



WHY DO WE TAKE THE CENSUS?

- The U.S. Constitution (Article I, Section 2) mandates a headcount every 10 years, of everyone residing in the United States: in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the Island Areas. This includes people of all ages, races, ethnic groups, citizens, and noncitizens. The first census was conducted in 1790 and has been carried out every 10 years since then.
- The next census occurs in 2010. The population totals from this census will determine the number of seats each state has in the House of Representatives. States also use the totals to redraw their legislative districts.
- The U.S. Census Bureau must submit state population totals to the President of the United States by December 31, 2010.
- The totals also affect funding in your community, and data collected in the census help inform decision makers how your community is changing. Approximately \$300 billion in federal funding is distributed to communities each year.

Will the 2010 Census be the same as 2000?

No, there are some important changes:

- 2010 Census will be short form only—just 10 easy questions.
- The long form is now part of the annual American Community Survey.
- Handheld computers with Global Positioning System will be used to check our address list in 2009.

