



Redistricting and Census Data for Local Governments

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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 \(census.gov\)](https://www.census.gov)

[Local Governments Census Data webinar | NC OSBM](#)



A Sunday on La Grande Jatte by Georges Seurat



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?