Happy Birthday America!

On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress approved the Declaration of Independence, setting the 13 colonies on the road to freedom as a sovereign nation. As we celebrate Independence Day, we reflect on how our Founding Fathers enshrined the importance of statistics as a vital tool for measuring America in Article 1, Section 2 of the Constitution.

🔍 Did you know? There were 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence. John Hancock was the first signer. Benjamin Franklin was the oldest signer at age 70, and Edward Rutledge was the youngest signer at age 26.

There were an estimated 2.5 million people living in the newly independent United States in July 1776.

Flash forward to April 1, 2020, and the 2020 Census shows the nation’s population was 331,449,281.

For more fun facts about the Fourth of July, visit the U.S. Census Bureau’s Facts for Features page on census.gov.