

Ready, Set, Census!

Cen-sational Tools for Local Government and Non-Profit Staff

On March 1, the City of Seattle's Data Collaboration Team and the Seattle 2010 Census Complete Count Committee held an open house event entitled, "Ready, Set, Census! Cen-sational Tools for Local Government and Non-Profit Staff."

With the official April 1 Census Day just around the corner, the Open House provided a timely opportunity for staff to learn about—and get involved in—efforts to ensure a full count in our region, and to identify ways the new Census data can be used to better understand and improve our communities.

The Open House offered participants the opportunity to view an array of displays:

- Describing the importance of the 2010 Census and connecting attendees with local Complete Count efforts;
- Informing attendees about resources for using and interpreting Census data; and
- Illustrating the vital role that Census data play in informing local and regional plans and programs, in areas as diverse as health and human services, neighborhood and community development, civil rights, transportation and land use planning.

The [Open House handout](#) contains web links to key resources featured in each of the displays. Use this handout as a reference and find out more about 2010 Census Complete Count activities and about data available from the Census Bureau.



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Open House participants also had the opportunity to hear the presentations described below. Links are provided for each of the Powerpoint slideshows presented.



- A ["Census Programs 101"](#) session in which Census Information Specialist Linda Clark outlined the types of data we'll be getting from the 2010 Census, along with data already being provided by the new American Community Survey (ACS). Neil Kilgren from the Puget Sound Regional Council followed up Linda's presentation by highlighting the [resources provided by the Puget Sound Regional Council](#) to help users access and analyze Census data.



- A session on ["Data for Dollar\\$"](#) by Linda Clark of the Census Bureau and Debra Rhinehart from Seattle's Human Services Department. Linda showed how to access Decennial Census and ACS data to develop compelling funding proposals. Debra then provided a [series of tips](#) to help municipalities and non-profits consider ways they can weave census and other data together to produce effective grant applications.



- A panel about local [Census 2010 Complete Count Outreach](#). Representatives of ethnic media and the community discussed strategies being used locally to tailor 2010 Census outreach efforts to historically under-represented populations. Kenny Pittman, Senior Policy advisor at the City and staff coordinator of Seattle's Complete Count Committee, moderated the panel, which included: Dennis Beaver, Editor, The Facts Newspaper; Mohamed S. Hassan, Afrique Service Center; and Jesus Rodriguez, Community Organizer.





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The Open House reached a broad audience. While Seattle City staff from more than a dozen departments attended the event, almost half of the audience came from organizations including: non-profit and community organizations, Seattle Public Schools, the Seattle Foundation, UW and King County library systems, and several counties and cities in the region, as well as students and consultants.



Event Co-Hosts

The City's Data Collaboration Team is coordinated by Seattle Planning Commission staff member and City Demographer, Diana Canzoneri. <http://www.seattle.gov/planningcommission>

The Seattle Complete Count Committee is a partnership with the U.S. Census Bureau and community leaders for the purpose of increasing the awareness of the 2010 Census through a locally developed and implemented grass roots campaign. Co-chairs are Norman B. Rice, former Mayor of Seattle; Martha Choe, former Seattle City Councilmember; and Rogelio Riojas, founder/President/CEO, SeaMar Community Health Centers. Kenny Pittman, a Senior Policy Advisor at the City, is the staff coordinator for the Seattle Complete Count Committee. <http://www.seattle.gov/census2010/committee.htm>

Thank you to all the people from the Data Collaboration Team, Seattle's and King County's Complete Count Committees, Census Bureau, Public Health - King County & Seattle, PSRC, City of Bellevue, FHWA, Seattle Planning Commission, DPD, Seattle Fleets and Facilities, and others who made this event possible.