

10 QUESTIONS MINUTES

TO DEFINE WHO WE ARE AS A NATION

The Census: A Snapshot

- **What:** The census is a count of everyone residing in the United States.
- **Who:** All U.S. residents must be counted—both citizens and non citizens.
- **When:** You will receive your questionnaire in March 2010 either by U.S. mail or hand delivery. Some people in remote areas will be counted in person.
- **Why:** The U.S. Constitution requires a national census once every 10 years to count the population and determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives.
- **How:** Households should complete and mail back their questionnaires upon receipt. Households that do not respond may receive a replacement questionnaire in early April. Census takers will visit households that do not return questionnaires to take a count in person.

A Complete Count:

The Importance of Census Data

- Every year, the federal government allocates more than \$400 billion to states and communities based, in part, on census data.
- Census data are used to determine locations for retail stores, schools, hospitals, new housing developments and other community facilities.
- Census data determine boundaries for state and local legislative and congressional districts.

2010 Census Questionnaire:

Easy, Important and Safe

- With only 10 questions, the 2010 Census questionnaire takes approximately 10 minutes to complete. Households are asked to provide key demographic information, including: whether a housing unit is rented or owned; the address of the residence; and the names, genders, ages and races of others living in the household.
- By law, the Census Bureau cannot share an individual's responses with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities.

United States
**Census
2010**

CENSUS HISTORY

The first census took place in 1790 to determine the number of seats each state would have in the U.S. House of Representatives. The census also was created to gain a better understanding of where people lived and to establish patterns of settlement as the nation grew.

ABOUT THE CENSUS BUREAU

The Census Bureau was established in 1902. Today, in addition to administering the census of population and housing, the Census Bureau conducts more than 200 annual surveys, including the American Community Survey, the Current Population Survey and economic censuses every five years.



**We can't
move forward
until you
send it back!**

2010 Census Key Dates



February - March 2010

Census questionnaires are mailed or delivered to households.



March - April 2010

Be Counted program is implemented. Census questionnaires are available at select public sites for individuals who did not receive one by mail.



April 1, 2010

CENSUS DAY



May - July 2010

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



Dec. 31, 2010

By law, the Census Bureau delivers population counts to the president.



March 2011

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

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Q. Who should fill out the census questionnaire?

A. The individual in whose name the housing unit is owned or rented should complete the questionnaire on behalf of every person living in the residence, including relatives and non-relatives.

2. Q. How will the 2010 Census differ from previous censuses?

A. In 2010, every residence will receive a short questionnaire of just 10 questions. More detailed socioeconomic information previously collected through the decennial census will be asked of a small percentage of the population through the annual American Community Survey. To learn more about the American Community Survey, visit www.census.gov.

3. Q. How are census data used?

A. Census data determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives. Census data also can help determine the allocation of federal funds for community services, such as school lunch programs and senior citizen centers, and new construction, such as highways and hospitals.

4. Q. What kind of assistance is available to help people complete the questionnaire?

A. 2010 Census questionnaire language assistance guides are available in a variety of languages. Questionnaire Assistance Centers (QAC) will also assist those unable to read or understand the questionnaire. Large-print questionnaires are available to the visually impaired upon request, and a Teletext Device for the Deaf (TDD) program will help the hearing impaired. Contact your Regional Census Center for more details about the types of assistance available and for QAC locations.

5. Q. How does the Census Bureau count people without a permanent residence?

A. Census Bureau workers undertake extensive operations to take in-person counts of people living in group quarters, such as college dormitories, military barracks, nursing homes and shelters, as well as those who have been displaced by natural disasters.

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



2010 CENSUS
IT'S IN OUR HANDS

**THE 2010 CENSUS
PROTECTING YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION**

2010 IS THE CENSUS YEAR – STAND UP AND BE COUNTED...BUT DON'T BE A VICTIM

April 1, 2010 is Census Day, and Census Forms will be mailed in February and March 2010. A Census Form is mailed to every address to gather basic information about every person living at each address including name, age, gender, race, and other information. By mailing back the Census Form you stand up to be counted and help our community move forward!

Generally beginning in April, Census takers will go out into our community to visit the addresses that did NOT send back a filled out Census Form. A Census taker may visit a home many times. If someone is not there, the Census taker will leave a phone number that the residents can call to schedule a visit by the Census taker. The Census is required by the U.S. Constitution which is why the Census visits you if the Census form is not returned. If a Census Form is returned late, a Census taker may be sent to visit your home before the Form arrives back to the Census Bureau. You make the Census better and make it cost less by filling out and mailing back the Census Form! Sometimes a Census taker is also sent to a few houses to check that the information on a Census Form that was sent in is correct.

A big question is - how do you tell the difference between a U.S. Census taker and a con artist?

If a Census taker knocks on your door - ask to see their ID. All census takers carry official government badges marked with just their name. The census taker will never ask to enter your home. You don't have to invite them into your home – you can speak with them at the door, or step outside and speak with them on the porch where your friends and neighbors can see – its only 10 Questions for 10 Minutes. **The census taker will ONLY ask the questions that appear on the Census Form.** Answer the Census Form questions for your entire household (you must be at least 15 years old to answer questions) so that the Census taker can record the results.

If you're still not certain about their identity, please call the Regional Census Center to confirm they are employed by the Census Bureau. For Florida, the numbers are 1-800-923-8282 or (404)-335-1555.

The Census Bureau will not ask for Social Security Number, bank account numbers, credit card numbers, or PIN numbers, nor will employees solicit donations. Anyone asking for that information is NOT with the Census Bureau!

Census takers may contact you by telephone, mail, or in person at home. However, the Census Bureau does NOT do the Census by Email. Be on the lookout for Email scams impersonating the Census. DO NOT reply or click on a link or open any attachments in an Email supposedly from the U.S. Census Bureau. You can forward an email or website address supposedly from the Census to the Census Bureau at itso.fraud.reporting@census.gov.

You can visit the U.S. Census Bureau's 2010 Census website at www.2010Census.gov. You can view the Census's PROTECTING YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION webpage at <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/privacy/index.php>.