1988	<p>A dress rehearsal was conducted on the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Reservation in Utah in preparation for the 1990 Census.</p>
1990	<p>For the 1990 Census, the Tribal Governments Program was developed to work with federally recognized tribal governments through tribal liaisons designated by a tribe's highest elected official. The Census Bureau increased collaboration with the AIAN population by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Creating the Tribal Governments Liaison Program, a subprogram of the Tribal Governments Program that encourages each federally recognized tribe to appoint a tribal member to serve as the main contact between the Census Bureau staff and the tribe;◆ Creating the Census Advisory Committee on AIAN populations to consider tribal issues or concerns related to the census;◆ Hiring tribal members for local census planning and collection activities;◆ Increasing the focus on self-identification as a counting method; and◆ Instructing census takers to ask respondents to identify the race of each household member when filling out the questionnaire.

Year(s)	Steps Taken to Ensure Accurate AIAN Counts
1996	In preparation for the 2000 Census, census tests were conducted on Pueblo of Acoma in New Mexico and the Fort Hall Indian Reservation in Idaho.
1997	The Tribal Review Program began. Under this program, tribes can update their reservation boundaries and list off-reservation trust lands for which data should be collected. This program is now called the Boundary and Annexation Survey and is conducted every year.
1998	In preparation for the 2000 Census, a dress rehearsal was conducted on the Menominee Indian Reservation in Wisconsin.
2000	<p>For the 2000 Census, the Tribal Governments Program changed its name to the American Indian and Alaska Native Program (the AIAN Program). The change was made to reflect the inclusion of the entire AIAN population, to address an undercount from the 1990 Census, and to respect the diversity of each tribe. Under the AIAN Program, the following subprograms were created:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Tribal Governments Liaison Program ◆ Tribal Complete Count Committee Program ◆ Census 2000 Tribal Government Conference ◆ Inter-tribal Governments Programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ State-recognized tribal program ▶ Urban programs ▶ Promotional materials

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Brief History

Year(s)	Steps Taken to Ensure Accurate AIAN Counts
2000–2003	<p>In the report, <i>Complex Households and Relationships in Decennial Census and in Ethnographic Studies of Six Race/Ethnic Groups</i>, the Census Bureau published results of research into non-nuclear family structures and how family or household structures may vary among ethnic groups or over time.</p> <p>This study was based on exploratory ethnographic research in selected race or ethnic sites to learn more about non-nuclear, or complex households and to identify ways to improve enumeration of them. The aims were to: (1) explore the range and functioning of complex households within different ethnic groups; (2) assess how well census methods, questions, relationship categories, and household composition typologies reflected the diversity of household types; and (3) suggest revisions to the relationship question and categories for the 2010 Census test cycle. One site focused on the Inupiaq Eskimo in Alaska and another with Navajo on the Navajo Reservation.</p>
2003	<p>The Census Bureau conducted three focus groups with federally recognized tribal governments to obtain feedback for 2010 Census planning.</p>
2004	<p>American Indian cultural awareness training was provided at headquarters and regional offices in preparation for the 2006 Census Test.</p>
2005	<p>Within the agency’s Complete Count Committees (CCCs), focus groups were held to plan and develop a new, innovative CCC Program for the 2010 Census. One of these focus groups was a tribal focus group, which included group members who participated in Tribal Complete Count Committees.</p>
2006	<p>Regional directors began meeting one-on-one with federally recognized tribal leaders. In preparation for the 2010 Census, the 2006 Census Test was conducted on the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe’s reservation land and off-reservation trust land in South Dakota.</p>

Year(s)	Steps Taken to Ensure Accurate AIAN Counts
2007	<p>The Census Bureau drafted an AIAN policy statement to be posted in the <i>Federal Register</i> for tribal comment.</p> <p>Fourteen tribal consultation meetings were held regarding the 2010 Census operations.</p>
2008	<p>Three working meetings were conducted with state-recognized tribes, national and statewide AIAN organizations, urban Indian centers, and other urban Indian organizations to discuss 2010 Census operations as well as the draft AIAN policy. The Census Bureau signed its Tribal Consultation and Coordination Policy in October 2008.</p>
2008	<p>As part of a cognitive testing project, a Census Bureau researcher visited the Navajo Reservation and, with approval from the President of the Navajo Nation, conducted 10 cognitive interviews about the Draft 2010 Census Nonresponse Followup Questionnaire. A Navajo official was trained to conduct the standard nonresponse followup interviews. Based on the interview results, the researcher recommended changes to the Nonresponse Followup questionnaire.</p>
2010–2011	<p>Focus groups were conducted as part of a 2010 Census Alternative Questionnaire Experiment that tested the 2010 Census race, tribe and ancestry, and ethnicity questions and several alternative versions of these questions that had been proposed for the 2020 Census. In 25 different cities, focus groups were conducted across all of the race groups and Hispanic origin groups defined by the Office of Management and Budget. Participants included American Indians who lived on and off reservation, Alaska Natives, and Central and South American indigenous groups. One of the tested versions was chosen for ongoing 2020 Census research.</p>

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Brief History

Year(s)	Steps Taken to Ensure Accurate AIAN Counts
2010–2012	<p>As part of the 2010 Census Program for Evaluations and Experiments, an ethnographic study of counting methods and coverage across race and ethnic groups was conducted. Results were published in the report <u><i>Comparative Ethnographic Studies of Enumeration Methods and Coverage across Race and Ethnic Groups</i></u>.</p> <p>Census Bureau researchers received approval from the tribal governments to conduct the studies on the reservations, sent them the draft site reports for review, and asked whether the tribes wanted to be identified by tribal name and reservation location in the site reports and the overall report. Expert ethnographers were contracted to accompany census enumerators as they collected data from nine different sites. One of the sites focused mainly on Alaska Natives, and one involved two American Indian reservations. The ethnographers watched live census interviews, listened for signs of possible errors in coverage, and immediately followed up with respondents to try to resolve possible coverage errors and identify why they may have happened.</p>
2014	<p>Eight nationwide focus groups were conducted in the fall of 2014. Participants filled out and discussed different versions of the combined race and Hispanic origin question. The main goal was to receive feedback on six different sets of instructions specific to the AIAN population. Participants gave feedback on the six specific sets of instructions and the two question stems they perceived best for both self-identification and for identification within tribes, villages, or corporations. Participants preferred the instruction of “Print, for example” with the question stem of “What is your race or origin?”</p>

Year(s)

Steps Taken to Ensure Accurate AIAN Counts

2015

Cognitive testing was conducted in the spring of 2015. The main goal was to test different checkbox options on a questionnaire for the AIAN population, using a combined race and Hispanic origin question. Specifically, the research tested the use of three checkboxes versus six checkboxes. The options listed within each version of the checkbox are listed below.

- ◆ First option (3 checkboxes): (1) American Indian, (2) Alaska Native, and (3) Central or South American Indian
- ◆ Second option (6 checkboxes): (1) Navajo Nation, (2) Blackfeet Tribe, (3) Mayan, (4) Aztec, (5) Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government, and (6) Nome Eskimo Community

A write-in space was included in each of the questionnaire designs. Respondents preferred the first option (the use of three checkboxes with the additional write-in space). This version will be tested in the 2015 National Content Test.

**Planned in
2015–2016**

To host eight tribal consultation meetings and one nationwide webinar for federally recognized tribes scheduled around the country from October 2015 through April 2016 to discuss tribal identification, geography, and other topics.





Planning for the 2020 Census



Planning for the 2020 Census

The 2020 Census is designed to cost less per housing unit than the 2010 Census (when adjusted for inflation), while continuing to maintain high quality. The Census Bureau plans to achieve this by conducting the most automated, modern, and dynamic decennial census in history. The 2020 Census includes sweeping design changes in four key areas, including new methodologies to conduct address canvassing, innovative ways of optimizing self-response, the use of administrative records to reduce the nonresponse followup workload, and the use of technology to replace tasks traditionally conducted by field operations staff.

The goal is to achieve dramatic cost savings by: using the U.S. Postal Service and other information sources, including aerial imagery, to avoid walking every street in the nation to validate the address list; making responding to the census more convenient through the Internet, phone, or by mail; using existing government and commercial information to reduce the need to follow up with nonresponding housing units; and using technology to manage and track cases, as well as to route the census takers—who will be using smartphones and tablets, rather than pencil and paper.

The Census Bureau estimates that conducting a 2020 Census that includes these major cost-saving innovations has the potential to save approximately \$5 billion compared to repeating the 2010 design in the 2020 Census.

Updating Addresses

The foundation of an accurate census is an accurate address frame, which includes both the address and the geospatial location. Over the past few years, there have been tremendous technological advances in the geospatial field. More and more data have become available, meaning that we no longer have to validate every address by personal visit. We are examining how to refine our procedures to integrate private sector data and services to update our geospatial assets. Specifically, we want to purchase address, road, and satellite imagery instead of physically walking the entire United States.

Optimizing Self-Response

We are moving away from relying solely on the mailed questionnaire and enumerator to count every household. We are expanding options for people to self-respond using the Internet at home or on a mobile device remotely, as well as by telephone. However, it is important to note that paper will continue to be an option.

We want to make the census as mobile and convenient as possible.

Using Administrative Records

The increased use of administrative records from other federal and state government agencies and third-party commercial data can reduce costs tremendously.

The use of administrative records is not new to the decennial census, and we want to expand our use of these data for the 2020 Census. We are exploring several options, and two of the most promising are using these data to help manage and even reduce the field workload. The two most significant areas of innovation and cost savings are removing vacant units and using existing information on persons to enumerate occupied housing units, thereby removing them from the nonresponse followup operations.

For example, during the 2010 Census, the field workload included 47 million housing units. Each housing unit received at least one in-person visit. Of these, 19 million were either vacant or no longer existed. By using administrative data from the Postal Service and other agencies, we believe we can identify these vacant and nonexistent housing units and remove them from the in-person followup workload, achieving substantial cost savings.

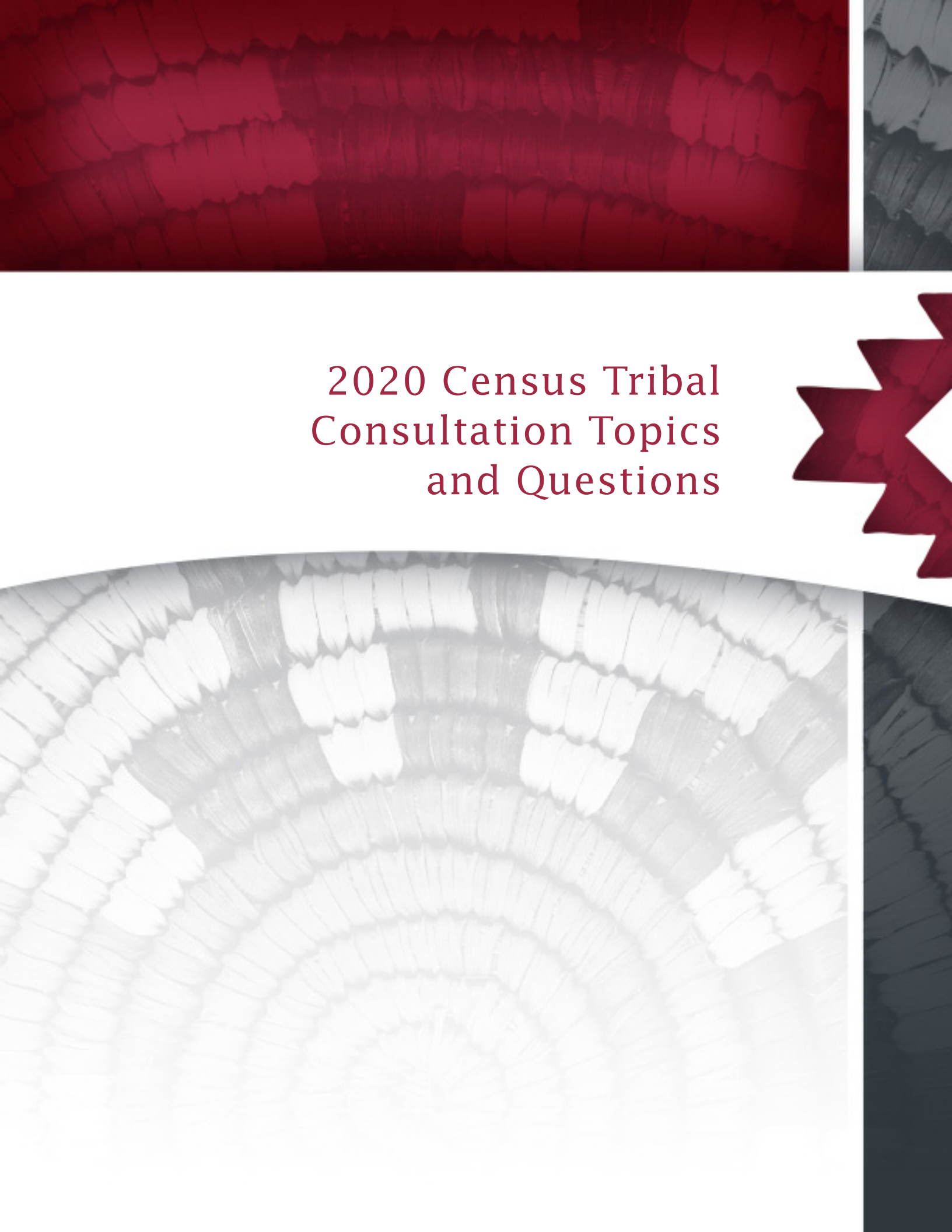
Managing Field Operations

We are examining our field staffing structure and testing several technological innovations. The goal of reengineering our field operations is to use technology more efficiently and effectively to conduct and manage the 2020 Census field workload.

In previous censuses, the entire process, including both data collection and management, was conducted by paper and pencil. To measure progress, we had to rely on daily in-person meetings with field staff, and had no ability for real-time communication. This paper-based data collection process was a significant contributor to the overall cost increases of the previous census field operations.

We are developing a sophisticated operational control system that will manage tasks and assignments in real time. We intend to send our enumerators out with mobile devices, rather than pencil and paper. They will use these devices to collect responses and report their time and attendance, instead of the paper forms we used in 2010, and we will have real-time measures of progress.

Our goals are to incorporate operational best practices including the optimization of daily assignments, intelligent routing, and real-time issue management. We are working with the private sector as we build these systems.

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2020 Census Tribal Consultation Topics and Questions

Tribal Consultation Topics and Questions

Enumeration

For the Census Bureau, enumeration is the act of counting the population. This is done every 10 years when a decennial census is conducted.

Enumeration Strategies for the 2020 Census

The enumeration process starts by inviting everyone to self-respond. In 2010 and before, this was done by mailing households a paper questionnaire to fill out and return. In 2020, invitation letters and postcards will be sent asking households to complete the questionnaire on the Internet. Internet self-enumeration is an important part of our plan to reduce costs.

However, we recognize that Internet self-response will not be feasible in all communities, and we will continue to make paper questionnaires available and collect household information over the telephone.

For those who do not self-respond—either via the Internet, on paper, or by telephone—the agency sends out field staff (enumerators) to collect the data from households. This process is called nonresponse followup.

Internet Enumeration in the 2020 Census

According to the Pew Research Center's report, *Americans' Internet Access*, Internet use by American adults has grown from 52 percent in 2000 to 87 percent in 2015.¹

An additional Pew Research Center report, *U.S. Smartphone Use in 2015*, shows that 64 percent of American adults own a smartphone of some kind and 19 percent of Americans rely on a smartphone to some extent for accessing online services and information.²

Adding an Online Response Option for the 2020 Census

A major innovation for the 2020 Census is the planned use of the Internet as a channel for responding. Providing an Internet response option acknowledges and takes advantage of the technology developments that have occurred since the last decennial census. It also expands the number of ways to respond to the census.

¹ www.pewinternet.org/2015/06/26/americans-internet-access-2000-2015/

² www.pewinternet.org/files/2015/03/PI_Smartphones_0401151.pdf

Use of the Internet will help achieve important cost savings, which allows the Census Bureau to concentrate on ensuring hard-to-reach communities have the chance to participate in the census. Offering the option of online response cuts costs by reducing paper use, such as printing, postage, and data capture. The Internet is convenient and may be preferred by much of the public.

The Census Bureau has extensively tested and implemented an Internet option for households that were selected at random to participate in the American Community Survey (ACS). One significant advantage of having an Internet response option is improved data quality. Conducting the ACS online allowed the Census Bureau to identify and resolve contradictory answers more quickly than would have been possible with a paper form. In other words, the automated questionnaire can ask a respondent to clarify a response while they complete the ACS. Recent rates of response to the ACS show that more than half of the self-responding households used the Internet. In 2014 and 2015, the 2020 Census program successfully tested the use of the Internet as part of its regular, mid-decade testing efforts.

While the Census Bureau has successfully implemented an Internet response method for the ACS, the agency wants to understand in more detail the Internet usability issues for specific areas and population groups, especially those with lower rates of Internet usage. For example, the Census Bureau acknowledges that many AIAN populations live in rural areas with Internet connectivity challenges and lower rates of computer usage compared to other areas. The agency wants to work with tribal leaders and organizations on these issues.



Discussion Questions | Input Requested

1. How can we ensure that every person within a household is counted, especially if there is more than one family living in the home?
2. In 2020, the Census Bureau is planning for self-response via the Internet to be the primary data collection method. Are there issues with connectivity in your area?
 - a. How widely available is wired Internet access (e.g., broadband, cable, DSL)?
 - i. How reliable is this connectivity?
 - b. How widely available is wireless Internet access (Wi-Fi)?
 - i. How reliable is this connectivity?
 - c. Are you aware of any plans to change local infrastructure to support Internet access for your members?
3. Would the internet response option be acceptable to your members?
 - a. Would your tribal members be willing to self-respond via the Internet?
 - b. What opportunities may be created in your community to support Internet response?
 - c. What challenges would your members face to responding online?
4. Does Internet use by your members vary based on age, gender, education, employment, health status, or some other characteristic?
 - a. Which group(s) are the least likely to routinely use the Internet?
 - b. Which group(s) are the most likely to routinely use the Internet?
5. How do most of your members access the Internet?
 - a. From where are they most likely to access the Internet?
 - i. At home
 - ii. At work
 - iii. From community-based locations
6. What types of devices are most often used by members? Desktop or laptop computers? Tablets? Smartphones?
7. Would your tribal government assist in providing community-based locations and support for members to respond online?
8. Would your tribal members be willing to contact a census telephone center to complete their census questionnaires over the phone?

Communications

For the 2010 Census, the Census Bureau conducted a massive communications campaign to promote cooperation and emphasize that the Census Bureau could be trusted with respondents' personal information. The campaign drew on successful communication efforts used for the 2000 Census and was organized around the unifying theme, "It's In Our Hands."

The goals of the 2010 Census communications campaign were to increase mail response, improve the accuracy of the enumeration, and improve the public's cooperation with enumerators. The campaign targeted more than 20 population groups speaking 28 different languages. It used traditional media, such as TV, radio, and print, as well as media directed to public areas or places of business (e.g., posters or flyers displayed in grocery stores). Communication activities were done cumulatively in stages, first by achieving partnerships, then by creating mass awareness of the census, and, finally by inspiring participation and involvement. The communication campaign was coordinated with the Census Bureau's mailings and operations, with a strong push just as census forms were being mailed.

Components of the mass media campaign included paid advertising, partnerships, public relations, and a Census in Schools program. The campaign targeted specific population groups, including AIANs, and included some materials in languages other than English. Paid advertising provided the best approach for reaching most people. Partnerships conveyed messages to trusted community leaders and advocacy organizations. The Census in Schools program reached parents through their children. Evaluations and experiments have demonstrated that Census in Schools is especially helpful in reaching hard-to-count communities.

Currently, the Census Bureau is preparing for the 2020 Integrated Communications Program (ICP). Many changes have occurred in the United States since the 2010 Census—the Internet has grown, the use of mobile phones to connect to the Internet has increased, and social media has become a popular source of information for many groups. These developments, as well as other changes in the population and society, have altered the ways that the public receives information. Assessing the influence of these factors and accounting for them in the development of an ICP is important. As such, research will be conducted to understand attitudes toward the census and what would motivate people to respond. Therefore, it is critical to ensure that the ICP addresses AIANs in the most appropriate way.

Discussion Questions | Input Requested

- 1.** What are the best ways to reach your tribal members who live on and off of the reservation?
 - a.** TV, radio, billboard, and other paid media
 - b.** Events
 - c.** Special promotions, like art contests
 - d.** News media
 - e.** Census in Schools program
 - f.** Social media
 - g.** Other
- 2.** What types of messages work best? For example, should we emphasize the role that the census plays in distributing federal funding for programs that involve AIANs?
- 3.** How can the Census Bureau assure people that no information about individuals or the number of people living in one household can be given to any other federal, state, or tribal authority?
- 4.** How big of an influence is social media among your members?

Partnerships

The Census Bureau's Partnership Program aims to motivate and assist diverse communities toward greater participation in the decennial census.

Establishing Partners for a More Accurate 2020 Census

Activities in past censuses have included outreach and education to increase awareness and generate support and participation from the general public, tribal and local governments, organizations, media, and businesses. Special emphasis is placed on outreach to populations with historically low response rates and histories of being undercounted. All partners are given guidance, such as census promotional materials and lists of potential activities they can use to promote the census within their communities.

In 2000 and 2010, the AIAN Program was expressly designed to increase awareness among AIAN tribal governments, communities, and organizations. Special emphasis was placed on outreach to those living on reservations and in Alaska Native villages and communities, a population that has been historically undercounted. The Census Bureau developed the Tribal Governments Liaison Program to manage the important work done with AIAN communities. At its peak during the 2010 Census, the Partnership Program employed over 3,500 partnership staff, including AIANs who worked in their tribal communities to help promote the census.

The Partnership Program aims to deliver the census message through trusted community leaders and AIAN organizations. The Census Bureau believes this will be an efficient, effective way to motivate AIAN communities to participate in the 2020 Census.

What is the Tribal Governments Liaison Program?

Tribal leaders will be requested to designate a tribal liaison to serve as their representative during all phases of the 2020 Census. Tribal officials and their tribal government's liaison will serve as facilitators and sources of information between the tribe and the Census Bureau.

In prior censuses, tribal liaisons were a vital source of knowledge about community and cultural issues, as well as serving as a bridge between the Census Bureau staff and tribal communities. This liaison's knowledge and insight contributed to the success of this program.

Tribal Consultation Topics and Questions

Goals for the Tribal Governments Liaison Program

- ◆ Increase tribal involvement in both the planning and implementation of the 2020 Census
- ◆ Educate the tribal community on the importance of the census and motivate them to respond to the census for a more complete and accurate count
- ◆ Create a better understanding of cultural issues that may affect the census at all levels

Vision for the 2020 Census AIAN Program

The Census Bureau plans to work collaboratively with federally recognized tribes and reach out to their communities to promote the importance of a complete, accurate census count. The plan includes outreach to state-recognized tribes, urban and rural AIAN populations, and AIAN organizations and media.



Discussion Questions | Input Requested

1. How does the Census Bureau build trust with tribal governments?
2. How can Census Bureau staff devoted to working with tribal governments most effectively improve participation in the 2020 Census?
3. How can we improve the Tribal Governments Liaison Program?
4. What is the best way to establish and define working partnerships between your community and the Census Bureau for the 2020 Census?
5. In what role do you, as a tribal leader, see yourself related to promoting the 2020 Census within your reservation or area?

Classification and Tabulation

Census data for the AIAN population and tribal affiliations are currently collected by a check box and write-in space under the race question. The Census Bureau has the important task of determining how these data will be made available to users, as well as how it will be classified, tabulated, and presented. Tribal governments and federal and state agencies rely on these data for funding direction and various programmatic purposes.

A major goal of the 2020 Census is to provide the highest quality data on the AIAN population. Research and testing plans include a test of the tribal enrollment question. This test is currently scheduled for 2017 and the Census Bureau will share details of the test plan with stakeholders in 2016. The Census Bureau is also planning an operational test in 2018 of its methods and procedures for the 2020 Census. Information regarding this test will be shared as details are planned.

Currently, the Census Bureau is seeking input from tribal leaders about how data collected on tribal affiliation in the 2020 Census should be classified, tabulated, presented, and made available. Tribal responses to the questions listed in the Discussion Questions sections of this document will provide this input.

The questions and answers immediately below provide more information on AIAN census data and address common concerns.

Does the Census Bureau Define the Meaning of American Indians and Alaska Natives?

The Census Bureau does not define the meaning of AIAN; the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), in the role of coordinator of the federal statistical system, defines the “American Indian or Alaska Native” category as those having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintain tribal affiliation or community attachment. This definition was developed in cooperation with federal agencies and tribal leaders to provide consistent, comparable data on the AIAN population throughout the federal government for an array of statistical and administrative programs. The Census Bureau adheres to the OMB guidance.

How Will Data on American Indians and Alaska Natives Be Collected?

See the example in Figure 1 from the 2010 Census question on race and Hispanic origin. The responses to these questions provided the information to derive a number for the national AIAN population in 2010. Responses are based on self-identification. The Census Bureau does not match self-reported data to tribal enrollment data the tribes may maintain. As mentioned earlier, the Census Bureau is testing new design questions in the 2015 National Content Test.

Figure 1. Race Question from 2010 Census

Figure 1.
Reproduction of the Questions on Hispanic Origin and Race From the 2010 Census

→ **NOTE: Please answer BOTH Question 5 about Hispanic origin and Question 6 about race. For this census, Hispanic origins are not races.**

5. Is this person of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?

No, not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin
 Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano
 Yes, Puerto Rican
 Yes, Cuban
 Yes, another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin — *Print origin, for example, Argentinean, Colombian, Dominican, Nicaraguan, Salvadoran, Spaniard, and so on.* ↴

6. What is this person's race? Mark one or more boxes.

White
 Black, African Am., or Negro
 American Indian or Alaska Native — *Print name of enrolled or principal tribe.* ↴

Asian Indian Japanese Native Hawaiian
 Chinese Korean Guamanian or Chamorro
 Filipino Vietnamese Samoan
 Other Asian — *Print race, for example, Hmong, Laotian, Thai, Pakistani, Cambodian, and so on.* ↴ Other Pacific Islander — *Print race, for example, Fijian, Tongan, and so on.* ↴

Some other race — *Print race.* ↴

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census questionnaire.

Tribal Consultation Topics and Questions

Why Is It Important to Answer the Race Question?

People who respond to the census, as well as other surveys such as the ACS, help their communities or tribes obtain federal funds and valuable information for planning schools, hospitals, and roads. In addition, Census information helps identify areas where residents might need specific services, such as screening for diabetes and hypertension. All levels of government, including tribal government, need information on race and/or tribal affiliation to implement and evaluate programs or enforce laws. Examples of laws informed by census data include the Native American Programs Act, the Equal Employment Opportunity Act, the Voting Rights Act, the Public Health Act, the Job Partnership Training Act, the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, and the Fair Housing Act.

May American Indians and Alaska Natives Report More Than One Race?

Beginning with the 2000 Census, people responding to the race question were able to select more than one racial category to indicate their mixed racial heritage. Respondents who answered the question on race by checking only the AIAN checkbox, and/or wrote in one or more AIAN tribes, are referred to as the “American Indian and Alaska Native alone” population. People who answered the race question by checking the AIAN checkbox and reported one or more other races—for example, *AIAN and White*, or *AIAN and White and Black*—are included in the “AIAN in combination” population. Based on responses to the race question and OMB standards for collecting data, the AIAN population could be classified into two broad categories: (1) AIAN alone and (2) AIAN alone or in combination.



Discussion Questions | Input Requested

- 1.** If the Census Bureau collected data on tribal enrollment, how would your tribe or village use the available data?
- 2.** How should the Census Bureau determine the tribal affiliation of those respondents who use a designation other than “tribe,” such as “reservation,” “band,” or “clan”?
 - a.** Are “reservation,” “band,” and “clan” common identifiers for American Indians?
 - b.** Are the identifiers “reservation,” “band,” and “clan” interchangeable with “tribe” among American Indians?
 - c.** Under what conditions are “reservation,” “band,” and “clan” used or reported on the census form?
 - d.** Are there generational differences in the use of a “reservation,” “band,” or “clan” identifier versus a tribe name?
 - e.** In addition, are there generational differences in the use of recognized names associated with a particular tribe?
- 3.** For Alaska Natives who provide the name of the enrolled or principal tribe, is the village or corporation name used most often?
 - a.** How should the Census Bureau determine the village names of those reporting corporation names on the census form?
- 4.** The Census Bureau is testing variations of the AIAN write-in lines, including having separate write-in lines for AIANs including indigenous Central and South American Indians. What are the possible advantages and/or disadvantages of soliciting detailed responses in this way?
- 5.** Previous research indicates that some respondents report being enrolled in a tribe, but do not mark that they are AIAN. Please provide insight into why respondents might respond in this way.
- 6.** Indicate your tribe’s classification preference for the Census Bureau race code list for the 2020 Census.
- 7.** Considering that the OMB definition of “American Indian or Alaska Native” includes people who have origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), do you have a recommendation on what label to use on questionnaires and in data products for indigenous respondents from Central and South America? What about indigenous populations from the Caribbean?

Tribal Consultation Topics and Questions

Geography

The Census Bureau's goal of providing quality data starts with a good address list and accurate geographic information. We want to work with you to define the geography for your tribe.

How is Geography Tied to Census Bureau Data?

Geography is the base upon which the Census Bureau's data are built. When a household or business answers a Census Bureau survey, the questionnaire response is attached with the household or business location address. The Census Bureau locates this address within established geographic areas, such as a reservation, state, and county. The Census Bureau then tabulates data for all of the households and/or businesses located within each geographic area. Because the Census Bureau tabulates data by geographic area, it is very important for the Census Bureau to have an accurate address list and quality geographic boundaries. If the Census Bureau does not have the geographic data or boundaries that tribes need, these consultations can be opportunities for tribes to request new or modified geographies.

Why Should Tribes Take Part in Geographic Programs and Consultations About Geography?

Participation in the Census Bureau's geographic programs allows us to provide you with quality data. In recognition of tribal sovereignty, the Census Bureau works with tribes in a government-to-government relationship. We appreciate the time you or your designee will spend working on the Census Bureau geographic programs, and provides free training and support for these programs upon request.



What Training or Assistance Is Available to Tribes?

The Census Bureau designs the geographic programs for any level of geography experience. The agency helps beginners and experts alike and gives its partners the tools they need to participate in Census Bureau geographic programs by offering free training webinars, program instructions, user-friendly software, training videos, and telephone support.

The Local Update of Census Addresses Program

The Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) program is a geographic partnership program that provides tribes the opportunity to review the Census Bureau's address list for their communities and provide updates to those addresses prior to the 2020 Census.

Why Is the LUCA Program Important to Your Tribal Community?

An accurate census starts with an up-to-date, accurate address list. If the Census Bureau has a complete address list for your community, this will help ensure that the people residing at those addresses will be counted during the 2020 Census.

How Is the LUCA Program Administered?

The LUCA program is authorized by the Census Address List Improvement Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-430), which provides an opportunity for designated representatives of tribal, state, and local governments to review the census address list. The program operates as follows:

- ◆ The Census Bureau will invite federally recognized tribes that have reservations or off-reservation trust lands to designate a LUCA liaison, who will review the portion of the census address list that covers the area under the tribe's jurisdiction.
- ◆ The address list is protected from disclosure by Title 13, United States Code. Participants must review a set of security guidelines and sign confidentiality agreements, promising to protect the confidentiality of the addresses provided for review.
- ◆ The Census Bureau will send the LUCA liaison an address list, corresponding maps, and address tallies for his or her community. The Census Bureau encourages tribal governments to work with nontribal governments in neighboring and overlapping jurisdictions to be sure that all addresses are identified for census purposes. If a tribal government chooses not to participate in LUCA for the 2020 Census, the Census Bureau encourages the tribe to delegate its reviewing authority to a state, county, or local government.
- ◆ The LUCA liaison can comment on individual addresses, on the address list, and add any addresses that are missing from the list. The Census Bureau will verify this input during the 2020 Census and provide feedback to the participants about the results.

Tribal Consultation Topics and Questions

- ◆ Public Law 103–430 allows LUCA participants to appeal Census Bureau decisions about the address list used for the 2020 Census. All appeals must be resolved before Census Day to ensure that the housing unit is visited during the enumeration phase. An agency independent of the Census Bureau will review and decide on all appeals prior to Census Day, which will be April 1, 2020.

What Is the LUCA Program Schedule?

Table 2 shows the LUCA program schedule.

Table 2. LUCA Program Schedule

Time Frame	Activity
Early 2017	LUCA advance notice letters are mailed to tribal officials.
Summer 2017	LUCA invitation letters and registration materials are mailed to tribal officials.
Early 2018	Invited governments register for LUCA, and the Census Bureau ships LUCA review materials to each participating government.

The Boundary and Annexation Survey Program

The Census Bureau conducts the Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS) yearly to collect and maintain up-to-date information about legal boundaries, names, and official statuses of counties, incorporated places, minor civil divisions, and federally recognized American Indian reservations, off-reservation trust lands, and tribal subdivision boundaries, as well as the Hawaiian Home Lands and land held by Alaska Native Regional Corporations.

Why Does the Census Bureau Ask Tribes for This Information?

The Census Bureau asks tribes about their boundaries in recognition of tribal sovereignty. The Census Bureau does coordinate the BAS Program with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), but always consults with tribes about their boundaries before making any updates.

If tribes need assistance in reviewing or updating their boundaries, the Census Bureau will provide free training and support upon request.

How Does the Federal Government Use the Geography from the BAS?

The Census Bureau and other United States government agencies use the BAS data in three ways:

1. The Census Bureau uses geography as a framework to calculate demographic and housing data for a certain geographic area, such as a reservation.
2. Other federal agencies use the data to determine program qualification and distribute federal grants and other funding.
3. Other federal agencies use the geography for mapping and other geospatial operations.

Why Should Tribes Take Part in the BAS?

United States government agencies use the Census Bureau's geography and data to allocate funding. The Census Bureau wants data about your tribe to be correct, and that accuracy starts with the correct geography. Tribes should check that their legal boundaries are correct each year and report new reservation or off-reservation trust lands to the BAS program to ensure legal boundaries and related data summaries are current.

How Do Tribal Governments Take Part in the BAS?

- ◆ Tribes can review boundaries using any of the following Census Bureau products:
 - ▶ Paper maps (PDF format)
 - ▶ Online geography viewer (TIGERweb)
 - ▶ Shapefiles – digital map files for users of Geographic Information Systems (GIS)
 - ▶ Free geography software (Geographic Update Partnership Software)
- ◆ Tribes can correct or update boundaries by:
 - ▶ Drawing the updates or corrections on paper maps provided by the Census Bureau
 - ▶ Using GIS to update the Census Bureau's shapefiles
 - ▶ Using free geography software provided by the Census Bureau
- ◆ Tribes can send the maps or shapefiles, along with documentation (such as a copy of a trust deed), to the Census Bureau.

More information, instructions, maps, free software, and training are available from the BAS homepage: www.census.gov/geo/partnerships/bas.html.

All federally recognized tribes can request free ArcMap GIS software and training from the BIA. For more information, go to: www.bia.gov/WhatWeDo/ServiceOverview/Geospatial/index.htm.

Tribal Consultation Topics and Questions

When Does the BAS Take Place?

The BAS program is conducted every year on the schedule listed in Table 3.

Table 3. BAS Program Schedule

Date(s)	Description
December	The BAS letter is emailed to the BAS contact and tribal chairperson. It requests participation and the selection of a method for submitting legal boundary changes and corrections. The latest maps and shapefiles are posted online.
March 1	Boundary corrections and updates sent by March 1 and effective on January 1 or before are merged into the Census Bureau's geographic areas and used for the next ACS data release.
May 31	Final deadline: Boundary corrections and updates sent by May 31 will be shown in the geography on the next BAS maps and shapefiles.

What Is the Boundary Validation Program?

The Boundary Validation Program (BVP) is an extension of the BAS, and it will serve as a final geographic boundary review before the 2020 Census. The Census Bureau offers maps, shapefiles, or free geographic software to tribal governments to conduct this final review of boundary accuracy. The BVP will take place in the late spring and early summer of 2020.

What if a Tribe, City, or County Disagrees with the Census Bureau's Reservation or Off-Reservation Trust Land Boundaries?

The Census Bureau asks tribes to send documentation for new reservation land or off-reservation trust land as part of the annual BAS. If the tribe does not have documentation, the Census Bureau and the tribe can contact the BIA together to request documentation. Depending on the area in question, the Census Bureau may also ask the Department of the Interior (DOI) Office of the Solicitor (SOL) for an opinion. The Census Bureau will treat opinions issued from the DOI SOL or BIA as authoritative documentation.

If a nontribal government disagrees with the Census Bureau's reservation or off-reservation trust land boundaries, the Census Bureau contacts the DOI SOL for an opinion.

When a boundary is in legal dispute, the Census Bureau refrains from updating that boundary until the DOI SOL issues an opinion.

The Tribal Statistical Areas Program

The 2020 Census will offer the Tribal Statistical Areas Program (TSAP) as a comprehensive opportunity to update or define the following statistical geographic areas:

- ◆ Alaska Native Village Statistical Areas (ANVSAs)
- ◆ Oklahoma Tribal Statistical Areas (OTSAs) and their tribal subdivisions
- ◆ Tribal Designated Statistical Areas (TDSAs)
- ◆ State Designated Tribal Statistical Areas (SDTSAs)
- ◆ Tribal Census Tracts and Tribal Block Groups
- ◆ Census Designated Places (CDPs)

In addition, federally recognized tribes with reservation and/or off-reservation trust lands will be able to suggest map features to use as census block boundaries.

Census Bureau data publications include all of the tribal statistical geographies in data summaries for the 2010 Census, the ACS, and other censuses and surveys. An upcoming *Federal Register* notice will fully detail this program and provide an opportunity to comment on the criteria.

What are Alaska Native Village Statistical Areas (ANVSAs)?

The purpose of an ANVSA is to provide statistical data for the population and housing within an Alaska Native village. ANVSAs are statistical geographic areas that represent the boundaries of an Alaska Native village and are located within the village's historic or traditional region. They are intended to show the core residential area of the community and encompass the majority of residences occupied on Census Day. Federally recognized villages are eligible to delineate ANVSAs for the 2020 Census.

What are Oklahoma Tribal Statistical Areas (OTSAs)?

OTSAs depict the historic reservation boundaries of federally recognized American Indian tribes in Oklahoma that had reservations prior to Oklahoma statehood. These boundaries are used to tabulate and publish statistical data from the Census Bureau. All OTSAs must be contained within the current boundaries of Oklahoma. Because OTSAs primarily represent former reservation boundaries, they are not required to conform to any other geographic entities (besides Oklahoma) for which the Census Bureau tabulates data.

What are Tribal Designated Statistical Areas (TDSAs) and State Designated Tribal Statistical Areas (SDTSAs)?

TDSAs and SDTSAs are delineated to match federally and state-recognized tribes that do not have reservations and/or off-reservation trust land with areas currently associated with those tribes. The Census Bureau can then provide meaningful statistical data for a geographic area relevant to the tribe's current data needs in its present location. The intent is to provide data equivalent to data provided for tribes with reservations.

Tribal Consultation Topics and Questions

What are Tribal Census Tracts and Tribal Block Groups?

The Census Bureau defines tribal census tracts and tribal block groups in cooperation with tribal officials to provide data for small geographic areas within the boundaries of federally recognized reservations and off-reservation trust lands. The delineation of these geographies allows for clearer presentation of statistical data at a sub-reservation level and without consideration of state or county boundaries.

What are Census Designated Places (CDPs)?

CDPs represent locally known, unincorporated communities. Ideally, a CDP contains a mix of residential, commercial, cultural, and/or retail uses similar to that of an incorporated place of similar size in the same region. The delineation of CDPs allows for the identification of and tabulation of data for unincorporated communities within the boundaries of federally recognized American Indian reservations, off-reservation trust lands, and OTSAs. CDP boundaries should be updated and revised as appropriate to reflect changes in the geographic extent of the place. A CDP should not be coextensive with another geographic entity for which the Census Bureau tabulates data.



How Do I Participate in the Tribal Statistical Areas Program (TSAP)?

In support of the Census Bureau’s commitment to the government-to-government relationship with tribes, TSAP will be available directly to all federally recognized tribes. For state-recognized tribes, the Census Bureau will work through a liaison appointed by the state governor.

Table 4 shows the three-year TSAP draft timeline, which spans from 2016 through 2019.

Table 4. TSAP Schedule

Date(s)	Program Highlights
September 2016	Publication of proposed TSAP geography criteria in the <i>Federal Register</i>
December 2016	Publication of final TSAP geography criteria in the <i>Federal Register</i>
October 2017 – February 2018	Continued outreach to TSAP participants and stakeholders
March 2018	Distribution of initial TSAP materials to participants
September 2018 – March 2019	Initial review and delineation of TSAP boundaries completed by participants and returned to the Census Bureau for review
August 2019 – September 2019	Verification of boundaries in the Census Bureau’s geographic databases by TSAP participants

Tribal Consultation Topics and Questions

How Are Tribal Census Tracts, Tribal Block Groups, and Census Designated Places Related?

Please take a moment to review Table 4, which shows attributes of these three types of areas. Note that there are several similar purposes and requirements among the three types. These types of geographic areas are particularly applicable to federal tribes with reservation land and/or off-reservation trust lands since tribal census tracts, tribal block groups, and CDPs may be delineated within these geographies.

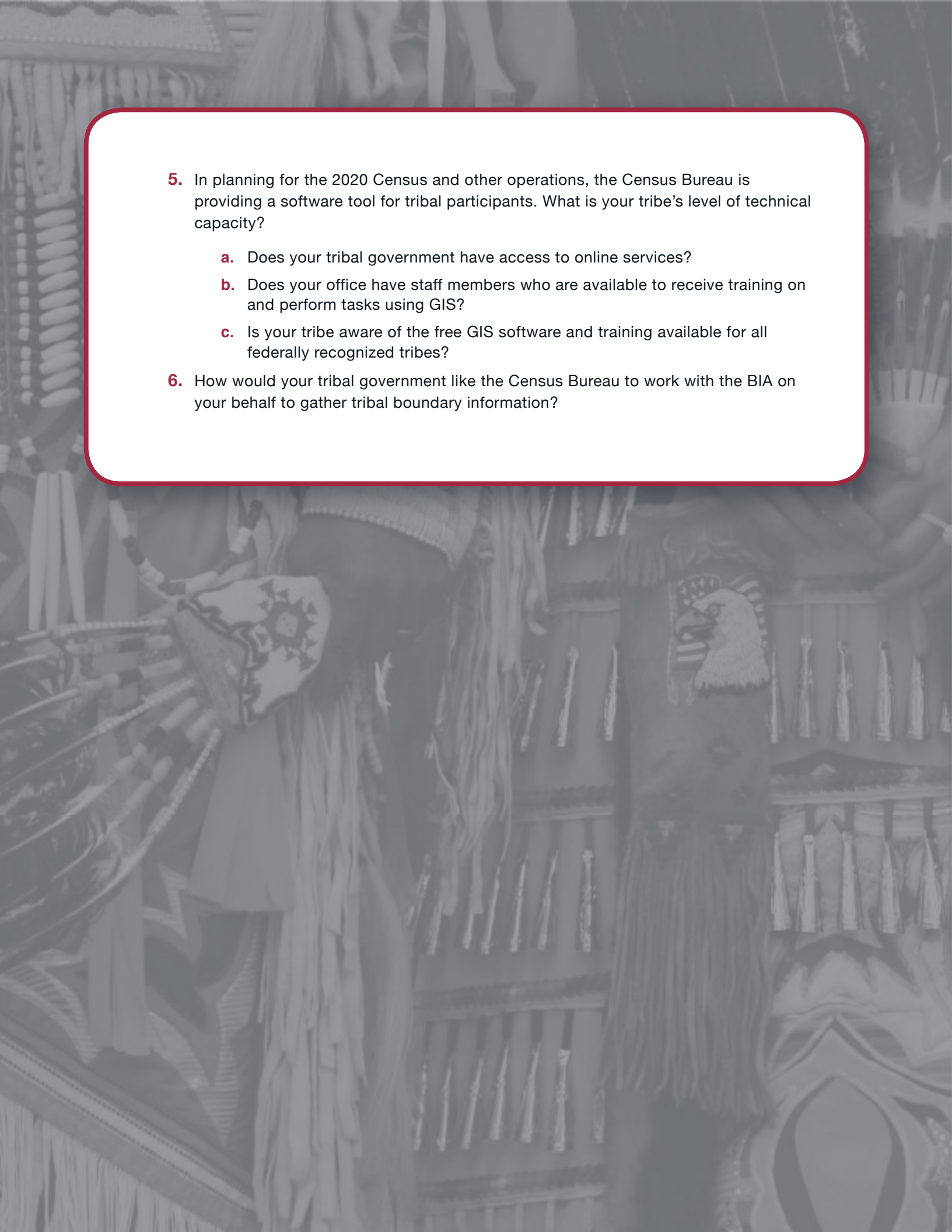
Table 5. Comparison of Tribal Census Tracts, Tribal Block Groups, and CDPs

Type of Geographic Area	Primary Purpose	Requirements
Tribal Census Tracts	To generate relevant, reliable data for a tribe	Meet minimum thresholds and have consistent definition providing for boundary continuity and data comparability over time
Tribal Block Groups	To generate relevant, reliable data for a tribe	Meet minimum thresholds
Census Designated Places	To generate place-level data for well-known, closely settled communities	Mix of residential, commercial, cultural, and/or retail uses similar to that of an incorporated place of similar size



Discussion Questions | Input Requested

- 1.** Does the Census Bureau map and publish the most useful areas for tribes?
The agency receives requests referring to Indian Country, but there are no clear definitions of boundaries.
 - a.** The Census Bureau provides data for federally and state-recognized reservations, off-reservation trust lands, Oklahoma tribal statistical areas and many other geographies. Do the areas for which the Census Bureau publishes data meet your needs?
 - b.** Are there other geographies that the Census Bureau should collect data for?
- 2.** How does your tribe use geographic census data?
 - a.** Has your tribe used data from tribal statistical geographies, such as tribal census tract or tribal block group data? Do you use standard, county-based data instead of tribal area-based data?
 - b.** From which geographic areas (reservation, trust lands, county, census tract, tribal census tract, incorporated place, county subdivision) do you use data the most often?
 - c.** Do you use any of the Census Bureau's other spatial data, such as data on roads?
- 3.** The Local Update of Census Addresses will be an opportunity for your tribe to participate in the review of the addresses that will be used in the 2020 Census. Is your tribe prepared to participate?
 - a.** Does your tribe have an address list?
 - b.** Is your tribe planning to participate in the LUCA program?
 - c.** As part of LUCA, will your tribe involve representatives from any nontribal governments located within your reservation boundaries?
 - d.** Are you aware that you can delegate authority to review the LUCA address list to other officials (such as a city or county) located within the boundaries of your reservation?
- 4.** Does your tribe work with other parties for mapping or planning and development?
 - a.** Does your tribe work with local, county, or state officials for local planning purposes?
 - b.** Does your tribe work with any regional planning agencies or councils of governments that the Census Bureau should contact?

- 
- 5.** In planning for the 2020 Census and other operations, the Census Bureau is providing a software tool for tribal participants. What is your tribe's level of technical capacity?
- a.** Does your tribal government have access to online services?
 - b.** Does your office have staff members who are available to receive training on and perform tasks using GIS?
 - c.** Is your tribe aware of the free GIS software and training available for all federally recognized tribes?
- 6.** How would your tribal government like the Census Bureau to work with the BIA on your behalf to gather tribal boundary information?

Recruiting for Census Jobs

Recruiting for 2020 Census jobs will begin later in the decade.

Why Work for the Census?

The Census Bureau offers temporary employment opportunities that include competitive wages, flexible work schedules, and on-the-job training. The jobs are ideal for people who work at home, are between jobs, or want to earn extra money while helping their communities.

What Skills Could Census Workers Take to Their Next Jobs?

A position with the 2020 Census can help a person develop many skills, including: solving problems; making informed decisions; organizing tasks; reading online mapping tools; and using hand-held devices, like smartphones or tablets, to accomplish field activities. Census workers also learn how to deal with difficult or unusual interviewing situations and how to record responses accurately.

How Can Tribal Governments Help?

Tribal governments can help provide employment opportunities for members and support the Census Bureau's work by:

- ◆ Assisting with recruiting efforts through tribal human resource organizations, such as tribal employment rights offices and Job Training Partnership Act organizations
- ◆ Providing the Census Bureau staff with space for testing and training
- ◆ Developing workforce preparation training programs
- ◆ Providing a point of contact between the Census Bureau and tribal members through referral services and public awareness plans



Discussion Questions | Input Requested

1. What types of changes have happened in your tribe since the 2010 Census that could affect recruiting?
2. What are the best avenues for promoting and recruiting for census jobs?
 - a. Are there locations in your community with Internet access that could be used during the recruitment period for online tests, practice tests, and applications?
3. How willing would your members be to fill out a job application via the Internet?



Additional Decennial Programs That Help Tribal Governments

Additional Decennial Programs

American Community Survey (ACS)

“ACS is the future ... no more having to use ten-year-old data. ACS provides our Native nations, businesses, and institutions current data about where we live, what we do, and how we live. It’s a tremendous source for keeping our people united and connected to our past and our collective future. We need to embrace the ACS and help to make the data collection and reporting even richer.”

**—Leigh Ann McGee, tribal consultant and former chair,
Census Advisory Committee on the American Indian and Alaska Native Population**

Overview

The ACS provides vital information on a yearly basis about the United States and its people. Through the ACS, more is known about jobs and occupations, educational attainment, veteran status, whether people own or rent their homes, and many other topics. Public officials, planners, and entrepreneurs use this information to assess the past and plan for the future. When you respond to the ACS, you are helping your community move forward with things like planning hospitals and schools, supporting school lunch programs, improving emergency services, building bridges, informing businesses that want to add jobs and expand to new markets, and more.

Why Is Participation in the ACS Important?

More than \$400 billion in federal funds are distributed every year to states and communities. How the funds are distributed is based in part on demographic, socioeconomic, and geographic information generated by the Census Bureau. The ACS is an important factor in providing this information. Tribal planners and administrators, as well as national organizations that work with AIANs, may find ACS estimates useful in accessing funding for tribal programs and initiatives. ACS estimates can also help guide planning for future economic development, housing needs, and access to health and educational services for communities. When combined with information from tribal administrative records, ACS information provides an enhanced view of a community’s current and future needs. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development uses ACS data to identify needed housing improvements on and off of reservations. ACS data are also critical in applying for grants that provide funding for transportation, education, job training, and economic development.

How Does the Census Bureau Help Tribal Communities Use the ACS Estimates?

All ACS estimates are available at www.factfinder.census.gov. The ACS website, www.census.gov/acs, provides free handbooks, presentations, and user guidance that make accessing the information easier.

Local data dissemination specialists are available through each Census Bureau regional office. They can give presentations and help people find, use, and understand ACS statistics. You can find contact information for these local specialists below, under the Region Contact Numbers section.

You can also find contact information for the many groups that participate in the Census Bureau State Data Center and Census Information Center programs, including those serving the AIAN community, at www.census.gov/sdc/index.html and www.census.gov/cic.

Data Dissemination Program

The Census Bureau recognizes the need for and benefits of timely data dissemination to tribal governments, tribal members, and other data users and stakeholders working with the AIAN populations. The Data Dissemination Program focuses on data access and usage. It employs seven data dissemination staff members, who are geographically dispersed throughout the country and provide awareness, education, and training to the public on accessing and using census data.

The data dissemination staff maintain a local Census Bureau presence within tribal communities. They actively engage with experienced and new data users through hands-on training, presentations, data workshops, seminars, webinars, and exhibits.

The Data Dissemination Program encourages participation in current and one-time surveys through activities and product development, provides timely responses to data inquiries, and promotes the importance of all census data throughout data dissemination efforts to partners, stakeholders, and the public.

Additional Decennial Programs

Tribal Focus

The Data Dissemination Program's plan requires it to specifically reach out to tribal governments and data users who are part of or who work with tribal populations to ensure that Census Bureau data are easily accessed and understood. The staff is knowledgeable of tribal cultures and protocols, and aims to provide optimum data dissemination services to AIAN populations.

For more information, email the Data Dissemination Program at clmso.ddb.questions@census.gov.

Region Contact Numbers

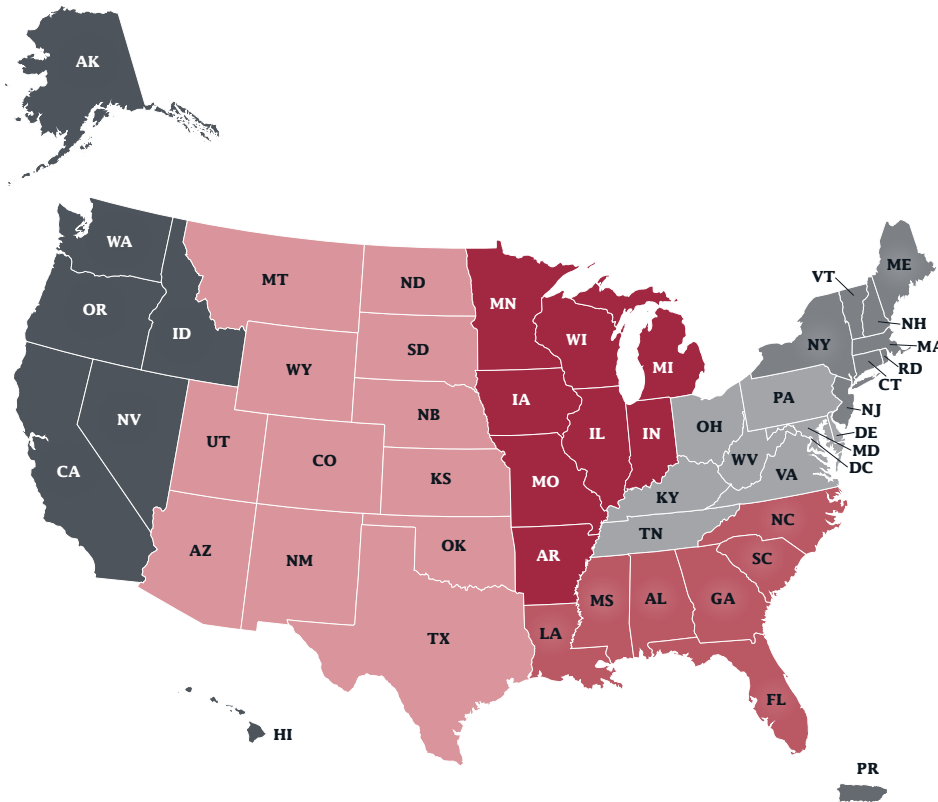
- ◆ Atlanta Data Dissemination Staff: 404-730-3833
- ◆ Chicago Data Dissemination Staff: 630-288-9250
- ◆ Denver Data Dissemination Staff: 720-962-3870
- ◆ Los Angeles Data Dissemination Staff: 818-267-1725
- ◆ New York Data Dissemination Staff: 212-584-3440
- ◆ Philadelphia Data Dissemination Staff: 215-717-1820





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To access Census Bureau AIAN data, visit: www.census.gov/aian



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