



2010 CENSUS: *Frequently Asked Questions*

Why should everyone participate in the 2010 Census?

Census data shape the future of your community and define your voice in Congress.

- ▲ Census information helps determine locations for schools, roads, hospitals, child-care and senior citizen centers, and more.
- ▲ Businesses use census data to locate supermarkets, shopping centers, new housing and other facilities.
- ▲ The census determines how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives as well as the boundaries of legislative districts.

How will the 2010 Census differ from previous census efforts?

In the last census, one in six households received a long questionnaire asking for detailed socioeconomic information. In 2010, every residence will receive a short questionnaire that is simple and fast to complete and return. More detailed information will be collected annually from a small percentage of the population through the American Community Survey.

Will the information the Census Bureau collects remain confidential?

Yes. Every Census Bureau worker takes an oath for life to protect the confidentiality of census responses. Violation would result in a jail term of up to five years and/or fine of up to \$250,000. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share an individual's answers with anyone, including welfare and immigration agencies.

Why are partners so important to the 2010 Census campaign?

More than 140,000 organizations supported Census 2000, including state and local governments, community- and faith-based organizations, schools, media, businesses and others. The Census Bureau relies on partners to help explain the importance of completing the 2010 Census message to people in every corner of the United States. This is particularly important in areas isolated by language or geography. By joining forces with partners, the Census Bureau has a far greater chance to reach every U.S. resident than by attempting this monumental task alone.

2010 Census Timeline: Key Dates

Fall 2008

Recruitment begins for local census jobs for early census operations.

Spring 2009

Census employees go door-to-door to update address list nationwide.

Fall 2009

Recruitment begins for census takers needed for peak workload in 2010.

February - March 2010

Census questionnaires are mailed or delivered to households.

April 1, 2010

Census Day

April - July 2010

Census takers visit households that did not return a questionnaire by mail.

December 2010

By law, Census Bureau delivers population counts to President for apportionment.

March 2011

By law, Census Bureau completes delivery of redistricting data to states.

For more information about the 2010 Census, please go to www.census.gov/2010census.