Redistricting and Census Data for Local Governments
August 11, 2021

Mike Cline, PhD
984-236-0686
Michael.Cline@osbm.nc.gov

State Demographer,
Demographic and Economic Analysis Section
NC Office of State Budget and Management
What Else You Need to Know: Protecting Respondent Information

• US Census Bureau committed to protect respondent privacy by keeping individual data confidential

• Various techniques used to safeguard respondent data:
  • 1930s ➔ Stop publishing small area data
  • 1970s ➔ Table suppression
  • 1990s ➔ Data swapping & blank and impute
  • 2020 ➔ Differential privacy

• All statistical techniques to protect privacy impose a tradeoff between the degree of privacy protection and the resulting accuracy of the data

Redistricting Data: What to Expect and When (census.gov)
Local Governments Census Data webinar | NC OSBM
What Else You Need to Know: Protecting Respondent Information

- Differential Privacy (DP) adds statistical “noise” to results to protect individuals
  - Reported as counted: Total housing units, Number of group quarters by major group quarters type
- Census **blocks** are “fuzzy”, some may show:
  - Occupancy status inconsistent with population counts
  - Children appearing to live alone
  - Household sizes unusually large
- **Use aggregation of blocks or higher levels of geography (tracts, etc.)**

Suggested: block groupings of at least 450-499 people or places/townships of at least 200-249 people
OR block groupings of at least 500-549 TOTAL people when working with voting age population

Redistricting Data: What to Expect and When (census.gov)
Local Governments Census Data webinar | NC OSBM
What Else You Need to Know: Geography

• Data for legal and statistical geographic entities available
  • Counties
  • Municipalities (Incorporated Places in Census Jargon)
  • Other entities (Congressional, Legislative, Voting Districts, etc.)
  • Census Tracts, Block Groups, Blocks
  • Other

• **Legal boundaries as of January 1, 2020**

• Use summary level to select geography:

  [Commonly Used Summary Levels](#)

US Census Bureau Webinar on [Legal & Administrative Geographies](#) at 1 to 2 TODAY:

See Also Census Academy: [2020 Census Resources](#)

---

[Decennial Census P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data Summary Files](#)

[Local Governments Census Data webinar | NC OSBM](#)
What Else You Need to Know: Impacts on OSBM Certified Population Estimates

- OSBM Certified Population Estimates used to allocate state revenues to local areas
- July 1, 2020 OSBM Certified Population Estimates to be published Sept. 15
  - First estimates to use April 1, 2020 Census as a starting point (base)
  - Includes population in areas annexed through July 1, 2021
- End of August – preliminary estimates for review:
  - Email to: County and municipal Point of Contact
  - Will include: 2020 census count & population estimate
- Most estimates will be the same or similar to April 1, 2020 population count
  - BUT ANNEXATIONS CAN IMPACT FINAL ESTIMATES
- Contact: State.Demographer@osbm.nc.gov to confirm POC
Questions?