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1-800-354-7271

# Frequently Asked Questions



Si necesita ayuda para completar su cuestionario, llame sin cargo alguno al:  
1-877-833-5625

U.S. Department of Commerce  
Economics and Statistics Administration  
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

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U S C E N S U S B U R E A U  
*Helping You Make Informed Decisions*



# Frequently Asked Questions

## ***What is the American Community Survey?***

Every 10 years, the U.S. Census Bureau conducts a census. During Census 2000, the population of the United States was counted, and additional information was collected to describe the characteristics of the nation's population and housing.

The next census in 2010 will count the population, while the American Community Survey collects the information about population and housing characteristics throughout the decade. Based on the American Community Survey, the Census Bureau can provide data about our rapidly changing country more often than every 10 years.

## ***How do I benefit by participating?***

The American Community Survey provides up-to-date information for the nation, states, cities, counties, metropolitan areas, and communities. By responding to the American Community Survey questionnaire, you are helping your community to establish goals, identify problems and solutions, and measure the performance of programs.

Communities need data about the well-being of children, families, and the elderly to provide services to them.

These data also are used to decide where to locate new highways, schools, hospitals, and community centers; to show a large corporation that a town has the workforce the company needs; and in many other ways.

By responding to our questionnaire, you will help the Census Bureau further improve the data collected on the American Community Survey. Every improvement provides data that better reflect the nation, states, cities, counties, and your community.

## ***Do I have to answer the questions?***

Yes. Your response to this survey is required by law (Title 13, United States Code, Sections 141 and 193). Title 13, as changed by Title 18, imposes a penalty for not responding. The survey is approved by the Office of Management and Budget. We estimate this survey will take about 40 minutes to complete.

## ***How will the Census Bureau use the information that I provide?***

The Census Bureau can use the information you provide for statistical purposes only and cannot publish or release information that would identify you and your household. Your information will be used in combination with

information from other households to help us assess how questions on the American Community Survey are understood and answered. The Census Bureau will use this information to improve the American Community Survey, ultimately resulting in even better data for your community and the nation.

## ***Will the Census Bureau keep my information confidential?***

Yes. All of the information the Census Bureau collects for this survey about you and your household is confidential by law (Title 13, United States Code, Section 9). By law, every Census Bureau employee—including the Director as well as every field representative—has taken an oath and is subject to a jail term, a fine, or both if he or she discloses ANY information that could identify you or your household.

## ***Where can I find more information about the American Community Survey?***

You may visit our Web site <[www.census.gov/acs/www](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)> or call 1-800-354-7271 if you need assistance or more information.