



Bernadette Rabuy <brabuy@prisonpolicy.org>

census assessment of incarcerated persons

William Martin <wgmartin@outlook.com>
To: POP.2020.Residence.Rule@census.gov

Tue, Jul 14, 2015 at 7:32 PM

Dear Karen Humes,

I am writing, in both my personal capacity and as a coordinator of research groups on de/incarceration here at Binghamton University and in the community in response to the Census Bureau's federal register notice regarding the Residence Rule and Residence Situations, 80 FR 28950 (May 20, 2015).

Our members, situated in upstate and small town New York and active in local jail and prison research and teaching, urge the Census to record incarcerated persons in their home, originating, districts. This is commonly couched in New York and elsewhere as an issue for large cities, but as data on New York and other similar states would indicated, many prisoners return to small and rural towns—almost half of New York's released prisons return to "upstate" New York for example—well beyond the New York City metropolitan area.

If we want an accurate picture of the population we need to update the methodology of the Census. Some states have done this; it would be very critical for the Census to change the "usual residence" rule as well. A federal standard would, moreover, provide a common basis for current state rulings which vary considerably.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the Residence Rule and Residence Situations.

Sincerely,

William Martin

Professor

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Coordinator, Decarceration Research Working Group and Binghamton Justice Projects

