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The Trump White House's Attack on Official Data Is Also an Attack on Democracy

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It should come as no surprise that a president whose first term began with [a dispute over the size of the crowd at his inauguration](#) would begin his second term with a war over numbers. Yet, over the last few months, the Trump administration has unleashed a wave of attacks on official statistics whose scope is far wider than those of his first term. Data can't defend itself, but fights from Trump's first administration offer a road map for resistance.

Since the day of Donald Trump's inauguration, his administration has undertaken multiple actions [undermining the integrity of census figures](#). First, the president issued an executive order revoking a Biden-era order affirming the long-standing precedent of counting noncitizens in the census. The new administration began [taking down data from the bureau's website](#). Earlier this month, Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick [disbanded several outside advisory committees](#) that provide technical expertise to the bureau. And the administration enacted hiring freezes that will [halt census operations](#).