

**Every year,
over \$100 billion in
federal funds are
awarded to
localities based on
census numbers.**

Census 2000 in a Flash

The United States Constitution mandates a census every 10 years to determine how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives. But community leaders use it for everything from planning schools and building roads to providing recreational opportunities and managing health-care services.

How Big Is It?

- 275 million U.S. residents
- 118 million housing units in the United States alone
- 1.5 million housing units in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Island Areas
- 2.7 million applicants recruited
- 285,000 jobs at peak
- 500 Local Census Offices, 12 Regional Census Centers and 4 Data Processing Centers
- 500 local area networks, 6,000 personal computers and 1,500 printers (set up, used and dismantled in one year)
- 8 million maps needed for field work
- 79 million questionnaires returned within a two-week period
- 8 to 9 million blocks covered

When Is It?

1998–1999: Developing the address list for Census 2000 and recruiting workers for census jobs

Beginning mid-March 2000: Census questionnaires delivered

APRIL 1, 2000: CENSUS DAY

March–May 2000: Census takers visit housing units in rural and remote areas to drop off and/or pick up forms

April–June 2000: Census takers visit housing units that did not return census forms

October–November 2000: All field work completed

December 31, 2000: Apportionment counts delivered to the President

April 1, 2001: All states receive redistricting counts

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This Is Your Future. Don't Leave It Blank.

For additional information about Census 2000, visit the Census Bureau's Internet site at <http://www.census.gov> or call one of our Regional Census Centers across the country:

Atlanta 404-331-0573
Boston 617-424-4977
Charlotte 704-344-6621
Chicago 312-353-9697
Dallas 214-655-3060
Denver 303-231-5029
Detroit 248-967-9524
Kansas City 816-801-2020
Los Angeles 818-904-6522
New York City 212-620-7702/3
Philadelphia 215-597-8313
Seattle 206-553-5882

What's on the Census Form?

About 83 percent of respondents will receive a short form, which asks about seven subjects: name, sex, age, relationship, Hispanic origin, race, and housing tenure (whether the home is owned or rented) — and takes approximately 10 minutes to complete.

One out of six households will receive a longer form which asks about 34 subjects, including education, ancestry, employment, disability and house heating fuel — and takes approximately 38 minutes to complete.

Why Should You Answer the Census?

Answering the census is important for your community — Census numbers help local planners pick the best locations for schools, roads, hospitals, clinics, libraries, day-care and senior citizen centers, playgrounds, bus routes, job training programs and much more. Every year, over \$100 billion in federal funding and even more in state funds are awarded to localities based on census numbers.

Answering the census creates jobs and ensures the delivery of goods and services — Businesses use census numbers to locate supermarkets and shopping centers, new housing, new factories and offices and facilities like movie theaters and restaurants.

Answering can save your life — An exaggeration? Not at all! When Hurricane Andrew hit South Florida in 1991, Census Bureau officials were able to aid the rescue effort by providing estimates of the total number of people in each block.

Answering the census is safe — By law, the Census Bureau cannot share your individual records with any other government agency, including welfare agencies, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Internal Revenue Service, courts, police and the military. Census workers must be sworn to secrecy before they see the numbers. If someone gave out any information they saw on a form, they would face a \$5,000 fine and a five-year prison term. The law works — millions of questionnaires were processed during the 1990s without any breach of trust.