

As a county jail administrator for the last three decades, I am not in favor of using prisons and jails to determine an individual's residency for census purposes.

First, and probably most significant for the purpose of gathering accurate data, many jail inmates will be counted twice - once through the monitored collection of census data in the facility, and they will usually still be added to the census by the individual completing the form at their permanent residence. This problem may be less likely with the longer-lasting temporary housing in prisons, but it is still a potential barrier to obtaining the best data possible with the system currently in place.

Bad data leads to errors in decision making, whether it is for the purpose of drawing political boundaries, determining the demographics of a zip code or outlining school districts. Whether or not an inmate can vote should have no bearing on whether or not they are counted accurately; many inmates in jails can and do vote.

Additionally, using prison inmates to draw political districts has created what is quite frankly, shenanigans, when it comes to determining demographics of specific areas. Here are some articles illustrating the type of issues that should concern any citizen, incarcerated or not, who cares about a fair distribution of services and representation:

<http://www.miamiherald.com/news/state/florida/article31489022.html>

<https://aclufl.org/2016/03/21/federal-court-declares-prison-gerrymandering-in-jefferson-county-florida-unconstitutional/>

<http://thinkprogress.org/politics/2015/09/24/3705270/florida-prison-gerrymandering/>

These articles are but a sampling of the issues the state I reside in has had to further legislate and litigate that grow from the practice of the US Census. At the very least, the adult incarcerated population should be treated, census- wise, as is the population of detained juveniles.

Please reconsider the determination to keep the process the same. I would prefer we get and use the most accurate data we can, especially when that data correlates to real live human beings. Surely there is a way to count one as a temporary residence or other method to prevent the problems described previously. Thank you for your consideration.

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