



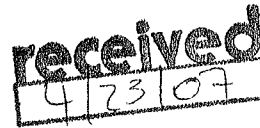
THE UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
GOVERNMENT HOUSE

Charlotte Amalie, V.I. 00802
340-774-0001

April 10, 2007

Mr. Preston J. Waite
Associate Director of the Decennial Census
Bureau of the Census
U.S. Department of Commerce
Washington, DC 20233-0001



Dear Mr Waite:

As the Bureau of the Census continues its preparation for the conduct of the decennial Census of Population and Housing, I wish to reaffirm the support of my administration for the 2010 Census in the United States Virgin Islands.

The U.S. Virgin Islands Census (USVI) Interagency Committee has deliberated the contents of the 2000 Census questionnaire, and benefited enormously from the guidance provided by Census Bureau staff on their visit with the Committee in St. Thomas in March.

I am therefore pleased to submit the enclosed proposed additions to, and modifications of, the 2000 USVI Census questionnaire.

Please communicate with Dr. LaVerne Ragster, President of the University of the Virgin Islands, in all matters that concern the development of the U.S. Virgin Islands Census 2010 questionnaire.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John P. de Jongh, Jr.", written over a circular stamp or seal.

John P. de Jongh, Jr.
Governor

Enclosure

LIST OF PROPOSED ADDITIONS TO AND MODIFICATIONS OF THE 2000 CENSUS U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS QUESTIONNAIRE

Programmatic Addition

Health Insurance

- A combined federal and local government effort measured, by survey, the rate of health uninsurance in the U.S. Virgin Islands in 2002. The inclusion of this increasingly important item in the 2010 Census questionnaire would set benchmark values against which future survey estimates of health uninsurance can be compared. The recommendation is that a two-part question be asked about the types of insurance coverage, and if not covered, how long has the respondent been without coverage. Submitted by the Bureau of Economic Research, Office of the Governor.

Question Modifications

Hispanic or Latino origin

5 Is this person Spanish/Hispanic/Latino?

- No, not Spanish/Hispanic/Latino
- Yes, Puerto Rican
- Yes, Dominican
- Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano
- Yes, other Spanish/Hispanic/Latino—Print Group

- 'Dominican' is recommended for specific inclusion as this group made up 3.6 percent of the population in a 2004 demographic survey, compared to 0.28 percent of Mexicans and 0.13 percent of Cubans in the 2000 Census.

Submitted by the Eastern Caribbean Center, University of the Virgin Islands.

Migration

16 a. Did this person live in this house or apartment 5 years ago (on April 1, 1995)?

- Yes, this house → *Skip to 16*
- No, different house

- The current wording excludes children under 5 years. This group of children is a meaningful component of immigration from neighboring islands, and these data should be captured to assist local population estimates.

Submitted by the Eastern Caribbean Center of the University of the Virgin Islands.

Journey to Work

24 a. How did this person usually get to work LAST WEEK?

- Car, truck, or van
- Bus
- Taxicab
- Motorcycle
- Public transportation
- Safari or taxi bus

- Ferryboat or water taxi
- Plane or seaplane
- Walked
- Worked at home → *Skip to 28*
- Other method
 - Two additional journey-to-work categories are suggested for inclusion: 'public transportation' and 'plane or seaplane' as options as there is a significantly increasing use of these modes of transport to work.
Submitted by the Department of Public Works and the Department of Health.

Source of water

45 a. Do you get water from—

- A public system only?
- A public system and cistern?
- A cistern, tanks, or drums only?
- A public stand pipe?
- Some other source such as an individual well or spring?

45 b. Did you purchase any water from a water vendor during the past year?

- Yes
 - No
 - It is requested that question 45b (Purchase of Water from a Water Vendor) be reworded to be more specific.
e.g. **During the past month, did this house or apartment purchase any water from—**
 - A water delivery vendor
 - A supermarket or grocery store
 - Both water vendor and supermarket or grocery store
 - Neither vendor nor supermarket nor grocery store
- Submitted by the Department of Education and the Eastern Caribbean Center, University of the Virgin Islands.

Census Products

- The race/ethnic classification should include a category such as Arabian/Semitic (Arab, Palestinian, Lebanese, Syrian, etc.) in order to capture the increasing number of this group which exceeds the number of Koreans and Vietnamese.
Submitted by the Bureau of Economic Research, Office of the Governor
- A distinct tabulation category should be used to identify the sub-population of people experiencing homelessness. There is an increasing need to classify the institutionalized population.
Submitted by the Methodist Training and Outreach Center.
- Census publications should continue to include single-year intervals for children aged 5 and younger as it did for the 1990 census. This is of primary value to the Division of Vital Statistics in the Department of Health and in population estimates.
Submitted by the Division of Vital Statistics in the Department of Health and the Department of Department of Human Services.

Geography

- Currently the Virgin Islands can not optimize the use of Census data because of a lack of any correspondence between local government geography and census geography. There is a need to explore with the Geography Division of the Census Bureau how census geographic boundaries can be brought into correspondence with the widely used estate boundaries.

The VI requests that a Census Bureau staff geographer from the Geography Division visit with Virgin Islands officials to examine the options to improve this situation.

Submitted by the Division of Comprehensive and Coastal Zone Planning, Department of Planning and Natural Resources.



University of the Virgin Islands

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Eastern Caribbean Center

January 3, 2008

Ms Idabelle B. Hovland
Chief, Puerto Rico, Island Areas and
Overseas Enumeration Branch
Decennial Management Division
Bureau of the Census
US Department of Commerce
Washington, DC 20233-0001

Dear Idabelle:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the proposed 2010 census questions for the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The Eastern Caribbean Center therefore submits three comments on the questionnaire:

- In question 5, third category: we suggest that "Dominican" be replaced by "Dominican Republican" to distinguish these Latinos from immigrants from Dominica who are referred to locally as "Dom-ee-nee-cans". When spoken, the distinction is easier as the pronunciation for someone from the DR is "Doh-min-y-can".
- In question 15a, first category: we suggest changing "1 Years" to "1 year".
- We are delighted with question 16, and would like to request one minor addition— if the respondent currently has no insurance coverage at all, how long has the respondent been without coverage. (I know that right now the Governor's Office is intensely interested in gathering relevant health insurance information for some sort of universal coverage.)

Again, we thank you for your enormous assistance in helping to ensure our best census yet.

Sincerely,

Frank L. Mills
USVI Census Data Center