

May 27, 2010

The purpose of this email is to let you know that the Palatine Census Office has completed approximately 60% of it's NRFU (Non Response Follow Up Operation) and provide you some information regarding Census Takers in the field that may be helpful to you in responding to questions residents of your community might ask regarding why there is a Census Taker at their door.

1. 2010 Census Takers are in the field doing door-to-door enumeration.

As mentioned in an earlier email, the Census Bureau has Census Takers on the street calling on residents who didn't return their mail back questionnaire or whose questionnaire was sent back after April 20th.

Each local census office was provided a list of addresses to call on. The Bureau has tried to update the local census office as new questionnaires have come in but there is a time lag between the questionnaire coming in and the local office being made aware of it.

As a result, a Census Taker may find that they are calling on someone who says they've returned the questionnaire and doesn't understand why he or she is at the door. The Census Taker has been instructed to visit that location 1) because the person's questionnaire came in late (and the local office hasn't been notified that it came in), 2) the questionnaire was received but there is some missing or conflicting information the Census Taker was sent out to clarify, 3) the Bureau can't match a "Be Counted Questionnaire" to the master file and we have no record of having received a questionnaire from that address or 4) the resident really didn't return their questionnaire (or at least we haven't received it.)

2. Enumerators for other census surveys are also in the field; albeit on a smaller scale.

The Census Bureau does hundreds of surveys a year and dozens on an ongoing basis. Two of these -- which each involve about 250,000 residences a month -- are also resulting in Census Takers being on the street as well.

The first is the Current Population Survey which among other things measures the number of people employed and those out of work. This survey is only conducted by door-to-door Census Takers who in any given month are visiting approximately 250,000 homes nationwide.

The second large scale survey underway is the American Community Survey . This survey runs 28-pages and is mailed to approximately 250,000 addresses a month. Those who don't respond are mailed a second survey and if they still don't respond they are called. If they are not reached by phone, a Census Taker visits their home. In any given month, there are hundreds of Census Takers nationwide in the field going door-to-door taking this survey.

Census Takers for the two surveys mentioned above wear a Department of Commerce badge with a green background behind their picture ID whereas 2010 Enumerators don't have a photo ID. 2010

Census Takers have a white badge with their name and carry a black over the shoulder bag with a large white "Census" logo on it.

Field enumerators following up on the American Community Survey or carrying out the Current Population Survey have nothing to do with the 2010 Decennial Census .

3. 2010 Census Quality Assurance (QA) Enumerators are also in the field.

As I mentioned in a previous email, the 2010 Census includes a Quality Assurance Operation designed to validate the integrity of the information captured by 2010 Census Takers (the first group mentioned above).

Approximately 5% of those visited by a 2010 Census Taker are randomly selected for QA follow up. For most residents this is done over the phone. A worker at the Local Census Office will try up to three times to contact the resident by phone to ask 5 or 6 questions intended to 1) assure a Census Taker actually visited their home and 2) the information obtained is accurate.

If the person selected is not reached by phone, a 2010 Quality Assurance Enumerator will go to their home to try to get the information first hand.

As a result of multiple surveys underway, a resident may have more than one census worker come to their door.

Although it's highly unlikely, an individual could have two or more Census Takers knock on their door -- each for different reasons.

While we encourage residents to cooperate with each Census Taker, responding to the Decennial Census is of key importance to your community in terms of assuring your fair share of the over \$400 billion dollars a year distributed in state and federal funding on the basis of census counts.

I hope this has helped clarify why residents may have more than one Census Takeer at door and why. As always, if you have questions regarding the above or anything else, please don't hesitate to contact me. Thanks.

Lee

Lee Habich/Partnership Specialist

U.S. Census Bureau

1208 W. Northwest Highway

Palatine, IL 60067

Cell) 317-250-6593/Office) 847-221-1248

charles.l.habich@census.gov <http://2010census.gov>