

THE 2010 CENSUS

What State, Local, and Tribal Governments Need to Know



Sponsored by:

**The Population Resource Center, the
Metropolitan Policy Program of The
Brookings Institution, and The Census
Project**

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Why Care About Census Accuracy?

Because the Numbers Define Us

- Local communities apply for funding by demonstrating need
- Local governments better understand how to use limited resources to enhance commuting
- Fire and Police Departments improve services with knowledge of local neighborhoods
- Health Departments identify groups at risk and protect public health

The Master Address File (MAF)

**Foundation of the 2010 Census and
the American Community Survey
(ACS)**

The Master Address File

- List of all exact addresses in the U.S.
- Used to mail census questionnaires to most households in the United States
- Used to pinpoint and follow-up on housing units that do not respond

Easier Said Than Done

**The Census Bureau has had great
difficulty in identifying exact
addresses in many places
throughout the nation**

Types of Housing Units the Bureau May Miss

- New construction
- Conversions of buildings from non-residential to residential use
- Garages converted to residences
- Attics or basements used as apartments
- Subdividing that yields apartments

Problems with Some Addresses

- Some housing units do not have apartment numbers
- Most common in small multi-unit buildings where mail is delivered without apartment numbers
- Units may or may not be detected or recorded

Confusion is the Result

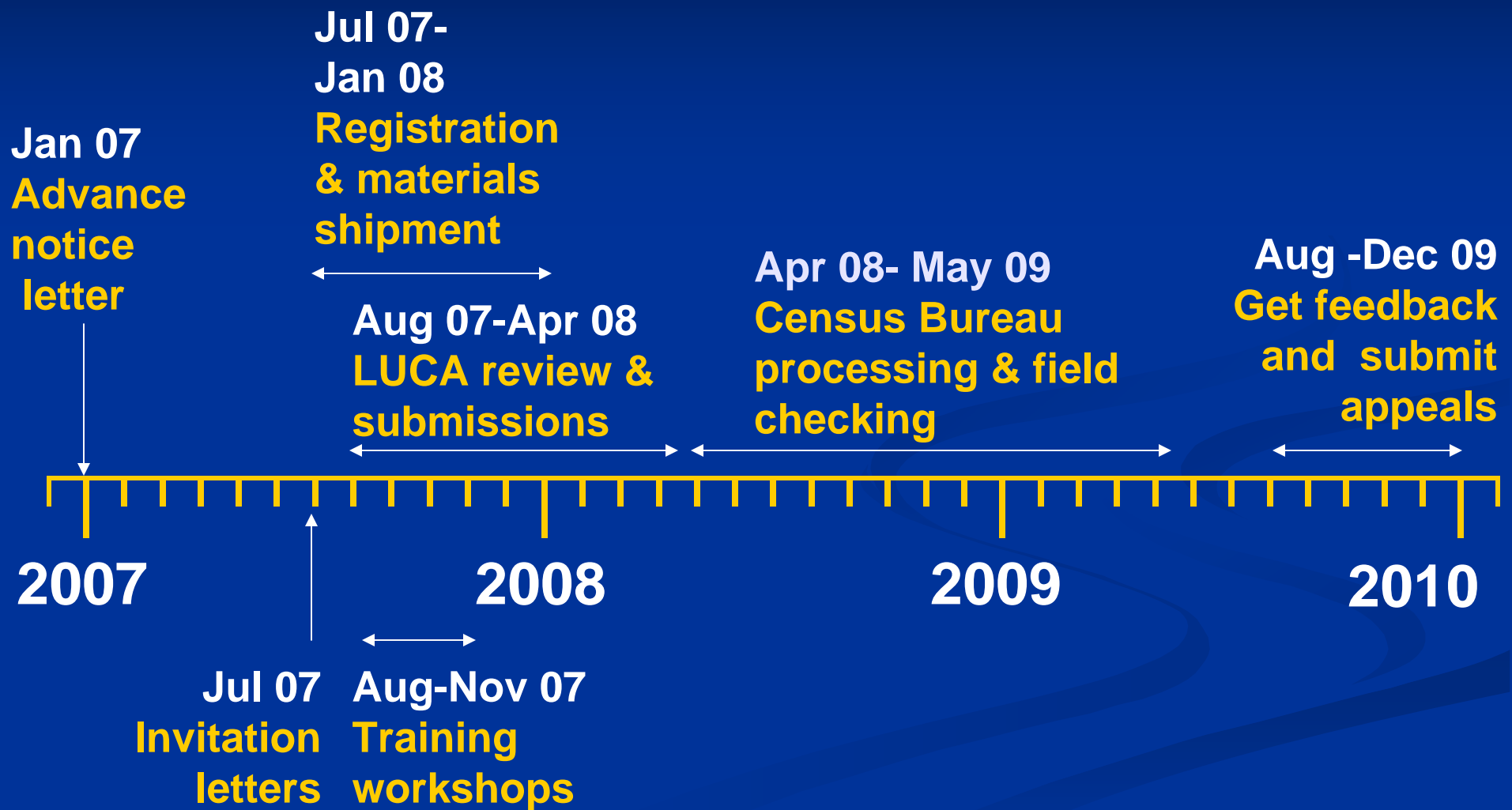
- The MAF may not accurately reflect all addresses in your communities
- Census Bureau can't sort out which housing units were counted and which were not
- Census Bureau cannot accurately do an accounting of what was and what was not counted

We Can Do Something

Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) Program

- **Local governments can review and correct the address list**
- **Local governments know their localities best**
- **Resource requirements and timetable pose obstacles to many local governments**

LUCA Program



What Does LUCA Involve?

Assembling a Local Address List for Comparison with the MAF

- **“911” Records**
- **Residential Utility, Water, Sewer Accounts**
- **Records of Real Property**
- **Lists of Facilities**
- **New Construction Permits/Certificates of Occupancy**
- **Demolition Permits**
- **Inventories of Vacant Structures**
- **Targeted fieldwork**

Achieving LUCA Success

- ✓ Build list of addresses beforehand
- ✓ Focus on most problematic addresses
- ✓ Field check and document your addresses

BUT...
By Itself
LUCA May Not Be
Enough

Address List Problems Carry Over into the Census Enumeration

- **Mailed questionnaires cannot “find” their destinations because apartment numbers are confusing or non-existent**
- **Fieldworkers following-up on non-responding households cannot sort out who answered and who did not answer via mail**

Special Enumeration Procedures

Update/Enumerate

What is Update/ Enumerate?

- Questionnaires are not mailed
- Census workers walk blocks with a list of addresses in hand
- Knock on doors, update addresses and count residents

Update/ Enumerate Planning

- The Census Bureau has used U/E methods on some Indian Reservations, Colonias and selected resort communities
- The Census Bureau's plan does not currently include the use of these methods in all places with apartment number problems
- There are no plans to test these methods in upcoming census tests

What Can You Do?

- ✓ Urge local governments to participate in LUCA
- ✓ Encourage chief executives to take a leadership role in the formation of Complete Count Committees at state and local levels
- ✓ Ask the Census Bureau how they intend to count people at addresses that are not clearly labeled

What Can You Do?

- ✓ Request that your Congressional representatives ask the Census Bureau to present its strategy to incorporate U/E methods in 2010
- ✓ Encourage the Congress to appropriate the funds for these activities

For Further Information

- State Data Centers

- <http://www.census.gov/sdc/www/>

- Census Bureau Regional Offices

- <http://www.census.gov/field/www/>

- Census Bureau LUCA Program

- <http://www.census.gov/geo/www/luca2010/luca.html>

- The Census Project

- <http://www.thecensusproject.org>

- The Population Resource Center

- <http://prcdc.org>