



## Essential Services Credited to U.S. Census Figures

Article One of the United States Constitution charges that a census be held every ten years. Federal policy makers have long appreciated the attributes census data provide and as a result, they have created specific collections to best complement the varied needs of the American public.

The four leading census collection are:

***The Decennial Census,  
American Community Survey,  
Economic Censuses, and  
The Agricultural Census***

The data collected by these surveys support the nation's economic growth and public service.

### **Without U.S. Census Figures America would not be able to...**

- Draw federal, state, and local legislative districts.
- Provide the information by which to attract new businesses to states and local areas
- Evaluate the effects of potential policies on particular geographical areas, groups of people, or businesses
- Distribute over \$300 billion in federal funds and even more in state funds to the right people or places



### **Provide information to improve health. Did you know census figures...**

- Assess the potential for the spread of dangerous communicable diseases
- Identify cancer "hot spots"
- Plan for hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, and the location of other health services
- Create maps to speed emergency services to households in need of assistance
- Plan health and educational services for people with disabilities

### **Support homeland security, the military and U.S. veterans. Did you know census numbers are used to...**



- Develop a Homeland Infrastructure Protection Plan
- Identify populations at risk in order to make disaster recovery plans
- Allocate the right amount of funds to communities where military bases are located, so the communities can properly support our military members
- Analyze military recruitment
- Design public safety strategies
- Assess the impact of military base expansions and closings
- Conduct a reliable National survey of Veterans to guide development of VA services and programs.

**Help our nation's children thrive. Did you know census figures help to...**

- Determine where to build public child care and senior centers
- Draw school district boundaries
- Compare indices of child well-being across U.S states
- Understand how family structure and child care affect success in schools



**Plan and provide needed community and social services. Did you know census figures are needed to...**

- Forecast future transportation needs for all segments of the population
- Forecast future housing needs for all segments of the population
- Direct funds for services for people in poverty
- Design public safety strategies
- Estimate the number of people displaced by natural disasters
- Site facilities for people with disabilities, the elderly, or children

**Promote and protect our agriculture and food system. Did you know census numbers are needed to...**

- Track the likely path of the spread of agricultural pest infestations
- Rapidly respond to threats to the American food supply
- Locate areas with low access to healthy foods – “Food Deserts”
- Give farm lenders benchmarks on farm structure, technology and other characteristics that relate to credit risk
- Measure the nation's food security



**Fuel local and national economic growth. Did you know census numbers are needed to...**

- Produce the economic indicators used by the Federal reserve to set interest rates
- Measure and spot trends in economic well-being of the nation
- Prepare local governments' rationales in their efforts to attract new business
- Permit small businesses to benchmark their performance against the averages of others in their industry
- Gauge the likely effect of various policies or actions on local jobs numbers

**Do you have questions regarding the benefits that census data provides to you? Please contact COPAFS.**

*Linking you with a thriving statistical system*

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Founded in 1981, the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS) represents over 300,000 individual researchers, educators, public health professionals, civic groups, and businesses that rely on the quality and accessibility of statistics that can only be effectively collected by the federal government.

