

Speaker Biographies

California State Data Center Meeting
Sacramento Area Council of Governments
1415 L Street, Suite 300
Sacramento, CA 95814
Tuesday, March 15, 2011

Mark Asiala is Chief of the American Community Survey (ACS) Estimation Branch in the Decennial Statistical Studies Division of the US Census Bureau. He started working at the Bureau in 1999 in the area of the Census 2000 Accuracy and Coverage Evaluation. Since 2002, he has worked in the statistical design area of the ACS, particularly in the area of ACS weighting. He also worked in the areas of sampling and disclosure avoidance. Mark has a master's degree in statistics from Georgia State University, a master's degree in mathematics from Purdue University, and a bachelor's degree in mathematics and physics from the University of Michigan.

Linda Clark began her census career in the 1970s as a Special Census Supervisor, supervising data collection operations for more than two dozen cities and counties in California under the direction of the Department of Finance. In 1980 and 1990, Linda worked on the Decennial Census as a Regional Technician out of the Los Angeles region and returned in 2000 to the Seattle region as the Area Manager for seven offices in the San Francisco Bay Area.

After four years as a Team Leader in the Recruiting Branch at Census Bureau Headquarters in Washington, D.C., Linda returned to the Seattle region as the Information Services Specialist, the position she holds today. Linda has conducted more than 200 data workshops in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Northern California.

James T. Christy is the Regional Director of the US Census Bureau's Los Angeles region. He manages a staff of 500 permanent employees and is responsible for all Census Bureau activities in Southern California and Hawaii.

In addition to counting the population every ten years, the permanent presence of the Census Bureau in Los Angeles measures the economy through indicators like the Consumer Price Index, the monthly Unemployment Rate and Housing Starts data. It's also involved in producing key social measures for things like poverty, health and well-being, crime and education.

Mr. Christy has worked for the Census Bureau in Washington, DC, Denver, Kansas City and Phoenix. He has served on the Advisory Council for the Ralph and Goldy Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies at UCLA and as the Chair of the Greater Los Angeles Federal Executive Board.

Linda Akers Smith is currently Assistant Regional Census Manager for the Los Angeles Regional Census Center. In this position, she is responsible for all census geographic partnership programs and Census Coverage Measurement operations for the State of Hawaii and nineteen counties in Southern California. During the 2000 Census, Linda was an Area Manager in charge of decennial data collection activities for five local census offices located in Los Angeles County.