

What is the U.S. Census?

- The census is a count of everyone living in the United States: in all 50 states, regardless of whether they are a citizen, visa holder, or illegal alien.
- The census is mandated by the U.S. Constitution once every ten years.
- The next census will be undertaken beginning on April 1st, 2010.

Participation in the 2010 Census is important

- Census data is used to distribute more than \$300 billion in federal funds to local and state governments each year.
- Census data guides local decision-makers on how to allocate funds for neighborhood improvements, public health, education, transportation and much more.
- Census data affects your voice in the U.S. Congress by appropriating how many seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Your participation in the 2010 Census is simple and safe!

- **It's easy!** The census questionnaire takes only ten minutes to complete and return by mail.
- **It's confidential!** Your response is protected by law. The Census Bureau cannot share an individual's answers with anyone, including tax and immigration agencies. All Census Bureau employees have taken an oath for life to protect confidentiality of census responses. Violations would result in jail terms of up to five years and/or fines of up to \$250,000.

When will the 2010 Census be conducted?

- Census forms are mailed or delivered to households during February and March of 2010
- The deadline for completing and returning the form will be April 1, 2010.
- From April through July, Census workers will visit homes that did not return the form to the Census Bureau.

The American Community Survey (ACS)

Questions about how we live as a nation, our diversity, education, housing, jobs and more are now covered in the ACS, which is sent to approximately 3 million households each year. The ACS also offers the opportunity to enter a person's ancestry or ethnic origin. The Census Bureau can use the information you provide for statistical purposes only and cannot publish or release information that would identify you or your household.

Iranian American 2010 Census Project

Like many other ethnic, minority and immigrant populations Iranian Americans are undercounted with the U.S. Census. According to the 2000 Census, there were 338,000 Americans of Iranian descent at the time. The actual number is believed to be at least two or three times larger. By taking a proactive role in the 2010 Census, Iranian Americans can strive to have the statistics represent reality.

Benefits of Iranian Americans being counted

Numbers count! Showing the growth of the community translates into increased influence and recognition within American society.

- **Civic uses:** Ethnic organizations depend wholly on ancestry data to identify, locate and mobilize their constituencies; civil rights agencies also require ancestry data to monitor discrimination based on national origin.
- **Political Influence:** Numbers translate into power. Elected officials target ethnic constituencies on numerous occasions to solicit their feedback. The more Iranian Americans take the census, the more influential our community becomes.
- **Economic uses:** Businesses and corporations depend on accurate and reliable ethnic data for market research and economic expansion.
- **Research uses:** Social scientists, journalists and other researchers rely on census and ACS data to study ethnic population groups, demographic trends, and economic and educational mobility.

Goals of Iranian American 2010 Census Project

- Reach every household of Iranian heritage.
- Educate them on the importance of completing the census and assuring them that the information they provide will be strictly confidential and not used for any other purpose.
- Ensure all Iranians living in the United States, regardless of whether they are a citizen, visa-holder, or illegal alien respond to the census in a consistent manner.

What "race" should I put on the census?

Question 9 of the census short form asks of the person's race. Mark "x" in the box that states "some other race" and print "Iranian" or "Iranian American" underneath it.

If I receive an ACS form, how should I answer questions on race and ethnicity?

Just like the U.S. Census, it is very important that when identifying your race, that you checkmark "Some other race" and write in "Iranian" or "Iranian American". In addition, when answering Question 13

on "ancestry or ethnic origin" it is similarly important that you write in "Iranian".

Iranian American 2010 Census Project



IT'S IN OUR HANDS

Stand up and Be Counted!

This document was created as part of the **Iranian American 2010 Census Coalition**. The Coalition includes the Bay Area Iranian-American Voter Association (Baivoter), Farhang Foundation, Iranian Alliances Across Borders (IAAB), Iranian American Bar Association (IABA), Iranian Psychological Association of America (IPAA), National Iranian American Council (NIAC), Network of Iranian American Professionals of Orange County (NIPOC), PARS Community Foundation, Public Affairs Alliance of Iranian Americans (PAAIA), Shabeh Jomeh, and the U.S. Census Bureau.