

Adam Bickford, Colorado

1) Brief biography.

I joined the Colorado State Demography Office as a Data Analyst and Outreach Coordinator in 2017. Prior to this position, I worked as a policy analyst and program evaluator in a variety of different settings, from tracking the demographic characteristics of museum visitors, evaluating K-12 educational programs, to contributing to state and regional energy efficiency policy. Throughout my career, I have focused on building tools that communicate data and statistical results to non-technical audiences.

The Colorado State Demography Office is part of the Colorado Department of Local Affairs. Our office combines the Colorado State Data Center, the Colorado FSCPE affiliate and the Colorado Complete Count Campaign. Our mission is produce demographic and economic data to improve local decision making.

As part of my current position, I serve as our office's SDC lead and provide technical assistance on public data to data users across the state. I provide logistical support for the Colorado Complete Count Campaign and lead our office's efforts to educate public libraries and other public-sector organizations about the details of the upcoming census. I developed the Colorado Demographic Profiles tool (<https://gis.dola.colorado.gov/apps/ProfileDashboard2/>), and am the author of a series of papers analyzing the characteristics of Colorado in-migrants and out-migrants, the first of which is published as part of the State Demography Office's Crosstabs blog series.

I hold a Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Chicago. Much of my substantive work has focused on the interaction of individuals and institutions, paying particular attention to issues of stratification and inequality.

2) What special perspective or goals would the nominee bring as a Steering Committee member?

I have the perspective of both a user of Census data and as a guide to census resources. I routinely interact with Colorado data users to link them with existing data sources and inform them about the technical details of the available data. As a member of the Steering Committee, my primary goal would be to assist the SDC in developing products to explain the reasoning and details behind Census Bureau data processing adjustments.

The 2020 Census will face a unique set of challenges. Not only is the Census Bureau committed to supporting multiple modes of data collection, it is also anticipating new procedures and algorithms to ensure the confidentiality of census respondents, and is planning to supplement submitted responses with administrative data to a greater extent. Each of these changes will raise questions about the accuracy of census counts. Through participation in the Steering Committee, I would help the SDC make Census data more transparent and accessible.

3) What is your vision for the SDC network and our partnership with the Census Bureau?

I see the SDC as an essential source of information about the data processing and protection procedures the Census Bureau is planning to use. I would like to see the SDC become a leader in documenting and

communicating Census Bureau innovations. The SDC should take a lead role in disseminating this information to state policy groups, academic groups, and the public.

I have only recently worked directly with the Census Bureau, the SDC, FSCPE and other organizations. However, I have addresses issues of data dissemination and data quality throughout my career. I believe that I will bring a unique focus to the SDC. I would like to help the demographic data provided by the Census more transparent to users. I believe that data transparency is an important outcome of The State Demography Office and the SDC's work with the Census Bureau. I hope to use any position with the SDC to help make Census data more transparent and accessible to users.