

United States[®] Census 2010

It's Easy, It's Safe, It's Important!

Background

The U.S. Constitution mandates a count or census of everyone living in the United States every 10 years and requires that households respond to the Census questionnaire. This includes people of all ages, races, ethnic groups, citizens, and non-citizens. The first census was conducted in 1790 by U.S. marshals, who counted the population by going door to door on foot and on horseback, and has been conducted every 10 years since then.

The census population totals determine which states gain or lose representation in Congress. It also determines the amount of state and Federal funding communities receive over the course of the decade. Information gathered in the census also help shape decisions for the decade ahead regarding public health, neighborhood improvements, transportation, education, senior citizen services, and much more.

The next census occurs in 2010. Census questionnaires will be delivered to households by mail in mid-March. The goal of the 2010 Census is to count all residents living in the United States on April 1, 2010. The U.S. Census Bureau does not ask about the legal status of respondents in any of its surveys and census programs. To help ensure the nation's, including York County's, increasing diverse population can answer the questionnaire accurately and completely, bilingual Spanish/English forms will be mailed to housing units in neighborhoods identified as requiring high levels of Spanish assistance. Additionally, questionnaires in Spanish, Chinese (simplified), Korean, Vietnamese, and Russian, as well as guides in 59 languages, will be available upon request.

It's Easy....10 Questions, 10 Minutes to Complete

The 2010 Census has one of the shortest questionnaires in the history of the Census. With only 10 questions, it only takes about 10 minutes for the average household to complete and return by mail. Questions relate to household size, gender, age, race, ethnicity, relationship, and whether you own or rent your home.

The Census long-form, distributed to one in six households in the 2000 Census, has been replaced by the American Community Survey which is conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau every year throughout the decade. It is distributed to a small percentage of households and seeks more detailed information dealing with diversity, housing, jobs, education, income, and more.

It's Safe....Confidential

All responses to the Census are used only for statistical purposes and are strictly confidential. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share an individual's answers with anyone, including Federal, state, and local agencies.

It's Important....Local Impact

Every year, the Federal government allocates more than \$300 billion to states and communities based, in part, on census data. For this funding to be allocation to be accomplished fairly and accurately, the goal of the decennial census is to count everybody, count them only once, and count them in the right place. In addition, census data is used to guide local decision-makers on where to build roads, hospitals, child-care and senior citizen centers, schools, and more. It is also used in the business world to determine new locations for retail stores, housing, industry, and other facilities. Furthermore, Census data affects your voice in Congress by determining how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives and is often used for the redistricting of state legislatures and voting districts.

Complete Count Census Committee

The County and City of York have partnered to create a Complete Count Census Committee. The Committee is co-chaired by Mayor John Brenner and County Commissioner Doug Hoke. The purpose of the Committee is to raise awareness of the census in an effort to achieve a complete count for our community. If you or your organization is interested in participating, please contact Pam Shellenberger, Chief, County/Long Range Planning, at (717) 771-9870 or via email pshellenberger@ycpc.org.



IT'S IN OUR HANDS

Additional Information

For additional information, please consult the U.S. Census Bureau website at www.census.gov/2010census or the Pennsylvania State Data Center website at www.pacensus2010.org