

## CENSUS HISTORY

The first census took place in 1790 to determine the number of seats each state would have in the U.S. House of Representatives. The census also was created to gain a better understanding of where people lived and to establish patterns of settlement.

## ABOUT THE CENSUS BUREAU

The Census Bureau was established in 1902. Today, in addition to administering the census of population and housing, the Census Bureau conducts more than 200 annual surveys, including the American Community Survey, the Current Population Survey, and economic censuses every five years.



We move forward when you send it back.

# A Journey of Many Voices...



## ...TO DEFINE WHO WE ARE AS AMERICAN INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE PEOPLE

### The Census: A Snapshot

- ▶ **What:** The census is a count of everyone living in the United States.
- ▶ **Who:** All U.S. residents must be counted—people of all races and ethnic groups, both citizens and non-citizens.
- ▶ **When:** Census Day is April 1, 2010. Questionnaire responses should represent the household as it exists on this day. More detailed socioeconomic information is being collected annually from a small percentage of the population through the American Community Survey.
- ▶ **Why:** The U.S. Constitution requires a national census once every 10 years. The census provides state population counts used to determine representation in the U.S. House of Representatives.
- ▶ **How:** Census questionnaires will be delivered or mailed to households in March 2010. Depending on the type of enumeration area, there will be census takers who will visit households and conduct an interview to complete the questionnaire starting in March 2010. Census takers will also visit households that do not return their delivered or mailed questionnaires starting in May.

### A Complete Count: The Importance of Census Data

- ▶ Every year, the federal government allocates more than \$400 billion to states and communities based, in part, on census data.
- ▶ Businesses use census data to gain insight into tribal members living in urban and rural areas and determine the need for new housing, roads and educational programs.
- ▶ Census data guide local American Indian and Alaska Native decision makers in their grant proposals and business plans for the construction of new roads, housing, hospitals, child-care and senior-citizen centers, schools and more.

### 2010 Census Questionnaire: It's Easy, It's Important, and It's Safe

- ▶ With only 10 questions, the 2010 Census questionnaire is one of the shortest questionnaires in history and takes just 10 minutes to complete for the average household.
- ▶ By law, the Census Bureau cannot share an respondents' answers with anyone, including tribal housing authorities, other federal agencies and law enforcement entities.

# 2010 CENSUS KEY DATES



## January – April 2010

Remote Alaska operation  
(Enumeration of sparsely settled areas of Alaska.)



## March 2010:

Census questionnaires are mailed or delivered to households.



## March – May 2010

Update/Enumerate operation which includes selected American Indian reservations. (A Census taker will visit each household to update address lists and collect information on the questionnaire.)



## April 1, 2010

Census Day



## May – July 2010

Census takers visit households that did not return a questionnaire by mail.



## December 31, 2010

By law, Census Bureau delivers population counts to the President for apportionment.



## March 2011

By law, Census Bureau completes delivery of redistricting data to states.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### 1. Q. Who should fill out the census questionnaire?

A. The individual in whose name the housing unit is owned or rented should complete the questionnaire on behalf of every person living in the residence, including relatives and non-relatives.

### 2. Q. How do I fill out the race question correctly?

A. If a person self-identifies as American Indian or Alaska Native he or she should check the American Indian or Alaska Native race box. They are then instructed to print the name of the enrolled or principal tribe in the write-in area.

### 3. Q. Can I write in more than one tribe?

A. Yes, respondents may report more than one tribe. A maximum of 30 characters will be captured and up to two tribal names will be tabulated and used in census results.

### 4. Q. How are census data used?

A. Census data determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives. Census data also can help determine the allocation of federal funds for community services, such as school lunch programs and senior citizen centers, housing, and new construction, such as highways and hospitals.

### 5. Q. What kind of assistance is available to help people complete the questionnaire?

A. Questionnaire Assistance Centers (QAC) will assist those unable to read or understand the questionnaire. Large-print questionnaires are available to the visually impaired upon request, and a Teletext Device for the Deaf (TDD) program will help the hearing impaired. Contact your Regional Census Center for more details about the types of assistance available and for QAC locations.

### 6. Q. How does the Census Bureau count people without a permanent residence?

A. Census Bureau workers undertake extensive operations to take in person counts of people living in group quarters, such as college dormitories, military barracks, nursing homes and shelters, as well as those experiencing homelessness or who have been displaced by natural disasters.

**For more information about the  
2010 Census, go to [2010census.gov](http://2010census.gov)**