


Statement on Release of Legacy Format Summary Redistricting Data File

 You forwarded this message on Fri 3/19/2021 3:53 PM

D

DIR Redistricting Data Office (CENSUS/DIR) <dir.redistricting.data.office@census.gov>



Mon 3/15/2021 1:16 PM

To: DIR Redistricting Data Office (CENSUS/DIR) <dir.redistricting.data.office@census.gov>

Cc: CRVRDO FTE List <crvrdo.fte.list@census.gov>

Dear Redistricting Data Program liaisons,

On February 12, 2021, the Census Bureau announced a working schedule date of by September 30, 2021 for the delivery of the 2020 Census P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data to the states and the public. We have received many questions about this timeline, specifically about what actions are taking place between now and the delivery of that data. We recently prepared [materials in connection with pending litigation](#) that should help explain more fully how the Census Bureau processes this data. These materials should help you understand why accurate and complete processing takes time, and why it is necessary to ensure data quality.

The Census Bureau has continued to evaluate its processes and plans, looking for ways to provide this data as early as possible. Through this evaluation we recently determined that we can provide an interim data product in mid to late August that may help some states manage the late delivery of this data. This interim product is our legacy format summary files. While these files are a thoroughly reviewed and contain no confidential data, using these files requires a significantly higher level of expertise than the data products states are used to receiving from the Census Bureau. The data in the interim product will be correct – but using the files requires additional manipulation to import and extract the data of interest. Unlike the final redistricting data product, the Census Bureau will not be in a position to assist states with the additional manipulation required to properly use this data. ([March 15, 2021 Census Bureau Statement](#))

States can currently find a [prototype dataset](#) in the legacy format available on our website from our 2018 End-to-End Census Test in Providence, Rhode Island. States with early deadlines, can examine the prototype now to determine if the state has the necessary expertise to be able to work with data in this format.

Let me assure you that the Census Bureau still plans to issue the redistricting data in September in the format that states were expecting, and that the data in this interim product will be equivalent in all ways to the September delivery. This interim product is simply one more tool that may assist states with early deadlines.

I hope you find this information useful.

James

Redistricting & Voting Rights Data Office/ADDC/HQ