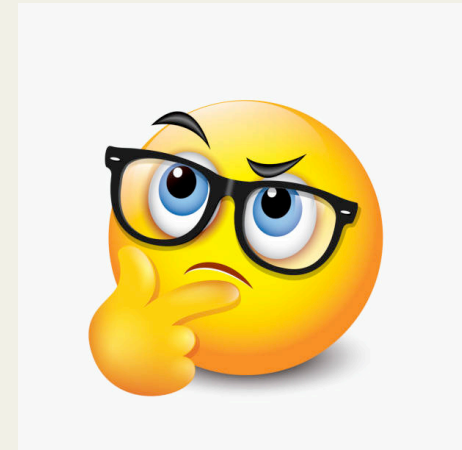
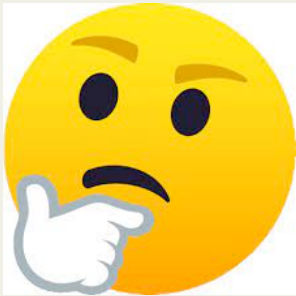


It's Noon, September 21, 2022.

Do you know where your 2020
census results are?



NCSL Webinar: “The Census Is Over”

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The 2020 Census is Over...Or Is It?



- **Where We've Been.**
- **Where Are We Now?**
- **Where We're [hopefully] Going.**

Where We've Been...



- The 2020 Census was the 24th decennial census since the first one in 1790.
- **Like its predecessors:**
 - The federal government counted the American population as of **April 1**, and used the results to reapportion seats in the House of Representatives and Electoral College.
 - States and local governments used its results to redistrict legislatures from Congress all the way down to local governments.

Where We've Been



- **Like its predecessors:**
 - The Census Bureau planned and implemented major new technical innovations in counting. Among the most prominent:
 - an “internet option” to complete the form on line;
 - a revision of the schedule and coding and classification changes for the questions on race and ethnicity;
 - a new disclosure avoidance system using differential privacy.



Where We've Been

- **But unlike most of its predecessors**, the census faced massive disruptions [a very sketchy timeline]:

March 2018: The Trump administration proposed adding a question on the 2020 census form on the citizenship status of all Americans. Extensive litigation opposing the move followed.

June 2019: The Supreme Court supported the plaintiffs. The question did not go on the 2020 form.

March 2020: The Covid 19 pandemic shut the country down, postponed the field enumeration, and required the Census Bureau to revamp its plans for getting the count completed.

Where We've Been



- **Time line continued:**

July-December 2020: Trump administration tried to shape the data collection, tabulation and reporting processes. That led to more lawsuits and intense pressure on the bureau staff while they tried to complete the enumeration.

December 2020: The bureau did not report the apportionment population allocations by the statutory deadline.

January - April 2021: The incoming Biden administration reversed Trump administration policies. The bureau published the apportionment results.

August 2021: The bureau released redistricting files [known as the PL 94-171 files].



Where Are We Now?

- The next data releases, the DHC files, are scheduled for release in **May 2023**, much later than in recent censuses, even given the pandemic delays. Further releases may have less detail by characteristics and geography than those of previous censuses.
- Users have asked for more information on the quality and accuracy of the 2020 count, given the pandemic and Trump administration policies.
- Users have challenged the quality of the PL files, highlighting “anomalies.”

Where Are We Now?



- Users have questioned whether the deployment of “differential privacy” for disclosure avoidance was a good idea and/or was done prematurely.
- Users have questioned the extent to which the changes in the race and ethnicity counts are a function of methodological change versus demographic change. They have requested a crosswalk to compare the classifications and counts from 2010 with those of 2020.

Where We Are Going [Examples]

- The Census Bureau is publishing its evaluations of census quality, using demographic analysis and the results of the Post Enumeration Survey. It's also producing evaluations of its operational work.
- The Committee on National Statistics of the National Academy of Sciences has reported on the development and implementation of the disclosure avoidance innovations with workshops and reports.
- The Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Commerce has just issued a report on the non response follow up [NRFU] operations.
- The Federal State Cooperative for Population Estimates has delivered a letter asking for changes in the disclosure avoidance implementation processes, including for the remaining 2020 census releases.

Where We Are Going



- **Much is fluid at the moment**, and our panelists from the Census Bureau can provide the latest information on these matters from the ‘horse’s mouth,’ if you will.
- Thank you.