

CENSUS 2010: UPDATE/ENUMERATE OPERATION

Update/Enumerate (U/E) is one of three primary census methods used to count people living in single housing units. (There are other operations used to count people who are transient, who do not have a usual residence, or who live in group facilities.)

U/E is used in areas where initial address canvassing shows a significant number of housing units that do not have addresses with easily detectable house numbers and street names. The census is conducted using the U/E method on American Indian reservations, in Colonias along the Texas-Mexican border, in Native Alaskan villages, in resort areas with high concentrations of seasonally-vacant homes, and in other selected remote areas.

When: The *Update/Enumerate* operation runs from March 22 – May 29, 2010. It is scheduled to finish well before the Nonresponse Follow-up (NRFU) operation, in which census takers visit all households that did not mail back their census forms in Mail-out/Mail-back and Update/Leave areas. (NRFU is scheduled to run from May 1 – July 10.)

How: In *Update/Enumerate* areas, census takers (the Census Bureau calls them “enumerators”):

- ✓ Canvass every street and road in his or her assignment area.
- ✓ *Update* the Census Bureau’s address list for that area, confirming the existence of housing units on the list and adding living quarters that are not on the list.
- ✓ *Update* the Census Bureau’s maps for the area to be sure each housing unit is placed in the correct location.
- ✓ *Enumerate* each household as they go.

Rules for personal visits: The guidelines for door-to-door visits in U/E areas are the same as they are for personal visits and interviews in the Nonresponse Follow-up operation. Key procedures are:

- ✓ Census takers can make up to six visits to a housing unit.
- ✓ Census takers ask the ten questions that are on the standard census form (no more, no less, except for confirming the address and double-checking to be sure no one living in the household is missed, as Question #2 is designed to do for the first time).

- ✓ Census takers are trained to visit at different times of day and on different days of the week in an effort to find someone at home. They work most often in the evening and on weekends.
- ✓ Census takers may collect information from a responsible household member age 15 or older.
- ✓ After six tries, census takers are allowed to ask neighbors or landlords for information about a home (Is it occupied or vacant? Do they know how many people live there? Can they supply any information about gender, age and race/ethnicity?). Obviously, information collected using this "last resort" procedure is likely to be less accurate than information collected directly from household members.

Identifying census takers: Census takers will carry official name badges issued by the U.S. Department of Commerce/U.S. Census Bureau. Most will carry a black canvass bag with the 2010 Census logo across the side. They will have address lists and maps and clipboards to use as they record answers. If no one is home the census taker will leave a card letting residents know that they came by and will come back. The card also will have a phone number that residents can call to try and arrange a return visit at convenient time.

Key messages for households in Update/Enumerate areas:

- ✓ Census takers will not ask to enter your home.
- ✓ Census takers will not ask for personal identification (such as a driver's license or social security card).
- ✓ Census takers will not ask for any immigration documentation, nor will they ask any questions about immigration status.
- ✓ Census takers will not ask for your social security number or for any financial or bank account information.
- ✓ If you are not sure the person at your door is an official census employee, you may ask that he/she return at another time and may call the toll-free assistance line (Spanish: 1-866-928-2010; English: 1-866-872-6868) or Local Census Office (we need to get this number from the Partnership Specialist or off the 2010 Census website) to verify the census taker's identity.

Census questions: What will they ask?

For each person living in the household:

1. Name
2. Age
3. Date of birth (used only to verify age and reduce duplications)
4. Gender
5. Hispanic origin ('yes' and, if so, subgroup, or 'no')
6. Race (Hispanic is an ethnicity, not a race, under federal guidelines, but people who do not identify with one of the race choices may check "Some other race" and write-in Hispanic, Chicano, Mexican, or whatever "race" they consider themselves. People also may choose more than one race.)

For the "householder" (Person 1, who is responding to the questions) only, all of the above plus:

1. Number of people living in the household on April 1, 2010
2. A question to make sure no one else was staying in the home on April 1, 2010, who should be have been included as part of the household (such as a newborn, adult child, boarder, or others who tend to be overlooked)
3. Is the home owned (and if so, is there a mortgage or not), rented, or occupied without paying rent?
4. Telephone number (used only if the Census Bureau must call to clarify a response)
5. A question to make sure no one was included in the household count who should not have been (such as a student away at college, member of the armed forces, someone in prison, or others who shouldn't be included in the household count in accordance with Census Residence Rules)

For everyone other than the householder (Person 1), all of the six topics listed first plus:

1. Relationship question: How is every other person in the household related to Person 1? There are many choices for people who are both relatives (in the sense of blood or family) and non-relatives of Person 1.

Other messages to ensure an accurate count:

- ✓ Count everyone who usually lived or stayed in your home as of April 1, 2010, and had no other usual place of residence.
- ✓ Count everyone even if they are not your blood relative or family through marriage.

- ✓ Count everyone who was living or staying with you for longer than just a short vacation/visit, even if they might move somewhere else in the weeks and months ahead, as long as they usually lived in your home on April 1.
- ✓ Count everyone regardless of their immigration or legal status: Citizens; legal permanent residents (green card holders); people staying or working in the United States on a visa; and people who do not have legal papers or documentation.
- ✓ **Completely confidential:** Your personal answers are strictly confidential under federal law. No one outside the Census Bureau may see your personal responses or use your information against you in any way, including in a court of law. That means the Census Bureau cannot share your information with the immigration service, Border Patrol, FBI, I.R.S., local police, housing authorities, politicians, judges or officers of the Court, or private businesses. Census employees take an oath to keep your answers confidential for life. If they violate that oath, they can go to jail for up to five years and/or be fined up to \$250,000.
- ✓ **Do you think you weren't counted?** People who believe their household was missed in the *Update/Enumerate* operation or who think they were left out of the count reported by someone else in their home may call the toll-free telephone line and provide their answers by phone through July 30, 2010. *We strongly urge anyone in the Colonias who believes they weren't counted by the end of May to provide their answers by phone as soon as possible after that point, which marks the end of U/E.* (Spanish: 1-866-928-2010; English: 1-866-872-6868)