

Puerto Rico Community Survey

A Handbook for Government Officials

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For more information



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U S C E N S U S B U R E A U
Helping You Make Informed Decisions

U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

**Censo
2010**
Puerto Rico



Dear Public Servant:

Thank you for taking the time to read *Puerto Rico Community Survey: A Handbook for Government Officials*. This booklet is your reference for questions that may arise from your constituents during the U.S. Census Bureau's implementation of the Puerto Rico Community Survey.

The Puerto Rico Community Survey will replace the decennial census long form and enhance your ability to serve your constituents by providing you with more timely information about your community. Armed with more frequent data, you will be able to make better-informed decisions by having timely information regarding your jurisdiction, its people and its resources.

Government officials have seen the value of this information and have endorsed the Puerto Rico Community Survey. In addition, the U.S. Conference of Mayors and National League of Cities, to which Puerto Rico municipios belong, and other national organizations strongly support this new program.

Because the Puerto Rico Community Survey is part of the decennial census program, responses to the survey are required by law. This mandatory requirement and questions concerning the legitimacy of the survey sometimes prompt those selected for the survey to contact local officials. This Handbook contains information to help you address these constituent questions and concerns. The Census Bureau stands with you in partnership to help answer your questions and your constituent referrals.

We look forward to serving you and your constituents in the Puerto Rico Community Survey. We are sure this survey will benefit your community for years to come.

If you have any questions about the Puerto Rico Community Survey, please contact Dr. Nancy Torrieri, Office of the Associate Director for Decennial Census, on 301-763-3602. For information in Spanish, please contact the Census Bureau's Boston Regional Office on 1-800-361-6891.

Sincerely,

Charles Louis Kincannon
Director



What is the Puerto Rico Community Survey?

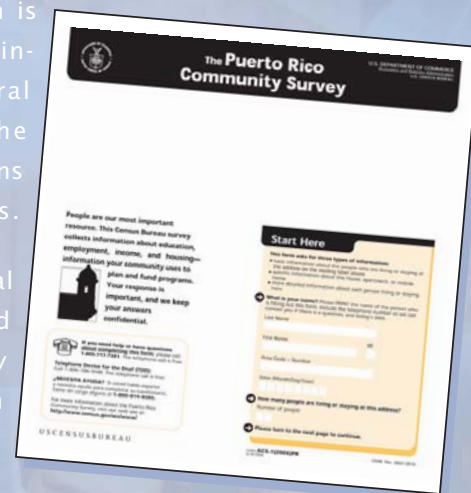
The Puerto Rico Community Survey is an islandwide survey designed to provide communities a fresh look at how they are changing. It is a critical element in the U.S. Census Bureau's reengineered census.

The decennial census traditionally has consisted of two parts: 1) the short form, which counts the population; and 2) the long form, which obtains demographic, housing, social, and economic information. Information from the long form is used for the administration of federal programs and the distribution of billions of federal dollars.

Since the decennial census is conducted only once every 10 years, long-form information becomes out-of-date after a few years. The Puerto Rico Community Survey is a way to provide long-form-type information every year instead of once in ten years. This ongoing survey will replace the long form in future censuses.

Puerto Rico and municipio governments are becoming more involved in administering and evaluating programs traditionally controlled by the federal government. This devolution of responsibility is often accompanied by federal funding through block grants. The data collected via the Puerto Rico Community Survey will be useful not only to the communities, but also to federal agencies, state, and local governments.

The Puerto Rico Community Survey can give an up-to-date statistical picture of a community. Community officials can use the data to track the well-being of children, families, and the elderly; determine where to locate highways, schools, and hospitals; and show a large corporation that a town has the workforce the company needs.



How Is the Puerto Rico Community Survey Conducted?

The U.S. Census Bureau selects a random sample from its file of housing unit addresses. An address has about 1 chance in 480 of being selected in any month. No address will be selected more often than once every five years.

When an address has been selected, the Census Bureau mails a prenotice letter informing people living at that address that they have been selected to participate in the Puerto Rico Community Survey. Shortly thereafter, they will receive a survey questionnaire in the mail. They are asked to complete the questionnaire and mail it back to the Census Bureau's National Processing Center in Jeffersonville, Indiana.

If the Census Bureau does not receive a completed questionnaire within two or three weeks, a reminder card is mailed, followed by a replacement questionnaire.

Addresses that do not respond within six weeks of the original mailing will be contacted by telephone or personal visit. Staff of the Census Bureau's telephone call centers attempt to conduct telephone interviews, if possible. After four more weeks, a sample is taken of addresses not yet interviewed, and Census Bureau field

representatives make personal visits to conduct an interview in the home.

Because it is part of the census, responding to the Puerto Rico Community Survey is required by law.

This is analogous to the mandatory civic responsibility to serve on a jury if called. The duty to respond is set forth in Sections 141 and 193 of Title 13 of the United States Code. This federal law also guarantees confidentiality of the respondent's survey responses and imposes severe penalties for a Census Bureau employee who reveals individual data.



Why Does the Census Bureau Ask Such Personal Questions?

Every question on the Puerto Rico Community Survey is required by federal legislation, administrative regulation, or court decision. The Census Bureau compiles the answers and publishes them for geographical areas of various sizes. Title 13 of the United States Code, Sections 9 and 214,

specify that the Census Bureau cannot publish or release information that would identify any individual.

The information obtained by the Puerto Rico Community Survey is used to manage and evaluate federal, state, and local government programs. Local

businesses also use this vital information. Here are some examples of how responses to the questions are used.

Age and Relationship – The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Puerto Rico local social services departments use data on age and relationship to plan programs for older people living alone. In addition, businesses servicing the senior citizen market use these data to plan home-based shopping, home health care, and other services.



Grandparents Responsible for Grandchildren – Welfare reform legislation enacted in 1996 requires the Census Bureau to collect information about grandparents who are primary caregivers for their grandchildren. This information will allow Puerto Rico government officials to develop the economic and social programs necessary to support grandparents as caregivers.



Place of Birth and Citizenship – The place-of-birth question is asked to measure patterns of movement from place to place within Puerto Rico. Also it is used to classify the population as native and foreign born as required by the Immigration Nationality Act and other federal



laws. Community organizations use data on citizenship to estimate how many people are eligible to vote and conduct voter registration drives.

Language Spoken at Home and English Fluency – These questions are used by the U.S. Department of Education to allocate funds under the No Child Left Behind Act. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and local health and social services agencies use these data to tailor their programs to a diverse population.

Disability – This information is required by the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Workforce Investment Act, the Fair Housing Act, and other federal laws. It is used by the Social Security Administration to implement the Social Security Disability Insurance program. The U.S. Department of Labor promotes employment of the disabled. Local community planners use these data to decide where to locate facilities and services for people with disabilities.

Income – By asking about eight specific sources of income, the Puerto Rico Community Survey helps respondents remember all of the income amounts they receive. Information about income is used by

many federal, state, and local governments and businesses to tailor their products and services appropriately.

Journey to Work – The U.S. Department of Transportation and the Puerto Rico Transportation Department use information about origins and destinations of journeys to work, travel times, and means of transportation to implement the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century and other federal laws. Banks, dry cleaners, and other businesses need to know when most local residents leave for work to plan the hours they will be open.

Housing Costs – The Puerto Rico Community Survey collects data about housing costs for both owners and renters. The Community Services Block Grant and National Affordable Housing Acts require this information. When combined with data on household income, data on housing costs tell the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development about the need for housing assistance.

Local builders use the data to select sites for new developments.

Housing Value – The Fair Housing Act and other federal laws require this information. The U.S. Department of Justice uses these data to enforce laws against discrimination in housing. Businesses use data on housing values in selecting new office and plant sites. Individuals use these data when making relocation decisions.



Number of Rooms, Number of Bedrooms – The U.S.



Department of Housing and Urban Development uses this information to determine the Community Development Block Grant amounts and provide Emergency Shelter Grants to eligible jurisdictions. Local governments must consider whether existing housing meets the needs of families living in the community. Developers can use this information to decide whether to build town houses for young singles, starter homes for young families, or retirement apartments.

When Do We Get Puerto Rico Community Survey Data?

The Puerto Rico Community Survey is conducted throughout Puerto Rico. The Puerto Rico Community Survey will provide data for the same areas that received Census 2000 long-form data, and these data will be updated every year.

Beginning with 2006, detailed tables from the 2005 Puerto Rico Community survey data will be available on the Census Bureau's American FactFinder® Web site at www.census.gov.

Type of Data	Population Size of Area	Data for the Previous Year Released in the Summer of:				
		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010+
Annual estimates	≥250,000	→				
Annual estimates	≥65,000	→				
3-year averages	≥20,000			→		
5-year averages	Census Tract and Block Group*					→

* Census tracts are small, relatively permanent statistical subdivisions of a municipio averaging about 4,000 inhabitants. Census block groups generally contain between 600 and 3,000 people. The smallest geographic level for which data will be produced is the block group; the Census Bureau will not publish estimates for small numbers of people or areas if there is a probability that an individual can be identified.

What If I Am Asked About the Puerto Rico Community Survey?

Here are some of the questions you may be asked by someone who has received an Puerto Rico Community Survey questionnaire in the mail. The following are suggested responses.

1. What is this survey all about? This survey is part of the census. It is a new way that the Census Bureau is using to collect data about the characteristics of the population throughout the decade, rather than once every 10 years.

2. Do I have to answer all of these questions? Yes. The survey is part of the census and answering it is required by law (Sections 141 and 193 of Title 13, United States Code). Every question on the Puerto Rico Community Survey is required by federal legislation, administrative regulation, or court decision.

3. What happens if I don't complete the questionnaire and mail it back? The Census Bureau will contact you, perhaps numerous times, by telephone or personal visit.

4. Why was I selected for this survey when none of my neighbors were? The Census

Bureau takes a random sample of addresses (not people). Any address has about 1 chance in 480 of being selected in any month.

5. How do I know that the information I give will not be used improperly? All Census Bureau employees are sworn to protect the confidentiality of your information and are subject to a high fine and/or imprisonment if they reveal any individual's information. Your information is used for statistical purposes only.

6. How will my community benefit by having data from this survey? Your community will receive federal funds based on this information for schools, roads, senior centers, and other services.

If you require further information, call the Census Bureau's Boston Office. Contact information is on the next page.

Census Bureau Regional Office

REGION	REGIONAL DIRECTOR	PHONE
BOSTON	Kathleen Ludgate	1-800-361-6891



The Puerto Rico Community Survey has the support of
local officials:

“Las futuras asignaciones de fondos federales para múltiples programas dependerán, en gran medida, de los datos genere esta encuesta. Es fundamental tener un panorama claro sobre la realidad de nuestra población para ajustar las peticiones de fondos a ese escenario real”.

Aníbal Acevedo Vilá,
entoncesComisionado Residente
29 de julio, 2004
(Primerahora.com)

Con la Encuesta sobre la Comunidad de Puerto Rico “tendremos un flujo constante de información sobre las características socioeconómicas de nuestra población y por otro, se utilizarán técnicas más avanzadas de muestreo, análisis e inferencia estadística que permitirán un cuadro más al día de nuestra población.”

Ángel Rodríguez,
Presidente de la Junta de Planificación
29 de julio, 2004
(www2.terra.com)

