

DRB Rules/Requirements for Census 2000 Special Tabulations

September 12, 2002

1. All Census 2000 special tabulations must be reviewed by the Disclosure Review Board.
2. All cells in any Census 2000 special tabulation must be rounded. The rounding schematic is:

0 remains 0

1-7 rounds to 4

8 or greater rounds to nearest multiple of 5 (i.e., 864 rounds to 865, 982 rounds to 980)

Any number that already ends in 5 or 0 stays as is.

Any totals or subtotals needed should be constructed before rounding. This assures that universes remain the same from table to table, and it is recognized that cells in a table will no longer be additive after rounding.

3. Medians or other quantiles may be calculated as an interpolation from a frequency distribution of unrounded data and then are NOT subject to additional rounding, OR they may be picked as a point quantile and then be rounded to two significant digits: 12,345 would round to 12,000; 167,452 would round to 170,000. There must be at least 5 cases on either side of the quantile point. It is recognized that the interpolated quantile may indeed be some individual's response, but it is coincidental, not by design.
4. If geographic codes are shown as a part of the table or data file, show FIPS codes where there is a choice of using Census codes or FIPS codes, except for the American Indian Area/Alaska Native Area/Hawaiian Home Land (AIANAHH) code. (The Census AIANAHH code remains the same across state lines for the same area; the FIPS code does not.) This is not a DRB rule; it is Census Bureau policy.
5. Thresholds on universes will normally be applied to avoid showing data for very small geographic areas or for very small population groups (often 50 unweighted cases for sample data). Tables may normally not have more than 3 or 4 dimensions, and mean cell size lower limits may also be required (mean cell size of each table is 3 for 100% data, or 20 weighted for sample data).
6. Percents, rates, etc., should be calculated after rounding, but the DRB has granted exceptions to this rule when the numerator and/or denominator of the percent or rate is not shown.