



American Statistical Association Statement on President Trump's July 21 Memorandum Regarding the Decennial Census

July 21, 2020

Enshrined in the US Constitution, the decennial census is a cornerstone of our democracy and informs our governance, commerce, and daily life. The importance of a fair and accurate census cannot be overstated. Fundamental to the census is that it enumerates **all** residents in the US, regardless of citizenship status. The Census Bureau's website explicitly explains that the "[U.S. census counts each resident of the country](#)."

President Trump's [memorandum](#) to omit undocumented immigrants from the counts in the decennial census used for apportionment reverses 230 years of American census practice. Identification of such individuals contradicts the bureau's mission to "honor privacy, protect confidentiality, share our expertise globally, and conduct our work openly."

Since its founding in 1839, the ASA has worked to ensure scientific objectivity in the decennial census, and the ASA continues its steadfast support of the Census Bureau today. We urge an immediate retraction of this memorandum, as well as the removal of the [two political appointees who were installed at the bureau in June](#). We also reiterate our exhortation for the [transfer of assembly of administrative records to collect citizenship information to a nonstatistical agency](#). In short, we call for this administration to allow the US Census Bureau career professionals to conduct a fair and impartial census and thereby continue to maintain scientific integrity in data collection and use, honoring their commitment to the nation.