

Census 2010

March 23 & 29, 2010 Webinar Questions

Why are individuals who are not citizens still counted?

The United States Constitution, Article I, Section II, mandates a count of all persons living in the United States be taken every 10 years. The Census Act of March 1790 specified that all residents be counted, citizens and non citizens alike. Every Census since has been conducted this way and the law regarding this method has been upheld ever since by subsequent laws and by the Supreme Court.

Will the police be notified when the enumerators are in the field?

Police agencies nationwide received information and posters from the Bureau's Security Office notifying them of ongoing census activity, Additionally the types of identification badges carried by Decennial enumerators and Census Field Representatives were depicted on the posters. During service based enumeration activities local police may be notified that enumerators will be working in the area.

Do you count in-laws who are visiting from China but been here for seven months?

Residents of foreign countries who are living or staying here are counted in the census. Residents of foreign countries temporarily traveling in the U.S. are not included in the census count.

What do I do with the form I received for my second home? I am only there part of the time and also received a form for my main residence.

You should enter a zero (0) in Item 1 for the number of people and return the form in the postage paid envelope. If your second home is vacant on Census Day you do not need to return the form. Your second home will be visited during our follow up operations this summer. The Census Day status of the unit will be determined at that time. **You should complete and mail back the form you received for your main residence.**

My student mentioned learning about the Census at school. Are there specific programs in schools?

The CENSUS IN SCHOOLS program is designed to work with schools, parents and students to provide them with census data and information about the 2010 Census.

For more information on this program go to our Website at <http://www.census.gov/schools/> or call 1-800-396-1167.

Tell us more about the "Be Counted" site; how is a location selected as a be counted site?

Be Counted Sites are public places where anyone who did not receive a Census form or who believes they were left off of the form received at their place of residence may pick up another form. The sites are determined with the help of our Partners. This allows us to place forms in areas where they are most needed. Sites can be added throughout the program which ends on April 19, 2010.

What do you do if you lost your form? I don't have the ID number from the form.

If you lost or misplace your questionnaire, call the Telephone Assistance Center at one of the following numbers:

English 1-866-872-6868

Chinese 1-866-935-2010

Korean 1-866-955-2010

Russian 1-866-965-2010

Spanish 1-866-928-2010

Vietnamese 1-866-945-2010

TDD 1-866-783-2010

Callers may request a form now if they have the Census ID or between April 12 and April 22 if they do not have the Census ID.

When will all the Census operations end?

While Census Day is April 1, 2010 Decennial follow up and field verification operations may continue through the August or later. In addition Census Coverage programs will be contacting a small number of households through January 2011. The Census Bureau also gathers information on a variety of government economic and statistical programs and has Field Representatives working throughout the year. Participants in these surveys can be contacted more than once based on the survey.

You mentioned a person is counted at their usual residence. What is the rule for length of time living at a certain address?

Usual residence is the place where you live or stay **most of the time**. Usual residence is not necessarily your legal residence.

There's been a lot of discussion within the Black community regarding the Census use of the word Negro. How does the Census distinguish between Black, African American, and Negro as used in one of the questions? Why in this day, does the Census use the word Negro?

The Census Bureau collects race data in accordance with the guidelines provided by the US Office of Budget and Management and these data are based on self identification. The racial categories included in the census questionnaire generally reflect a social definition of race recognized in this country. The term Negro was included because Census 2000 data showed that a substantial number of respondents wrote in the term "Negro" in response to the question even though the term was already included in the category for the check box . This does not include the numbers of respondents who may have checked the "Black, African American or Negro" because of the presence of the "Negro" identifier.

How do I know the person who visits my home works for the census?

Decennial Census employees will have a Census ID Badge with their name and a Black U.S. Census Bag. You may also ask them to provide the number for the local Census office to verify their identity. Field Representatives working on the American Community Survey and other government statistical studies will carry a picture ID and a laptop computer. These employees will provide you with a number to contact at our Philadelphia Regional Office to verify their identity.

Will there be any long forms sent out?

No the long form questionnaire has been replaced by the American Community Survey. (ACS). The ACS is part of the decennial census program and is essentially what used to be long form. ACS data are collected continuously throughout the year and throughout the decade from a sample of the population in each county in the United States. Since the information is gathered in this way the data from the ACS is current and therefore available on an ongoing basis. The ACS uses permanent Census staff, who have detailed knowledge of the survey, to collect the data. Households receiving both the ACS and the Census 2010 questionnaire should complete and return both forms.

The majority of our municipal population is seasonal dwellings. The same services must be provided whether the folks are at their camps full time or not: How can we get them counted as part of the population for our municipality?

The census counts persons at their usual place of residence. This is determined by where they stay most of the time. If they have no usual residence and split their time equally they would be counted where they stayed on Census Day April 1, 2010.

This is a census of population and housing therefore the data on the number of housing units can also be used by planners and government in determining programs for your area.

If so much is gender based, why are the names of people in the household necessary?

We request names to ensure that people are not counted twice in the census, to help eliminate simple errors like counting "Mary Jones" as a male and to allow you, and only you, to obtain a record from the Census Bureau at a later time if necessary. This information about yourself can be used as proof of age to obtain Social Security or other benefits, as proof of citizenship to obtain a passport, or family relationships when needed for official proof for other purposes.

Although names are requested, we treat names the same as other census information in that all information is protected by law and held confidential. Only statistical data can be released or published. The Census Bureau cannot publish or release information that would identify you or your household.

Why do you ask for age?

All questions on the form have a legal reason to be asked. Age is used in determining need for programs that target funds or services to children, working-age adults, women of child-bearing age and the older population. Under the Voting Rights Act, the data on population and voting age are required for redistricting. The U.S. Dept of Education uses age data in its formula for allotments to states. The U. S. Dept of Veteran's Affairs uses age to develop its

mandated state projections on the need for hospitals, nursing homes, cemeteries, domiciliary services and other benefits to veterans.

Is there any GIS information that your Bureau shares to local municipalities after the count is completed? And if so, where and when can that data be obtained?

TIGER files (GIS) are publicly available. There will be no individual information showing specific addresses or structures on these files (Title 13 protects the confidentiality of this information).

For additional information on geography programs visit::

<http://www.census.gov/geo/www/programs.html>

How will our soldiers that are deployed be counted, or won't they?

Overseas military personnel, both stationed and deployed (including the National Guard), will be counted as part of the U.S. overseas population. This includes military personnel assigned to military ships with overseas homeports. The military are self-enumerating therefore the Census Bureau will receive these counts from the Dept of Defense, based on their home of record as close to April 1 2010 as possible. They are then counted as a resident of their home state for apportionment purposes.

We are one of the fastest growing communities in the state. When will we be eligible for Liquid Fuels Funds based on the new population counts? Will it be in 2011 or 2012?

Apportionment counts will be delivered to the President by December 31. 2010.

Population counts needed for redistricting will be delivered to states no later than April 1, 2011.

Other data products and information will be released on a flow basis from April 2011 Through September 2013.

More detailed population and housing information is available from the American Community Survey.

For senior housing sites, does one form get filled out for ALL residents in the home?

Each unit or apartment in senior housing will receive a separate Census form to be filled out by the occupant or occupants of the individual housing unit. Everyone living or staying in the house or apartment should be included on the form.

Nursing homes are considered to be group quarters and an Individual Census Report (ICR) will be completed during Group Quarters enumeration beginning in April. Each person in a room or bed within a room will be counted on an individual form.

Enumeration at Nursing Homes, Prisons, Colleges: Are recent residents in nursing homes being counted in the group counting or should they be included in the Census form mailed to their previous permanent address?

Nursing homes are considered to be group quarters and an Individual Census Report (ICR) will be completed during Group Quarters enumeration beginning in April. Each person in a room or bed within a room will be counted on an individual form. Residents of nursing homes should not be included on the form for their permanent residence.

When there is more than one family in a home how can they all fill out only one form?

Enter the total number of all persons living or staying in the home in Item #1. List the remaining household members and complete the required information. You can list information for up to 12 persons. Include a telephone number in Item 4. You will be contacted later, by phone, to complete information for the additional people in the household.

How do you count, or do you count, students who are studying abroad for the semester?

US citizens not employed by the federal government who are working, studying or living overseas will not be included in the census. The Census Bureau will adhere to the same process and residence rules used in the two previous censuses. The U.S. Supreme Court has twice approved this process.

As a rural municipality, we received maps in late 2009 that the road names were changed: How will these maps have the correct names replaced? We did not make the changes and we are unaware who did this. Will this affect the effort?

Maps were updated during the Address Canvassing operation and again this year during the Update Leave operation in rural areas. The enumerator was trained to work from what is actually observed on the ground and update the maps to match that information. If you have specific questions about your municipality you may contact our geography department at the 1-866-511-5822.

If we have complete count committees established, what is expected of the Municipalities?

Municipalities can work with the complete count committees to insure their constituents are counted. Many municipalities have websites or newsletters that can be used to encourage residents complete and mail back the Census form as soon as it is received. Look at our website to view the mail return rate for your area. If it is low you can contact your partners and get the word out on the importance of completing the Census form. It has been estimated that municipalities can lose up to \$1300 in government funding for each person who is not counted. In addition we are asking our partners, including the Complete Count Committees, to take part in the “ March to the Mailbox” on April 10. This is a final effort to encourage residents in the lowest responding Census tracts to complete and mail their forms back on that day. We hope to have up to 250 volunteers in each of these areas spreading the word, by parades, block parties, lawn signs and fliers the need to be counted. Municipal officials can make this happen by providing permits and emergency services when asked. More information is available by calling Partnership at 215-717-1074.

We have had people complain that they were frightened by someone who knocked at their door stating they were Census employees: Wouldn't it be safer to have an ID card with a picture on it? I understand that the choice to allow them in the home is up to the owner,

but in our township, we do have many elderly people and having proper ID would be better. Is it possible to have the enumerator just leave the form and have the resident mail it back?

The Census Bureau will hire 1.2 million people nationwide to conduct operations this year. Everyone who is hired will pass a security clearance and fingerprint check. All Census employees will carry a badge with their name on it and will provide the name and telephone number of the local census office if a resident wishes to confirm identity.

The form the enumerator will use is designed to be completed as an interview and contains instruction to the enumerator on how to fill out the form as the interview progresses. Additionally the enumerator will not have a mailing envelope to leave.

How does an individual obtain a Census form if they did not receive one in the mail or a form was not hand delivered?

Call the Telephone Assistance Center at one of the following numbers:

English	1-866-872-6868
Chinese	1-866-935-2010
Korean	1-866-955-2010
Russian	1- 866-965-2010
Spanish	1-866-928-2010
Vietnamese	1-866-945-2010

At my residence, I received the form at the beginning of the month. I filled it out and mailed it in: Will there be another form? Or is this the same form that the constituents will be receiving in the mail?

2010 Census questionnaires were hand delivered to housing units in some rural and urban areas beginning March 1 2010. If your household received a questionnaire in this manner it is the same form that was mailed to households where the mailing address is the same as their street address. You should not receive a second form.

If my child is considered a resident of my city but attends college elsewhere in the state, why do I not count her as living in my town? It seems that the college municipality will get credit for more residents when in fact they are just part time residents. If college students are not to be included, why is there question # 10?

Students living away at college are considered residents of the community in which they usually reside. Since they spend most of the year at school that is where they are counted. As residents of college town the students are provided services by the community. From emergency services, such as ambulances and hospitals, to transportation services the funding for many of these are based on Census statistics. Even the roads we drive on to visit our students could be a result of local, state or government funds based on the Census.

We have a prison in our borough. Is the prison population counted toward our municipality's population?

Prison populations are counted where they are incarcerated on Census Day. Therefore, they would be count toward your municipality's population.

Why is a signature NOT required on the Census form?

The Census Bureau trusts that the information you provide is accurate and true and therefore does not require a signature for certification.

Will Census takers go into drug and gang areas to get counts or are the numbers averaged?

The census must be taken in all areas of our communities. In order to do this we have recruited and will hire residents of all neighborhoods to work on the census. Those residents are familiar with the areas in which they live and are more likely to be accepted if the area has to be visited in person. In addition we have procedures in place to enumerate in difficult areas that protect the safety of our employees and the residents. The Census Bureau does not average the numbers.

Many believe that by not filling out the Census and just posting on their door how many live in their home will be enough for the visiting Census taker. True or False?

The Census is required by law, and each question has a legal reason for being asked. From funding for education, social programs and sustaining the infrastructure of our communities the answers to all of the questions have a direct impact on each of us.

This year's Census with just 10 questions takes just 10 minutes to answer and every question is important.

What kinds of activities can municipalities do to ensure that our residents fill out their form?

Take part in the March to the Mailbox on April 10. While this is geared to Census tracts with low response rates every community can encourage people to complete and mail their questionnaire back by that date. You can also place public service announcements in local news media either on your own or with your Complete Count Committee members reminding your constituent of the importance of the census. If you have used census data to obtain funding for local improvements or are planning to do so in the future you could mention the way the data was used. Have you obtained funding for a new library or school, community development grants to fund improvements or funding for local police protection. If so be sure the public is aware of the census data used to obtain these funds. For every 1% of households that do not return the census form it costs millions of dollars to follow up.

Will the Census bureau be doing any advertising blitzes to promote the form and encourage people to fill them out and send them back in?

The Census Bureau is currently advertising on Television and Radio. You may have seen some of the advertising with the Census message: 10 Questions 10 minutes. We also have a National Road Tour. The Road Tour van has visited communities and events

around our 5 state region since the kick-off in January at the Constitution Center in Philadelphia.

The tour has visited a variety of places including the Pennsylvania Farm Show in Harrisburg . The road tour gives visitors an opportunity to become part of the Portrait of America by having their picture included in the map of the US that is part of the tour. Our Complete Count Committees have been instrumental in obtaining advertising in newsletters, community bulletins as well as in fliers in mailings put out by private industry and local and state government.

I am a local government official, but my outreach to certain populations may not be well received. Who is best to deliver the Census message?

The Census Bureau has partnered with local community groups and organizations in all areas. Local Complete Count Committees are made up of members from all segments of our communities. These are most often the trusted messenger who will be able to deliver the Census message to their friends and neighbors. The Census has always counted on neighbors counting neighbors whether as enumerators or the trusted voice that carries the message.

I saw the “Take 10” participation map is up, how often will it be updated?

The map is updated daily.

Are there promotional items available to “encourage” completion? Just thinking, we get a lot of people attending our Easter Egg Hunt and our Senior Center; it would be a good opportunity to approach residents.

Contact partnership at 215-717-1074. We are asking community groups and organizations to take part in the March to the Mailbox on April 10. Promotional items for this event will be available. You may be able to obtain additional items for other events by contacting the above number.

What is the process after the first numbers are made public and our community believes there is an undercount? Is there an appeals process?

The Census Bureau is committed to conducting an accurate and complete enumeration. There will be multiple operations with hundreds of components in place to ensure that everyone is included in the census. The Bureau is particularly focused on counting hard to count populations. This commitment is central to the communications and partnership programs which will motivate people to respond to the census and cooperate with enumerators. A Coverage Measurement Evaluation is in place to measure the completeness and accuracy of the count. The Census Bureau will not adjust the 2010 apportionment or redistricting numbers.

As a person recognized by Mayor and has church location that could be a designated deaf Philadelphia “Be Counted Site”, she would like to know why they have not been notified, tested, trained and prepared to help the deaf?

The Census Bureau, in conjunction with our partners, has reached out to all segments of the population through advertising in print as well as other media. We have also partnered, through the Complete Count Committees, community groups, government offices and others to get the word out about recruiting and testing everyone who is interested in working for the

Census Bureau. In addition we have set up Questionnaire Assistance Centers for anyone who has difficulty completing the 2010 Census form. We want to insure that anyone who is interested in working for the Census will be given the opportunity to take the test.

Do those counts include for example foreign exchange students? Do they get counted too?

Foreign Exchange students studying in the United States on April 1, 2010 are included in the Census form at the address where they are staying.

How can a municipality access the “Take 10 Map?”

By accessing the Census Website www.2010.census.gov follow the links to the TAKE 10 map.

How can the residents in this area of town get their forms?

If you have not yet received a form in the mail or had one delivered to you by a census enumerator, you may contact the Telephone Questionnaire Assistance Center at 1-866-872-6868 after April 12, 2010. This is to allow time for all forms to be delivered. You may also go to a Questionnaire Assistance Center or a Be Counted Center to pick up a form. You may wait for the census enumerator to visit your home to complete the questionnaire in person. If you return the Be Counted form or a form sent to you by the Telephone Assistance Center, an enumerator may still visit your household to verify the geographic location. This is to be sure you have been counted in the correct municipality.

We already had a fashion show with the “Count on Us it is in Our Hands” theme- how long can we use this theme on events?

This would be a valuable message throughout follow up operations. Census enumerators will be visiting households from which a Census form was not received through July 2010.

Just wondering, what do you think your percentage of return rate will be when it’s all said and done? 60%... 80%?

The national average in 2000 was 72%. From a low of 64%, to a high of 84%, with Pennsylvania just around the average. With all of the partnerships forged with Complete Count Committees, state and local governments, I would hope to see our communities meet or exceed the 2000 return. There is a substantial saving, in taxpayer dollars, for every one percent of mail return. It costs 42 cents to mail back your form. It costs approximately \$57 per household to follow up in person.

Remember, IT IS IN OUR HANDS, so encourage everyone who has received their form to fill it out and mail it back. It’s not too late.

What are some examples of programs whose operation or funding depend on census counts?

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) funds are used by communities for funding infrastructure, building new libraries, police stations, health centers and schools.

Pennsylvania Liquid Fuel Funds- returned to local municipalities to fund road paving and repair.

U.S. Dept of Health and Human services uses census data to fund, implement and evaluate various programs such as WIC, a supplemental food program for women, infants and children,

LIHEAP, an energy assistance program for low income households.

State and social planners analyze the data to predict future needs for housing, education, childcare, health care, transportation and employment.

Each community in the state may have used Census statistics as the basis for funding requests. Local residents may be aware that a particular project received funding from federal or state government programs. They may not be aware that Census statistics are the basis for those funds.

We've had residents express concern over completing the American Community Survey. They have completed the Take 10 form. Will they still be visited this summer for a follow-up?

The American Community Survey (ACS) takes the place of the long form questionnaire used in past Censuses. The statistics from both the ACS and the 2010 Census questionnaire form the basis for decisions made on funding for numerous government programs. Decennial population and housing counts as well as the data from the American Community Survey are used to disseminate over 400 billion dollars in funds to state and local governments. As such both are required by law and all information provided by the respondent is kept confidential. If they did not return the ACS they may be visited by a Census Field Representative, who will complete the interview using a laptop computer. Follow up for the 2010 Census, when necessary, will be conducted by census enumerators using a paper census questionnaire. Residents who have completed and mailed back their forms may be visited during one of our quality control operations.

On a webinar I heard you can call and do over the phone the questionnaire. However, I called a 800 number and they said not, so what is the right answer and what is the number if you can call and do over the phone?

Telephone Questionnaire Assistance centers can take a phone interview now only if the caller has their Census ID from the 2010 Census form.

Anyone who does not have the Census ID number can call the between **April 2 and July30.**

The number to call is: 1-866-872-6868

What does the Census recommend for those with vacation homes who spend six months in two separate states?

They should complete the form at the house where they are staying on Census Day April 1, 2010.

How does the Census avoid double counting transient population such as college students?

Item 10 on the Census questionnaire is one indication that college students or others listed on the form could have been counted on another form. The Census Bureau does a matching operation to insure that everyone is counted once and only once.

How does the Census plan to address refusals to cooperate or be counted?

Enumerators are trained to answer the respondents concerns and questions. The knowledge that the information they provide is confidential by law as well as the uses of the data is the most effective way of gaining cooperation of reluctant respondents.

Some communities may still have low response rates, despite all the efforts to increase responses.

That is why it is important for everyone who will benefit from accurate Census data to look at the TAKE 10 map every day. Once it is evident that your response rates are low it would be helpful to ask members of the community, the Complete Count Committees and local leaders to get the word out on the impact the low response will have on the community . And remember that the mail response is just one way we will count everyone. Enumerators will visit every housing unit from which a form was not returned between May 1st and July.

If a community disagrees with the Census count what steps need to be taken?

Programs to address this issue are currently in the planning stage. We cannot adjust the counts, however the community may request a Special Census.

How will the Census data be released for use by state and local governments and others?

2010 Census data will be disseminated mainly through American FactFinder beginning in 2011. Visit American FactFinder on the Census Bureau's website at www.census.gov (click on the American FactFinder link on the left side of the page). Data will include demographic profiles, summary files of aggregated data and reports.

How will Census Bureau develop an accurate population count when there is a low response rate?

Our goal is to have a complete and accurate count. An enumerator will visit each housing unit from which a form was not received and complete an interview or verify the occupancy status of vacant units during our follow up operations starting in May. We are counting on our partners to get assist us in increasing the mail response rate. In 2000 the average response was 72%. Remember that each of us is a trusted voice in our own community.

How are people in local prison and correctional facilities counted?

Local prisons and correctional facilities are enumerated as part of Group Quarters enumeration. Each person incarcerated at the facility on the date of enumeration is counted as a resident of that facility on an Individual Census Report.