

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.

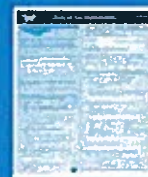
United States
**Census
2010**

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 can't
move forward
until 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.

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.



2010 CENSUS
IT'S IN OUR HANDS

Why Should States Participate?

As states develop budgets and operational plans, decision makers will weigh the advantages of working closely with the Census Bureau to ensure a complete and accurate census against other competing concerns. Why should your state participate in the 2010 Census Redistricting Data Program?

- Receive up-to-date information from the Redistricting Data Office about 2010 Census timelines, planning, and partnership opportunities.
- Meet your state's redistricting needs by defining the geographic areas that will be used for 2010 Census data tabulation, including:
 - census block boundaries
 - voting districts
 - state legislative districts
 - congressional districts
- Receive 2010 Census population counts of total persons by race, Hispanic origin, and voting age for each state-defined legislative district and voting district.
- New for the 2010 Census is the maintenance of state legislative districts! Receive ongoing geographic area and data tabulation updates to state legislative districts following the 2010 Census.
- Participate in the evaluation of the program and make recommendations for improving operations for the 2020 Census P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data Program.

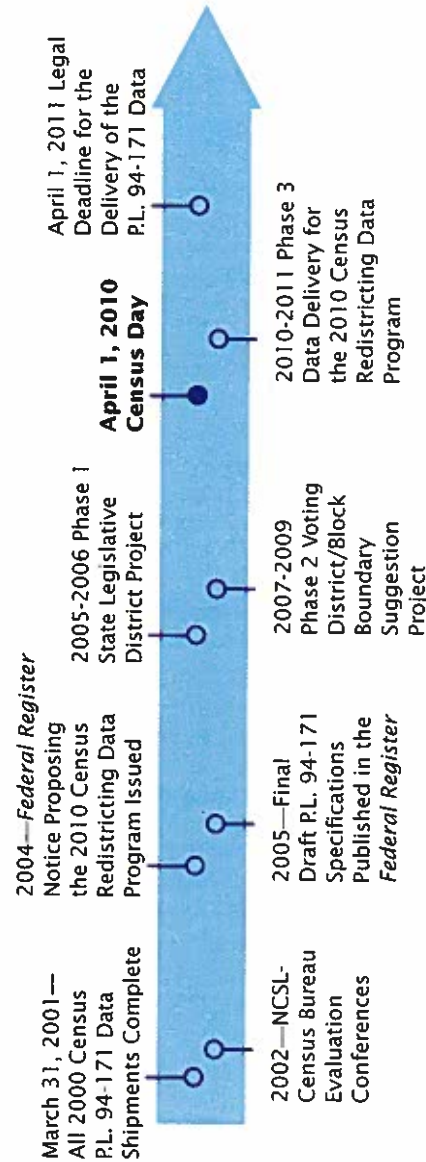
For More Information

Publications

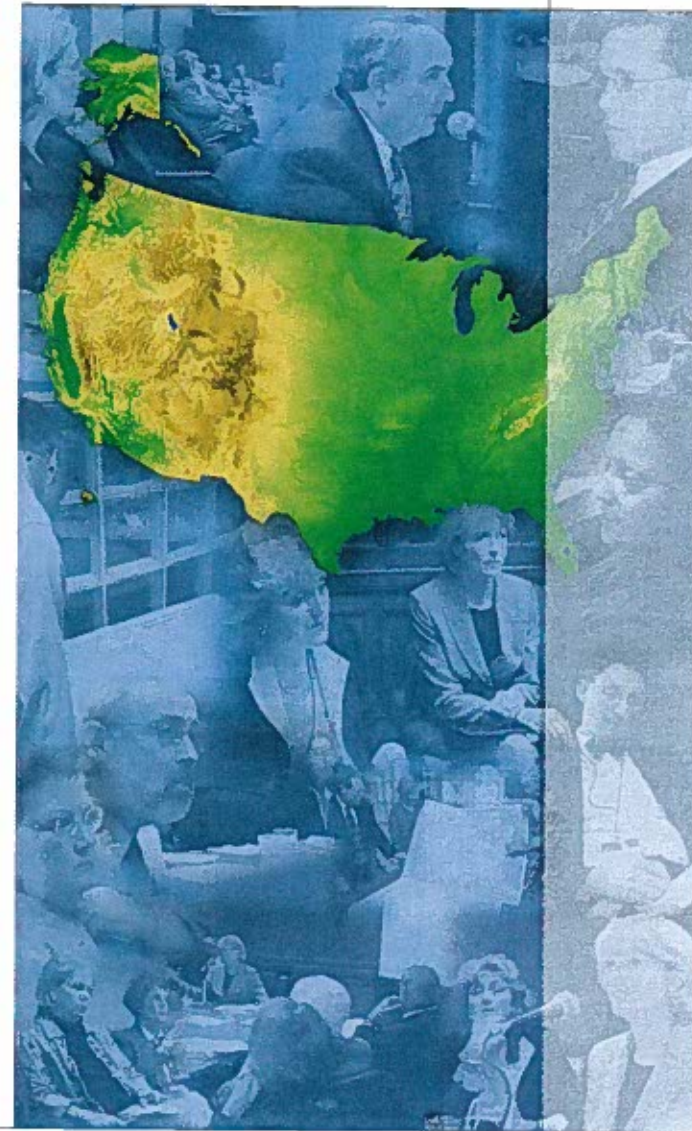
"Designing P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data for the Year 2010 Census—The View From the States" is available in PDF format at <www.census.gov/rdo>. For a copy of this publication call the Census Redistricting Data Office at 301-763-4039.

Go to <www.census.gov> for additional information on the U.S. Census Bureau.

2010 Census P.L. 94-171 Timeline



The 2010 Census Redistricting Data Program





About the Program

Public Law (P.L.) 94-171, enacted by Congress in December 1975, requires the U.S. Census Bureau to provide state legislatures with the small area census population tabulations necessary for legislative redistricting. The law also specifies:

- The Census Bureau will issue technical criteria for definition of these small areas to the state participants by April 1, 2006.
- The states choosing to participate in this voluntary program will define the small areas for which specific data tabulations are desired and submit these areas following timelines established by the Census Bureau. These small areas include census block boundaries, voting districts, and state legislative districts.
- The Census Bureau must transmit the total population tabulations to the states by April 1, 2011.

The 2010 Census Redistricting Data Program will provide states the opportunity to delineate voting and state legislative districts and to suggest census block boundaries for use in the 2010 Census redistricting data tabulations (P.L. 94-171 data file).

The program also will ensure continued dialogue with the states in regard to 2010 Census planning, thereby allowing states ample time for planning, response, and participation.

The Five Phases of the Program

Phase 1: State Legislative District Project (SLDP)—2005-2006

Participating states will provide their legislative district plans, codes, and names to the Census Bureau. A verification phase will follow resulting in data products for the post-2000 Census legislative districts.

Phase 2: Voting District/Block Boundary Suggestion Project (VTD/BBSP)—2007-2009

Participating states will provide their voting district plans, codes, and names to the Census Bureau. They may also submit suggested features as census tabulation blocks for the 2010 Census. A verification phase will follow.

Phase 3: Data Delivery for the 2010 Census Redistricting Data Program—2010-2011

The Census Bureau will deliver geographic products and population totals for the small areas defined in Phases 1 and 2 to the governor and majority and minority leaders of each state, no later than April 1, 2011, as mandated by P.L. 94-171.

Phase 4: Collection of the Post-2010 Census Redistricting Plans—2012-2013

The Census Bureau will collect state legislative and congressional district plans using Phase 3 materials as the geographic base. The Census Bureau will provide geographic and data products, as required by law, to the U.S. Postal Service, Department of Justice, and Congress.

Phase 5: Evaluation and Recommendation for Census 2020—2012-2014

States will conduct a review documenting the successes and failures of the Census Bureau to meet P.L. 94-171 requirements. A final publication will summarize the view of the states.

Program Participation

In early 2005, the Census Bureau's Redistricting Data Office will invite the governor's office and legislative leadership in each state to designate a nonpartisan liaison to represent the state's needs. That liaison will act as the primary point of contact for the program and will help to organize a kickoff meeting in each state.

Beginning in Spring 2005, staff from the Census Redistricting Data Office will visit with state officials to discuss how participation in the 2010 Census Redistricting Data Program will benefit each state.

For nearly 30 years, the Census Bureau has partnered with states in efforts to comply with P.L. 94-171. It is now time to strengthen this partnership even further and to begin planning for the 2010 Census!

The deadline for states to accept participation in Phase 1 of the program is August 1, 2005.

