

# 2020 CENSUS DEMONSTRATION DATA: PRIVACY AND ACCURACY ISSUES

A WEBINAR FOR CENSUS INFORMATION CENTERS,  
STATE DATA CENTERS, AND FSCPE AGENCIES

The logo for the State Data Center (SDC) program, featuring the letters 'SDC' in a bold, dark teal font.

The U.S. Census Bureau's  
**Premier Local Partner**

# TODAY'S PROGRAM

- Census implementing new disclosure avoidance methods with 2020 Census public data products (Beth)
- Overview of Differential Privacy, effects on data accuracy, examples based on Census's decennial demonstration data tables (David)
- Proposed data products, what tables will be available (Jan)
- How you can review the demonstration data tables now online (Jan and Beth)
- Suggested next steps, and opportunities for feedback (Todd)



# TAKE AWAY IDEA

## TRADEOFFS between

- Localized data detail
- How many crosstabs will be produced
- The privacy risk this poses
- The deliberate perturbation of published data cells to mitigate that risk



# DATA PRODUCTS AND DIFFERENTIAL PRIVACY ARE LINKED ISSUES

- Census Bureau wants to finalize the list and specifications of 2020 public data tables by April 2020
- Differential Privacy “disclosure budget” is on a parallel track – but the timeline for decision is not clear to external stakeholders
  - April? Or later in 2020?



# SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR FEEDBACK

- Both Census Bureau and National Academies of Sciences / CNSTAT are asking for comments and use cases
- Census Bureau
  - Comments on what 2020 data products you need:  
[pop.2020.dataproducts@census.gov](mailto:pop.2020.dataproducts@census.gov)
  - Comments on Differential Privacy impacts:  
[dcmd.2010.demonstration.data.products@census.gov](mailto:dcmd.2010.demonstration.data.products@census.gov)



# SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR FEEDBACK

- National Academies of Sciences / CNSTAT
  - “Call for input” responses to Daniel Cork: [dcork@nas.edu](mailto:dcork@nas.edu)
  - Convening a *Workshop on 2020 Census Data Products*, Dec. 11-12: [sites.nationalacademies.org/DBASSE/CNSTAT/](https://sites.nationalacademies.org/DBASSE/CNSTAT/)
    - Attend in person at NAS, Washington, DC
    - *Or* tune in to the webinar livestream
  - Census executives will be participating in this workshop



# SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR FEEDBACK

- Steering committees of FSCPE, CIC, and SDC networks have met and discussed the data products issues
  - We are seeking opportunities to express questions and, now, objections to Census's proposed course of action
  - The three committees sent a joint letter to Director Dillingham last week: [SDCclearinghouse.com/letter-on-differential-privacy](https://SDCclearinghouse.com/letter-on-differential-privacy)



# SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR FEEDBACK

- Our steering committees' comments and pursuit of answers does not preempt any comments or objections you want to raise
  - Not expecting a *Fed Reg* Notice: Census Bureau asserts it does not need external approval to overhaul Census's Disclosure Avoidance System
  - Send your thoughts to Census Bureau as you see fit
  - SDC State Leads can raise objections under SDC's Memorandum of Agreement: Contact SDC steering committee for advice





# SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS, AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR FEEDBACK

- Let's all aim for public data products that are fit for use
- And that comply with Census Bureau's Title 13 obligations

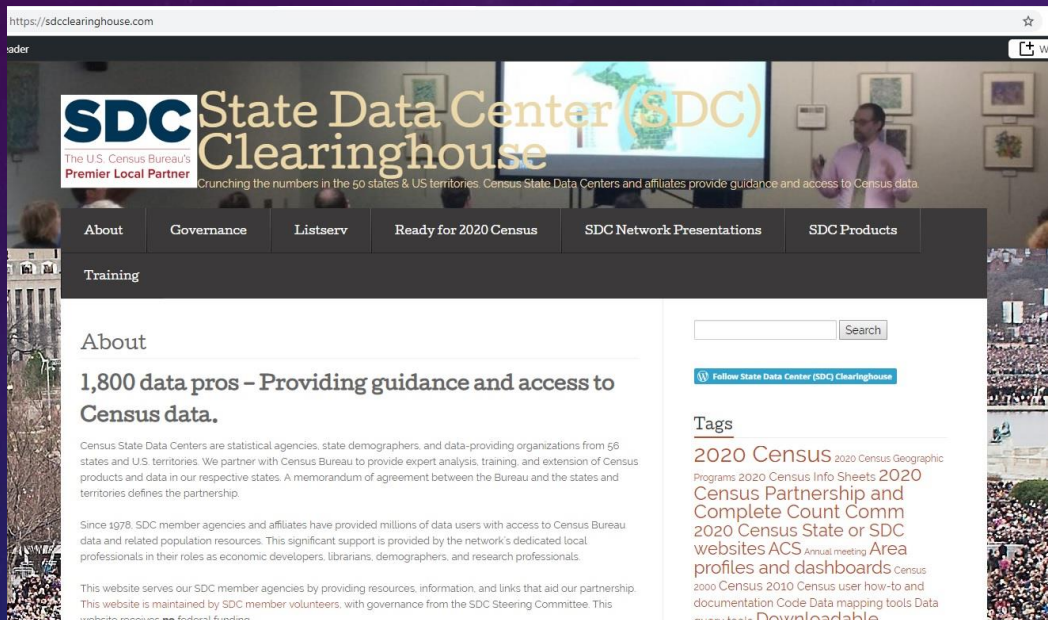


# THANK YOU TO OUR PRESENTERS

- Beth Jarosz, demographer at Population Reference Bureau
  - twitter @DataGeekB and @PRBdata
- David Van Riper, spatial analysis director at Minnesota Population Center
  - twitter @DCVanRiper and @MinnPop @IPUMS
- Jan Vink, research specialist at Cornell Program on Applied Demographics
  - twitter @JanVink18 and @PADcornell
- Moderators: Todd Graham and Jenn Shultz, national SDC Steering Committee
  - twitter @censusSDC
- Meeting hosted by Pennsylvania State Data Center
  - twitter @PaSDC\_PSU



# WELCOME, WE'RE USING ZOOM.US FOR WEBINARS



This webinar has been recorded, and will be posted to [SDCclearinghouse.com](https://SDCclearinghouse.com)



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