



January 16, 2022

The Honorable Robert Santos
Director
U.S. Census Bureau
4600 Silver Hill Road
Suitland, MD 20746

Dear Director Santos,

On behalf of the organizations we lead, [the Population Association of America](#) and [Association of Population Centers](#), we welcome you to your role as the new Director of the U.S. Census Bureau.

As you know, PAA members, including demographers, economists, sociologists, and statisticians, rely heavily on census data to conduct their research, research training, and to help inform evidence-based policy making in the public and private sectors. Population research centers use census data as well to facilitate interdisciplinary research on a range of topics including mortality, morbidity, fertility, adolescent health, aging, population forecasting, immigration, labor and workforce policies, and family dynamics.

To ensure policymakers understand how valuable census data are to the population sciences and the agency's needs, our organizations are active members of The Census Project and other coalitions comprised of fellow census stakeholders. Further, many leaders in our organizations have served on a variety of formal and informal Census Bureau advisory groups. We look forward to working with you to further the Bureau's mission as well as to address issues, including disclosure avoidance, 2020 Census post enumeration, and 2030 Census preparations, during your tenure. To that end, we have requested a meeting with you to introduce the leadership of our organizations to you and your team and to sustain our dialogue regarding these and other matters important to the population sciences.

Once again, congratulations on your arrival at the Census Bureau. We are looking forward to working with you and your staff.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sonalde Desai
President, Population Association of America

Dr. Sara R. Curran
President, Association of Population Centers