



2010 CENSUS: *Frequently Asked Questions*

Why should members of community-based and social service organizations 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.
- ▲ Government officials use census data to allocate funding and grants to high-need areas and non-profit organizations.

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 community-based and social service groups so important to the 2010 Census?

More than 140,000 organizations supported Census 2000, including community-based organizations, state and local governments, faith-based organizations, schools, media, businesses and others. Through partnerships, the Census Bureau has a far greater chance to reach every U.S. resident than by attempting this monumental task alone. As a trusted partner, you can convey the importance of the census, particularly to community members isolated by language or geography. For example, you can refer applicants for census jobs, include census information on bulletin boards and in newsletters, and provide space for census activities.

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.