

COUNTDOWN to CENSUS DAY!

April 1, 2000 is just 13 months away. From now until the 2000 census the *Utah Data Guide* will include articles relating to Census 2000, and a calendar outlining activities that will take place prior to and following Census 2000.

1999

January-March

Complete Count Committees activities begin
Local government address review process continues

February-June

Field check of all urban addresses

October-December

Remaining local census offices open

2000

January-March

Publicity campaign begins
Recruiting
Special population counts

March

Questionnaires delivered (by mail or door-to-door)
Enumeration in rural or remote areas

APRIL 1, 2000 CENSUS DAY!

April-May 30

Be counted campaign
Non-response follow-up
Quality check survey conducted

December 31, 2000

Count of U.S. by states delivered to the President with reapportionment counts

CENSUS 2000 QUESTIONNAIRE: the LONG and SHORT of IT

The Census Bureau has taken several steps to ensure that the long and short form questionnaires are easier to complete in the year 2000. Designers are producing forms that are easy to read and understand, simple to fill out and mail back, and help people understand the importance of answering the census. Some of the user-friendly features are: a larger, easier to read type face; navigational aids to guide the respondent through the questionnaire; instructions written directly on the form instead of in a separate guide; and graphics which illustrate census benefits.

The time required to complete both the short and long forms has been reduced. In 1990, it was estimated to take 14 minutes to complete the short form and 43 minutes for the long form. For Census 2000, it will only take about 10 minutes to complete the short form and 38 minutes for the long form.

The Census Bureau has adopted a six person questionnaire for Census 2000. This is a shift from the five person forms used in 1990. This change applies to both the short and the long forms. The Census Bureau anticipates the change will save time and money by reducing the followup workload related to large households. Planning estimates put the number of mailback households with seven or more persons at slightly more than 1 million households versus about 4 million households with six or more.

The Short Form. Most housing units in the country (about 83%) will receive the short form questionnaire. The Census 2000 short form is the shortest form in 180 years. It includes questions on six population subjects and one housing subject:

Subjects on the Short Form

Population	Housing
Name	Tenure
Sex	(whether
Age	the home is
Relationship	owned or
Hispanic	rented)
Origin	
Race	

Five subjects that were on the 1990 census short form have moved to the Census 2000 long form. These include: marital status, units in structure, number of rooms, value of home, and monthly rent. For Census 2000, the Census Bureau has proposed subjects on the short form only when the data are both needed in response to legislative requirements and required at the block level--the smallest level of geography for which information is reported.

The Long Form. The Census 2000 long form provides socio-economic detail needed for a wide range of government programs and federal requirements. Nationwide, this form goes to one in six housing units. To assure the same level of accuracy everywhere, a larger share of housing units in small towns and rural counties will receive this form.

Only one new subject was added to the Census 2000 long form: grandparents as care givers. This addition complies with legislation passed by the 104th Congress requiring that the decennial census obtain information about grandparents who have primary responsibility for care of grandchildren (13 U.S.C. Chapter 5, Section 141).

Five subjects that appeared on the 1990 census long form were dropped, including: children ever born, year last worked, source of water, sewage disposal and condominium status. Deciding which subjects to include is an interactive process involving the Census Bureau, the Office of Management and Budget, and the U.S. Congress. To balance concerns about the intrusiveness of the decennial census, the many requirements placed on Federal agencies, and the needs of states, only those subjects that had specific Federal legislative justification were recommended for Census 2000. Because these five subjects from the 1990 census were not explicitly mandated or required by Federal law, the Census Bureau recommended that they not be included on the Census 2000 form.

Subjects on the Long Form

Population	Housing
Name	Tenure
Sex	Units in structure
Age	Number of rooms
Relationship	Number of bedrooms
Hispanic Origin	Plumbing and kitchen facilities
Race	Year structure built
Marital Status	Year moved into unit
Place of birth, citizenship and year of entry	House heating fuel
School enrollment and educational attainment	Telephone
Ancestry	Vehicles available
Residence five years ago (migration)	Farm residence
Language spoken at home	Value of home
Veteran Status	Monthly rent
Disability	(including
Grandparents as care givers	congregate
Labor force status (current)	housing)
Place of work and journey to work	Shelter costs
Work status last year	(selected monthly
Industry, occupation and class of worker	owner costs)
Income (previous year)	

For additional information about Census 2000, visit the Census Bureau's Internet site at <http://www.census.gov> or contact the Utah State Data Center at 538-1036.