Preparing Connecticut for Data Uncertainty

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THE NARRATIVE PROJECT

2026 CT data Conference

#CTDataConf | ctdata.org

Preparing Connecticut for Data Uncertainty



2026 CT data Conference

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Presenters



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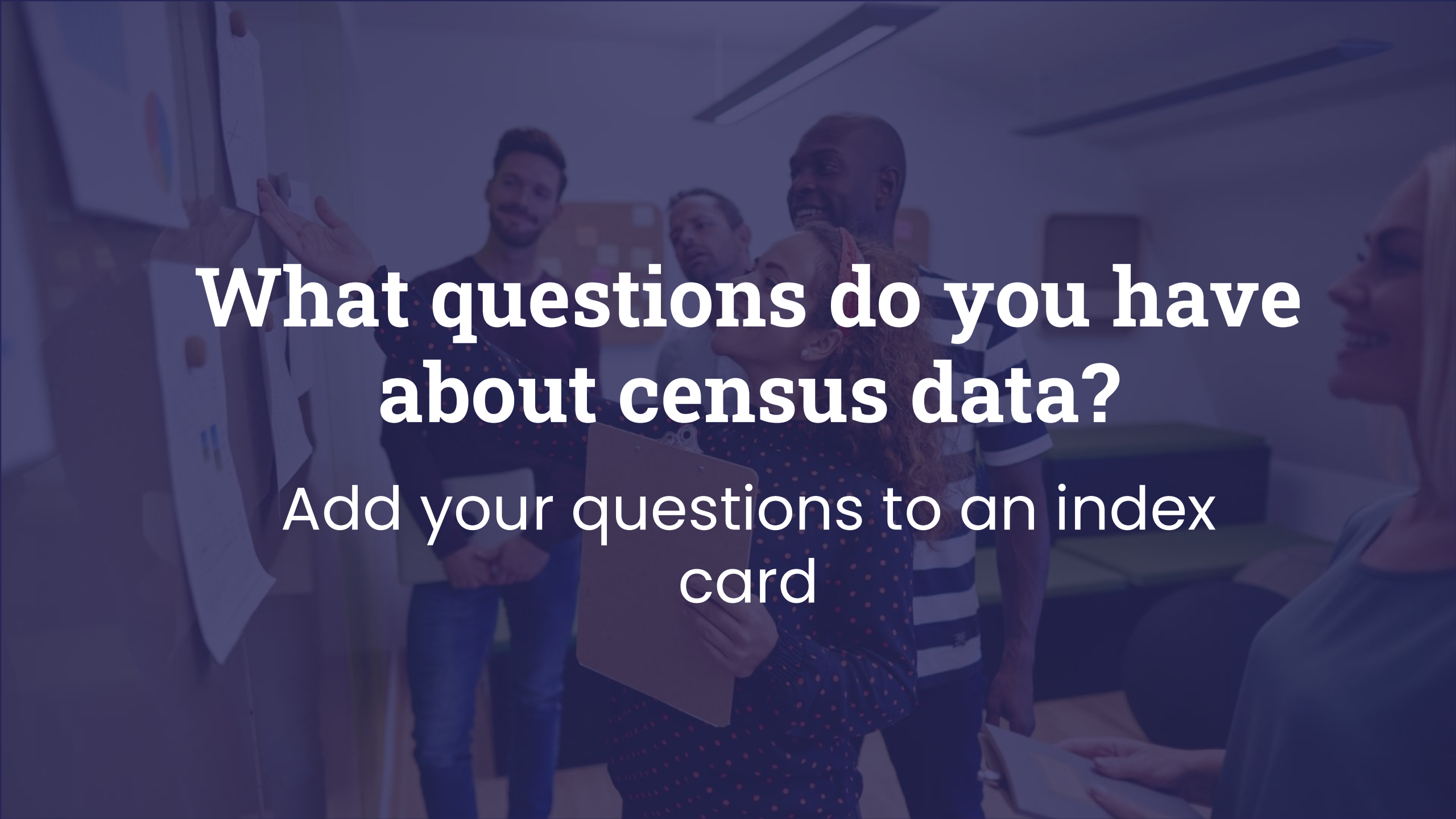
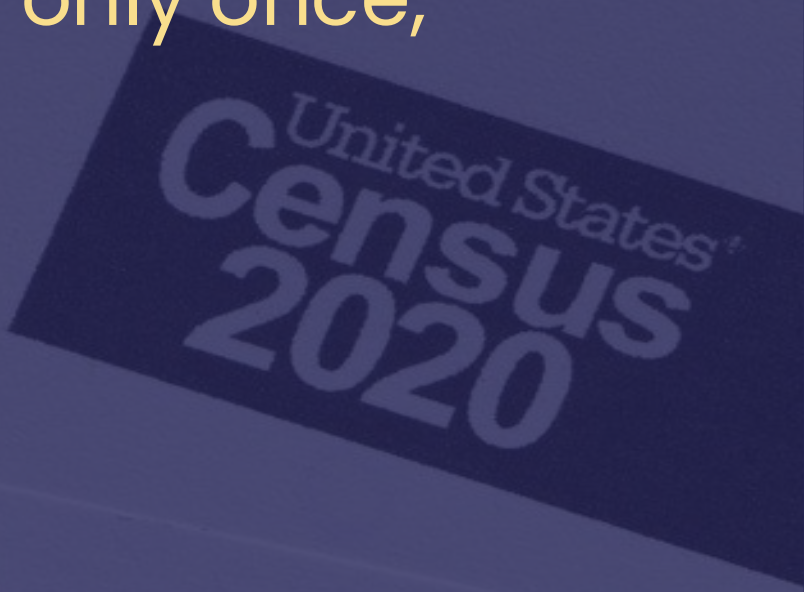


What questions do you have about census data?

Add your questions to an index card

The Decennial Census

The goal: to “count everyone once, only once, and in the right place.”



Why this matters

Data

Census data serves as the denominator for many federal data products for next 10 years.

Federal Funding

$25 billion

to CT in 2023 alone

Apportionment

Number of Congressional House seats

5 main ways decennial census data is used in the majority of statistical products

1. **Directly.** Provides population counts for congressional seat allocation, voting district lines, enforcing civil rights laws.

2. **Indirectly.** Supplies baseline numbers for other government surveys.

Source: National Conference on Citizenship, https://ncoc.org/a-primer-on-census-data/

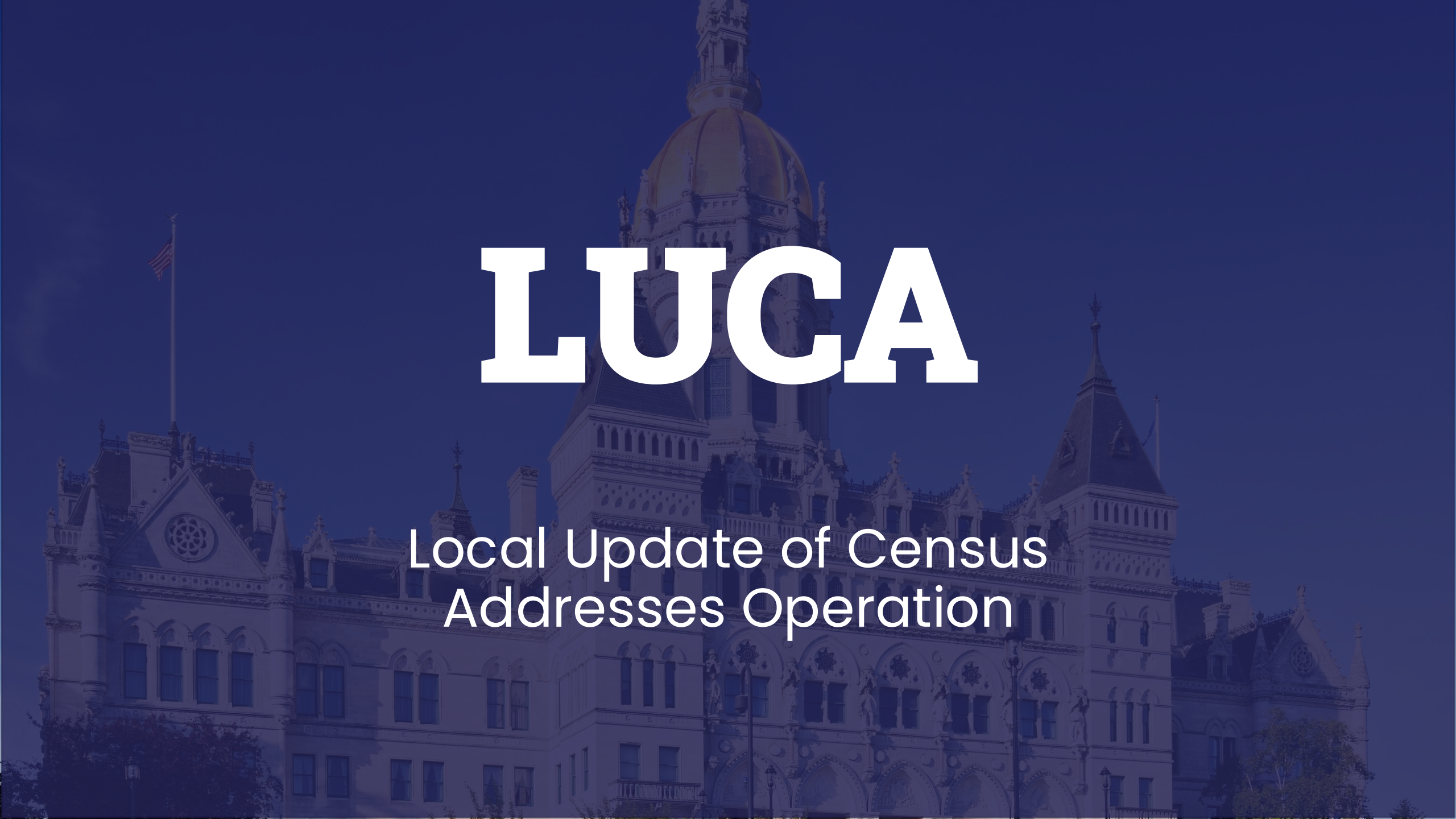
5 main ways decennial census data is used in the majority of statistical products

3. **In the private sector.** For companies to use in market research, site selection, workforce planning.

4. **In local government.** Used to determine where to build roads, hospitals, schools, etc.

5. **In research.** Denominators to calculate rates.

Source: National Conference on Citizenship, https://ncoc.org/a-primer-on-census-data/


LUCA
Local Update of Census Addresses Operation

CT data collaborative

*If a housing unit is missing from the **census address list**, the people living there are likely to be left out of the count—and the bureau won't even know they were missed.*

Roadmap to the 2030 Census: LUCA Resource Guide

The Leadership Conference Education Fund and Census Counts | censusroadmap.org

What is LUCA?

1. Identifies addresses that are added to the Census Bureau's Master Address File (MAF).
2. The MAF is the only list used to determine where census forms are sent.
3. If an address isn't in the MAF, there isn't a way for it to be counted.

Why LUCA Matters

$25 billion to Connecticut in federally-directed funding in 2023 alone

LUCA is the **only chance** for local governments to improve the CONFIDENTIAL address list before the count.

Local knowledge and partnership is crucial, especially for communities likely to be **undercounted**.

Who Participates?



The only entity that can submit addresses for the LUCA process is the **highest elected official** in any jurisdiction.



Partnerships with local groups and organizations is critical to ensure addresses aren't missed.



Addresses compiled for LUCA are **confidential** and are not reported to any other government entity.

Current Process: Identifying High Priority Areas



LUCA Timeline

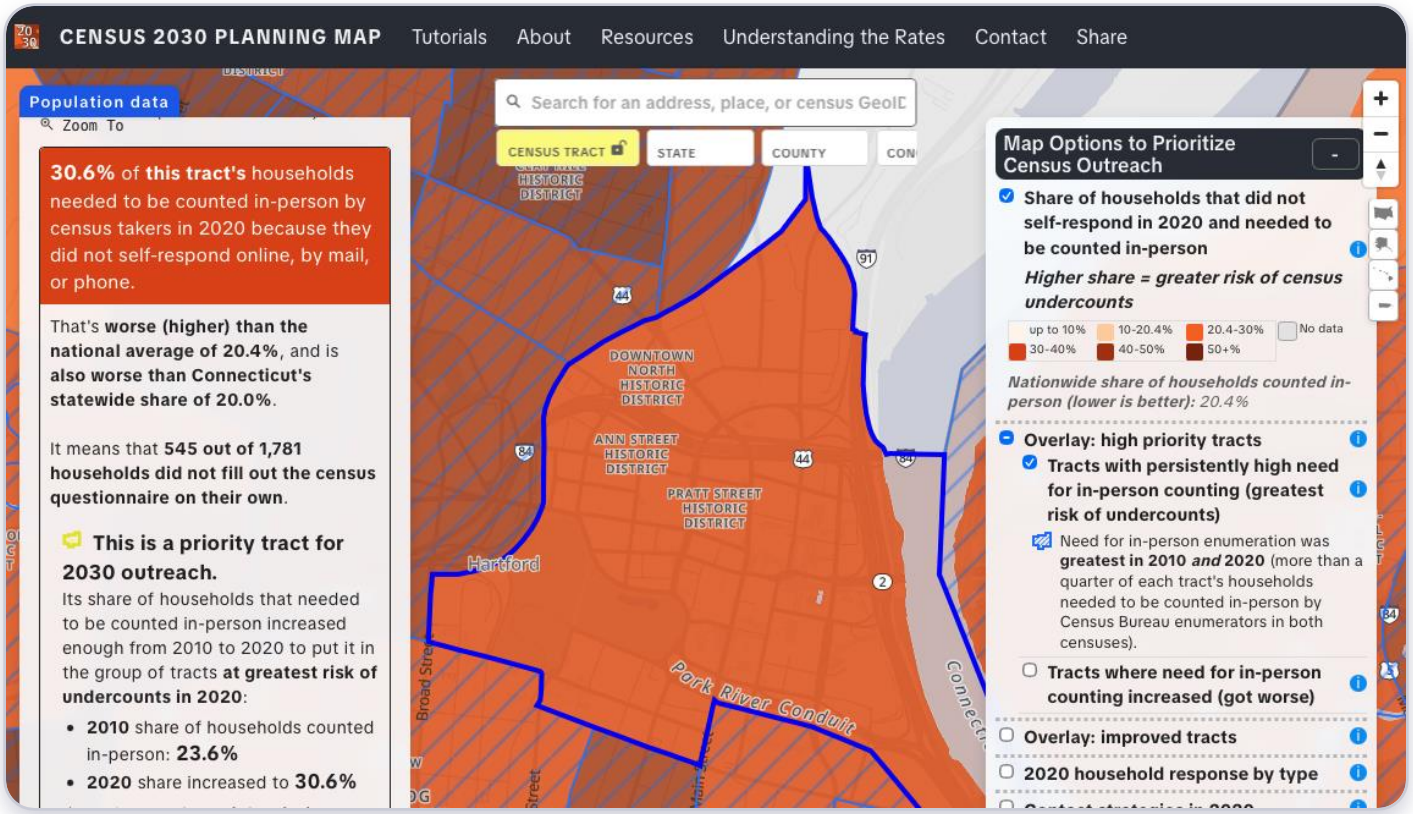


Sources: Roadmap to the 2030 Census (censusroadmap.org); U.S. Census Bureau, 2030 Census Planning Timeline and LUCA Federal Register Notice (FR Doc. 2026-03073). Dates approximate.



Complete Count Committees

Census 2030 Planning Map



Shows areas that had low self-response in 2020.

Census 2030 Planning Map

Census 2030 Planning Map

Downtown Hartford census tract: a priority for 2030 outreach

23.6%

2010 share counted in person

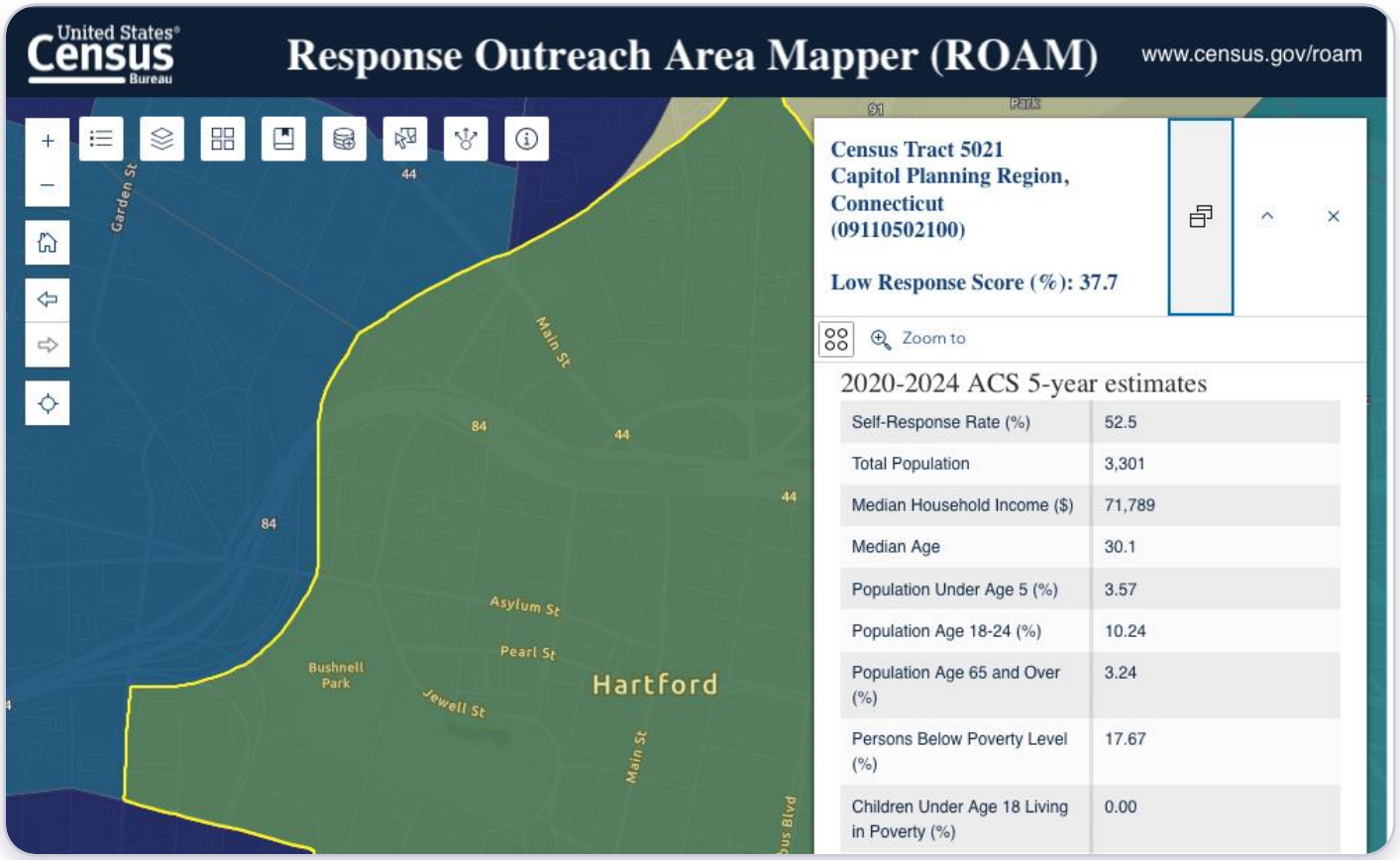
30.6%

2020 share counted in person

Census 2030 Planning Map

Source: Census 2030 Planning Map (QR code at right). Tract shown on the previous slides.

Response Outreach Area Mapper



Demographics of who lives in higher-risk areas.

Census Bureau Response Outreach Area Mapper (ROAM)

Response Outreach Area Mapper

Median Household Income ($)	71,789
Median Age	30.1
Population Under Age 5 (%)	3.57
Population Age 18-24 (%)	10.24
Population Age 65 and Over (%)	3.24
Persons Below Poverty Level (%)	17.67

Downtown Hartford

$71,789 Median household income

3.57% Population under age 5

17.67% Persons below poverty level

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Response Outreach Area Mapper (ROAM), 2020–2024 ACS 5-year estimates, Census Tract 5021, Capitol Planning Region, CT.

What is a Complete Count Committee?

> ***Complete count committees combine government, community and private sector stakeholders to raise awareness and encourage participation in the census.***

[National Conference of State Legislatures]

2020 Census Complete Count Committee Guide

Complete Count Committees



Connecticut Complete Count Committee in development.



Towns and cities can also form local committees.



Partner with leaders in or people who work with those who are historically undercounted.

2020 posed a unique challenge. 2030 poses a new challenge.

Scan for the 2020 Complete Count Committee Guide.

2020 Census Complete Count Committee Guide

What are the State's Plans for Data?

State Data Plan Overview

December 3, 2026

Data & Policy Analytics

CONNECTICUT
Policy and Management

2027 – 28 State Data Plan

What is the State Data Plan?

Per Section 4-67p of the Connecticut General Statutes:

"[Every two years] the Chief Data Officer, **in consultation with the agency data officers and executive branch agency heads**, shall create a state data plan. The state data plan shall

(1) **establish management and data analysis standards** across all executive branch agencies,

(2) include **specific, achievable goals** within the two years following adoption of such plan, as well as longer term goals,

(3) **make recommendations to enhance standardization and integration of data systems and data management practices** across all executive branch agencies,

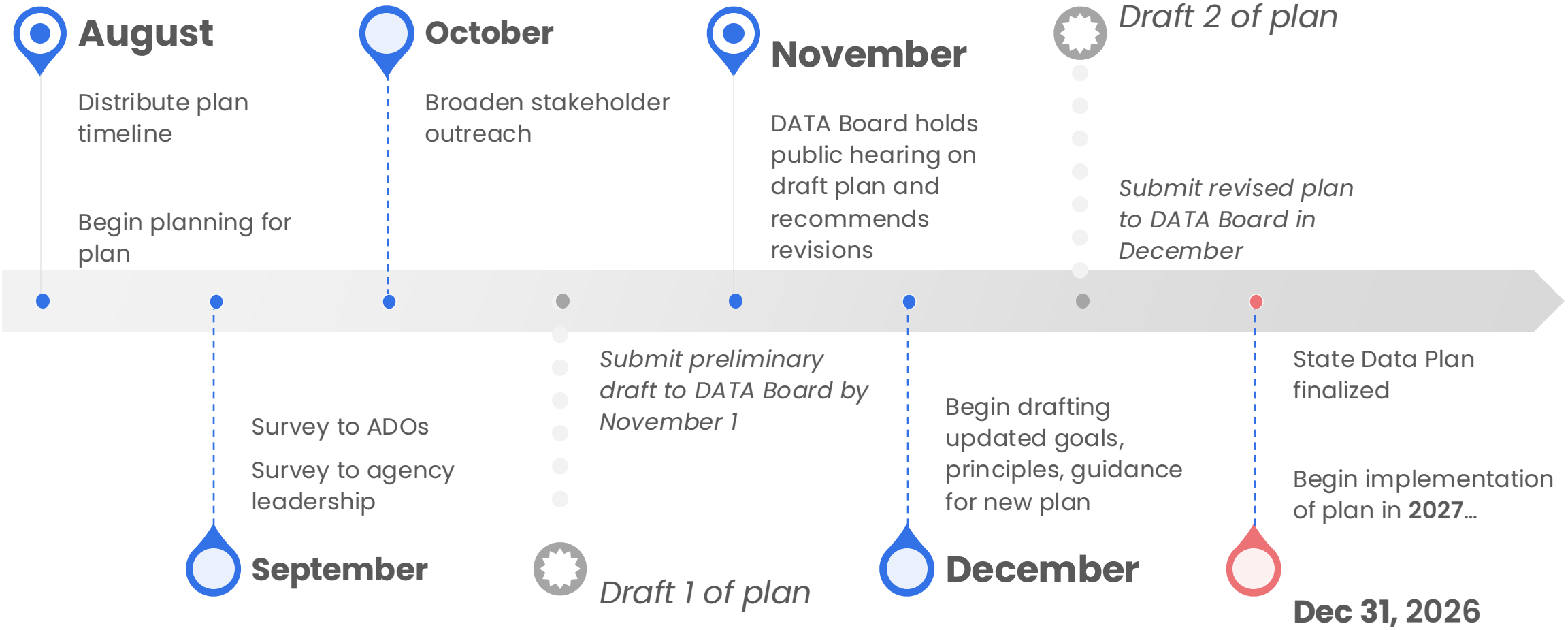
(4) provide a timeline for a **review of** any state or federal legal concerns or other obstacles to the **internal sharing of data among agencies**, including security and privacy concerns, and

(5) **set goals for improving the online repository [open data portal]** established pursuant to subsection (i) of this section.

Each state data plan shall provide for a procedure for each agency head to report to the Chief Data Officer regarding the agency's progress toward achieving the plan's goals. Such plan may make recommendations concerning data management for the legislative or judicial branch agencies, but such recommendations shall not be binding on such agencies."

Information technology-related actions and initiatives of all executive branch agencies, including, but not limited to, the acquisition of hardware and software and the development of software, shall be consistent with the final state data plan.

27 – 28 State Data Plan timeline



Current challenges and issues on the horizon

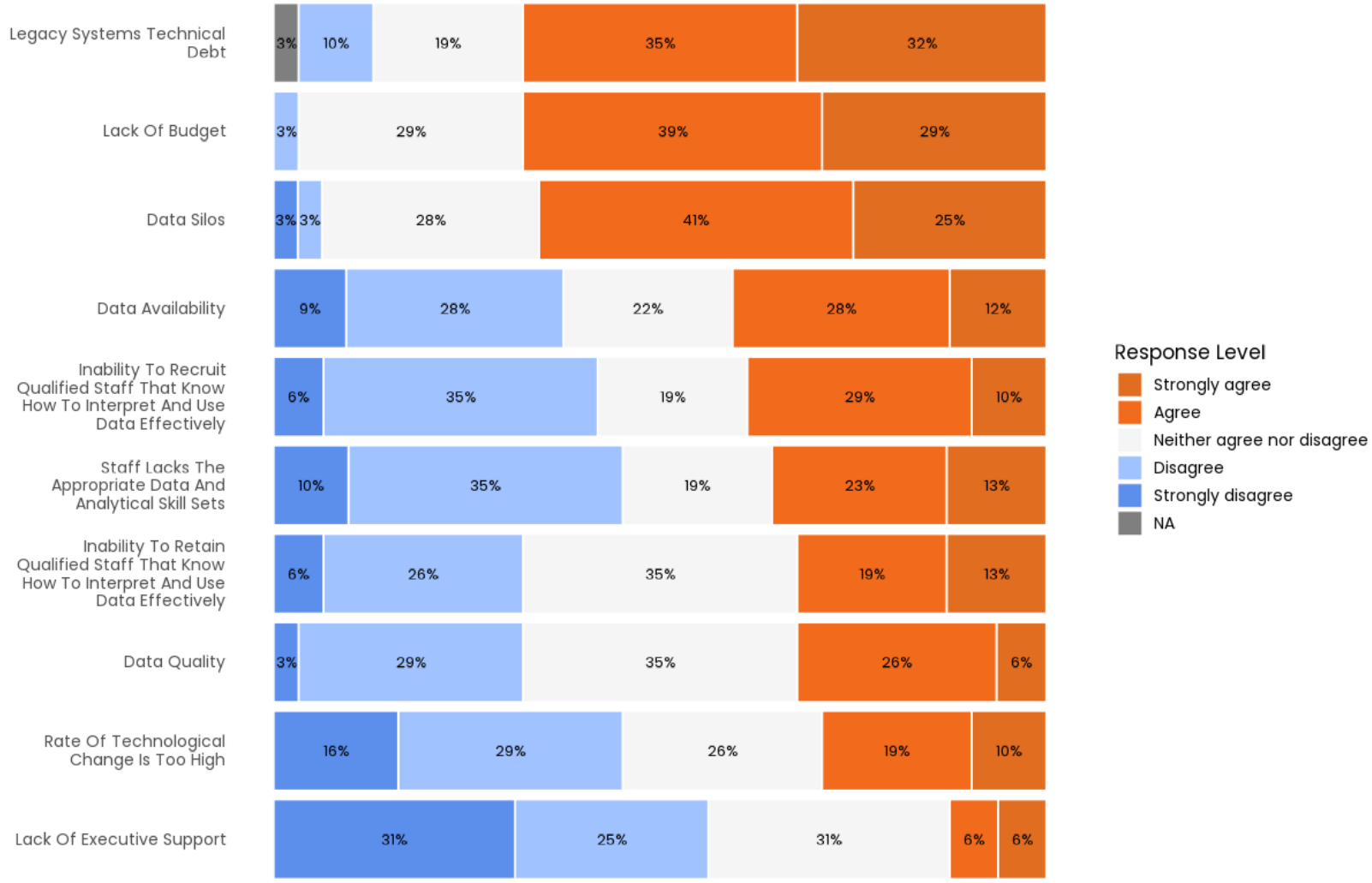
Two surveys went out for stakeholder feedback:

- State agency staff (leadership, agency data officers, analyst / GIS staff)
- External stakeholders (nonprofits, foundations, researchers, businesses, etc.); through CT Data Collaborative and DataHaven

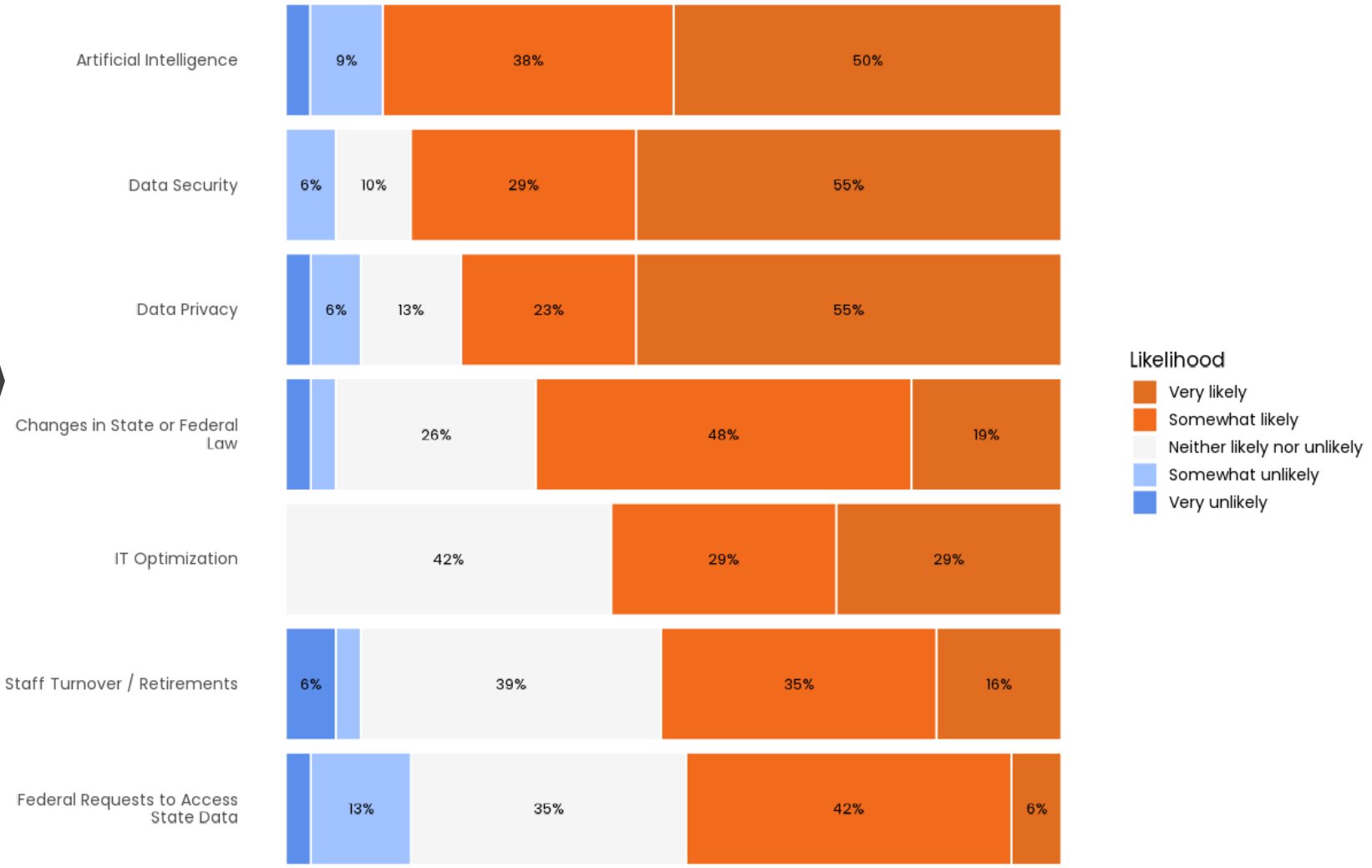
Surveys focused on current challenges, issues to focus on for the next two years, needs for training and capacity-building

Surveys still open – please reach out with questions or for an interview!

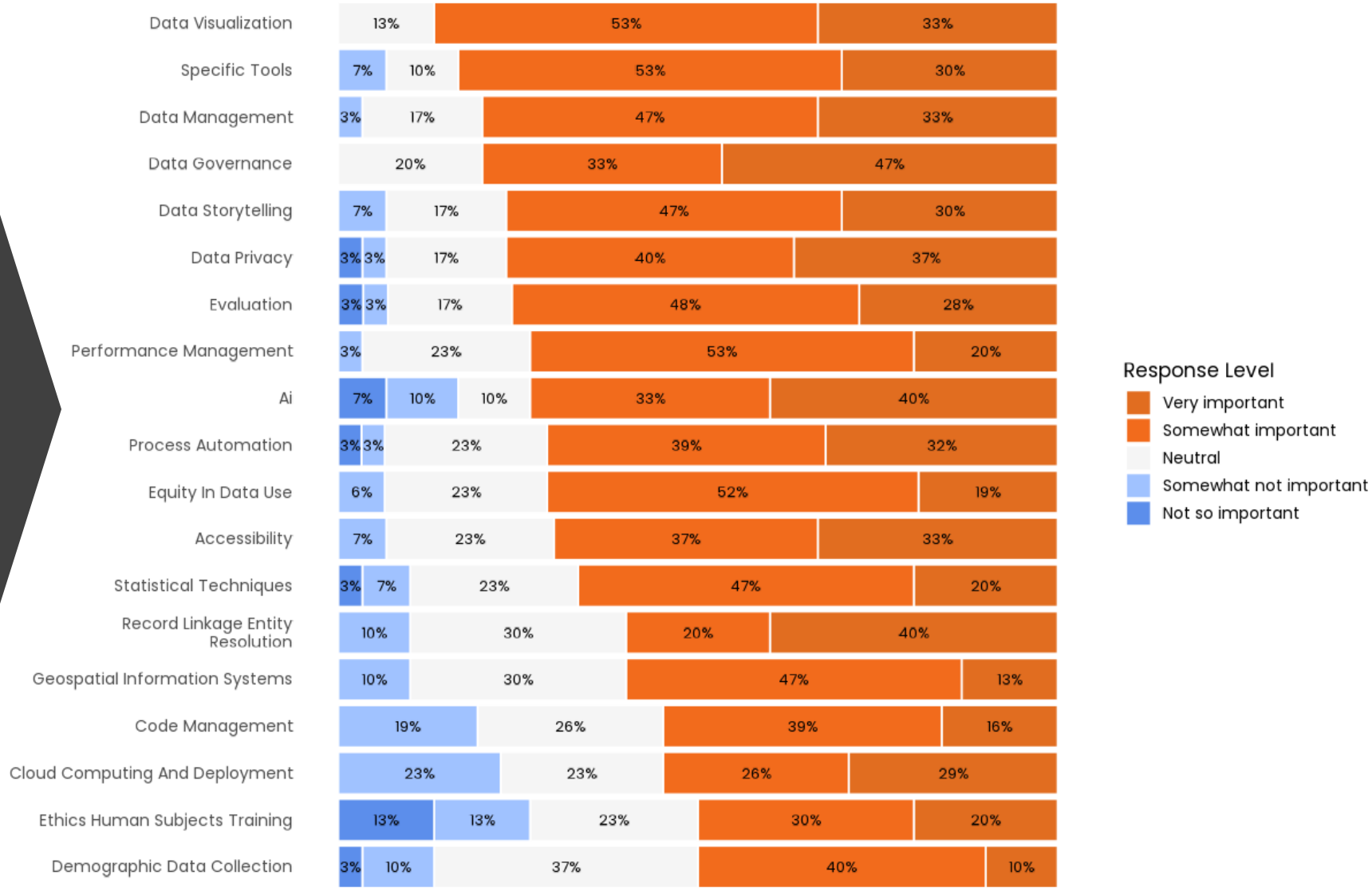
Legacy systems, budget and data silos are the main challenges agencies have using data



AI, data security and data privacy are most likely to impact agency use of data in the next two years



Data visualization and related tools, data management and governance are the main training needs for agencies



25 – 26 State Data Plan

2025 – 2026 Goals and Next Steps

Goal 1. Increase accessibility and visibility of existing data resources, including tools, software, and training materials.

- Work on 'open data access plans' to inventory online data resources
- Pilot AI tools for open / geodata portals

Goal 2. Make data easier to find and link by improving metadata and documentation.

- Continue development of publication guidelines (input) and regular open data / geodata audits (output)

Goal 3. Identify additional data-related training and resource requirements for agency staff.

- Start training needs assessment in spring 2025
- Develop training calendar for agency staff to know what's coming

2025 – 2026 Goals and Next Steps

Goal 4. Modernize job specifications for data and analytics roles.

- Set up working group with agencies to document challenges attracting / retaining staff into data, analytics, GIS roles

Goal 5. Develop new opportunities for an enterprise data sharing approach.

- Develop secure data enclave and data sharing agreements
- Rebrand P20 WIN to broader service focus
- Launch research collaborative

Goal 6. Develop data governance and data quality policies to support responsible use of AI.

- Starting data quality and data classification policies now
- Develop charter and focus for ADO quarterly meetings!

27 – 28 State Data Plan

2027 – 2028 Goals and Next Steps

Goal 1: Increase accessibility, visibility, and transparency of existing data resources, including tools, software, and training materials.

Identify and adopt a metadata schema for use with public data

Improve online documentation for how to access and request data

Provide more options for training and tutorials for agency and public data users

Track progress and keep agency open data access plans up-to-date

Increase the use of automation to improve freshness metrics for state data

Goal 2: Ensure access to complete and accurate population data

Increase participation in the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) for 2030 Census preparedness

Ensure continued public access to population estimates and projections

2027 – 2028 Goals and Next Steps

Goal 3: Develop a privacy framework for state agencies to use.

Develop a state privacy framework, connected with existing policies on AI, data classification, records retention, and information security

Identify training and resources for agencies to implement privacy best practices

Implement privacy-enhancing technology pilot with state agency

Goal 4: Develop and implement processes to support evidence-based policymaking.

Increase transparency for key indicators and the evidence base for major state initiatives

Improve tools for data sharing through use of template DSAs and secure data enclave

Goal 5: Support responsible use of AI with state data.

Develop and publish policies for data governance, data quality and data retention

Implement solutions to improve accuracy of AI performance on state data

Implement pilot use of AI for data analytics or record linkage

Discussion Questions

- What factors will influence usage of state data in the next two years?
- What are the main barriers to use and access for state data?
- What stakeholders do we need to continue to engage with in the next two years?

Questions & Discussion

Thank you for attending:

Preparing CT for Data Uncertainty: Census 2030 and the State Data Plan

Please Fill out our Session Survey

