



AMERICAN STATISTICAL ASSOCIATION
Promoting the Practice and Profession of Statistics®

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October 13, 2020

The Honorable Ron Johnson
Chair, Committee on Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs
US Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gary C. Peters
Ranking Member, Committee on Homeland
Security and Governmental Affairs
US Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Carolyn Maloney
Chair, Committee on Oversight and
Government Reform
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable James Comer
Ranking Member, Committee on Oversight
and Government Reform
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairs Johnson and Maloney and Ranking Members Peters and Comer,

I write to share the enclosed [2020 Census Quality Indicators](#), the recommendations of which the American Statistical Association Board of Directors has endorsed. We would be happy to meet with you and/or your staff to discuss why we believe these indicators are crucial.

Given the unprecedented challenges to the 2020 decennial census and the importance of the census to our democracy, governance, and everyday lives, we believe it is imperative for lawmakers and the American public to be informed at every remaining step of what can be determined about the quality of the 2020 decennial census. We therefore request that you require the administration to have these indicators applied to the 2020 decennial census data as soon as possible—commencing in the post-data collection phase when the census apportionment and redistricting files are being produced—and the results made public.

Such transparency and measures of quality are, of course, the traditional hallmarks of the US Census Bureau. These indicators are an extension of this tradition in multiple ways, including the public release of the quality measures at the census-tract level, the addition of indicators to make

use of data available this decade because of the continued automation of the decennial census, and the public sharing of indicators starting the post-data collection phase.

The indicators were prepared by a task force of census experts I co-chaired with former US Chief Statistician of the United States Nancy Potok. The task force comprises another former chief statistician, a former Census Bureau chief scientist, a former Census Bureau chief demographer, a former member of the Census Scientific Advisory Committee, three former Census Bureau directors, and others.

We look forward to engagement with you and your staff on these indicators to ensure transparent assessment and dissemination of the many aspects of decennial census quality to the American public.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Santos". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "S".

Robert Santos
2021 ASA President