

# It Counts to be Counted

## Answers to Questions about the 2010 Census



Resources for accessing data in real time  
<http://www.ca.uky.edu/snarl>

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Every 10 years since 1790, a count is made of all persons living in the United States.

Recently, there was a news story that the Census had begun in Alaska.

This is because since many residents leave with the spring thaw, Alaska's remote villages are traditionally the first to be counted.

For the rest of the nation, Census questionnaire forms will arrive by mail next month.

This publication provides answers to commonly asked questions about the 2010 Census.

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### What exactly is the Census?

The Census is a count of everyone who lives in the United States.

### When does the Census happen?

Mid-March is when everyone can expect to receive the 2010 Census questionnaire forms in the mail.

### How do I know if the form I received is real?

The 2010 Census questionnaires will be from the Census Bureau and marked as OFFICIAL BUSINESS of the United States. Also, a few days before, a letter from the Census Bureau should arrive in the mail.

To see what the form looks like, go to:

<http://2010.census.gov/2010census/how/interactive-form.php>

To see what the envelope looks like, go to:

<http://2010.census.gov/2010census/how/about-the-form.php>

### What does the Census ask?

The Census counts everyone in the place where they live and sleep most of the time. So, for each person, the form asks for their name, gender, age, race, ethnicity, and relationship. It also asks whether the home is rented or owned.

*The 2010 Census **DOES NOT** ask for your immigration status, income, or tax information and will **NEVER** ask for your social security number or bank account.*

### How long will it take to fill out the form?

This time, the Census form is one of the shortest ever. As a result, according to the Census Bureau, it takes only **10 minutes** for the average household to fill out (including time to read the instructions and review your answers).

### Who should fill it out?

The person listed on the address should be the one to fill out the form.

### Who does the Census count?

Because the Census counts everyone who lives in the U.S. at the place where they live and sleep most of the time, anyone who is away, such as those in the Armed Forces, college, jail, prison, or in a nursing home, will be counted where they currently live.

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### What do I do if I received a form but lost it?

Replacement forms will be mailed in early April. You can also call the Questionnaire Assistance Center. The phone numbers are at the end of this publication.

### Do I have to?

Answering the Census is required by law, but it is also very important because the results are used in funding decisions, to ensure representation in Congress, and provides important information for your community.

### What if I did not receive a form?

If you did not receive a form in the mail, you can call the Questionnaire Assistance Center.

### Can I fill out the 2010 Census online?

No. For the 2010 Census, the Census Bureau will NEVER ask for any information to be submitted online.

### What if I don't have a home?

The Census does not just count people who have a home, it counts people where they live. If you or someone you know is living with friends, family, or neighbors, they will be counted at that home. For those who do not have a permanent address, the Census Bureau is conducting a Service Based Enumeration at locations such as homeless shelters and soup kitchens.

If you, or someone you know, is not counted at these locations, a census "Be Counted" form is available through local community groups. To find one in your area, call the Partnership Specialist for your area. A list is available at:

<http://dlg.ky.gov/2010+United+States+Census.htm>

### How do I send it back?

Each form should have a prepaid envelope with it for mailing the completed form. If you did not receive an envelope or misplaced it, you can mail your form to:

U.S. Census Bureau  
National Processing Center  
1201 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Jeffersonville, IN 47132

Note that the Census Bureau will not send a confirmation that your form was received.

### Will anyone know my answers?

No. The information on the Census is collected for statistical purposes only and any information you provide is protected under federal law. In fact, all Census Bureau employees take an ***oath for life*** to protect any identifiable information; this includes sharing respondent's answers with the IRS, FBI, or any government agency. The penalty for disclosure is a fine of up to \$250,000, imprisonment for up to 5 years, or both.

### Why is the Census done?

The Constitution of the United States requires a national census be conducted every 10 years in order to determine the number of seats in U.S. House of Representatives. Since 1790, every decade, a census has been conducted.

*"The actual enumeration shall be made within three years after the first meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every subsequent term of 10 years, in such manner as they shall by law direct."*

Article 1, Section 1 of the Constitution of the United States

In addition to representation in Congress, the Census is used to determine political district lines and is used in allocating state and federal funding for community services including schools and health care. The Census also provides important information for communities, community groups, and local governments.

### What are Census data used for?

In addition to ensuring representation in Congress and determining political boundaries, Census data are important for our local communities.

If you have ever used data from Kentucky: **By the Numbers** (<http://www.ca.uky.edu/snarl>) or the **Kentucky State Data Center** (<http://ksdc.louisville.edu>), then you have likely used data from the Census.

Census data are used by state and local governments as well as local communities and community groups. Some of the ways in which the data are used includes grant proposals, developing programs, and assessing where services are needed.

The Census is as close as it gets to knowing for sure how many people live in our communities. The annual population estimates, for instance are based on the Census. Also, while there are other national surveys, they are based on samples, not on a complete head count.

### What do I do if I need help filling out the form?

There are several ways to get help filling out your 2010 Census form. In addition, forms are also available in both large print and in Braille. For assistance, call the Questionnaire Assistance Center toll free between 8 a.m. and 9 p.m. local time. The phone numbers are provided at the end of this publication.

### How can I help someone who doesn't speak English?

Forms are available in 5 languages other than English and there are Language Assistance Guides in 59 languages to help people fill out the English form. To access these, call the Questionnaire Assistance Center.

To see what the English/Spanish bilingual form looks like, go to:

[http://2010.census.gov/2010census/pdf/2010\\_Bilingual\\_Questionnaire\\_Info.pdf](http://2010.census.gov/2010census/pdf/2010_Bilingual_Questionnaire_Info.pdf)

### Why would a census taker come to my house?

Census takers may visit individual homes for several reasons. Usually, they are following up because a form was not returned. Census takers may also visit individual homes to conduct quality checks or to take the census count in person. Anyone providing information to a census taker must be at least 15 years old to answer the questions.

### How do I know if the census taker is genuine?

All census takers will carry an official government badge with just their name. You can also ask for a separate ID to confirm the person's identity or call the Regional Census Center to confirm that they are employed by the Census Bureau. *Census takers will **NEVER** ask to enter your home.*

### What if I am not at home when the census taker comes to my house?

If a census taker visits your home while you are away, they will leave a door hanger with a contact number. You can also call the number to schedule a visit.

### A local group says they are a "Partner" for the 2010 Census. What is this?

For the 2010 Census, the Census Bureau has a partnership program to help promote awareness of the Census count. Partners are not paid and are not census employees.

To see a list of Partnership Specialists responsible for developing partnerships in Kentucky, their contact information, and the counties they serve, go to the Kentucky Department of Local Government:

<http://dlg.ky.gov/2010+United+States+Census.htm>

A list is also available at the Kentucky State Data Center:

<http://ksdc.louisville.edu/2010census/>

### What is National Census Day?

National Census Day is April 1<sup>st</sup>. The Census counts everyone living in the United States on April 1, 2010. This means that when you fill out your Census form, you should count anyone who lives at your address on that day.

### Last time I received a long form. Will I get one this time?

No. Everyone will receive the same short form. The long form you received last time has been replaced by the American Community Survey (ACS). For more on the ACS, go to:

<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>

### I've used Census data before, has anything changed?

Yes. You may be familiar with the detailed information from previous Censuses such as income, education, commuting data, or housing

characteristics. These data were collected by the long form.

Today, the long form has been replaced by the *American Community Survey* (ACS). Based on a smaller sample, the ACS is a new tool for detailed data collection.

If you received something that looks like a long form, it is not the 2010 Census.

Data from the ACS have already been available for cities, states, and the nation as a whole. The first data for small populations like rural counties, places, and census tracts, are scheduled to be available by the end of this year.

When it comes to using data from the ACS there are important differences from what we have been used to in using data from the Census long form. For more information on the American Community Survey, go to:

<http://www.census.gov/acs/www>

### I am a teacher and would like my students to learn about the 2010 Census. Are there any materials that can help?

The Census Bureau has developed a website with resources, factsheets, and lesson plans to help teachers. To find these, go to the Census in Schools website:

[http://www.census.gov/schools/2010\\_census](http://www.census.gov/schools/2010_census)

### I write for my local newspaper. Can I find more information for the media?

There are many resources for the media available on the 2010 Census website at the Census Newsroom:

<http://2010.census.gov/news>

To find stories, video, audio, and photos, go to the Census Multi-Media Center:

<http://2010.census.gov/mediacenter/index.php>

### How can I find more information online?

There are many ways to get help or find more information about the 2010 Census. The most important numbers are the Questionnaire

Assistance Center and the Regional Census Center that serves Kentucky and its neighboring states.

**Questionnaire Assistance Center (QAC):**  
(Call between 8 a.m. and 9 p.m. local time)

Phone: 1-866-872-6868

Spanish: 1-866-928-2010

TDD: 1-866-783-2010

**Regional Census Center (Charlotte)**

Phone: 1-704-936-5330

### I have more questions about the 2010 Census. Who do I contact??

There are several places to find information online about the 2010 Census. The best place is to go directly to the Census Bureau at:

<http://2010.census.gov>

You can follow the 2010 Census on *Twitter*, *Facebook*, and *YouTube*. To find out more on how to do this, go to:

<http://2010.census.gov/2010census/involved/php>

You can also read the Census Director's Blog at:

<http://blogs.census.gov/2010census>

For more on beginning the 2010 Census in Alaska, go to:

<http://2010.census.gov/news/releases/operations/2010-census-in-remote-alaska.htm>.

The Population Reference Bureau (PRB) also has useful information on the 2010 Census including a history of the Census. To find these, go to:

<http://www.prb.org/Topics/Census2010.aspx>

*Information on the 2010 Census was obtained from the Census Bureau website:*  
<http://2010.census.gov>.