Establishing Priorities for the Privacy Budget: The Case for Good Age Data

Emergency Preparedness and the 2010 Census Demonstration Product

Dec. 12th 2019

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What is the Census Bureau’s Primary Mission?

Our Mission

The Census Bureau’s mission is to serve as the nation’s leading provider of quality data about its people and economy.
Title 13, U.S. Code

The Census Bureau is bound by Title 13 of the United States Code. These laws not only provide authority for the work we do, but also provide strong protection for the information we collect from individuals and businesses.

Title 13 provides the following protections to individuals and businesses:

- Private information is never published. It is against the law to disclose or publish any private information that identifies an individual or business such, including names, addresses (including GPS coordinates), Social Security Numbers, and telephone numbers.
- Census Bureau employees are sworn to protect confidentiality. Anyone sworn to uphold Title 13 are subject to federal law and can be imprisoned for life for protecting your information and understands that the penalties for violation can be severe.
- Violating the law is a serious crime and can result in fines and imprisonment.

Our Mission

The Census Bureau’s mission is to serve as the nation’s leading provider of quality data about its people and economy.
Emergency Preparedness and the Older Population of New York City
394 of 2165 Census Tracts (18%) in NYC were in the Hurricane Sandy Inundation Areas.

Inundation Areas are areas that the Federal Emergency Management Agency determined were inundated with flood waters.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census
Population Division-New York City Department of City Planning
Hazard Mitigation Strategies Require Serviceable Data

Mitigation Strategy
Ensure coastal storm shelters are physically accessible

Lead agency
Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities

Importance of good data
Need characteristics of local population

Population 75 years and over

- 1,000 or more (10 Census Tracts)
- 750 to 999 (16)
- 500 to 749 (28)
- 250 to 499 (107)
- Less than 250 (233)

Inundation Areas are areas that the Federal Emergency Management Agency determined were inundated with flood waters.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census
Population Division-New York City Department of City Planning
Hazard Mitigation Strategies Require Serviceable Data

Mitigation Strategy
Establish evacuation fleet of 50 buses

Lead agency
Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Importance of precise population data
Need to identify areas with a large senior population

Population 75 years and over
- 1,000 or more (10 Census Tracts)
- 750 to 999 (16)
- 500 to 749 (28)
- 250 to 499 (107)
- Less than 250 (233)

Inundation Areas are areas that the Federal Emergency Management Agency determined were inundated with flood waters.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Population Division-New York City Department of City Planning
Hazard Mitigation Strategies Require Serviceable Data

Mitigation Strategy
Install emergency generators at Department of Health facilities

Lead agency
Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Importance of precise population data
Need to identify neighborhoods with significant vulnerable populations

Population 75 years and over

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Tracts</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,000 or more (10 Census Tracts)</td>
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Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census Population Division-New York City Department of City Planning
Inundation Areas are areas that the Federal Emergency Management Agency determined were inundated with flood waters.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census
Population Division-New York City Department of City Planning
2010 Published Data

In Hurricane Sandy Inundation Areas
Total Population: 1,659,347
Population 75 and Over: 108,322 (6.5%)

Population 75 years and over

- 1,000 or more (10 Census Tracts)
- 750 to 999 (16)
- 500 to 749 (28)
- 250 to 499 (107)
- Less than 250 (233)

Almost one-half of tracts in the Hurricane Sandy Inundation Areas differed by 25% or more
Population 75 and Over
Hurricane Sandy Inundation Areas in New York City

2010 Published Data

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Total Population: 1,659,347
Population 75 and Over: 108,322 (6.5%)

Population 75 years and over
- 1,000 or more (10 Census Tracts)
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2010 Demonstration Product

In Hurricane Sandy Inundation Areas
Total Population: 1,659,421
Population 75 and Over: 110,331 (6.6%)

Population 75 years and over
- 1,000 or more (8 Census Tracts)
- 750 to 999 (12)
- 500 to 749 (34)
- 250 to 499 (112)
- Less than 250 (228)

Almost one-half of tracts in the Hurricane Sandy Inundation Areas differed by 25% or more

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census and Demonstration Product
Population Division-New York City Department of City Planning

Inundation Areas are areas that the Federal Emergency Management Agency determined were inundated with flood waters
Lessons Learned

1. Summary statistics are a useful metric but the real litmus test is whether the available data are useful for the task at hand.

2. No universal metric will suffice when making decisions on what is and what is not useful.

3. But, given the timeline, a representative set of real-life applications must, of necessity, inform priorities.
Aggregation of Age Groups for Census Tracts
Frequency Distributions for Selected Age Groups
NYC Census Tracts, 2010 Published vs. Demonstration

20 to 24 Years
Avg Absolute Percent Difference: 32.2

25 to 29 Years
Avg Absolute Percent Difference: 32.2

30 to 34 Years
Avg Absolute Percent Difference: 33.0

35 to 39 Years
Avg Absolute Percent Difference: 34.3

20 to 39 Years
Avg Absolute Percent Difference: 14.5

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census and Demonstration Product
Population Division-New York City Department of City Planning
Consider?

Aggregation to Larger Geographic Areas: Neighborhoods
Age Distribution for East Harlem North

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2010 Published Data</th>
<th>2010 Demonstration Product</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Avg. Absolute Slope: 34.0</td>
<td>Avg. Absolute Slope: 49.0</td>
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Total Population: 58,019

Total Population: 57,812

Average Absolute Percent Difference: 6.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census and Demonstration Product
Population Division-New York City Department of City Planning
Age Distribution for Crown Heights South

Total Population: 39,670

Total Population: 39,640

Average Absolute Percent Difference: 16.6

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Census and Demonstration Product Population Division-New York City Department of City Planning
Age: Taking its Share of Epsilon

From the standpoint of local government planning, age is the foundation for so much of what we do. For example, the identification of at-risk populations for:

a) Drawing school zones
b) Projecting students affected by new housing development
c) Assessing the impact of changes in land use and zoning
d) Calculating vital rates to monitor public health
e) Intercensal population estimates
f) Projecting populations
For More Information

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www.nyc.gov/population