



Why do we take the Census?

Read below for important information regarding the upcoming census process!

HEY, NORTHEAST IOWA RESIDENTS!



IT'S IN OUR HANDS

Is Census Data Really Confidential? **ABSOLUTELY!**

Your answers are protected by law (Title 13 of the U.S. Code, Section 9) and are strictly confidential. It is illegal for the Census Bureau, or its employees, to share your personal information with any other government agency—not law enforcement, IRS, Welfare, FBI, Immigration, etc. No court of law, not even the U.S. President, can access your individual responses. Census workers must pass security and employment reference checks and are highly motivated to protect your answers. All Census employees are subject to a **\$250,000 FINE AND/OR A 5-YEAR PRISON TERM** for disclosing any information that could identify a respondent or household.

How Do We Use Census Data?

Census data is widely and wisely used. Determining congressional seats, legislative district boundaries and federal funding are just a few of the many important uses of census data. Take a look at examples below. The federal government uses population data to allocate funds in a number of areas:

- **Title 1 grants to educational agencies** (High Schools, Middle Schools, Elementary Schools)
- **Head Start programs** (NEICAC service area 17 centers in 7 counties serving 287 children)
- **Women, Infants and Children (WIC)** (food grants)
- **Public transportation** (Northeast Iowa Regional Transit- JARC, New Freedom)
- **Road rehabilitation and construction** (Federal, State and County funding)
- **Programs for the elderly** (Northland Agency on Aging, age 60 and over, meals on wheels)
- **Emergency food and shelter** (NEICAC and other non-profit food shelves)
- **Census data helps the private sector as well as state and federal governments** to determine where jobs and job programs are needed.
- **Census data helps potential home owners** research property values, median income, and other demographic information about a particular community.
- **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for assistance with water/sewer, community facilities and housing programs** are based upon low to moderate income population.
- **Corporations use population data for market research to determine locations for commercial enterprises**, such as food stores, pharmacies, and other essential services.

Why Do We Take the Census?

The U.S. Constitution (Article 1, 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 the next census occurs in 2010. The U.S. Census Bureau must submit state population totals to our U.S. President 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. Roughly \$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 were used to check address lists in 2009.**

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