

# Usa-census 2010



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USA-Census On April the 23rd United s Census will be conducted. This is man d by the United s Constitution, with the previous census undertaken in the year 2000. The fundamental purpose of the 2010 Census is to collect data so that the US House of Representatives can reapportion its seats when needed. The Census, hence, must gather information in regard to population - each citizen's age, sex and family relationship - so that the House of Representatives could determine the number of seats for each state. In the past, however, authorities have added new sets of questions such as nativity and industry as well as questions about occupations, military service, income, education and other important information. And so, besides its original mandate of providing data to be used in congressional apportionment and redistricting, it now collects information for organizations and individuals who make decisions and policies in a wide range of issues. These issues are usually about matters of public relevance including health and education, transportation planning, housing, community service, welfare, economic strategies, among others.

The US Census Bureau's website displays the questions in the 2010 Census form. If it would not be modified, the form would be considered the shortest in the Census history. (The Census Form 2010) It would not use the previous forms and, instead, only 10 questions will be asked. These would include the person's name, background, house, family and ethnicity. The census form will be sent through mail to be returned once it is filled.

The 2010 Census is important for several reasons. Again, it determines the correct representation of Americans in the House of Representatives especially in the coming 2012 elections. Then, the data collected would also help the government allocate the \$400 billion dollars of federal funding

released each year. (Groves 2010) Because of the Census, this fund is going to be appropriately allocated on infrastructure (i. e. roads, bridges), welfare services (i. e. hospitals, job training centers, schools, senior centers), as well as other emergency services.

Participation in the 2010 Census is vital to the US national interest. The US government would not be able to function well because the outdated Census information would make it difficult to: 1) fund projects that are most needed; and, 2) support community decisions about their own future. This is the reason why taking the census is mandatory. Section 6 of the Census Act provides that, “ each and every person more than sixteen years of age, whether heads of families or not, belonging to any Family within any division of a district made or established within the United States, shall be, and hereby is obliged to render to such assistant of the division, a true account, if required to the best of his or her knowledge.” (Census Bureau)

The 2010 census data can also be accessed and used by ordinary citizens. The 2010 Census information can be helpful in supporting or developing community initiatives such as those that involve environmental legislation, those that address the quality of life issues as well as in the area of consumer advocacy.

#### Reference

Groves, Robert. (2010) “ How it Benefits your Community.” United States 2010 Census. Retrieved 31 Jan. 2010, from < <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/why/community-benefits.php>> Census Bureau. (2010). “ The 1790 Census Act. US Census Bureau.” Retrieved 31 Jan. 2010, from < [http://www.census.gov/history/pdf/1790\\_Census\\_Act.pdf](http://www.census.gov/history/pdf/1790_Census_Act.pdf)> Census Bureau.

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