



Review of 2020 Operational Plan Schedule

August 17, 2020

Albert E. Fontenot, Jr.,
Associate Director for Decennial Census Programs

Timothy P. Olson
Associate Director for Field Operations

Shape
your future
START HERE >

United States[®]
Census
2020

Operational Timelines: Original and Pandemic-Adjusted

Activity / Operation	Original Dates	Replan Dates
Update Leave (Stateside)	March 15 – April 17	Phased re-opening occurred between May 4 and June 12
Service Based Enumeration	March 30 – April 1	September 22 – 24
Targeted Non-Sheltered Outdoor Locations	March 31 – April 1	September 23 – 24
Group Quarters Enumeration	April 2 – June 5	April 2 – September 3
Enumeration of Transitory Locations	April 9 – May 4	September 3 – 28
Nonresponse Followup*	May 13 – July 31	August 9 – September 30
Delivery of Apportionment Data**	By Statutory Deadline: December 31, 2020	By Statutory Deadline: December 31, 2020
Delivery Redistricting Data**	By Statutory Deadline: March 30, 2021	Plan in Development

*For a period of time, NRFU was 8/11/20-10/31/20.

**For a period of time, delivery of apportionment data by 4/30/21 and redistricting data by 7/31/21, were considered.

Self-Response Rate Summary

As of 11:59pm August 16, 2020

Total Self-Response Rate: 63.8%

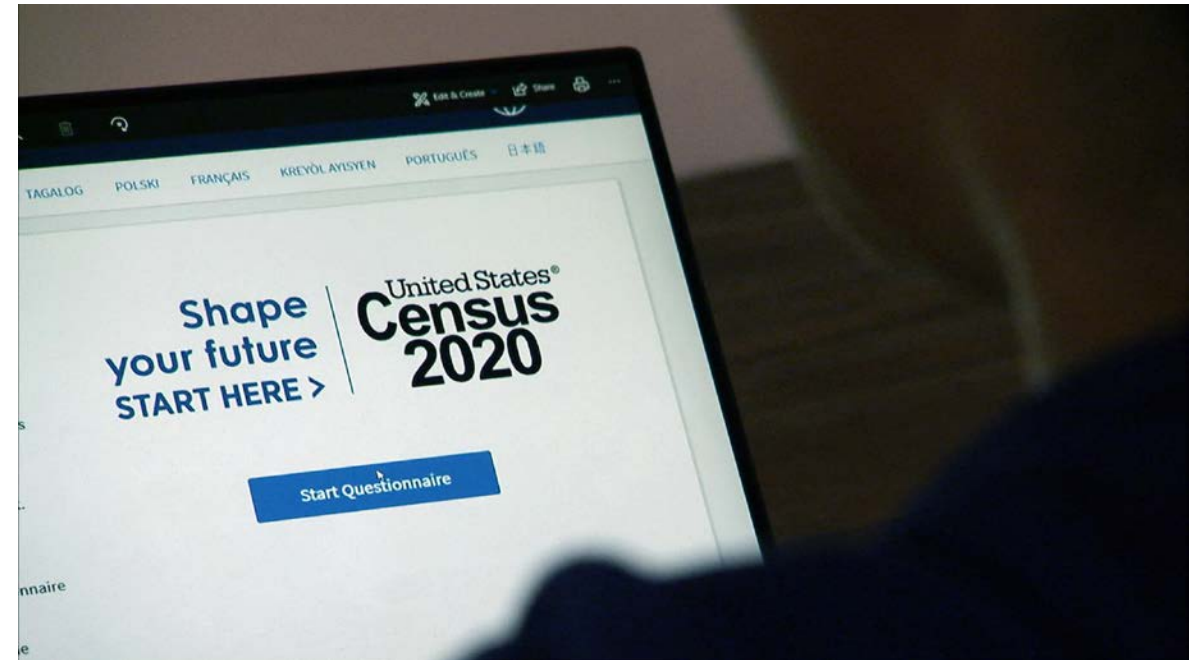
Total Responding Housing Units: 94.3M

Responses by mode:

75.4M (80.0%) – Internet

17.5M (18.5%) – Paper

1.4M (1.5%) – Phone



Update Leave – Status Update

Operation:

The Update Leave (UL) operation is designed to occur in areas where the majority of housing units either do not have mail delivered to the physical location of the housing unit, or the mail delivery information for the housing unit cannot be verified. A Census Bureau employee physically delivers a 2020 Census invitation to these housing units and updates the census address list. Nonresponding households will be visited by an enumerator during nonresponse followup.

Workload:

- Update Leave Original Workload (does not change): 6,805,523 housing units
- Workload Completed as of March 18 (date field operations were suspended): 736,320 housing units
 - Percentage Completed at suspension: 10.8%
- **The Update Leave workload was completed on August 10, 2020**

Response Rates:

- Total Responses (as of August 16): 2,368,445 (34.8%)
 - Internet: 1,237,408 (52.2%)
 - Paper: 1,083,720 (45.8%)
 - Phone: 47,317 (2.0%)



Group Quarters Enumeration – Status Update

Operation:

Group Quarters Enumeration is the U.S. Census Bureau's special process for counting people who live or stay in group quarters during the 2020 Census. Because group quarters are owned or managed by a third party, the Census Bureau assists group quarters administrators in responding to the census on behalf of residents to ensure a complete and accurate census count.

Group Quarters Enumeration Progress*

Initial Workload	GQs Added	Current Workload	Completed & Closed Cases	Current Workload	Percent Completed & Closed
195,656	16,409	212,065	174,539	37,526	82.3%

*As of August 16, 2020



2020 Census Service-Based Enumeration (SBE) Overview

Background

The SBE operation is conducted at service-based locations and targeted non-sheltered outdoor locations (TNSOLs) to enumerate people experiencing homelessness. These service locations include: emergency and transitional shelters (with sleeping facilities) for people experiencing homelessness, soup kitchens, and regularly scheduled mobile food vans.

Prior to operational adjustments made in lieu of COVID-19, SBE was scheduled to be conducted March 30 – April 1.

Consulted With Major Stakeholders

- In late May/early June we consulted with 67 national and local organizations to assist the Census Bureau in determining the best date to conduct SBE/TNSOL.
- Determining an optimal date to conduct SBE took into consideration the need to conduct a thorough and accurate enumeration, while also understanding the needs of our external partners, which are crucial during SBE.

Operational Decision

- Based on the feedback from our stakeholders, input from Census experts, and consultation with operational team leads, we have selected September 22 – 24 as the dates to conduct SBE and TNSOL.

Current Status

- Updating TNSOLs locations and making appointments with service providers in early September.
- Finalizing training plans for approximately 45,000 SBE field staff.

Nonresponse Followup Field Operations

Early Start of Nonresponse Followup Operations

6 Cycle 1a Area Census Offices (ACOs) began operations on July 16

6 Cycle 1b ACOs began operations on July 23

35 Cycle 2 ACOs were scheduled to begin operations on July 30; however, we started operations earlier in some ACOs where staff was available:

- 17 ACOs – Started July 26 – 29
- 18 ACOs – Started July 30

39 Cycle 3 ACOs were scheduled to begin operations by August 3:

- 15 ACOs – Started July 31
- 16 ACOs – Started August 1
- 8 ACOs – Started August 3

All remaining ACOs were scheduled to begin August 11, but all began operations by August 9:

- 107 ACOs – Started August 3 – 7
- 55 ACOs (all remaining) – August 9

As of August 9 Nonresponse Followup Operations have started in all 248 ACOs

Safety during Field Activities

On August 7, in a joint statement from the Census Bureau and Centers for Disease Control (CDC) on Conducting 2020 Census Non-Response Follow-Up Interviews, the CDC stated that participation in 2020 Census interviews should present a low risk of transmission of COVID-19.

Census takers are trained to rigorously and universally follow these CDC recommendations to mitigate risk of transmission:

- Wearing of face masks.
- Maintaining social distance of 6 ft. or more.
- Practicing hand hygiene.
- Not entering homes, and conducting interviews outside as much as possible or practical.



Providing an Apportionment Count

Objective: The Census Bureau was tasked to develop a plan to provide an apportionment count by the statutory deadline of December 31, 2020.

- **Achieving** an acceptable level of accuracy and completeness, with a goal of resolving at least 99% of Housing Units in every state, comparable with previous censuses.
- **Maintaining** original contact strategy for occupied housing units. Field activities, including number of attempts to contact respondents, will not be changed.
- **Maximizing** staff and production hours for field data collection operations to conclude field data collection by September 30, 2020.
- **Streamlining** backend processing to deliver apportionment counts by the statutory deadline of December 31, 2020.

Nonresponse Followup Field Operations – Current Status

Cycle 1A (6 ACOs) began operations on July 16:

- 60.9% Percent Complete
- 57.9% Percent Goal

Cycle 1B (6 ACOs) began operations on July 23:

- 50.4% Percent Complete
- 47.5% Percent Goal

Cycle 2 (35 ACOs) began operations July 26-30:

- 41.2% Percent Complete
- 36.2% Percent Goal

Cycle 3 (39 ACOs) began operations July 31 - August 3:

- 19.9% Percent Complete
- 11.1% Percent Goal

National Metrics (ALL 248 ACOs)

Began operations by August 9:

National Workload: 61,335,507 HUs

Completed Workload: 14,851,615 HUs

- 24.2% Percent Complete
- 16.9% Percent Goal



Maintaining Original Contact Strategy

We are maintaining the original contact strategy for occupied housing units. Field activities, including number of attempts to contact respondents, will not be changed.

- In most cases, census workers will make up to six attempts at each housing unit address to count possible residents.



Increasing Work Hours from Current Enumerators

Nonresponse Followup Employee Award Pay



Earn up to an extra
\$800
on top of your regular pay.

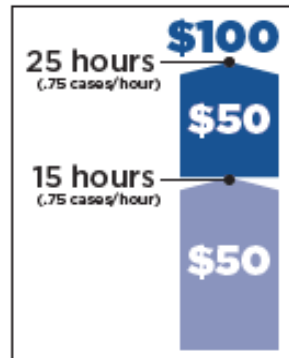
From **August 9th through August 29th**, Census Field Supervisors and Enumerators who maximize hours worked will have the opportunity to earn **award pay** in addition to their regular pay.

Census Field Supervisor Award Criteria

- Census Field Supervisors who exceed **32** hours or more per week, **between Aug 9–Aug 29**, will earn a **\$750** award.



Census Enumerator Award Criteria



x3=\$300
+\$500=\$800

- Enumerators who work between **15** hours and **24** hours per week, and complete **.75** cases/hour, will earn a **\$50** award.
- Enumerators who work **25** hours or more per week, and complete **.75** cases/hour, will earn a **\$100** award.
- Enumerators who work **25** hours or more per week and complete **.75** cases/hour, **between Aug 9–Aug 29**, will earn a **\$500** award.

Keeping Staff Levels Up

Actions	Benefit
Inviting More People to Training	Over selection rates will address higher-than-expected no-show rates of 35%, bringing us closer to our target initial staffing levels.
Continual Replacement Training	Expect to conduct replacement training for at least 135K enumerators due to attrition. Projecting over 11,000 additional training sessions.

Adapting to Dynamic On The Ground Conditions

Actions	Benefit
Implement outbound phone calling to supplement in-person contact attempts.	Provides an additional method to enumerate hard to reach communities.
Expand the use of NRFU Travel Teams: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moving teams that have successfully completed their areas to areas requiring additional attention. 	Using experienced staff minimizes the need to train new staff – particularly in areas where new staff are not available. Efficiently accelerates closeout process.
Extending Mobile Questionnaire Assistance (MQA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deploying trained staff to assist with self-response in low response areas • Will extend through September 30 	MQA representatives are in open, public places in the lowest-responding areas of the nation to encourage people to respond to the 2020 Census. Provides a convenient way for the public to get information about the 2020 Census and self-respond in areas with low response.
Targeted Communications	Continue to promote self-response and cooperation with enumerators by focusing on specific, targeted areas.

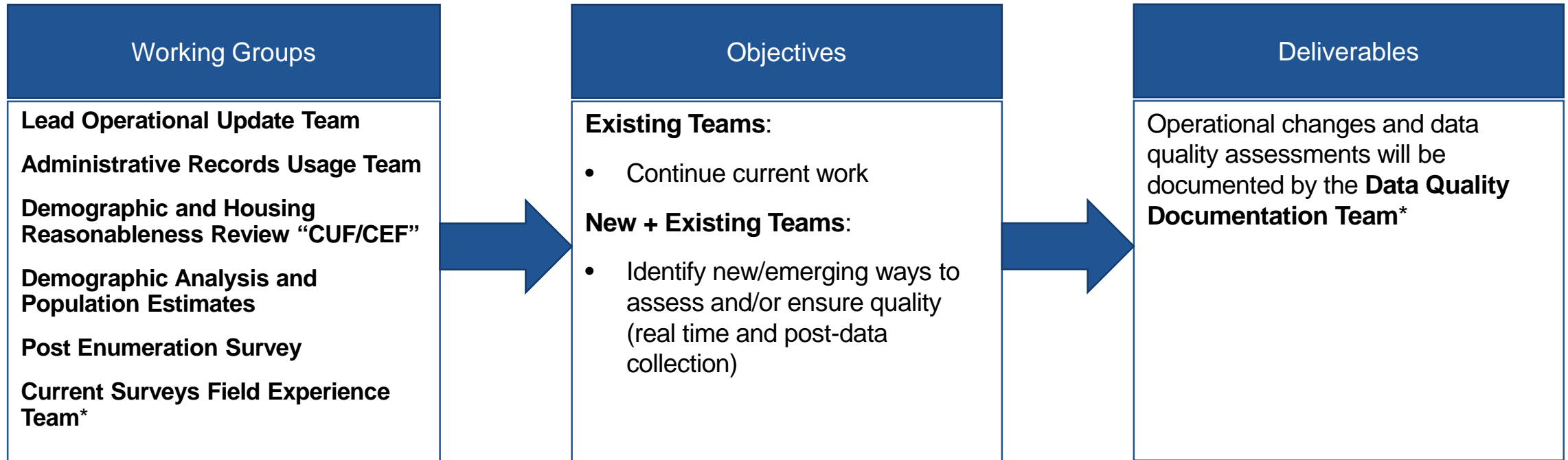
Ensuring Quality of Data Collected during Field Operations

- **Employing** expanded technical capacity to conduct analytical Re-Interview selection as the basis for the Re-Interview process.
- **Utilizing** new techniques for the 2020 Census to monitoring quality:
 - **Using** statistical techniques with professional statisticians and analysts to proactively identify, monitor, evaluate, and resolve quality issues.
 - **Analyzing** data and metrics to identify and investigate outliers and other unusual activity.
- **Increasing** efficiency of our strategy for verifying vacant or non-existing Housing Units.



Ensuring High Quality Data from the 2020 Census

Special teams with expertise from within the entire Census Bureau in the fields of census operations, statistical methodology, acquisition and utilization of administrative records, and in the social, economic, and housing subject areas to supplement the existing expert teams and provide extra focus on data quality.



*New team, not previously part of 2020 Census operations

Post Enumeration Data Processing

Professional career staffers at the Census Bureau are evaluating the processes and procedures and incorporating technological developments, such as the improvements in the quality of the Master Address File, to determine how to effectively and accurately deliver apportionment counts by the statutory deadline of December 31, 2020.

This staff will be closely monitoring the collection and processing of the data and assessing any potential impacts on accuracy, data quality, and coverage.

Further updates on our post enumeration data processing will be provided.

Implementation of the Presidential Memorandum

The Census Bureau has been tasked with developing a legally and methodologically valid process that meets tests of operational feasibility, to accomplish the goals and directives of the Presidential Memorandum to the extent practicable and consistent with applicable law. To achieve this, the Census Bureau will:

- Build upon the decades of continuous experience we have working with administrative records.
- **We will continue full steam ahead with our mission of counting every person, counting them once, and counting them in the right place.**

Thank You

Albert E. Fontenot, Jr.

Associate Director for Decennial Census Programs

Timothy P. Olson

Associate Director for Field Operations