



Highlights of [GAO-07-1063T](#), a testimony before the Subcommittee on Information Policy, Census, and National Archives, Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, House of Representatives

Why GAO Did This Study

The Department of Commerce’s U.S. Census Bureau (Bureau) seeks updated information on the addresses and maps of housing units from state, local, and tribal governments through the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) program. This testimony discusses (1) the status of the LUCA program, and (2) the Bureau’s response to prior issues raised by GAO as well as new challenges related to the program.

The testimony is based on a GAO report issued on June 14, 2007. GAO reviewed LUCA program documents, met with and surveyed participants in the LUCA Dress Rehearsal, and interviewed Bureau officials and local officials.

What GAO Recommends

At this time, GAO is not making any new recommendations, but GAO’s June 2007 report recommended that the Secretary of Commerce direct the Bureau to take several actions to improve the LUCA program, including further assessing usability issues of the MAF/TIGER Partnership Software (MTPS) and the computer-based training (CBT) software, as well as providing further instructions on converting files. GAO also recommended that the Bureau collect additional data on localities that agree to participate but provide no response.

www.gao.gov/cgi-bin/getrpt?GAO-07-1063T.

To view the full product, including the scope and methodology, click on the link above. For more information, contact Mathew J. Scireà at (202) 512-6806 or sciremj@gao.gov.

2010 CENSUS

Census Bureau Is Making Progress on the Local Update of Census Addresses Program, but Improvements Are Needed

What GAO Found

The Bureau has conducted its planned LUCA operations in accordance with its published timeline. The Bureau has also taken steps to reduce burden and improve training for localities that participate in LUCA—all areas GAO and others had identified as needing improvement. For instance, to reduce participant burden, the Bureau provided a longer period for reviewing and updating LUCA materials; provided options for submitting materials for the LUCA program; combined the collection of LUCA addresses from two separate operations into one integrated program; and created MAF/TIGER Partnership Software (MTPS), which is designed to assist LUCA program participants in reviewing and updating address and map data. Also, the Bureau has planned improvements to the 2010 LUCA program training and plans to supplement the workshops with computer-based training (CBT).

Time frame	Activity	Status
February 2006	LUCA advance notification letters and informational materials mailed to highest elected officials.	<i>Completed</i>
March to May 2006	Census Bureau invited local governments to participate in the LUCA Program.	<i>Completed</i>
May 2006	Census Bureau conducted training workshops for participants.	<i>Completed</i>
June 2006	Census Bureau shipped the LUCA review materials to each participating government.	<i>Completed</i>
June to October 2006	LUCA participants reviewed and updated the address list and returned their comments to the Census Bureau’s regional office.	<i>Completed</i>
November to December 2006	Census Bureau reviewed the participants’ LUCA submission and updated the MAF/TIGER geographic database.	<i>Completed</i>
April to June 2007	Census Bureau conducts address canvassing (field check) operation.	<i>Under way</i>
December 2007 to January 2008	Participants review feedback materials.	<i>To be completed</i>

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau and GAO analysis.

LUCA participants that GAO surveyed report that they had adequate time to complete the LUCA review, and a majority of the participants were satisfied with the options for submitting materials. However, the Bureau faces new challenges. For instance, the Bureau tested MTPS with only one local government and did not test its CBT software in the LUCA Dress Rehearsal. Also, many participants had difficulty converting Bureau-provided files to their own software formats. Finally, the Bureau does not collect certain data on localities that agree to participate in LUCA but provide no response. This information is needed to fully assess the effect of the LUCA program on address lists and population counts.