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**CENSUS HISTORY AND 2010
PROGRAM**

Headquarters in Suitland MD



USCENSUSBUREAU

The Decennial Census



The U.S. Constitution requires that a census be conducted every 10 years.

“The actual Enumeration shall be made within three Years after the Meeting of the Congress of the United States, and within every Term of ten Years, in such Manner as they shall by Law direct.” (Article I, Section 2)

Who Shall Be Counted?

Article 1, Section 2, paragraph 3 says, “The respective numbers of the population shall be determined by adding to the whole number of free persons, including those bound to service for a term of years, and excluding Indians not taxed, and three-fifths of all other persons”

Confidentiality

By law, the Census is a mandatory activity—Title 13, U.S.Code

- ✚ Data are collected only for statistical purposes and it is against the law to disclose any data that identifies a person.
- ✚ These protections are not limited by any other laws, including the Patriot Act.

Historical Context

- The 1940 census introduced sampling
- The 1950 census made use of the electronic computer
- The 2000 census gave respondents an option of reporting more than one race
- Census 2000 asked a question about grandparents as caregivers
- Census 2010 is making use of handheld computers using a Geographical Positioning System to locate housing units

The Importance of Census Data

- ✚ **Census data directly ensures that each community receives its fair share of political representation through:**
 - ✚ **Congressional Apportionment**
 - ✚ **Legislative Redistricting**
- ✚ **Census population data, as well as other related Census Bureau data products (e.g., income data), affect how more than \$400 billion per year in federal funding is allocated to local, state, and tribal governments.**

The Decennial Census

- ✚ To count every housing unit and every person living in the United States on April 1, 2010—citizens and non-citizens.
 - ✚ All 50 states and the District of Columbia
 - ✚ Puerto Rico
 - ✚ Island Areas—Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands

2010 Census Q'naire

Just 8 questions:

 Name

•Sex

•Age

•Date of birth

•Hispanic origin

•Race

•Household relationship

•If you own or rent



The census **DOES NOT** ask about the legal status of respondents or their Social Security numbers.

Key Dates

Spring 2009

Census employees went door-to-door to update address list nationwide

Fall 2009

Recruitment began for census takers needed for peak workload in 2010

March 2010

Census forms are mailed or delivered to households

April 1, 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 mail

December 2010

By law, the Census Bureau delivers population information to the President for apportionment

March 2011

By law, the Census Bureau completes delivery of redistricting data to states

The Challenge is to Count Everyone – Just Once!

Sheer size challenges

- # Mail questionnaires to about 130 million housing units
- # 309 million people
- # 3.5 million square miles of land area
- # 9 million census blocks
- # Visit 270,000 group quarters
- # 494 Local Census Offices opened to supervise 1.4 million workers

Compressed time challenges with a statutory deadline

Language challenges

Enumeration challenge since not everyone mails a form back

Coverage challenges (omissions and duplicates)

External challenges

Census Bureau Director

Remote areas of Alaska are visited before the April 1 Census Day to count Alaska Natives before they leave for seasonal jobs and the "Spring Thaw" makes travel difficult. The first enumeration of the 2010 census was done on January 25, 2010. in Noorvik Alaska, an Inupiate Eskimo fishing village with about 650 residents near the Arctic Circle.



Field Infrastructure For 2010 Census

- + 12 Regional Census Centers
- + 494 Local Census Offices
 - + 7 Offices in Puerto Rico
- + Recruit 3.8 million applicants
- + Hire 1.4 million temporary employees—700,000 at the peak



2010 Census: Operational Changes

- ✚ Short-form only census—10 questions...10 minutes
- ✚ Use of handheld computers equipped with GPS for nationwide address canvassing – will enable significant reduction in geocoding errors
- ✚ Bi-lingual English/Spanish questionnaires mailed to 13 million households
- ✚ Replacement questionnaires mailed to low and medium response areas

The American Community Survey

- ✚ The American Community Survey is an on-going survey that replaces the long form—sent to a sample of the population (approximately 3 million housing units per year)
- ✚ Data describe a period of time and published data are based on 12 months, 36 months, or 60 months

1990 Census Lawsuit Franklin, Secretary of Commerce, et al. v. Massachusetts et al.

- Allocating DOD overseas employees to particular states for reapportionment purposes using the home of record as “usual residence” is unconstitutional
- Shifted a seat from MA to WA
- District Court three judge panel said the decision was arbitrary and capricious
- Deputy Solicitor General Roberts argued the case for appellants assisted by Solicitor Ken Starr
- Asst. Atty. General of MA argued for appellees
- Decided June 1992
- Unanimous ruling for Census Bureau

Dept. of Commerce v. City of New York

- * Nov. 1988 NYC, LA , and other cities brought suit to compel Commerce to adjust the Census
- * April 1993 the District Court upheld Sec. of Commerce decision not to adjust the counts
- * August 1994 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals reversed district court
- * Jan. 1996 went to Supreme Court
- * Decided March 1996
- * Unanimous decision of Supreme Court -- Sec. Of Commerce not required to statistically adjust the 1990 census