

2010 US Census and Why You Should Participate

What is the Census? The U.S. Census counts every resident in the United States, and is required by the Constitution to take place every 10 years. The Census has been conducted every 10 years since 1790.

Participating is easy! In March of 2010, census forms will be delivered to every residence in the United States and Puerto Rico. When you receive yours, just *answer the 10 short questions* and then *mail the form back* in the postage-paid envelope provided.

If you don't mail the form back, you may receive a visit from a [census taker](#), who will ask you the [questions from the form](#). It costs substantially more money to send census takers to households that fail to mail back their form than it does to receive it by mail. Every 1% increase in the national mail back participation rate for the 2010 Census saves \$85 million in taxpayer money!

When we all answer the Census, our needs are heard! The 2010 Census will help communities receive *more than \$400 billion in federal funds* each year for things like:

- Public Health
- Job training centers
- Schools
- Senior centers
- Bridges, tunnels and other-public works projects
- Emergency services

Census data is used to determine the number of congressional seats our state has in the U.S. House of Representatives. In addition, people from many walks of life use census data to advocate for causes, rescue disaster victims, prevent diseases, research markets, locate pools of skilled workers and more.

Every person in Des Moines that is counted will maximize the dollars our community receives to provide services that benefit you and your neighbors.

Additional information about the 2010 Census can be accessed at: <http://2010.census.gov>