

Census 2010

What is the Census?

- The census is a count of everyone living in the United States every 10 years;
- The census is mandated by the U.S. Constitution;
- The next census is in 2010;
- Your participation in the census is required by law;
- It takes less than 10 minutes to complete;
- Federal law protects the personal information you share during the census;
- Census data are used to distribute Congressional seats to states, to make decisions about what community services to provide, and to distribute \$300 billion in federal funds to local, state and tribal governments each year.

Why fill out the census form?

- **It's Important** – Census data affect funding for your community, your community's representation in Congress and your community leader's planning decisions.
- **It's confidential** – Your responses are protected by law (Title 13, U.S. Codes, Section 9). All Census Bureau employees have taken an oath to protect confidentiality and are subject to a jail term, a fine – or both – for disclosing any information that could identify a respondent or household.
- **It's required by law** – The information you provide is combined with responses provided by your neighbors and other households across the country, to provide summary statistical data that are used by various local, state and federal agencies.

Why is it important?

Census affects funding in your community

- o Census data directly affect how more than \$300 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 \$3 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

- o 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.

Census affects your representation in state and local government

- o 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 will you receive your census packet?

- The Census Bureau will mail or deliver questionnaires to your house in March 2010. A second form will be mailed to households that do not respond to the initial questionnaire;
- Households that still do not respond will be called or visited by a Census worker. (Census workers can be identified by a census badge and bag)