Implications for Research, Policymaking, and Funding

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CENSUS 2010

Hard-to-Count Populations

The 2010 Census resulted in an estimated net undercount of:

- 2.06% for African Americans/Blacks
- 1.54% for Hispanics/Latinos
- 1.09% for renters

And an estimated net overcount of

- .83% for non-Hispanic Whites
- .57% for owners¹
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Hard-to-Count Populations

Populations at Risk of Being Undercounted

Some populations historically have been, or are at risk of being, missed in the census at disproportionately high rates. These include (based on 2013-17 estimates):

- About 3% of the tract is Hispanic (regardless of race)
- About 21% of the tract reported their race as Black (either alone or in combination with other races)
- About 22% of the tract reported their race as Asian (either alone or in combination with other races)

(Percentages may not total 100%).

[Map showing Hardest to Count (HTC) Tracts in the Nation with color coding for mail return rates and instruction for map overlays.]
CENSUS 2010

Hard-to-Count Populations
CENSUS 2020

The Data-Research-Policy-Funding Cycle

Decennial Census → Census-derived Data Products → Research

Policy → Funding

Outcomes
In fiscal year 2016 — the most recent year for which data is available — these ten federal agencies received $883 billion to fund some of the largest financial aid programs. The agencies used census-derived data to decide how to divvy that money among the states. The funding largely took three forms: payments, tax credits and government contracts.
For each person that was not counted in Michigan in the 2010 decennial census the state is estimated to have lost $954 in fiscal year 2015.6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Dept.</th>
<th>Obligations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Financial Assistance Programs</td>
<td></td>
<td>$28,724,564,456</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical Assistance Program (Medicaid)</td>
<td>HHS</td>
<td>$12,738,084,000</td>
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<td>Federal Direct Student Loans</td>
<td>ED</td>
<td>$2,946,159,155</td>
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<td>Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program</td>
<td>USDA</td>
<td>$2,167,714,845</td>
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<td>Medicare Suppl. Medical Insurance (Part B)</td>
<td>HHS</td>
<td>$2,240,164,865</td>
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<td>Highway Planning and Construction</td>
<td>DOT</td>
<td>$1,116,401,469</td>
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<td>Federal Pell Grant Program</td>
<td>ED</td>
<td>$779,600,000</td>
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<td>Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers</td>
<td>HUD</td>
<td>$362,649,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temporary Assistance for Needy Families</td>
<td>HHS</td>
<td>$775,352,858</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
"Apportionment" is the process of dividing the 435 memberships, or seats, in the House of Representatives among the 50 states. The Census Bureau conducts the census at 10-year intervals. At the conclusion of each census, the results are used to calculate the number of House memberships to which each state is entitled. Apportionment is the initial use of the results of each census. While there are numerous other uses for census data, a second major use is for geographically defining state legislative districts."
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Census-derived data sets form the foundation of most social, economic, and policy research.

Census blocks are the smallest geography delineated by the US Census Bureau. One of the most common uses of decennial census data is the measurement of the characteristics of neighborhoods.
Research

Some of my research examines the gerrymandering of city borders. This research illustrates how racial and economic discrimination, state annexation laws, and federal protection for voting rights shape municipal boundary changes.

Data from the decennial census are critical to the ability to measure demographic and socio-economic conditions in neighborhoods. 11, 12, 13
My team at the School of Planning, Design and Construction at MSU are using census-derived data to build the Michigan Spatial Mismatch Tool, an online data analysis and visualization platform, developed with funding from the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research, that can be used to identify areas that warrant targeted intervention to promote housing or economic development.
References


References


