

## Survey Examples

Our surveys produce a general view and comprehensive study of the United States' social and economic conditions. One or several of these surveys are currently being conducted in your area.

**The American Community Survey** provides demographic, social, economic, and housing characteristics to communities each year. It used to be part of the once-a-decade census, but is now conducted as an ongoing survey to provide more accurate and up-to-date statistics about our communities. It's critical for planning and evaluating programs for everyone from newborns to the elderly.

**The Consumer Expenditure Survey** provides data for the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The CPI is used to adjust wages, salaries, and pensions for the effects of inflation.

**The Current Population Survey** produces the monthly unemployment rate. Results from the Current Population Survey also include estimates of characteristics of the general labor force, the population as a whole, and various groups of the population.

**The Health Interview Survey** provides information on a continuing basis about the prevalence and distribution of illness, its effects in terms of disability and chronic impairments, and the kinds of health services people receive.

**The National Crime Victimization Survey** provides personal victimization and property crime rates. Data are gathered on types and incidence of crime; characteristics of victims; and monetary losses and physical injuries due to crime.

**The American Housing Survey** provides the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) with data about the condition of the housing inventory, and the primary costs of housing such as mortgage, rent, utilities, and repairs.

**The Survey of Income and Program Participation (SIPP)** collects data on source and amount of income, program participation and eligibility data, and general demographic characteristics to measure the effectiveness of existing Federal, state and local programs, to estimate future costs and coverage for government programs, such as food stamps, and to provide improved statistics on the distribution of income and measures of economic well-being in the country. SIPP is the only recurring short-term longitudinal survey to measure income and program participation and eligibility.

## U.S. Census Bureau

Many people think we only work every 10 years when we count everyone in the Census of Population and Housing. When you read newspapers or magazines, watch TV or listen to the radio, there's a good chance that you will see or hear about the work we do every one of the other 9 years. We collect information on employment, unemployment, health, crime, your spending, the number of new homes constructed, and the number of people in poverty.

### How do we get this information?

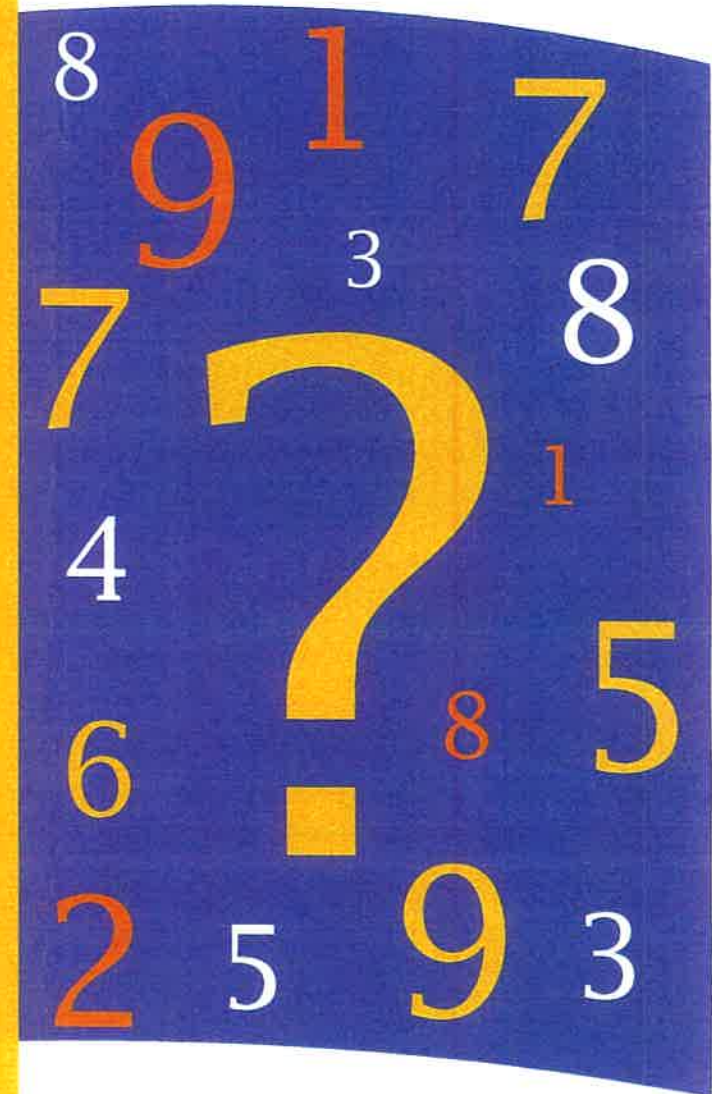
We ask you! All residents of the United States hear from us every 10 years during the Census of Population and Housing. In between, we contact residents for the large number of monthly, quarterly, and annual surveys. We conduct these surveys by mail, telephone, and in person. These surveys help to measure current and emerging trends. The Census Bureau acts as the "Factfinder for the Nation," conducting many surveys for other government agencies.

*Thank You for Your Participation!*

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## What the Census Bureau Does the Other 9 Years



## What does America look like?

Imagine a quilt—a mosaic of color, form, and texture. Now, look at our country. It, too, resembles an evergrowing, changing quilt made up of people, communities, and institutions. Each of us has a place in the intricate patterns that create the framework of society.



*"If we could first know where we are, and whither we are tending, we could then better judge what to do, and how to do it."*

*Abraham Lincoln*

## Why is demographic information important?

Demography is a science about people, and people are important. The Census Bureau's demographic programs help us find our places in the vast pattern of America to understand where we have been, where we are, and where we are heading.



The Census Bureau is the largest collector and disseminator of demographic information that is used to develop programs, create policies, and change lives in our country and communities.

## Is the information I provide confidential?

Yes. Your answers are confidential by law under Title 13, United States Code, Section 9. This law requires that every Census Bureau employee—including the director and every Census Bureau representative—take an oath and be subject to a jail term of 5 years, a \$250,000 fine, or both, if he or she discloses ANY information that could identify you. Your answers may be used only for statistical purposes.



## The Philadelphia Regional Office

The Census Bureau utilizes staff in regional offices to manage operations related to current or demographic surveys. We use surveys because it takes too long to ask every resident every question on every subject.

The Census Bureau has a network of professional field representatives who gather data for the Census Bureau by personal visit or telephone. To gather survey data, the Philadelphia Regional Office employs field representatives in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Virginia West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the National Center for Health Statistics, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Bureau of Justice Statistics are just a few of the government agencies for which the Census Bureau conducts surveys.

## What are our surveys about?



Some of the surveys conducted by the Philadelphia Office include topics covering: education, employment, health, aging, housing, income and poverty, crime, jobs, spending, alcohol consumption, and long-term care. Information from these surveys supply vital statistics that affect America today. When you help us, you become a community representative for the surveys.