

# Census 2010 Fact Sheet

## **Why does the government perform the Census?**

The Census is mandated by the U.S. Constitution (Article 1, Section 2). It requires a headcount every 10 years of everyone residing in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the Island Areas. This includes people of all ages, races, ethnic groups, citizens and noncitizens.

Census data is used to determine:

- Local, state and federal funding
- Representation in Congress
- Help local and regional leaders make planning decisions.

**NEW:** The 2010 Census will be a short-form only census!

## **Will the government be able to use my personal information for other reasons? NO!**

- Title 13 of the U.S. Code protects the confidentiality of all your information. Every Census Bureau worker takes an oath for life to protect the confidentiality of census responses. Violating this law is a crime with severe penalties.
- No other government agency may share this data:
  - Not Immigration                      Not the Courts
  - Not the CIA                              Not Congress
  - Not the FBI                                Not even the President
- Statistical methods ensure that the statistics the census releases do not identify individuals or businesses.
- The Census Bureau does not release or share information that identifies individual respondents or their household for 72 years (year 2082).

## **What will I lose by not filling out the Census form?**

- Census data directly affects where more than \$300 billion per year in federal and state funding is allocated to municipalities for:
  - Neighborhood improvements      New roads and transportation
  - Public health services                Locating job training centers
  - Education funding                      Emergency food and shelters
  - Services for the elderly

## **How will the Census affect my voice in government?**

- Census data affects your representation in state and local government. The representatives are YOUR VOICE in congress.
  - Census data are used to define:
    - Legislature districts
    - School districts
    - Local government planning
    - Public safety strategies

**For more information please visit: <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/>**