



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEW MEXICO®

Census and Federal Data Updates

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**27th Annual New Mexico
Data User's Conference
November 19, 2025**

Programmer Analyst 1

Requisition ID	req35095
Working Title	Programmer Analyst 1
Position Grade	12
Position Summary	<p>The University of New Mexico's Center for Geospatial and Population Studies (GPS) maintains New Mexico's traffic crash database for the New Mexico Department of Transportation and serves as the New Mexico State Demographer's Office and liaison to the US Census Bureau. We support government agencies, lawmakers, and the public by providing accurate, impartial data and objective analysis to inform data-driven decisions. GPS is seeking a Programmer Analyst 1 to work with GPS's senior programming staff to create custom applications, dashboards, workflows, QA/QC procedures and other programming tasks.</p> <p>Duties for the Programmer Analyst 1 position may include, but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">· Creating and maintaining data pipelines that integrate disparate datasets· Using Python/.Net Programming for console applications related to ETL workflows.· Creating documentation and workflow diagrams· Developing and/or maintaining dashboards and custom applications· Designing and implementing QA/QC testing procedures· Experience with common SQL tasks <p>See the Position Description for additional information.</p>



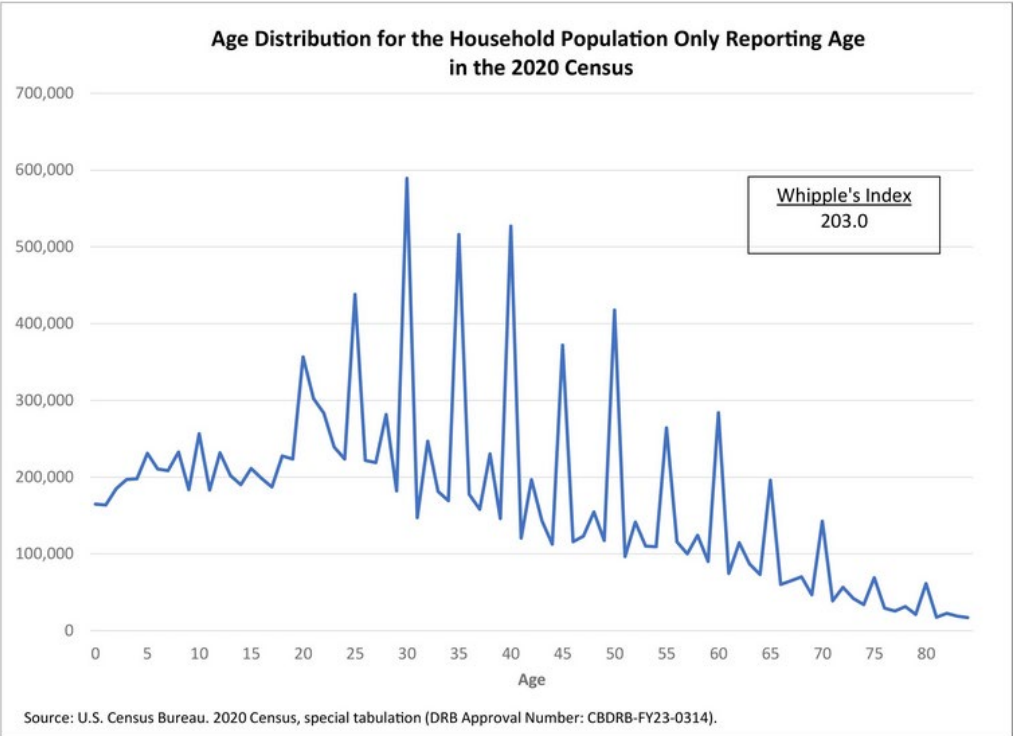
Outline

- **Census Updates**
 - 2020 wrap up
 - Updates from the Bureau
 - 2030 Census
- **Erosion of Our Federal Data Infrastructure**
 - Blitz on federal data
 - Terminated datasets, variables, and tools
 - Independent archives
- **National Population Updates**
 - A Request from FEMA
 - The unauthorized population
 - Toward a population decline

The 2020 Census cycle is now complete (hopefully) with the release of two final data files.

Modified Age and Race Census (MARC) file released in March.

- Assigns “Some Other Race” into categories consistent with the [Population Estimates Program](#) and 1997 standards for federal data on race and ethnicity



Persons Reporting Some Other Race in the 2020 Census

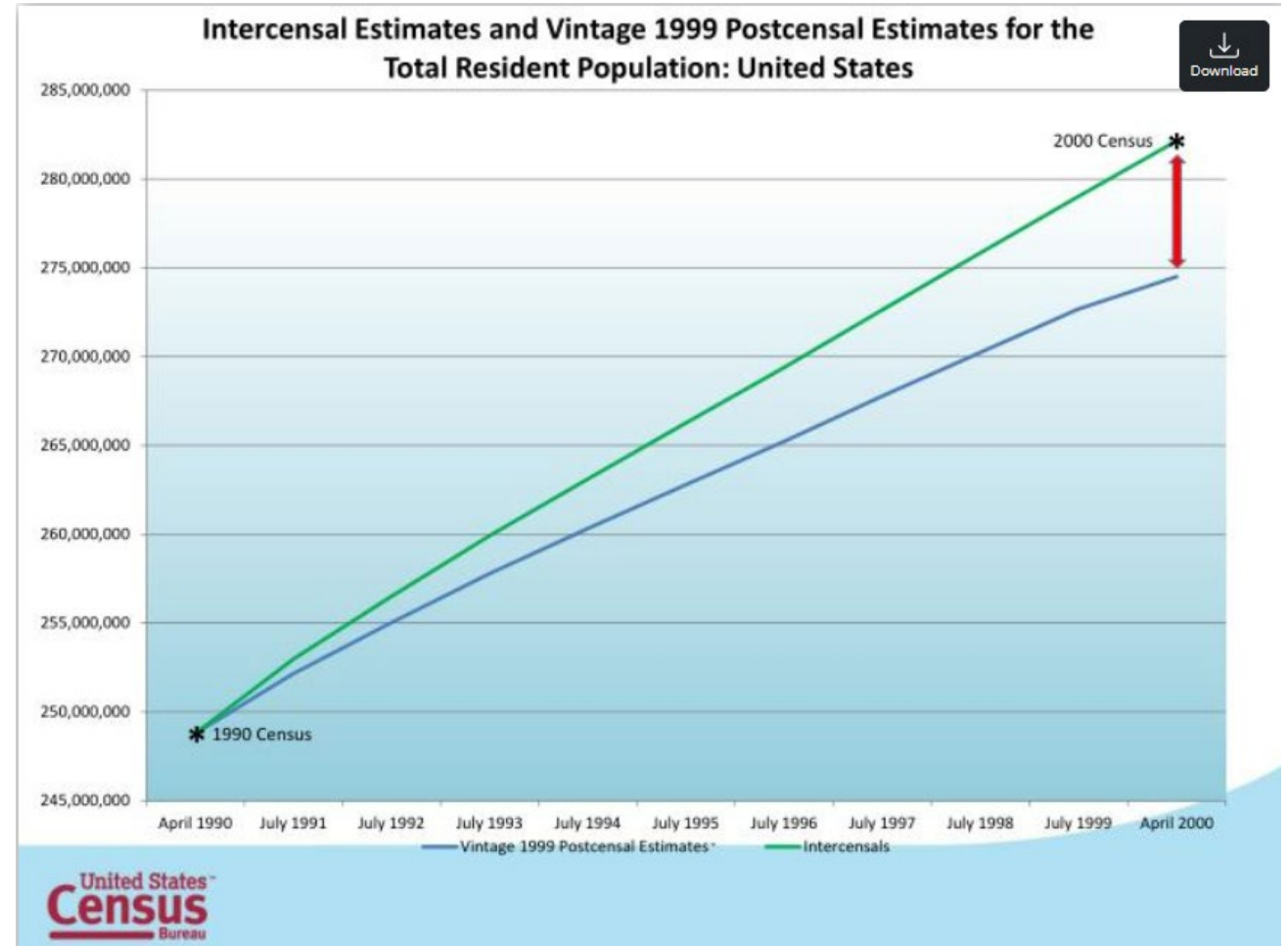
	NM	US
Alone	15.0%	8.4%
Alone or In Combination	32.0%	15.1%

- Smooths [age heaping](#) from the Census

MARC File -> Intercensal Estimates

“Intercensal estimates are produced each decade by adjusting the existing time series of postcensal estimates for a decade to smooth the transition from one decennial census count to the next.”

Historically this would mark the end of the decennial cycle but...



<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/technical-documentation/research/intercensal-estimates.html>

A federal lawsuit arguing that improper statistical methods were used in the 2020 US census was filed by the University of South Florida College Republicans and the Pinellas County Young Republicans

- Alleges that the “use of statistical methods in the 2020 Census report means the **apportionment was not based solely on an actual and complete enumeration**” of population
- Complaints refer specifically to
 - Differential Privacy i.e. privacy protections measures
 - Group Quarters imputation i.e. the Census Bureau imputing a small percentage of non-responses.
- Plaintiffs seek new 2020 data that does not use the disputed methods and to prevent use of the methods in the 2030 census.

Senator Jim Banks October Letter to Commerce Secretary

JIM BANKS
INDIANA

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 6, 2025

Hon. Howard Lutnick
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Lutnick:

I urge you to investigate and correct errors from the 2020 Census that handed disproportionate political power to Democrats and illegal aliens. The Census Bureau adopted a new and opaque methodology called differential privacy that, by design, scrambles the populations of states and voting districts. As prepared by the Biden administration, the 2020 Census reports miscounted the population of fourteen states,¹ wrongly allocating six congressional seats and Electoral College votes to the Democrat party. The reports may have also miscounted the population in a number of voting districts. And the reports definitively included illegal aliens without tracking those aliens' citizenship status. If left uncorrected, these errors will continue diluting the political power of American citizens.

“I urge you to investigate and correct errors from the 2020 Census that handed disproportionate political power to Democrats and illegal aliens”

Lays blame on

- Differential Privacy – the Bureau's privacy protection measure
- Inclusion of undocumented residents in the count

Seeking to

- Republish unaltered census results
- Correct improper apportionment
- Abandon Differential Privacy
- Request citizenship status in the 2030 census

2020 Fact Setting

1 - New privacy methods did not affect the number of seats any state has in Congress

2 - The 2020 Census was conducted under difficult circumstances yet was still accurate

However, some populations were undercounted:

- Renters
- Young children (under age 5)
- Hispanic residents
- Black residents
- American Indians living on tribal reservations

Some populations were overcounted:

- People ages 50 and older
- Homeowners
- Whites, Asians, and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islanders

3 - Count issues affected both “red” and “blue” states

4 - Within states, differential privacy typically benefited rural areas



Census Bureau Workforce Reduction

100 Census Bureau employees have received Reduction In Force layoff notices

All were located at a call center in Tucson, AZ

However, the Bureau's total workforce has been reduced by at least 25% over the last year.

“Around 1,300 Census Bureau employees have taken deferred resignations, voluntary separations or early retirement in recent months, said Johnny Zuagar, president of Census AFGE Council 241, the American Federation of Government Employees local representing agency workers.”

And, “the Census Bureau’s [roster of top leaders](#) and their staff showed 18 vacancies” as of May. Currently at 15 vacancies.

<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/north-carolina/articles/2025-05-23/doge-targets-census-bureau-worrying-data-users-about-health-of-us-data-infrastructure>

Acting Bureau Director Named in September

Director

George Cook

Performing the Duties of the Director, U.S. Census Bureau

George Cook is performing the functions and duties of Director at the U.S. Census Bureau.

George also serves as the Chief of Staff, performing the non-exclusive functions and duties of the Under Secretary for Economic Affairs at the U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) in the Office of the Secretary for Economic Affairs.



<https://www.census.gov/about/leadership/director.html>

Federal law requires the agency's permanent director to "have a **demonstrated ability in managing large organizations and experience in the collection, analysis, and use of statistical data.**"

Prior to coming to the Trump Administration, Mr. Cook worked as an **institutional investor and economic analyst**, managing portfolios of global government bonds, interest rates, and currencies while conducting in-depth research on economic and policy developments to support investment positions. In these positions, his bio notes that **he used census data extensively.**

<https://thecensusproject.org/2025/09/24/census-bureau-announces-george-cook-as-acting-director/>

Census Advisory Committees Disbanded

- ~~2030 Advisory Committee~~
- ~~National Advisory Committee on Racial, Ethnic, and
—— Other Populations (NAC)~~
- ~~Census Scientific Advisory Committee (CSAC)~~

To date, [76 Federal Advisory Committees have been terminated](#)

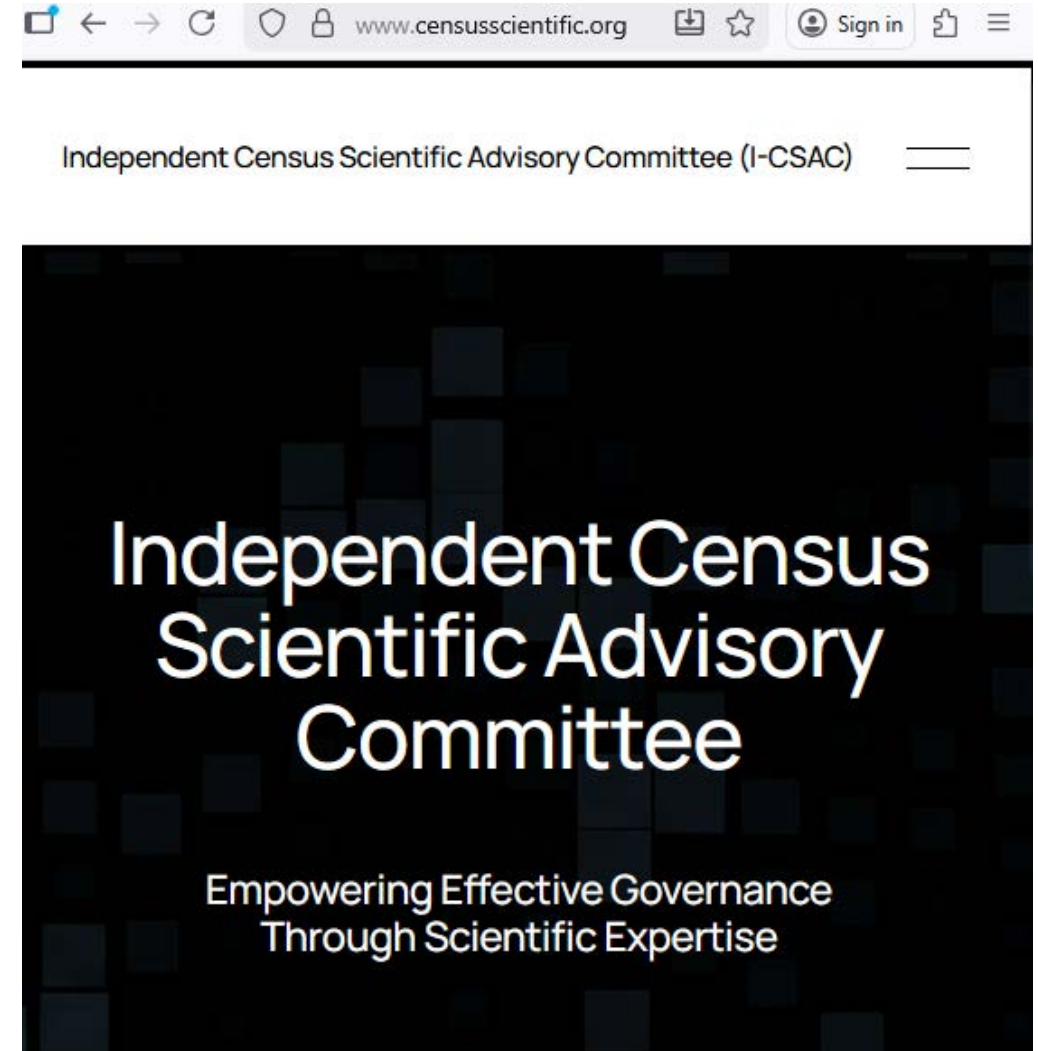
Independent Census Scientific Advisory Committee (I-CSAC)

- Similar membership as former CSAC
- One meeting has been held to date
- Recommendations on
 - Differential Privacy
 - Environmental Impacts Frame
- Census Bureau has no obligation to consider these recommendations

Dr. Barbara Entwisle, University of North Carolina sociologist and chair of the I-CSAC,

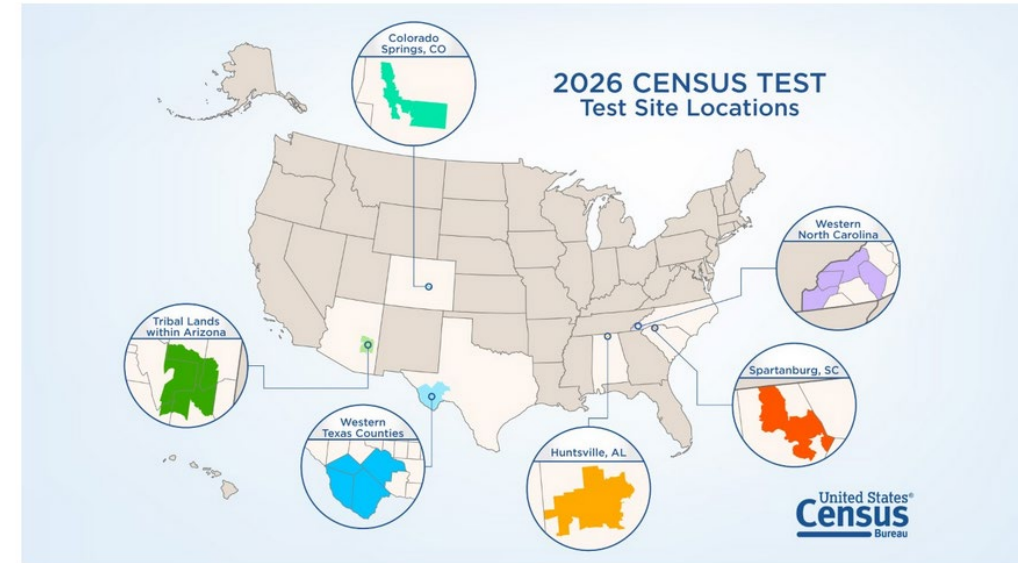
"...it is a certainty that our recommendations will have no effect at all if we do not provide them."

<https://ncoc.org/census-advisory-committee-continues-work-with-support-from-ncoc/>



Federal Shutdown at the Census Bureau

- Minimal staff and projects were considered essential during shutdown
 - IT and data security
 - 2026 Census Test
- Impacts typical of most federal agencies



An official website of the United States government



NOTICE:

Due to the lapse of federal funding, portions of this website will not be updated. Any inquiries submitted will not be answered until appropriations are enacted.

You will be redirected in 10 seconds...

- data.census.gov website unavailable
 - Though the API remained accessible
- Production cycles will be delayed and may run up against statutory deadlines e.g.
 - Population Estimates are due by December 31
 - American Community Survey data release

A Mid-Decade Census?

- In August, President Trump announced that he has ordered a “new and highly accurate CENSUS” that excludes undocumented immigrants.

<https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/114987220997209419>

- “Trump’s Secretary of Commerce has acknowledged both the legal and practical hurdles this unprecedented effort would face, this plan bears a family resemblance to Trump’s efforts to eliminate noncitizens from apportionment counts in the 2020 Census.”

<https://thecensusproject.org/2025/09/05/standard-deviations-state-and-local-governments-can-safeguard-census-data-integrity/>

- “Even if a plan like this one were not implemented until 2030, it would have significant impacts on the quality of census data—shifting resources away from where they are needed and undermining the 14th Amendment requirement to count the “whole number of persons in each state” for apportioning Congress.”

<https://thecensusproject.org/2025/09/05/standard-deviations-state-and-local-governments-can-safeguard-census-data-integrity/>

- Research has demonstrated that a citizenship question will drive down the response rate of households that include one person without legal status

Redistricting

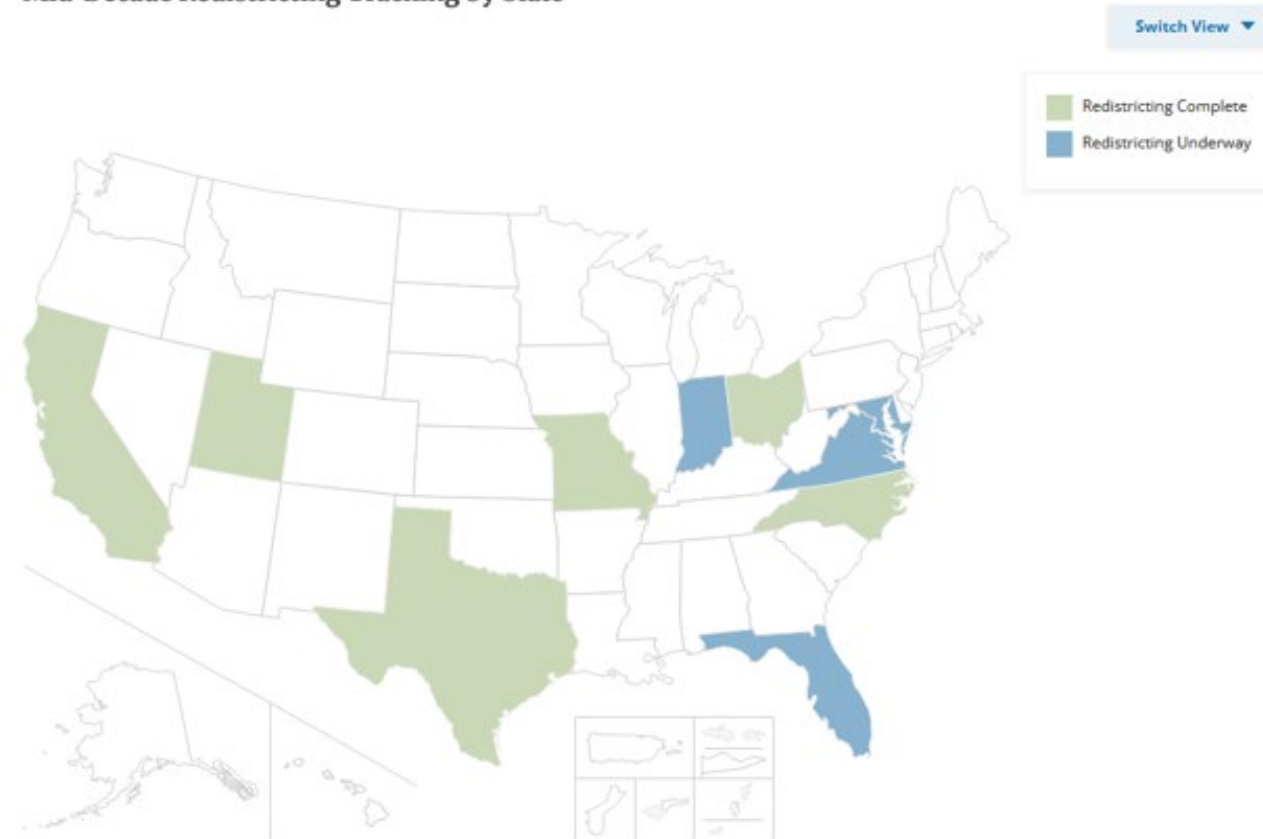


Nine states have completed or begun mid-decade redistricting

At least three bills have been introduced to prevent mid-decade redistricting unless required by a court

- Rep. Marc Veasey (D-TX-33) introduced the Anti-Rigging Act ([H.R. 4358](#))
- U.S. Senator Alex Padilla (D-CA) and U.S. Representative Zoe Lofgren (D-CA-18) introduced the Redistricting Reform Act of 2025 ([S. 2855](#), [H.R. 5449](#)),
- Rep. Vicente Gonzalez (D-TX-34) introduced the Save American Democracy Act (SAD Act) ([H.R. 5879](#)),

Mid-Decade Redistricting Tracking by State



2030 Census - Headwinds

- Potential citizenship question
 - <https://thecensusproject.org/2025/07/01/senator-hagerty-reintroduces-equal-representation-act/>
- Growing distrust of federal government
- Compared with 2020:
 - Significant reductions in staffing and expertise at the Census Bureau.
 - No external advisory boards
 - No National Academies of Science panel recommendations
 - No quarterly program updates with input from experts, GAO and the public
- Efforts to limit contact to two attempts

Limiting Census Bureau Contact Attempts

Section 605 in the House Fiscal Year 2026 Commerce, Justice, Science appropriations bill “would **prohibit the Census Bureau from making more than two contact attempts for any survey**. While this directive might appear to reduce costs, it would, in practice, undermine the nation’s statistical infrastructure, distort representation, and erode the precision of the data on which communities, businesses, and governments depend.”

<https://thecensusproject.org/2025/10/22/statisticians-warn-house-bill-provision-would-drive-up-census-costs-while-reducing-accuracy/>

- Nonresponse to Census surveys is not random
- Limiting contact would systematically bias results toward more affluent and easier-to-count groups

Other 2030 Census Proposals



Postal Workers as Census Takers

- In [2011](#), the GAO concluded that using mail carriers to interview households for the census "**would not be cost-effective.**"
 - Logical mismatches:
 - "Cluster mailboxes often found in apartment buildings becoming more common in new subdivisions, many carriers' mail routes don't include door-to-door stops"
 - Many people are not home mid-day during mail delivery
- <https://www.npr.org/2025/03/10/nx-s1-5311969/usps-privatization-trump-commerce-lutnick>

Greater Reliance on Administrative Records

- May work for some populations, but unlikely to be effective in New Mexico

2030 Census Operations Begin Soon

Block Boundary Suggestion Project

- Early 2027 – states given an opportunity to make block boundary change suggestions.
- Census blocks are the smallest unit of census geography. Blocks are delineated with legal boundaries and visible physical features such as roads, rivers, and railroads or straight-line segments where no suitable physical features exist.
- NM contains over 168,000 blocks
- US contains over 8,000,000 block
- Used for redistricting, creating custom geographies such school or voting districts, and for building larger statistical geographies such as Block Groups and Tracts

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/about/rdo/program-management.html#accordion-87933629ed-item-3c7d9865c7>

Local Update of Census Addresses Begins in 2027

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/about/luca.html>

- ❑ Large swaths of New Mexico's tribal lands would not have been counted in the 2020 Census, were it not for LUCA

- ❑ Tribal Areas have a long history of undercount for reasons that include
 - Non-standard addressing
 - Field work limitations
 - Language and cultural barriers
 - Distrust of federal government



Acoma Pueblo, New Mexico

Source: https://www.flickr.com/photos/rock_creek/2965844074/in/photostream/

LUCA in New Mexico Tribal Areas

In one community, **more than one-in-ten housing units counted in the 2020 Census were the result of the state's LUCA submission**, a success that was impossible for any group to achieve on their own.

Recipe for LUCA Success:

Funding from the state and local foundations
+ **Local knowledge** from Tribal and local governments
+ **Technical Expertise** from the State
= **Impactful LUCA submissions**



Navajo Hogan

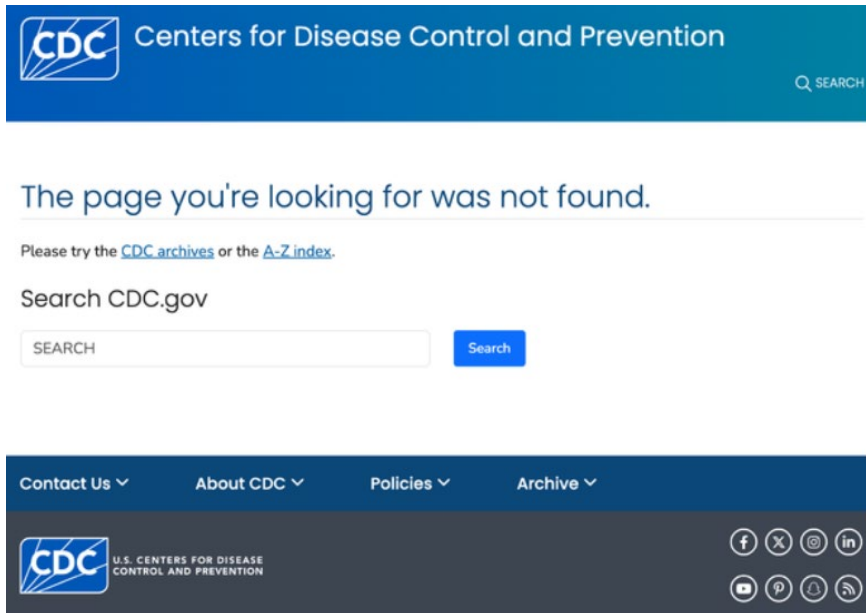
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Navajo_Nation,_Az_Hwy_160_8-2008_%285946900627%29.jpg

Challenges Facing Our Federal Data Infrastructure Are Not New

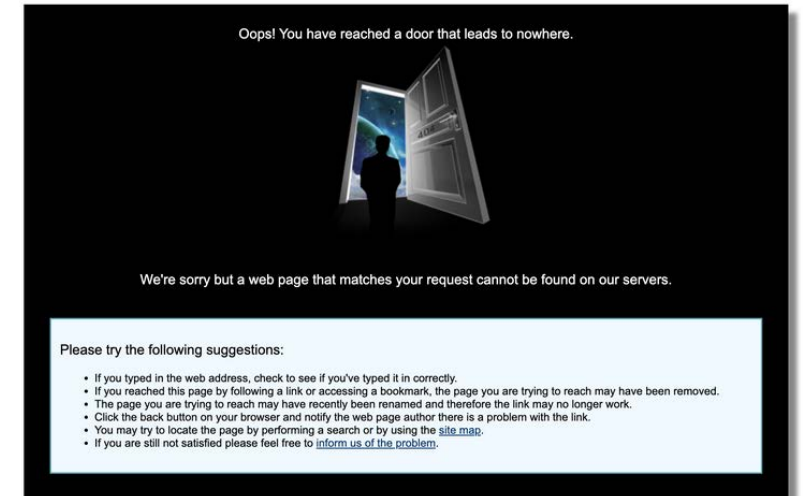
- Chronic underfunding
- Outdated IT systems
- Decay of institutional knowledge
- Erosion of public trust
- Declining survey response rates
- Sample sizes not keeping up with population change
- Lack of a coordinated federal data strategy

Federal Websites and Data Go Offline

Around February 1, 2025, federal agencies receive directives to review language or content relating to gender identity, environmental justice, climate change, and DEI.



404 Error - Page Not Found



Most webpages and data were ultimately restored, but some documentation such as questionnaires and metadata were not.

In Memoriam



<https://freesvg.org/rip-graveside-marker>

Terminated Datasets

- Current Population Survey Food Security Supplement – USDA
- Agricultural Labor Survey - USDA
- Community Resilience Estimates Equity Supplement – USCB
- Demographic and Health Surveys – USAID
- Developmental Data Library - USAID
- Drug Abuse Warning Network – SAMHSA
- Federal Employee Viewpoint Survey – OPM
- Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program - EPA
- National Beneficiary Survey - SSA

In Memoriam



<https://freesvg.org/rip-graveside-marker>

Removed Variables

Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) Data
National Crime Victimization Survey - BOP
National Health Interview Survey - CDC
FedScope – OPM
Inmate Statistics – BOP
National Crime Victimization Survey – DOJ

Discontinued Tools

Billion Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters - NOAA
Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool - CEQ
Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool - EPA
Future Risk Index - FEMA
Homeland Infrastructure Foundation Level Data Open - DHS

Federal Data Preservation Efforts

[End of Term Datasets](#) – archives all data at the end of a presidential term

[National Historic GIS](#) – long standing alternative source for census data

<https://dataindex.us/> - monitors Federal Register Notices, URL Status, Change Requests

[Essentialdata.us](#) – stories about how Americans benefit from public data

[Federal Data Forum](#) – Discussion forum, listserve

[Data Liberation Project](#) – Archive

[Data Rescue Project](#) – Archive

[University of Tennessee Population Estimates Archive](#) - grassroots

[American Statistical Association – Ongoing Monitoring](#) – report missing/altered data here

End of Term Web Archive



DATA INDEX . US

America's Essential Data



ASA

Bureau of Labor Commissioner Fired

POLITICO

Trump fires statistics chief after soft jobs report

The monthly jobs report showed just 73,000 jobs in July, with big reductions to May's and June's numbers

President Donald Trump ousted the head of the Labor Department's statistical arm Friday after the latest monthly jobs report came in [well under expectations](#).

CNN Business

Trump fires a senior official over jobs numbers

President Donald Trump has fired Dr. Erika McEntarfer, the commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, whom he accused, without evidence, of manipulating the monthly jobs reports for “political purposes.”



<https://www.politico.com/news/2025/08/01/trump-firing-bureau-labor-statistics-chief-jobs-report-00488960>

<https://www.cnn.com/2025/08/01/business/trump-job-report-number-fire>

Other Top Statisticians Replaced

- Office of Management and Budget Chief Statistician

POLITICO

The top job dismissal you never heard about

By IRIE SENTNER, BEN JOHANSEN and SOPHIA CAI | 08/07/2025 05:15 PM EDT

“The chief statistician coordinates across the federal statistical system and sets statistical policy. Although it is a political appointee, it has historically been nonpartisan, Schroeder said.”

<https://www.politico.com/newsletters/west-wing-playbook-remaking-government/2025/08/07/the-big-job-no-one-has-ever-heard-of-00498754>

- Census Bureau Director
- National Center for Education Statistics Commissioner
- Top Statistician at Social Security Administration

Stopping Waste, Fraud, and Abuse by Eliminating Information Silos

Executive Orders

March 20, 2025

On March 20, 2025 President Trump signed an [executive order](#) seeking to eliminate “information silos” and promote inter-agency data sharing targeting data related to

- Tax and Finance
 - Health
 - Social Security
 - Food Assistance
 - Education
 - Immigration
- **Linking disparate federal datasets would a powerful initiative for modern governance and research, but comes with major challenges related to technology, compliance and privacy.**

DOGE's Big Beautiful Database??

- Unconfirmed reports suggest that the Department of Government Efficiency is seeking to create a centralized government database.

BROOKINGS

Government Shutdown | Asia & the Pacific | Trade & Tariffs | Tracking DMV Economy | Artificial Intelligence

COMMENTARY

Privacy under siege: DOGE's one big, beautiful database

<https://www.brookings.edu/articles/privacy-under-siege-doges-one-big-beautiful-database/>

FEDSCOOP

Topics ▾ Special Reports Events Podcasts Videos Insights

TRANSITION

DOGE employees uploaded Social Security database to 'vulnerable' cloud, agency whistleblower says

An SSA spokesperson maintained the agency is "not aware of any compromise" to the cloud environment referenced in the complaint from the agency's chief data officer.

BY MIRANDA NAZZARO • AUGUST 26, 2025

Listen to this article 4:59 Learn more.



(Getty Images)

<https://fedscoop.com/doge-social-security-database-whistleblower-cloud-environment-data-vulnerabilities/>

DOGE and the Census Bureau

- Few credible reports of DOGE coming for Census data or employees
- Title 13 of US Code, which governs Census Bureau operations, has stood among the strongest privacy laws in the country

DOGE and the Census Bureau



Department of Government Efficiency

@DOGE



Besides the Census itself, the @USCensusBureau performs 102 additional surveys costing \$2.2 billion, many of them obsolete with the results not being used to drive any action nor even looked at.

The Census Bureau and DOGE are reviewing them one-by-one. So far, 5 wasteful surveys, totaling 493 pages of questions and \$16.5M in costs, have been terminated, with questions like:

- “In your entire life, have you had at least 12 drinks of any kind of alcohol, not counting small tastes or sips?”
- “Was this MOSTLY regular wine, wine coolers, or fortified wine?”
- “How frequently do you use the internet in your home?”

12:01 PM · May 20, 2025 · 1.2M Views

<https://apnews.com/article/census-bureau-doge-federal-surveys-fe560e377be69e913660a6d90c1ee419>

There is a public process for changing government surveys that involves giving notice and seeking public comment, and anything that is canceled without going through that process may be violating the law, Jarosz said.

Stopping Waste, Fraud, and Abuse by Eliminating Information Silos

Executive Orders

March 20, 2025

(c) “...ensure the Federal Government has unfettered access to comprehensive data from all **State programs that receive Federal funding...**”

Possible examples,

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - SNAP
- Women, Infants, and Children - WIC
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families - TANF

POLITICS • 4 MIN READ

In unusual move, FEMA halts preparedness grant money, orders states to recount their populations excluding deported migrants

OCT 2, 2025 ▾

By  Gabe Cohen

“Funding Hold: Verification of State’s Population
 FEMA has placed a funding hold on this award, and the full amount of the award is on hold in the FEMA financial systems. The recipient is prohibited from obligating, expending, or drawing down the funds associated with the award. **To release the funding hold, the SAA must provide a certification of the recipient state’s population as of September 30, 2025.”**

Problem for States:

- States don't have deportation data and often don't estimate immigration and emigration.
- The timeline is unreasonable.
- Estimating new population counts shouldn't be a state activity.

<https://dataindex.us/newsletter/article/2c28ed3e-6248-487b-8e66-64ac8ec92de0>

National Population Projections

- **US Census Bureau Projections**
- **Congressional Budget Office Projections**
- **Social Security Administration Projections**
- **University of Virginia Cooper Weldon Center Projections**

- **Consensus on US Population**
 - **Aging Population**
 - **Increasing Deaths**
 - **Declining Births**
 - **Natural Decrease (Births – Deaths negative) beginning around 2038**
 - **Population Growth Dependent on International Migration**

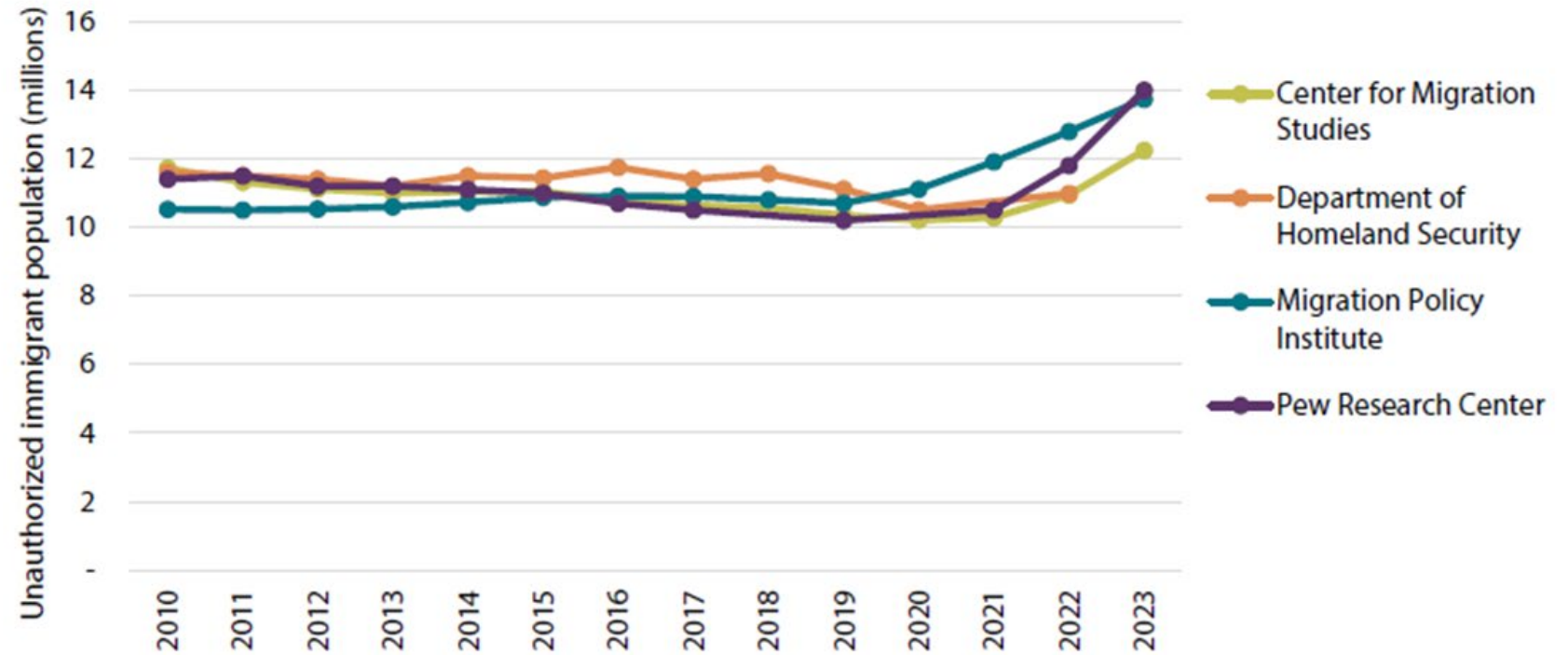
How has the US Foreign Born Population Changed in 2025?

How Will This Effect National Population Projections?

US Unauthorized Population Estimates

FIGURE 1

Estimates of the Size of the U.S. Unauthorized Immigrant Population by Leading Institutions, 2010–23



Sources: Analysis of U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) administrative records and data from the U.S. Census Bureau (the 2000 decennial census and the American Community Survey [ACS] for various years) by Migration Policy Institute (MPI) researchers and Jennifer Van Hook at The Pennsylvania State University, Population Research Center. Estimates from other organizations are from Bryan Baker and Robert Warren, "Estimates of the Unauthorized Immigrant Population Residing in the United States: January 2018–January 2022," (Washington, DC: DHS Office of Homeland Security Statistics, 2024); Jeffrey S. Passel and Jens Manuel Krogstad, U.S. Unauthorized Immigrant Population Reached a Record 14 Million in 2023, Pew Research Center, August 21, 2025; Robert Warren, The Undocumented Population in the United States Increased to 12.2 Million in 2023, Center for Migration Studies, May 7, 2025; and Robert Warren, "In 2019, the US Undocumented Population Continued a Decade-Long Decline and the Foreign-Born Population Neared Zero Growth," *Journal on Migration and Human Security* 9, no. 1 (2021): 31-43.



Customs and Border Patrol Southwest Land Border Encounters 2023-2025

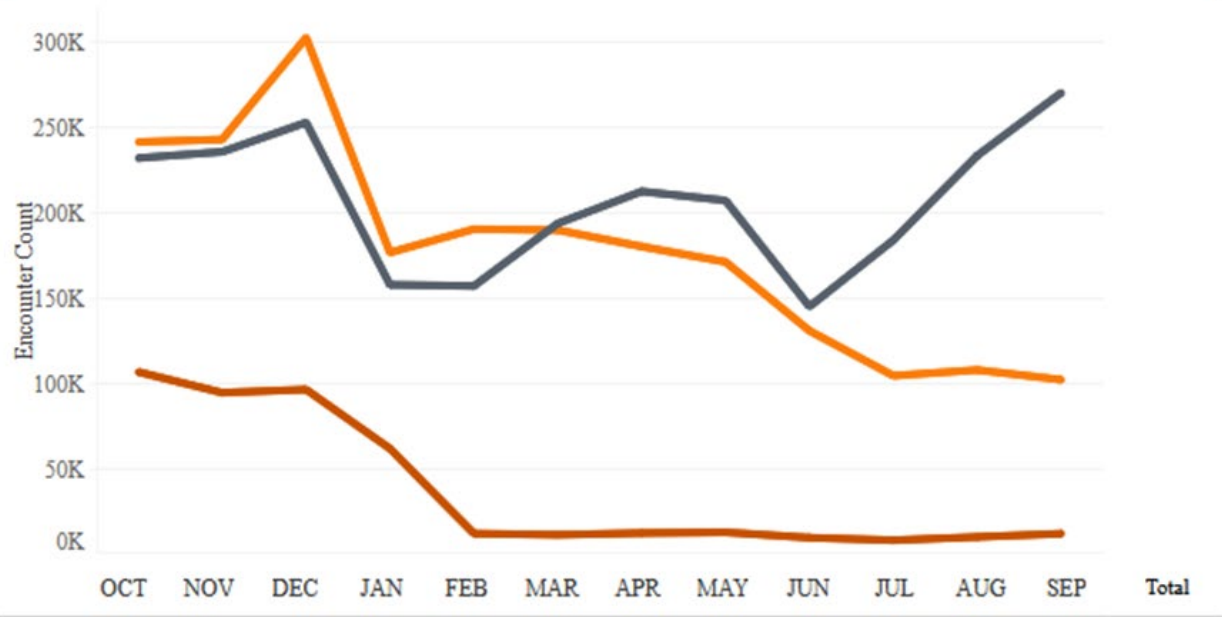
<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-land-border-encounters>

FY: (Multiple values) | Component: (All) | Demographic: (All)

Citizenship Grouping: (All) | Title of Authority: (All) | [Reset Filters](#)

FY: 2023 (dark blue) | 2024 (orange) | 2025 (brown)

FY Southwest Land Border Encounters by Month



2025	106,316	94,183	96,033	61,445	11,710	11,011	12,023	12,450	9,300	7,822	9,731	11,647	443,671
2024	240,927	242,399	301,981	176,195	189,913	189,359	179,737	170,716	130,415	104,100	107,473	101,790	2,135,005
2023	231,529	235,173	252,315	157,358	156,630	193,249	211,992	206,690	144,556	183,479	232,963	269,735	2,475,669



Congressional Budget Office Projected Migrant Removals

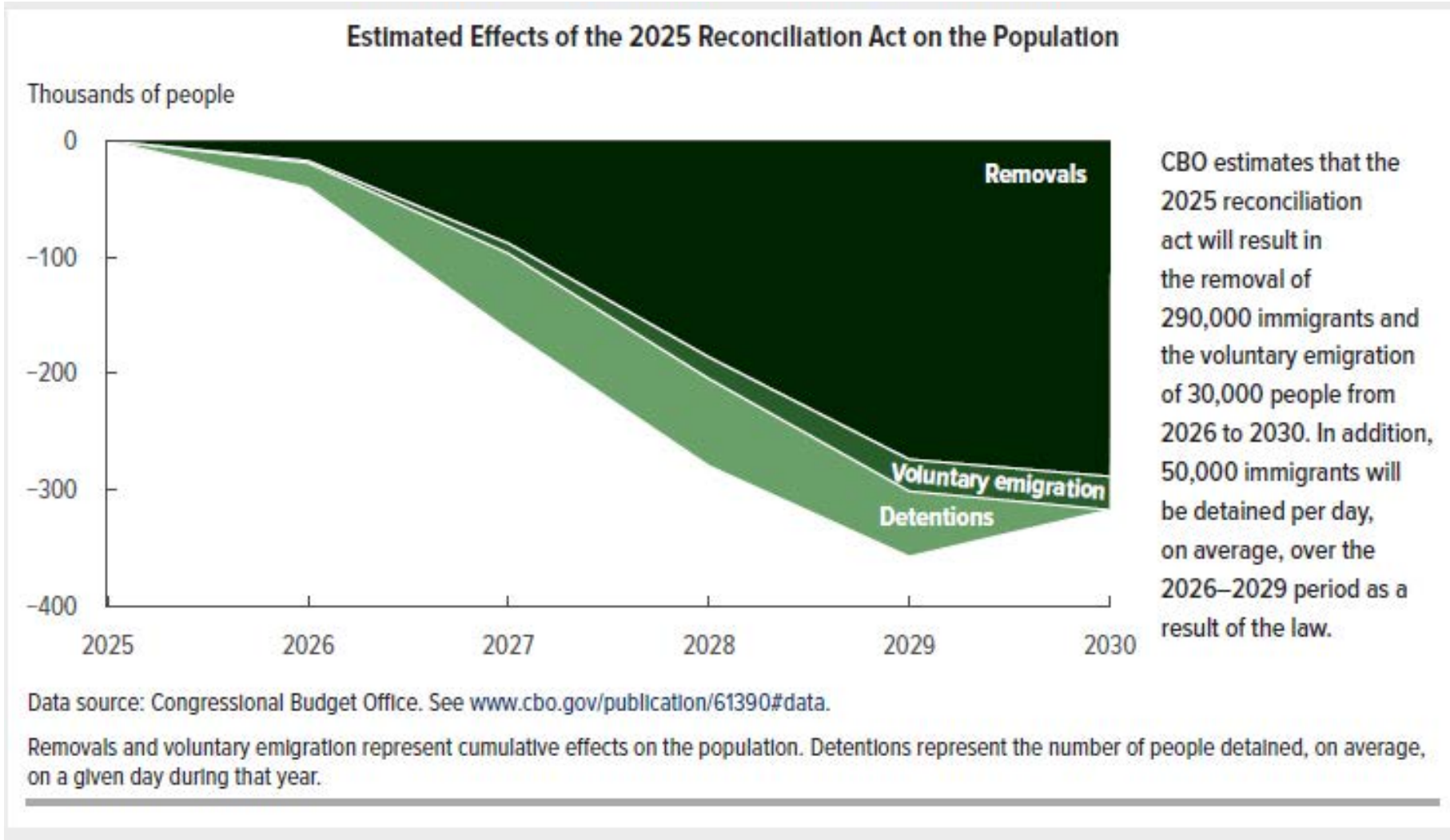
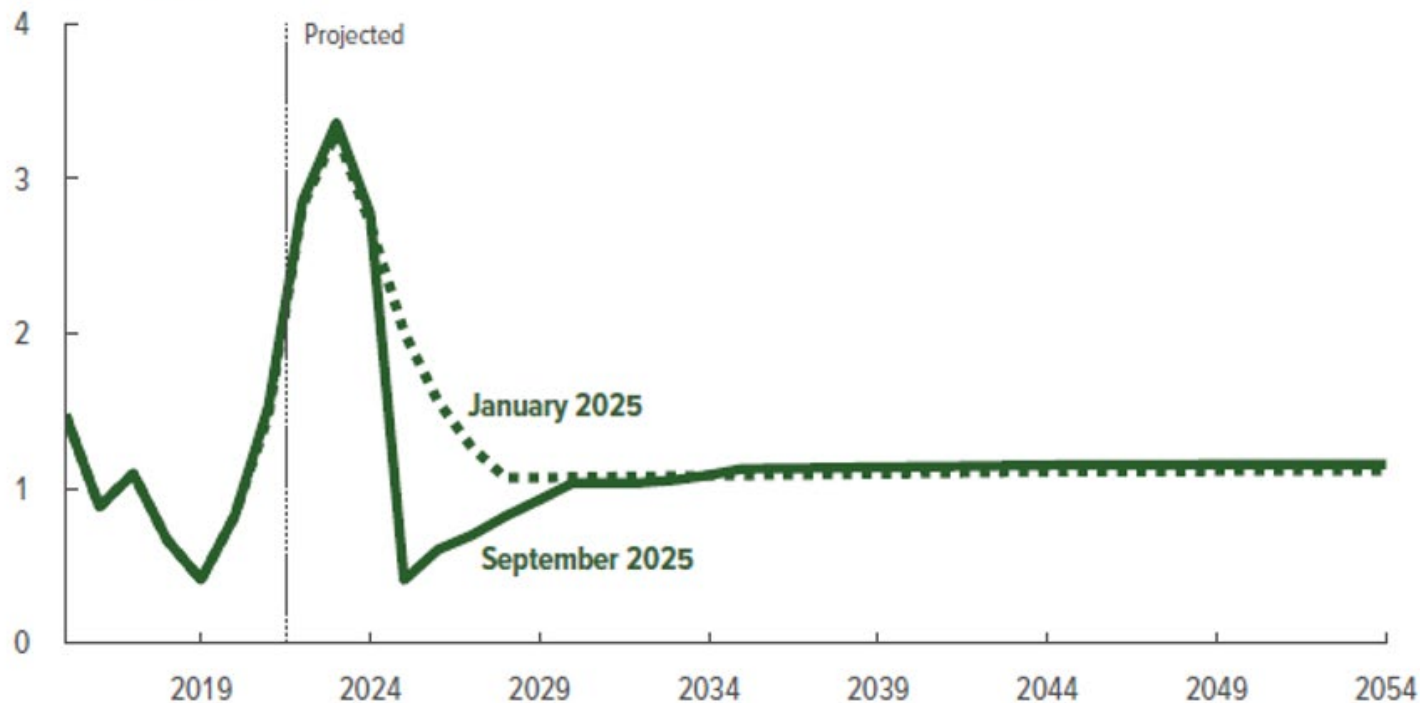


Figure 4.

Net Immigration in CBO's January 2025 and September 2025 Projections

Millions of people



In CBO's current projections, net immigration from 2025 to 2033 is smaller than it was in the agency's January 2025 projections. That reduction stems mainly from reductions to net immigration of people in the other-foreign-national category and lower net immigration of people in the INA nonimmigrant category in 2025 and 2026.

Data source: Congressional Budget Office. See www.cbo.gov/publication/61390#data.

The other-foreign-national category consists of people who entered the United States illegally and who have not obtained a permanent legal status, those who were permitted to enter the country lawfully through the use of parole authority and who may be awaiting proceedings in Immigration court, and those who previously resided in the United States legally in a temporary status but who remained in the country after that legal status expired.

The INA nonimmigrant category consists of people admitted as nonimmigrants under the INA, such as students and temporary workers.

INA = Immigration and Nationality Act.



An Update to the Demographic Outlook, 2025 to 2055

SEPTEMBER | 2025

“In CBO’s current projections, the population in 2035 is 4.5 million people smaller (or 1.2 percent) than it was projected to be in the agency’s January projections.”



Questions, Comments, or Rebukes?

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**27th Annual New Mexico
Data User's Conference
November 19, 2025**