



Overview

- The census is a count of everyone residing in the United States.
- All U.S. residents must be counted – people of all races and ethnic groups, both citizens and non-citizens.
- Census Day is **April 1, 2010**. Questionnaire responses should represent the household as it exists on this day. More detailed socioeconomic information will be collected annually from a small percentage of the population through the American Community Survey.
- The U.S. Constitution requires a national census once every 10 years. The census will show state population counts and determine representation in the U.S. House of Representatives.
- Census questionnaires will be delivered or mailed to households via U.S. mail in March 2010; many households will receive a replacement questionnaire in early April. Census workers also will visit households that do not return questionnaires.
- The 2010 Census will consist of a very short form, just ten easy questions.

Is Census Data Confidential?

YES!

Your answers are protected by law and are strictly confidential. It is illegal for the Census Bureau, or its employees, to share your personal information with any other government agency – not law enforcement, IRS, Welfare, FBI, Immigration, etc. No court of law, not even the President of the United States, can access your individual responses.

Why is the 2010 Census Important?

- **Census affects funding in your community**
Census data directly affect how more than \$400 billion per year in federal and state funding is allocated to communities for neighborhood improvements, public health, education, transportation and much more. That's more than \$4 trillion over a 10-year period. Spending just a few minutes to fill out your census form will help ensure your community gets its fair share of federal and state funding.
- **Census affects your voice in Congress**
Mandated by the U.S. Constitution, the census is also used to apportion seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and to redistrict state legislatures. After the 1980 Census, New York State lost five of our 39 Congressional seats. After the 1990 Census we lost another three seats and after the 2000 Census we lost another two seats. Based on Census Bureau projections, New York State is likely to lose another two of our 29 Congressional seats. New York State is growing but not as rapidly as other states. **However, if every New York State resident is counted, we will minimize the loss to just one of our seats in the House of Representatives.**
- **Census affects your representation in state and local government**
Census data are used to define legislature districts, school district assignment areas and other important functional areas of government.
- **Census informs your community's decisions**
The census is like a snapshot that helps define who we are as a nation. Data about changes in your community are crucial to many planning decisions, such as where to provide services for the elderly, where to build new roads and schools, or where to locate job training centers.

How Else is Census Data Used?

Census data is used by Federal, State, and local government, as well as businesses, community groups, and individuals in:

- Directing funds for services for people in poverty.
- Planning for hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, and the location of other health services.
- Determining areas eligible for housing assistance and rehabilitation loans.
- Forecasting future transportation needs for all segments of the population.
- Designing public safety strategies.
- Directing funds for services for the elderly, the disabled and veterans.

- Estimating the number of people displaced by natural disasters.
- Determining the location of food stores, pharmacies, and other essential services.
- Understanding consumer needs.
- Drawing school district boundaries.
- Attracting new businesses to state and local areas.
- Planning public transportation services.

More Information

For more information about the 2010 Census, please visit www.census.gov.