

# 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 move  
forward when  
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](http://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 [2010census.gov](http://2010census.gov).



2010 CENSUS  
IT'S IN OUR HANDS

# Why the Census Bureau asks these 10 Questions

Each question helps to determine how more than \$400 billion in federal funding will be allocated to communities across the country.

**1.** How many people were living or staying in this house, apartment, or mobile home on April 1, 2010?

Number of people =

We ask this question to help get an accurate count of the number of people in the household on Census Day, April 1, 2010. The answer should be based on the guidelines in the "Start here" section. We use this information to ensure response accuracy and completeness and to contact respondents whose forms have incomplete or missing information.

**2.** Were there any additional people staying here April 1, 2010 that you did not include in Question 1? Mark  all that apply.

- Children, such as newborn babies or foster children
- Relatives, such as adult children, cousins, or in-laws
- Nonrelatives, such as roommates or live-in baby sitters
- People staying here temporarily
- No additional people

Asked since 1880. We ask this question to help identify people who may have been excluded in the count provided in Question 1. We use the information to ensure response accuracy and completeness and to contact respondents whose forms have incomplete or missing information.

**3.** Is this house, apartment, or mobile home — Mark  ONE box.

- Owned by you or someone in this household with a mortgage or loan? *Include home equity loans.*
- Owned by you or someone in this household free and clear (without a mortgage or loan)?
- Rented?
- Occupied without payment of rent?

Asked since 1890. Homeownership rates serve as an indicator of the nation's economy. The data are also used to administer housing programs and to inform planning decisions.

**4.** What is your telephone number? We may call if we don't understand an answer.

Area Code + Number

-  -

We ask for a phone number in case we need to contact a respondent when a form is returned with incomplete or missing information.

**5.** Please provide information for each person living here. Start with a person living here who owns or rents this house, apartment, or mobile home. If the owner or renter lives somewhere else, start with any adult living here. This will be Person 1.

What is Person 1's name? *Print name below.*

Last Name

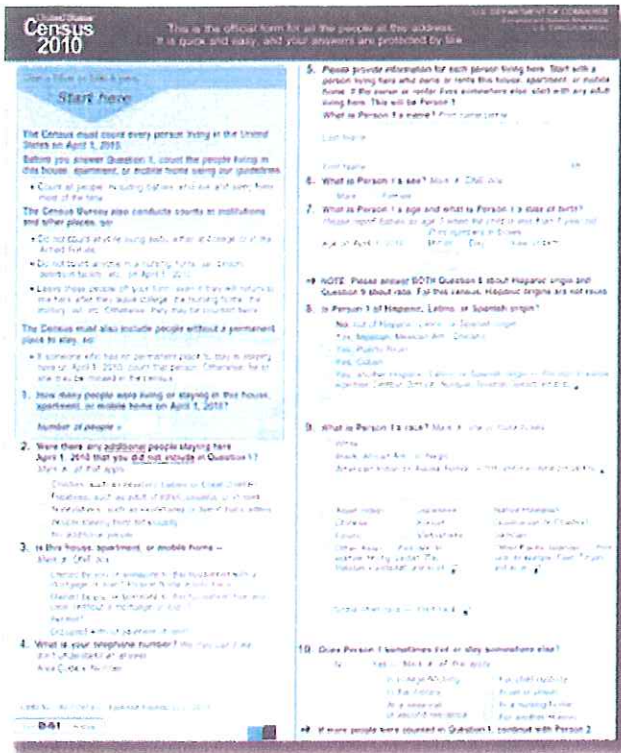
First Name  MI

Listing the name of each person in the household helps the respondent to include all members, particularly in large households where a respondent may forget who was counted and who was not. Also, names are needed if additional information about an individual must be obtained to complete the census form. Federal law protects the confidentiality of personal information, including names.

**6.** What is Person 1's sex? Mark  ONE box.

- Male
- Female

Asked since 1790. Census data about sex are important because many federal programs must differentiate between males and females for funding, implementing and evaluating their programs. For instance, laws promoting equal employment opportunity for women require census data on sex. Also, sociologists, economists and other researchers who analyze social and economic trends use the data.



**9. What is Person 1's race? Mark  one or more boxes.**

White  
 Black, African Am., or Negro  
 American Indian or Alaska Native — *Print name of enrolled or principal tribe.*

Asian Indian     Japanese     Native Hawaiian  
 Chinese     Korean     Guamanian or Chamorro  
 Filipino     Vietnamese     Samoan  
 Other Asian — *Print race, for example, Hmong, Laotian, Thai, Pakistani, Cambodian, and so on.*   
 Other Pacific Islander — *Print race, for example, Fijian, Tongan, and so on.*

Some other race — *Print race.*

**Asked since 1790. Race is key to implementing many federal laws and is needed to monitor compliance with the Voting Rights Act and the civil Rights Act. State governments use the data to determine congressional, state and local voting districts. Race data are also used to assess fairness of employment practices, to monitor racial disparities in characteristics such as health and education and to plan and obtain funds for public services.**

**7. What is Person 1's age and what is Person 1's date of birth? Please report babies as age 0 when the child is less than 1 year old. Print numbers in boxes.**

Age on April 1, 2010    Month    Day    Year of birth

**Asked since 1800. Federal, state and local governments need data about age to interpret most social and economic characteristics, such as forecasting the number of people eligible for Social Security or Medicare benefits. The data are widely used in planning and evaluating government programs and policies that provide funds or services for children, working-age adults, women of childbearing age, or the older population.**

**10. Does Person 1 sometimes live or stay somewhere else?  No     Yes — Mark  all that apply.**

In college housing     For child custody  
 In the military     In jail or prison  
 At a seasonal or second residence     In a nursing home  
 For another reason

→ If more people were counted in Question 1, continue with Person 2.

**This is another question we ask in order to ensure response accuracy and completeness and to contact respondents whose forms have incomplete or missing information.**

**8. Is Person 1 of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?**

No, not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin  
 Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano  
 Yes, Puerto Rican  
 Yes, Cuban  
 Yes, another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin — *Print origin, for example, Argentinian, Colombian, Dominican, Nicaraguan, Salvadoran, Spaniard, and so on.*

**Asked since 1970. The data collected in this questionnaire needed by federal agencies to monitor compliance with anti-discrimination provisions, such as under the Voting Rights Act and the Civil Rights Act. State and local governments may use the data to help plan and administer bilingual programs for people of Hispanic origin.**

**If you have any additional questions, you can call or visit a Questionnaire Assistance Center. Call 313-396-5200 to find a Questionnaire Assistance Center near you.**

