Census Data Released

The U.S. Census Bureau released the 2020 data needed for redistricting on August 12, 2021. Please see below for additional information on the release provided by the Nation Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL). Now that the data has been released, our ESRI partners will reformat and load it into the [redistricting tool](#) which will then be available for use by the public. This may take several days but should be completed by Friday, August 20. Once this process is complete, the House and Senate Redistricting Committees will hold an informational hearing to discuss next steps and future public hearings. Please check the Legislature's [redistricting website](#) for the latest information and updates.

NCSL Redistricting Update – August 12, 2021

The redistricting data is here! The Census Bureau [released](#) the Census 2020 P.L. 94-171 redistricting data in the legacy format. This is the format that state officials have received the last two decades.

Data users will be able to access the redistricting data by downloading the complete set of files for each state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, from the bureau's [File Transfer Protocol](#) (FTP) website. The data will be available for a range of geographies, including down to the census block level. Supporting resources for the release can be found at the [Decennial Census P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data Summary Files](#) webpage, including a step-by-step "how-to" [guide](#).

The release will provide the first look at the demographic characteristics of the nation by state, county, city, all the way down to the census block level, including:

- Race and ethnicity.
- Population 18 years and over.
- Occupied and vacant housing units.
- People living in group quarters, such as college dorms, nursing homes, prisons, and military barracks.

The same redistricting data will also be released by Sept. 30 through the Census Bureau's [data.census.gov](#) online web tool. The September release will be in format that will make it easier to view and download the tables from the P.L. 94-171 data. Also, governors, state majority and minority legislative leaders, redistricting commissions, as well as state redistricting data program liaisons will all be mailed a DVD and flash drive with their state's data.

Here are some takeaways from today's data release:
- Fewer states, metro areas and counties had rapid population growth.
- Population decline was widespread across the nation, most counties lost population between 2010 and 2020.

- 312 of the 384 metro areas gained population this decade.
- The two or more races population had a 276% increase.
- The Hispanic or Latino population grew 23%, while the population that was not of Hispanic or Latino origin grew 4.3%.

The bureau also released data visualizations and a variety of America Counts stories on population change and distribution, group quarters, the adult population, housing changes, housing vacancy, race and ethnicity and the diversity index to help explain the new 2020 Census data.

In addition, the bureau released the sixth and final demonstration data set. This new set reflects the Disclosure Avoidance System settings used for the 2020 Census Redistricting Data (P.L. 94-171) Summary File. These microdata files apply statistical noise to produce differential privacy-protected metrics using 2010 data.

Lastly, here are three census and redistricting related articles from NCSL's State Legislatures News:

- How to Lower the Temperature During Redistricting by Lisa Ryckman
- Census Delivers Long-Awaited Data by Wendy Underhill
- Redistricting: A Look at State Court Actions and Party Control by Lisa Ryckman