



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

What is the Census?

Article I, Section 2 of the Constitution requires the Census Bureau to count every individual living in the United States, regardless of citizenship or status, every 10 years. The next count will occur April 1, 2010, Census Day.

Who receives the Census 2010 form?

Every household should receive a Census 2010 form. Those that don't can request one at Be Counted Sites through out the community.

What will the 2010 Census ask me?

The 2010 Census form asks 10 easy questions that should take only 10 minutes to answer. Questions include: name, sex, age and date of birth, race, Hispanic origin, how the people in the household are related to each other and whether the home is rented or owned. The form will not ask about immigration status.

Where should I be counted? Who should I count?

You should be counted where you live and sleep most of the time. Make sure to count everyone living in your household, regardless of relationship or status. Make sure that college kids living away from home are counted where they are attending college. If you spend the summer in one state and the winter in another state, you should be counted in the state you are registered to vote.

How should Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders answer the race question?

The person filling out the form should check the box next to the response that they believe represents their race. There are numerous check boxes for some Asian and Pacific Islander subgroups, including: Asian Indian, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese, Native Hawaiian, Guamanian or Chamorro and Samoan. If you identify with a different group, please check the box "Other Asian" or "Other Pacific Islander" and write-in the race you identify with. For example, if you are Thai, check the box for "Other Asian" and write in "Thai" in the space provided on the form.

Census Bureau Definitions on Race

- The Census Bureau defines "Asian" as referring to people having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asian, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam
- The Census Bureau defines "Native Hawaiian" and "Pacific Islander" as people having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands. It includes people who indicate their race as Native Hawaiian, Guamanian or Chamorro and Samoan

Am I able to indicate that I am multiracial?

You are able to check more than one category in response to the race question, allowing multiracial persons to identify themselves as such. This allows, for example, a person who has a White parent and a Bangladeshi parent to check both the White box and the Other Asian box and write in "Bangladeshi".



What about people who think of themselves as Sikh, Muslim or some other faith affiliation and not as a particular ethnic or racial category? Can faith affiliation be reported?

Although religious affiliation can be a component of identity, none of the questions on Census 2010 or other surveys are as designed to collect information about religion. The U.S. Census Bureau is prohibited by law from asking a question on religious affiliation on a mandatory basis. Because participation in the 2010 census is mandatory, the Census 2010 form does not ask about religious affiliation. Thus, faith affiliation should not be reported in the 2010 Census. If a person writes in a faith affiliation for the race question, the Census Bureau would have to recode the person as one of the existing racial categories. It is better to self-report your race than to have the Census Bureau make its best guess as to what race you are. The Census Bureau has stated that it does not tabulate or use religious responses in any way.

Is there help for Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders who are not fluent in English?

Translated forms will be available in Simplified Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese. In addition, language assistance guides in 28 Asian and Pacific Islander languages will be available to help non-English speakers complete their forms. Please visit our website for help in filling out your form – www.fillinourfuture.org. Beginning in February 2010, the Census Bureau will open Questionnaire Assistance Centers around the community. Check www.fillinourfuture.org for the site nearest you for the language you speak.

I received something from the Census Bureau called the American Community Survey (ACS). Is that the same as Census 2010?

No, it is not the same survey. The ACS is a survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau every month. It provides communities with critical economic, social, demographic and housing information. The ACS also identifies changes in an area's population and gives an up-to-date statistical picture every year. It is mandatory by law for you to fill out the ACS if you receive it.

Who receives the ACS?

Each month, the Census Bureau sends the ACS survey to randomly selected households/addresses. You could receive an ACS survey at any time. If you receive the ACS survey, you will not receive the survey at the same address again in a five-year period.

What if I receive both the ACS and the Census 2010, do I have to complete the ACS as well?

Yes. Every household will receive a 2010 Census survey. But only some households will also receive an ACS survey. If you receive both, you must complete both. These surveys are important tools for ensuring that your community has political representation and adequate government funding.

YOUR INFORMATION IS CONFIDENTIAL!

By law, all of the individual answers you give in the Census are **confidential**. Your responses and information cannot be shared with any person or any government agency such as the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) or the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). Every person with access to your data is sworn for life to protect your information and understands that the penalties for violating this law apply for life. If anyone violates this law, it is a federal crime; penalties are severe, including a federal prison sentence of up to five years, a fine of up to \$250,000, or both.