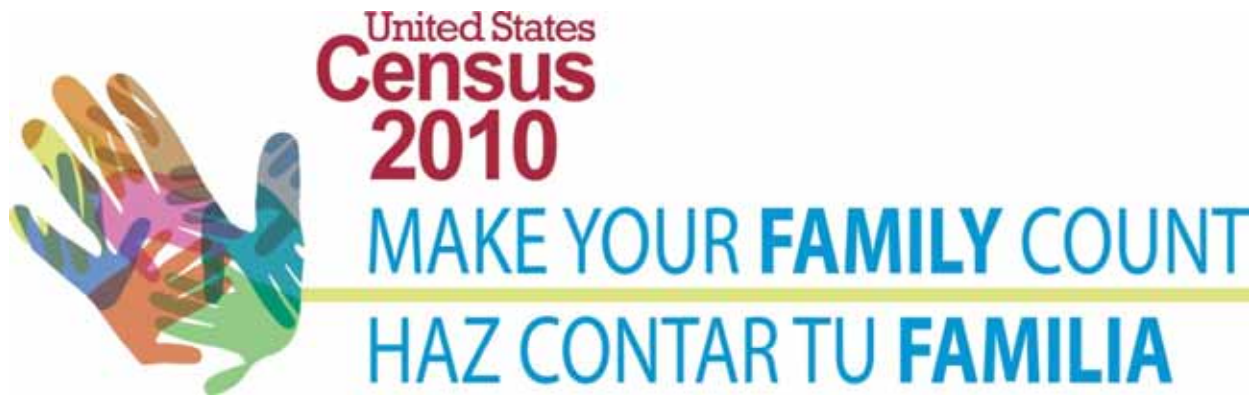


The Census and the ACS: Clearing the Confusion

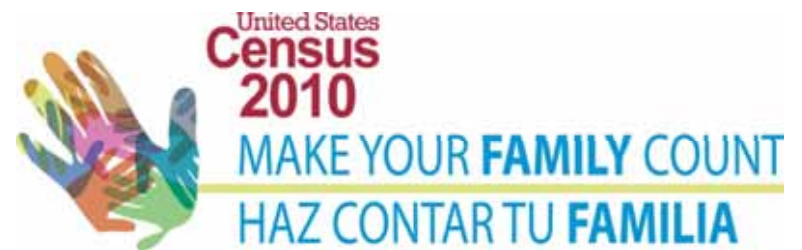
prepared by

Sandra Holland

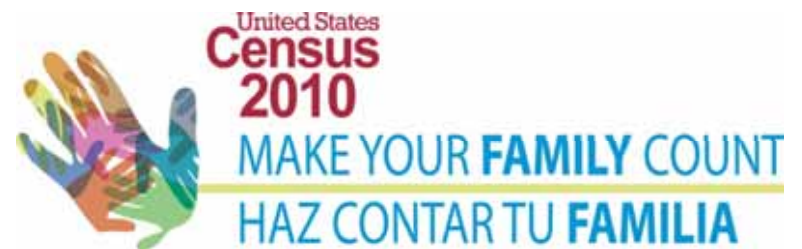
Pima Association of Governments



The U.S. Census Bureau is part of the U.S. Department of Commerce and is the branch of government responsible for statistical data collection

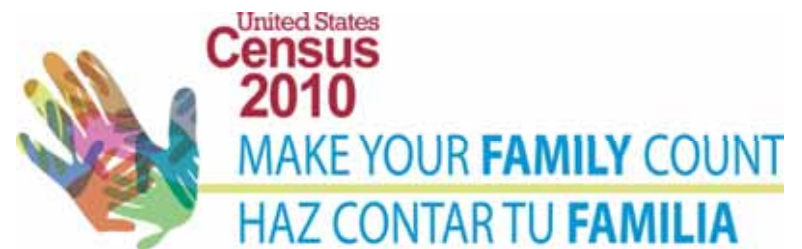


The Census Bureau Carries out many surveys, *including* the Decennial Census, the Economic Census, the Survey of Business Owners, the ACS, the CPS, the AHS...



The **Decennial Census** has a constitutional mandate.

The purpose is to fully enumerate the population and apportion the House of Representatives.





Over time the Census survey became more complex
and asked questions on a larger range of topics

Short Form (100%)

Information on

Age,

Hispanic and Latino Origin,

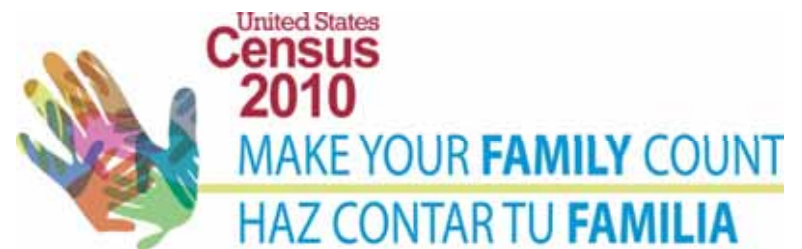
Household relationship,

Race,

Sex,

Tenure (whether home is owned or rented)

Vacancy Characteristics





Long Form – asked questions of approximately one in six households

Population

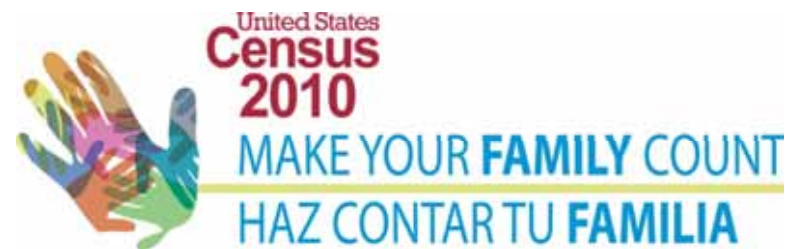
Ancestry
Disability
Grandparents as caregivers
Income in 1999
Labor force status
Language spoken at home and ability to speak English
Marital status
Migration (residence in 1995)
Occupation, industry, and class of worker
Place of birth, citizenship, and year of entry
Place of work and journey to work
School enrollment and educational attainment
Veteran status
Work status in 1999

Housing

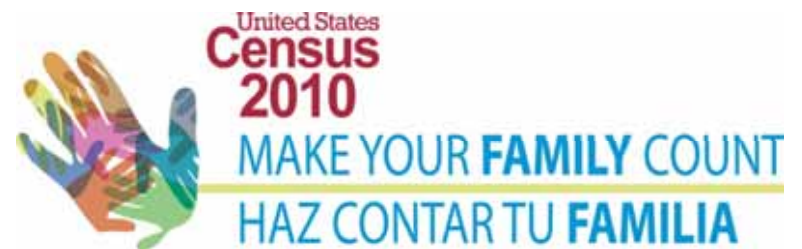
Farm residence
Heating fuel
Number of rooms and number of bedrooms
Plumbing and kitchen facilities
Telephone service
Units in structure
Utilities, mortgage, taxes, insurance, and fuel costs
Value of home or monthly rent paid
Vehicles available
Year moved into residence
Year structure built

The **2010 Census** form is just 10 questions, such as:

- Name
 - Sex
 - Age
 - Date of birth
 - Hispanic origin
 - Race
 - Household relationship
 - If you own or rent
-
- The census **DOES NOT** ask about the legal status of respondents or their Social Security numbers.

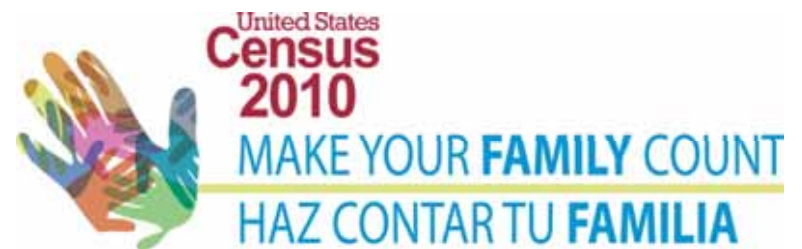


- **The 2010 form: Shorter, easier to fill out**
- Now less is more. Because of changes to the process and the introduction of the **American Community Survey**, the 2010 Census form is shorter, making it even easier to fill in and send back.



The ACS was developed to:

- Focus the decennial census on improving the population count
- Provide characteristic data more than once every 10 years
- Allow use of more current data to measure change and detect trends
- Is a continuous ongoing survey; surveys are sent out every month



2010 Census and the ACS

2010 Census

U.S. population count

Short form only

Only long form is for U.S. territories, except Puerto Rico

“Usual residence” rule

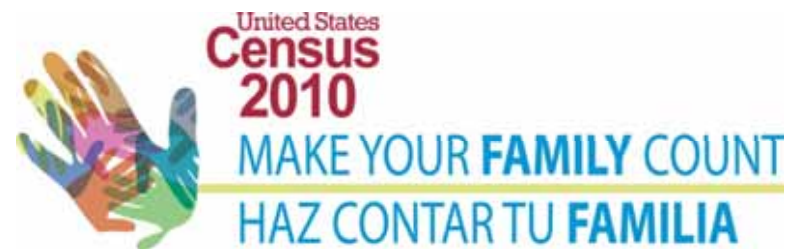
ACS

U.S. population characteristics

Includes same short form questions as well as detailed characteristic questions

Conducted in Puerto Rico

“Current residence” rule



ACS during 2010 Census

Operations will continue as usual during
2010 Census data collection

- Some people will receive both the 2010 Census and ACS questionnaires at the same time
- Some people will receive visits from both 2010 Census enumerators and ACS field representatives
- The 10 questions on the 2010 Census are exactly the same on the ACS questionnaire

