



2010 CENSUS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



IT'S IN OUR HANDS

What is the Census?

The census is a headcount of everyone residing in the United States: in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Island Areas.

The 2010 Census form, which all residents will receive, will be a **short-form only**. It's only 10 questions, and will count all residents living in the United States as well as ask for name, sex, age, date of birth, race, ethnicity, relationship and housing tenure – taking just minutes to complete.

Look at Berkeley's 2000 profile on [the About Berkeley page](http://www.CityofBerkeley.info) at www.CityofBerkeley.info.

Who gets counted?

Everyone: All residents of the United States must be counted. This includes people of all ages, races, ethnic groups, citizens and non-citizens.

When does the Census happen?

Every 10 years: The next census occurs in 2010. Census questionnaires will be mailed or delivered to every household in the United States in March 2010. The questions ask you to provide information that is accurate for your household as of April 1, 2010.

The Census Bureau must count everyone and submit state population totals to the U.S. President by December 31, 2010.

Where do I get counted?

Where you live and sleep most of the year. For example, college students should get counted in their college towns, not where their parents live.

How do they count everyone?

The Census Bureau will mail or deliver questionnaires to your house in March 2010. We will mail a second form to households that do not respond to the initial questionnaire. Households that still do not respond will be called or visited by a Census worker. (Census workers can be identified by a census badge and bag.)

Why should I fill out a census form?

- **The census affects funding in our community.**
Census data directly affect how more than \$300 billion per year in federal and state funding is allocated to communities for neighborhood improvements, public health, education, transportation and much more. That's more than \$3 trillion over a 10-year period. Spending just a few minutes to fill out your census form will help ensure Berkeley gets its fair share of federal and state funding.

- **The census affects our voice in Congress and our representation in state and local government.**
Mandated by the U.S. Constitution, the census is used to apportion seats in the U.S. House of Representatives. It's also used to define City Council districts, state legislative districts, and other important functional areas of government.
- **The census informs our community's decisions.**
The census is like a snapshot that helps define who we are as a nation and who we are as a community. We use that information to make crucial planning decisions, such as where to provide services for the elderly, where to build new roads and schools, or where to locate job training centers.

The census form asks for a lot of private information. I'm nervous about giving it.

The U.S. Census Bureau is only allowed to use this information for statistical purposes, so cannot, and does not, use information that would be personally identifying. The Census keeps the information private for 72 years.

All Census workers sign agreements and could pay fines or even go to jail for sharing census information, and that includes sharing it with other government agencies—not even the President of the United States can get personal information from the census.

Any Census Bureau employee who violates these provisions is subject to a fine of up to \$250,000 or a prison sentence of up to five years, or both.

Some members of my household do not have their residency or work permits in order, and I don't want anyone to get deported.

In addition to the laws around keeping individual's information private, even from other agencies such as Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the Census questionnaire does not ask about residency or naturalization status. It's important for everyone in the household to be counted, because the information helps us provide services to everyone who lives here, regardless of their status.

How do they count people without homes?

The Census Bureau will conduct a count of people experiencing homelessness in an operation called Service-Based Enumeration (SBE). The SBE was designed to count people them at service-based locations who might not otherwise be included. Service-based locations include: emergency and transitional shelters for people, soup kitchens, regularly scheduled mobile food vans, and pre-identified non-sheltered outdoor locations.

Be Counted forms will also be available at various locations throughout the community for people who believe they have not been counted.

How do they count students in dorms and other group situations?

College dormitories, sorority and fraternity houses, group homes, and skilled nursing facilities are categorized as "Group Quarters." The Census Bureau has a special process to count those living in Group Quarters, that includes working with building and program managers, verifying the addresses, and visiting the site.

Most information provided by the Census Bureau. Visit www.2010.Census.gov for more information.