Even though most of the survey work is done on the federal level, the North Dakota Census Office is involved in some annual surveys. Three very important surveys in ensuring the most accurate population count, include the Building Permits Survey (BPS), the Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS), and the Group Quarters Report (GQR).

The Building Permits Survey provides national, state, and local statistics on new privately-owned residential construction. The survey collects the number of housing units and the valuation of construction for new single family and multi-family structures. Reporting ensures housing will be credited to the particular governmental entity.

Data from the survey are used as an indicator of economic conditions. Financial institutions use statistics from the survey to estimate mortgage demand. Private businesses use data from the survey for market planning.

The survey is reported in number of structures of single units, double units, three to four units, and five plus units. Data is reported by the government entities on a monthly or annual basis. Participation in the survey is voluntary, though the survey is mandated by law.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, website information and workshop handouts
Preparing for Census 2020
By participating in the 2017 Boundary and Annexation Survey, government entities have the opportunity to verify or update jurisdiction boundaries. Participation will ensure the entities receive a complete list of addresses for their jurisdiction as part of the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) process. LUCA is an opportunity for tribal, state and local governments to review and comment on the U.S. Census Bureau’s residential address list for their jurisdiction prior to the 2020 Census.

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Boundary and Annexation Survey Updates Boundaries
The Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS) is an annual survey of local, county, and tribal governments that allows the participating entity to update their legal boundary and official name. Through the BAS, government entities report any incorporations (disincorporations) and annexations (deannexations). All recognized government boundaries that the U.S. Census Bureau uses can be reviewed through the TigerWeb tool in the Geography section of the U.S. Census Bureau website.

The population count within the boundary is used in programs like the American Community Survey (ACS) and the Population Estimates Program. Since many government agencies and other groups use population count to determine allocation of funding, an accurate boundary ensures the population is allocated to the right government. The upcoming BAS 2017 is especially important as we prepare for the 2020 Census. Addresses will be provided only to the geographic governmental entity that encompasses the respective address. For example, if an incorporated city does not have its boundaries up-to-date, addresses outside will be reviewed (and included) by the county, not the city.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, website information within geography section, Boundary and Annexation Survey Respondent Guide, Issued Nov 2012

Group Quarters Population in North Dakota
The Group Quarters Report (GQR) is an annual survey of places where people live or stay, in a group living arrangement, which is owned or managed by an entity or organization providing housing and/or services for the residents. In-other-words, those places that are not a typical household-type living arrangement.

The seven major group quarters facility types include correctional institutions, juvenile institutions, nursing homes, other institutional facilities, college dormitories, military housing, and other noninstitutional facilities. The Census Bureau does not publically release data by individual facility type but they do release calculated population universes like "civilian noninstitutionalized." An accurate count of the population in these facilities is important as the number is used in the Population Estimates Program (PEP).

From the PEP comes the annual population estimate of our counties and communities.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, website information on Group Quarters Report