

Please review the below key talking points from our national partner, Leadership Conference on Civil & Human Rights regarding the preliminary results from the Census Bureau 2019 Census Test.

1. We only have preliminary results, with no context or more detailed information about the sample. Nevertheless, the conclusions the Census Bureau has drawn are narrow and, therefore, of limited usefulness at this point in time.
2. The test took place in a confusing environment, given the timing of the Supreme Court ruling on the legal challenges to the CQ and the president's reluctance to accept the Court's ruling. We don't know how that aftermath of the Court's ruling affected willingness to respond or not.
3. Regrettably, the administration's unnecessary effort to shoehorn a citizenship question onto the Census form at the 11th hour diverted Census Bureau attention and resources from important final preparations and forced the bureau to conduct a field test far closer to the Census than is operationally wise.
4. Census stakeholders are now laser-focused not on the results of a test that won't help complete this Census, but on the Census Bureau's ability to deploy an adequate field infrastructure, effective communications campaign, and airtight IT security system, despite the administration's failure to release all of the funds that Congress made available to roll out this Census.