

USES OF CENSUS DATA

Federal Laws

The federal government is the main user of census data. More than 50 laws require the use of census data in one form or another. Here are some examples of how the data are used.

Schools

Locations where new schools are needed are identified using data about age.

Social Services

Local health agencies plan and administer programs promoting the well-being of families and children using data about family types, composition, and living arrangements of the population.

State, Local, and Tribal Governments

States, cities, counties, and American Indian reservations use census data to plan:

- Health care services and facilities.
- Housing and community development needs.
- Locate election areas.

Businesses

Businesses use census data to:

- Plan for future product demands.
- Plan new sites.
- Determine if their workforce matches the community.

Organizations

Churches, day care centers, nursing homes, and charities use census data to plan for:

- Community needs.
- Writing grants.
- Distribution of resources.

USES OF CENSUS DATA—CON.

Data Analysts

Census data are used to monitor:

- Population growth and change.
- The quality of life in America.
- Changes in our society.

The census provides a snapshot of the nation, which helps define who we are.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT PRIVACY

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)

The major goal of this privacy rule is to assure that individuals' health information is properly protected, while allowing the flow of health information needed to provide and promote high quality health care and to protect the public's health and well-being. The census forms do not have questions related to health or health issues and therefore do not conflict with this act.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

The U.S. Census Bureau data collection is compliant with this act in terms of disclosing information. Colleges and universities can disclose directory information from student records, without prior consent from the student or his or her parents to the Census Bureau. Directory information includes a student's name, date of birth, address, and dates of attendance.

For more information about the 2010 Census, visit www.2010census.gov.

Group Quarters Enumeration

The image shows a 2010 Individual Census Report form (Form 0-20) from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration. The form is titled "Individual Census Report" and "2010 Census". It contains several numbered questions and data entry fields. Question 1 asks for the respondent's name (Last, First, Middle, and Suffix). Question 2 asks for sex (Male or Female). Question 3 asks for age and date of birth (Month, Day, Year). Question 4 asks about Hispanic or Latino origin. Question 5 asks about race. Question 6 asks if the respondent lives or stays in the facility most of the time. Question 7 asks for the full address (Street address number, Street name, Apartment number, Rural route address, City, County, State or foreign country, ZIP Code). The form also includes a "Start here" instruction and a "Use a blue or black pen." note.

GROUP QUARTERS ENUMERATION

The goal of Group Quarters Enumeration is to include people in the 2010 Census who live in group quarters. Group quarters are places where people live or stay in a group living arrangement. These places are owned or run by an organization that provides housing and services for the residents. This is not a typical household-type living arrangement.

EXAMPLES OF GROUP QUARTERS FOR THE 2010 CENSUS

- Group home.
- Skilled nursing facility (nursing home).
- Residential treatment facility.
- Residence hall, dormitory, or fraternity /sorority house for students (college, university, seminary).
- Religious group living quarters (e.g. convent, monastery, and abbey).
- Correctional facility for adults or juveniles.
- In-patient hospice facility.
- Hospital.
- Workers group living quarters.
- Vocational training facility group housing for students.

Enumerating Your Group Quarters

On a set date, census workers will:

- Visit your group quarters and meet with a staff person.
- Distribute census forms to the residents.
- Help residents fill out their forms, if needed.
- Collect forms completed by residents.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Inform your residents and staff about the arrival of census enumerators.
- Assure residents and staff that all information collected is confidential.
- Volunteer to be sworn in by census workers to help with enumeration.
- Stress the importance of the 2010 Census to the community.
- Promote the census by displaying posters.
- Remind staff of the upcoming enumeration.
- Be sure there is a private area for the enumerators to work.
- Let residents and staff know about possible census jobs.

ABOUT THE CENSUS

The census is conducted by the federal government to learn about the nation's population and housing. The Constitution requires a census every 10 years to determine how many seats in the U.S. House of Representatives each state will have.

Census data are used to draw the electoral districts within states, allocate federal funds, track changes in the population, and measure changes and trends in society.

The U.S. Census Bureau is the government agency responsible for conducting the census. The census is conducted in years ending in zero, such as 1990, 2000, and 2010.

The 2010 Census data are used to distribute Congressional seats to states, make decisions about what community services to provide, and distribute \$400 billion in federal funds to local, state, and tribal governments each year.

The census is conducted under authority of Title 13 of the U.S. Code—which is the census law. The law requires that all answers are kept confidential. Information about individuals can only be seen by sworn census employees and is not released for 72 years.

The Census Bureau does not share the answers from the census with any individual or organization. This includes the Internal Revenue Service and the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Service. Also, we do not share answers with welfare agencies, courts, police, or the military. Answers are not even shared with the President of the United States.