

# Good Numbers Make a Good Democracy: Kenneth Prewitt on the Census

**Link:** <https://www.amphilsoc.org/museum/exhibitions/great-talks-american-philosophical-society/good-numbers-make-good-democracy>

**Length:** 1:20:27

**Date:** April 1st, 2020

**Description:** How we are represented in the census shapes nearly every function of our local and national communities. Dr. Kenneth Prewitt, former director of the United States Census Bureau, talks about our right to be counted and what we need to know about the census and how it's conducted. Dr. Prewitt will cover how the census has changed since its creation and where it could be going next.

## **Guiding Questions:**

- How did the early founders use the census to their benefit?
- How can the census be a “tool for the powerless” historically, and in the present day?
- What are some parts of our infrastructure and institutions that are determined by the census? How do nonprofits and businesses use census data?
- What are some of the politicized issues today regarding the census?
- What are some of the biggest changes to the census and how could it continue to change in the future?

**Great for:** Grade 7-12

**Keywords:** US History, government, politics, history