

Seniors and the 2010 Census

The 2010 Census will soon be underway. The Constitution mandates that every person dwelling in a United States residential structure be counted every ten years.

The 2010 Census is easy, important and safe, and participation by every senior citizen is vital.

- It's easy: The 2010 Census form is one of the shortest census forms in history. With only 10 questions, the form takes about 10 minutes to complete.
- It's important: Census information helps determine locations for schools, roads, hospitals, job training, child-care and senior centers, and more.
- It's safe: By law, the Census Bureau cannot share respondents' answers with anyone, including other federal agencies and law enforcement entities. All Census Bureau employees take an oath of nondisclosure and are sworn for life to protect the confidentiality of the data. The penalty for unlawful disclosure is a fine of up to \$250,000 or imprisonment of up to five years, or both.

How does the census benefit senior citizens?

Census data benefits seniors in many ways. Census data directly determines how more than \$400 billion per year in federal funding is distributed to state, local and tribal governments. These funds go to the very services that seniors need and use: hospitals, senior centers, emergency services and more.

That means census data can directly affect the quality of life for older people and retirees and their families through improvements in health care, education and social service programs. Census data are used to reapportion congressional seats to states and assure proper district representation.

How will seniors be counted?

The 10 question form will be mailed out in March. Complete the form and mail it by April 1st, National Census Day. If you don't return the form, a census taker will visit your home during the months of April to July. Responding immediately to the 2010 Census form is the most efficient way to complete the census. Responses to the census form should include everyone living at that address.

Questionnaire Assistance Centers (QAC) will be available to assist those unable to read or understand the census form. For those with visual impairments, Language Assistance Guides will be available in large type, Braille, as well as in 59 languages at all QAC locations. Deaf and hard-of-hearing persons can call the TDD number, 1-866-783-2010.

IMPORTANT FACTS TO REMEMBER

Because seniors might be apprehensive about a stranger coming to their home, remember:

- All census workers carry official government badges marked with just their name. They may also have a “U.S. Census Bureau” bag.
- No census worker will enter a residence.
- No census employee will ever ask for information such as social security, bank account or credit card numbers.
- If there are any questions about a census taker, call the Census Call Bureau at 1-800-923-8282
- If you do not respond to a census taker at your door, the census taker will leave a contact number for you to call and re-schedule a visit. If they don’t hear from you, they will return.
- The Census Bureau does NOT conduct the 2010 Census via the Internet
- The Census Bureau does not send emails about participating in the 2010 Census
- The Census Bureau never:
 - Asks for your full social security number
 - Asks for money or a donation
 - Sends requests on behalf of a political party
 - Requests PIN codes, passwords or similar access information for credit cards, banks or other financial accounts.

Keep in mind that while Census workers may contact you by telephone, by mail or in person at home, the Census is not conducted by email. If you get an email claiming to be from the Census Bureau, do not reply or click on any links within the email and don’t open any attachments; it could contain a virus.

What are the key dates for the 2010 Census?

March 2010

Census forms are mailed or delivered to households.

April 1, 2010

Census Day – the official day of the population count.

April – July 2010

Census Bureau workers visit households that did not return a form by mail.

Dec. 31, 2010

Census Bureau delivers population counts to the President of the United States.

March 2011

Census Bureau completes delivery of redistricting data to states.

Please complete your census form promptly and mail it back. **We Can't Move Forward Until You Mail It Back.**