

Census Scientific Advisory Committee (CSAC) Fall 2024 Meeting

Director's remarks as prepared for delivery

September 19, 2024

INTRODUCTION

- Good morning and thank you, everyone, for joining us.
- The Census Scientific Advisory Committee is so important. I thank the members for their time, their contributions, and their volunteerism.
- Now, let me start with some committee updates. We have several new members, who I would like to acknowledge. Please join me in welcoming:
 - Rachel Cummings,
 - Muslimah LaForce,
 - Patricia Moy,
 - Alexander Ortega, and
 - Talitha Washington.
- I also want to announce and acknowledge that this is the first term chaired by our new chairperson, Barbara Entwistle. Thank you, Barbara, for your willingness to serve.
- On behalf of everyone at the Census Bureau, thank you for your participation on the Census Scientific Advisory Committee. Advisory committees are an integral part of our processes at the Census Bureau, and I appreciate your help in finding solutions to our challenges.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI)

- We have a lot of updates and presentations today. Before we get into them, I want to follow up on a topic from our last meeting—artificial intelligence, or AI. I want to give the committee a brief overview of our current thoughts on the use of AI in our work.
- The Census Bureau is exploring the potential of artificial intelligence, or AI, to enhance and transform our operations. We are cautiously advancing our exploration of AI's transformative potential to enhance our productivity and the quality of our statistical products.
- By integrating AI where it makes sense, we aim to improve efficiency and accessibility in our data operations. For example, by automating repetitive tasks, optimizing data collection, and enhancing data processing and analysis, AI can enable us to produce more accurate and timely statistics and reduce costs, while also improving customer experience.
- We are also working to make our data on data.census.gov discoverable by AI-powered tools. This aims to simplify website navigation and improve the discoverability of our statistics through online search engines, increasing accessibility for existing data consumers and enabling a new cohort of data users.
- In March, OMB issued an executive memorandum on Advancing Governance, Innovation, and Risk Management for Agency Use of Artificial Intelligence. It directs agencies to develop guidelines to advance AI governance and innovation, while managing risks from the use of AI, particularly those affecting the rights and safety of the public.

- The Department of Commerce is in the process of formulating its guidelines to ensure the safety, security, fairness, and transparency of our AI use, and we will follow those guidelines.
- At the same time, we are establishing a governance structure and process for AI use. We are also working with the National Institute of Standards and Technology and other federal agencies to implement an AI risk management framework.
- We understand that AI is deeply interconnected with data, information technology, security, privacy, civil rights and civil liberties, customer experience and workforce management. We are committed to implementing robust safeguards to uphold the integrity of our work and maintain public trust in our statistical products. This includes proactively addressing concerns such as bias and privacy.
- We will continue to comply with all laws and regulations as we create, manage, and disseminate statistical products. Our uses of AI involve extensive testing and transparency to ensure our technology modernization efforts, including those for the 2030 Census , meet our high standards for data quality and information security.

CONCLUSION

- Thank you so much for joining us today, and for all your efforts on behalf of the Census Bureau. Our work with advisory committees is such an important aspect of our commitment to openness and transparency, and in engaging with stakeholders and experts so we can do our best work on behalf of the nation.
- I look forward to today's presentations and discussions.