

The Puerto Rico Community Survey

Group Quarters



U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
Helping You Make Informed Decisions

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

Census
2010
Puerto Rico

What is the Puerto Rico Community Survey?

The Puerto Rico Community Survey is part of the 2010 Decennial Census Program. It is a survey that collects and produces statistical information about the current social, economic, and housing characteristics of Puerto Rico. The Puerto Rico Community Survey provides this information each year. Previously, this information was available only once every 10 years when the U.S. Census Bureau conducted the decennial census.

Do the sampled Group Quarters (GQ) and individuals have to answer the questions on the Puerto Rico Community Survey?

Yes. Your response to this survey is required by law (Title 13, United States Code, Sections 141, 193 and 221). The Census Bureau estimates that the facility level survey will take about 15 minutes to complete and the individual survey will take about 25 minutes to complete.

Do I have to answer these questions every year?

A random sample of GQ facilities in Puerto Rico and a random sample of the people staying at these sampled facilities are selected each year to participate in the PRCS GQ data collection. You will not be asked to complete the PRCS GQ questionnaire every year. You will be asked to complete the survey information only when you are randomly selected from all people staying at a sampled GQ. It is important that each sampled person respond to this mandatory survey so

that the Census Bureau can produce characteristics about the GQ populations in your community and in Puerto Rico each year.

Why did you select this GQ facility and how did I get selected?

This GQ was selected from a sample of all GQs in your area. The GQ and individuals are randomly selected from this list each year, so we cannot substitute another GQ for this one. One of the advantages of a random sample is that we can use it to measure the whole population without having to actually interview every person at every GQ. But in order for it to work, we cannot substitute sampled facilities or individuals; the sample has to be truly random. Your participation is very important if we're going to be able to produce accurate statistics from this survey.

How do I benefit by answering the Puerto Rico Community Survey?

Federal agencies, Puerto Rico, and communities say that they do not have the up-to-date information they need to better understand community issues, respond to needs, and allocate programs and resources. As one community leader said, "Guessing is always fun, but seldom effective."

By responding to the Puerto Rico Community Survey questionnaire, you are helping your community establish community goals, identify community problems and solutions, locate facilities and programs, and measure the performance of programs.

The Puerto Rico Community Survey data are used by:

- Local governments for budgeting, evaluating programs, and planning for community development projects.
- Community programs, such as those for the elderly, scout programs, libraries, banks, hospitals, and other community organizations, to provide services to the community and to locate buildings, services, and programs.
- Transportation planners use journey-to-work information to make decisions to build new roads or add capacity to existing roads, and to develop transit systems, such as light rail or subways by projecting future ridership.

When will the results of the survey be available?

The results of the Puerto Rico Community Survey are released every summer. Survey results are released each year for areas of 65,000 or more persons. For smaller areas, results are available in the form of 3-year and 5-year averages.

Will the Census Bureau keep my information confidential?

Yes. Your answers are confidential by law under Title 13, United States Code, Section 9. This law specifies that the Census Bureau can use the information provided by individuals for statistical purposes only and cannot publish or release information that would identify any individual.

Where can I get assistance or find more information about the Puerto Rico Community Survey?

For questions or assistance with completing this survey, telephone the Census Bureau's Boston Regional Office at 1-800-361-6891.

For more information about the Puerto Rico Community Survey, we encourage you to visit our Web site at:

www.census.gov/acs/www

OR contact us by mail at the following address:

American Community Survey
U.S. Census Bureau
4700 Silver Hill Rd., Room 1657-3
Washington, DC 20233-7500