



Census Announcements for Bulletin

Please put on January 24 Sunday calendar

January 10, 2010

God 's Work, Our Hands, It's in Our Hands Every 1 counts in Minnesota – Join us for Special Census 2010 meeting at 11:30 in the undercroft. , Census partner specialist Ami ????? will join us for a short presentation and questions Learn about the 2010, covering the who, what where and when. Questions see Irene Markley

March 2010

Census forms are mailed or delivered to households

April 2010

National Census Day—use this day as a point of reference for sending your completed forms back in the mail

April - July 2010

Census takers visit households that did not return a form by mai

The 2010 Census wants college kids to get counted where they usually live (like everyone), and this means for them to be counted in college dormitories and off-campus housing.

There has been some Internet activity lately about the possibility of using an iPhone app to answer the census. Using an iPhone app (or apps for other such devices) to answer the census is certainly the wave of the future, and an innovative way to get people to easily fill out and submit their form, thereby increasing response rates.

This is one of the many mobile options the Census Bureau is currently evaluating for future survey response via the Internet, both with some internal research and with the help of outside advisory groups.

We are looking both at new tools of data collection that make it easy for people to respond and tools that can guarantee that information people provide can be kept confidential. We have to worry about both.

It's easy to predict that there will be many generations of technologies suitable for data collection invented over the coming years. The Census Bureau needs to stay on top of these developments to fulfill its mission to the taxpayers efficiently.

For now, we all need to remember that the 2010 Census will not use the Internet to collect data during the March-July period of activity. During that time, if you see a Web site asking you to complete the decennial census form online, it's bogus. Don't use it. (Our tests of Web survey capabilities will be clearly labeled as tests and requests will come from mailed letters to small samples of households.)

In 2000 only about 70 percent of the population returned their information, leaving several areas seriously under-counted and under-represented ...”

I've recently read many stories that don't reflect how the 2010 Census will actually be conducted. The quote above suggests that the final census counts are based only on the questionnaires that are completed and mailed back by households. That is not correct.

If a household doesn't mail back the questionnaire by the third week of April 2010, a trained Census Bureau enumerator will visit the household, starting in May 2010. Enumerators will try six times if necessary to reach a knowledgeable household member, visiting housing units multiple days at different hours. When the enumerator makes contact, he or she will collect the census data by interview. If enumerators can't contact a household, they will seek information in any way possible to estimate the number of people in the household.

At the end of this process, every household will have some information about its occupants recorded.

On the other hand, we have learned that the best – and certainly most cost-effective – information we obtain comes from questionnaires mailed back by households. So, the message we all need to promote is that returning the completed questionnaire is the best thing to do for the success of the 2010 Census.

[Comments\(8\)](#)Double households

We just had meetings of two of our advisory committees at our Suitland headquarters. The members come from all parts of the country and bring with them different perspectives on key issues facing the Census Bureau.

One issue came up in both discussions – how will the 2010 Census handle doubled-up households?

The recent spate of foreclosures and the high unemployment rates have led many families to change how they live. Some have moved in with relatives and friends. How will these folks be included in the 2010 Census?

It's important for all of us to know that everyone should be counted where they're living (their "usual residence") on April 1, 2010. If I lose my job and my wife and I move in with my brother, then I should be included on the census form sent to my brother's home. Neither my brother nor I may think of myself as a permanent resident of his house. But, I have no other residence, and hence my brother's home is my "usual residence" at the time of the census.

What else does the Census bureau do?

do frequent talk radio interviews that ask about the basics of the 2010 Census. Why do we do a Census? Why is it important? When will we get the questionnaire?

One question I often get is why the 2010 Census asks about income and employment - and a host of other things that it will not ask. In fact, the 2010 Census will ask only how many people are living in each household, their names, relationship to the owner or renter, date of birth, gender, ethnicity, race, and whether persons listed on the form sometimes live elsewhere. The 2010 Census form is one of the shortest in history - 10 questions that take about 10 minutes to answer. It asks the minimum necessary to fulfill key legal mandates.

The common misperception that the 2010 Census will ask a lot of questions probably comes from what the Census Bureau does in addition to the decennial Census. Every year the Census Bureau collects data for many other federal agencies about important parts of the economy and society - how much consumers are spending on different products, whether people are victimized by crime, whether they're suffering from various health problems, whether their homes are in need of repair, and whether they are employed and have enough income to live good lives. These questions are asked in our sample surveys of only a few households each month.

When decennial census time rolls around, the public sometimes gets confused about the decennial census in relation to other surveys. If a Census Bureau interviewer calls on your household before March, he or she may be conducting one of our other sample surveys. Each survey is mandated by law in order to evaluate government programs - it's part of the way a democracy informs the citizenry about how it's doing.

Questionnaire centers

These are temporary centers we set up during March and April to help people having trouble reading or filling out the questionnaire. Questionnaire assistance centers are staffed by census employees and have available the language assistance guides (in 59 languages!) and the full questionnaires in 6 different languages (English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, and Russian). We're hopeful these centers will reduce the burden for some people to participate in the census.

Who will be counted

The U.S. Constitution mandates us to count everyone, including both citizens and non-citizens. We've followed this mandate, since the first census in 1790. The Framers of the Constitution made it clear they wanted "all inhabitants" of the country counted in the U.S. Census, and every Presidential

Administration since that time that has overseen a Census has interpreted the Constitution and the laws require everyone be counted.

Why

That's why it's so important that you fill in the form and promptly mail it back. Census information affects the numbers of seats your state occupies in the U.S. House of Representatives. And people from many walks of life use census data to advocate for causes, rescue disaster victims, prevent diseases, research markets, locate pools of skilled workers and more.

When you do the math, it's easy to see what an accurate count of residents can do for your community. Better infrastructure. More services. A brighter tomorrow for everyone. In fact, the information the census collects helps to determine how more than \$400 billion dollars of federal funding each year is spent on infrastructure and services like:

- Hospitals
- Job training centers
- Schools
- Senior centers
- Bridges, tunnels and other-public works projects
- Emergency services

Participation isn't just important—it's mand