

count on CHANGE 2010

RACE QUESTIONS

If a mixed race person selects “Black” and one or more other races, doesn’t that lead to confusion?

The Census allows for each individual to self-identify their race. If the best reflection of an individual’s experience is one race, he should select that race. But if the best reflection of his experience is more than one race, then he should select the races that best reflect how he identifies himself. It is important to encourage people in the African-American community who are of mixed race to select those races that closely reflect how they experience life in America on a day to day basis.

How will the Census Bureau record my race if I check more than one?

The Census Bureau will put you into a category based on the race or races you select. For instance, if you select “Black”, you will be in that category. If you select “Black” and you also select “White”, you will be in a separate category entitled “Black, White” and will not be included in the total Black population. If you select “Black”, and “White”, and also “Asian”, you will be in a category entitled “Black, White, Asian” and will not be included in the total Black population. Special rules apply, however, for redistricting.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CENSUS

USUAL PLACE OF RESIDENCE QUESTIONS

What is a person’s “usual place of residence”?

The Census asks people to respond based on where, as of April 1, 2010, an individual “lives or sleeps most of the time.” If someone does not live and sleep in your home most of the time, they should not be included in your response on your Census form.

Are military personnel counted at their home addresses?

No. U.S. military personnel who live in the barracks are counted in the barracks. Military personnel who live in the U.S. but do not live in the barracks are counted where they live and sleep most of the time.

My child is in Iraq and votes absentee from my home.

When the war ends, he will come home and live with me. Should I include my child as a member of my household when I fill out the Census form?

No. The Census Bureau will make sure your child is counted by using the military’s records.

Where does the Census count homeless people?

Homeless people are counted where they are staying on Census Day, April 1, 2010.

My spouse spends 4 days in Richmond with me and 3 days working in D.C. each week. His work is seasonal and occurs for a few months each year. He is at home when he is not at work. What is his usual place of residence?

If your spouse returns home when he is not working, his usual place of residence is the residence where he lives and sleeps most of the time. In this case, his usual place of residence is Richmond.

What is an individual’s usual place of residence if he works from Illinois every other week and works from California the rest of the time?

That person’s usual place of residence is the place where he is living in on Census Day, April 1, 2010.

My daughter is in college in another state. She comes home each semester break and every summer. My daughter’s usual place of residence is at home with me, right?

No. The students live on campus or in off-campus housing and will be counted where they attend college.





OVERCOUNT QUESTIONS

What are some reasons for overcounting?

There are a number of reasons why someone might be double-counted. A person may have filled out more than one Census form and the Census Bureau did not catch the duplicate forms from the same household. Another reason is that some individuals might own two homes, living part of the year in one place and part of the year in another, and may have filled out two Census forms.

What happens if more than one census form has been completed for my household?

An ID number associated with each household's form, which is used by the Census Bureau to avoid counting residents of a single household more than once. Duplicates from the same household are discarded.

UNDERCOUNT QUESTIONS

How is the net undercount calculated?

The net undercount is an estimate calculated by the Census Bureau based on statistical analysis to correct apparent errors in counting.

If you can calculate the net undercount, why can't you make sure you capture the people who are missed before the Census ends?

The undercount calculation is an estimate only. In the judgment of the Census Bureau's demographers and statisticians, this estimate is considered to be more accurate than the actual enumeration. By law, however, this estimate cannot be used for purposes of apportionment or allocation of federal funding.

Why is my incarcerated son not counted as a resident of my home?

At present, the Census Bureau has no plans to change the manner in which it counts incarcerated individuals—their usual place of residence is where they are incarcerated. However, several states, including Illinois, Michigan, New York, and Pennsylvania, are considering legislation to change the way in which incarcerated individuals are counted for purposes of drawing election districts.

How did you calculate "the amount of funding lost" in your presentation?

The "amount of funding lost" was calculated by the accounting firm of PriceWaterhouseCoopers ("PWC") in a study performed in 2001, as part of a report to Congress. PWC arrived at its figures by applying the most up-to-date undercount estimates available at that time to the formula used for allocating federal funds for eight major programs: (1) Medicaid; (2) foster care; (3) vocational rehabilitation services; (4) child care block grants; (5) social services block grants; (6) substance abuse block grants; (7) adoption assistance; and (8) vocational education grants.

When one state is undercounted, it does not necessarily follow that other states, which are counted more accurately, receive more than their fair share of money. Many federal programs, such as Medicaid, are allocated funds on a national level based on total population measures. This is in contrast to apportionment in the House, which involves a fixed set of seats in Congress that are divided (roughly) proportionally among the states.

MISCELLANEOUS QUESTIONS

Can someone assist me, or can I assist someone, in filling out the Census form?

Yes. There's no rule against helping someone fill out the Census form. You can also contact the Census Bureau for assistance at 1-866-872-6868, between 8:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m., 7 days a week.



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National Urban League

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