

Speaker Biographies
California State Data Center Annual Meeting
Wednesday, November 3, and Thursday, November 4, 2021



Michael Hawes is the Senior Advisor for Data Access and Privacy at the U.S. Census Bureau. He is responsible for outreach and engagement with the Census Bureau's data users on issues relating to the impact of privacy protection methodologies on the accessibility and usability of Census data. Prior to joining the Census Bureau, Michael served as the Director of Student Privacy at the U.S. Department of Education, where he was the Department's senior policy official responsible for the administration and enforcement of federal laws governing the privacy and confidentiality of education records. Michael is a member of the Federal Committee on Statistical Methodology (FCSM) and chairs the FCSM's Confidentiality and Data Access Committee. He has supported numerous federal government-wide initiatives relating to data privacy and confidentiality and served as Privacy Consultant to the federal Commission on Evidence-based Policymaking. Michael received his Bachelor of Arts, summa cum laude, in political science and history from Duke University and his M.A. in international relations from the University of Chicago. He is a member of the American Statistical Association, a Certified Information Privacy

Professional/Government (CIPP/G) by the International Association of Privacy Professionals, and a certified Project Management Professional (PMP) by the Project Management Institute.



Trudi J. Renwick, PhD. As Assistant Division Chief for Economic Characteristics in the Social, Economic and Housing Statistic Division of the U.S. Census Bureau, Trudi oversees the work of three branches: Poverty Statistics, Income Statistics and the Program Participation and Income Transfers. From 2010 to 2015, she was the chief of the Poverty Statistics Branch, responsible for poverty statistics from the Current Population Survey Annual Social and Economic Supplement, the American Community Survey and the Survey of Income and Program Participation. She has written numerous research papers on various aspects of the Supplemental Poverty Measure, including the adjustment of the thresholds for geographic differences in housing costs and methods for assigning values to noncash benefits. She joined the Census Bureau in 2008 after working for many years in New York as a senior economist for the Fiscal Policy Institute and the Public Utility Law Project. Dr. Renwick earned a PhD in economics from American University and is the author of a book, Poverty and Single Parent Families: A Study of Minimal Subsistence Household Budgets.



Nicholas Jones is the Director for Race/Ethnicity Research and Outreach in the Census Bureau's Population Division. He joined the Census Bureau in 2000 as an analyst in the Racial Statistics Branch, and served as Chief of Racial Statistics from 2007 to 2014. His research over the past couple decades has helped shed light on race reporting patterns and the demographic characteristics of Multiracial children and interracial families, the size and distribution of racial and ethnic groups, and the racial/ethnic diversity of the United States population.

Nicholas led the Census Bureau's extensive research and outreach to explore and discuss alternative approaches for improving data on race and ethnicity and to prepare for analyzing and communicating the results of the 2020 Census. He has presented at numerous academic conferences and professional meetings, and discussed race and ethnicity research and trends with a wide variety of media outlets and national and local organizations. Nicholas earned three Department of Commerce Bronze Medal Awards for the review and analysis of 2000 and 2010 race data and leadership in Tribal Consultations with American Indians and Alaska Natives.

Nicholas received a Master's Degree in Sociology from the University of Michigan and a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology and Anthropology from St. Mary's College of Maryland.



Bev Pratt began her U.S. Census Bureau career as a Social, Economic, and Housing Statistics Division summer intern where she worked with a code list for the then new Field of Degree question on the American Community Survey. She later returned to the Census Bureau in the Population Division where she co-authored the 2015 National Content Test Race and Ethnicity Analysis Report and created an interactive infographic describing the history of race and ethnicity on the decennial census, now updated as the U.S. Decennial Census Measurement of Race and Ethnicity Across the Decades: 1790-2020.

Bev then detailed at the U.S. Office of Management and Budget where she served as a demographic-characteristics advisor to the U.S. Chief Statistician with a primary focus on race and ethnicity measures.

Bev returned to the Population Division in April 2020 from the American Community Survey Office, where she was a principal project coordinator for ACS research, evaluations, and experiments. While in ACSO, Bev coordinated the 2019 Census Test's race and ethnicity coding operation and the 2022 ACS Content Test's cognitive testing operation.

Bev received her PhD in sociology from the University of Maryland, with a MA in sociology from the University of Maryland and a MS and a BA in sociology from Texas A&M University.

Most importantly, Bev lives in Washington, DC with her beautiful dog Bill.

Matt Frates has nearly 15 years of experience at the Census Bureau, beginning his career as a foreign trade analyst in 2007. Matt has been working for the Decennial Census Management Division since 2016, working as the Integrated Project Team lead for the Address Canvassing operation until its completion in October 2019. Matt is currently the Branch Chief of the Count Question Resolution branch and has been in this position since April 2019.



Fennis Reed is a Research Specialist II with the Demographic Research Unit in the California Department of Finance. Their primary interest is small area estimates – providing support for unique stakeholder geographies such as library, fire, and water districts that are otherwise inconsistent with regularly reported administrative boundaries. Fennis got their start in population modeling working with salamanders in western Michigan. Since then, their expertise has been applied to the human realm leading to graduate work with WorldPop, where machine learning and dasymetric techniques are applied to many countries with limited census and supporting data. Their research interests include population modeling, remote sensing, GIS, qualitative geography, and herpetology.

Fennis holds an M.S. in Applied Geography from the University of Louisville. Prior to working with Department of Finance they have held varied positions in private utilities, technology and research as a GIS automation specialist.



KaNin Reese is the Chief of the Dissemination Outreach Branch at the U.S. Census Bureau, where she engages internal and external stakeholders in the future of data dissemination. Kanin joined the Census Bureau in 2005 as a survey statistician and worked on various surveys and programs as an income and poverty analyst. For the past four years, Kanin has been responsible for the communications and outreach efforts for the data dissemination platform, data.census.gov, the Census API, and the Microdata Access tool. Kanin has a master's degree in demography from University of Mississippi and a bachelor's degree in sociology and psychology from Texas A&M University.



Joshua Coutts is a geographer with the Census Bureau in the Geography Division. Starting in 2005, he has worked on a variety of spatial update operations, focusing on tribal geography, island area geography, and a variety of statistical geographies such as census designated places, census tracts, and block groups. Most recently, he has been focusing on the Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMA) program for the 2020 Decennial Census.



Jennifer Zanoni is a Geographer with the U.S. Census Bureau where she is the project manager for the 2020 Urban Areas delineation. She has a Bachelor of Science in Geo-Environmental Studies from Shippensburg University of Pennsylvania and a Master of Science in Applied Geospatial Sciences from Northern Arizona University. Jennifer came to the Census Bureau in 2016 after more than 10 years working in geographic information systems within local government, non-profit, and defense industries. She lives Virginia with her chocolate lab, Mia.



Andrew Hait is an Economist and serves as the Data Product and Data User Liaison in the Economic Management Division at the U.S. Census Bureau. With over 30 years of service at the Bureau, Andy advises on Economic data products and conducts data user training and outreach for the Economic Census and the Census Bureau's other monthly, quarterly, and annual economic survey programs. He co-leads the team that built the COVID-19 Data Hub, an interactive platform that presents data on the coronavirus pandemic. He also is the lead designer and coordinates development of Census Business Builder, an innovative data tool that presents selected demographic, business, and other data in a user-friendly, map-based interface. Mr. Hait holds a bachelor's degree in Economics from Syracuse University and has a Master's Certificate in Project Management from George Washington University.