

Census 2000 Questionnaire

Shortly before April 1, 2000, every household in Chester County was mailed the U.S. Census 2000 questionnaire. The Census Bureau distributed two forms of the questionnaire - a short form and a long form. Most households (about 83 percent) received the short form, which consisted of six population questions and one housing question. Approximately every sixth household received a long form that will provide a significant amount of information on the socio-economic character of our population and the nature of our housing. The long form included all seven questions on the short form, plus 27 additional population and housing questions. The questions on the short form are referred to as the "100 percent" questions because they were asked on both questionnaires. The additional questions on the long form are referred to as the "sample" questions. (See reverse side for a complete list of the questions.)

The Census 2000 questionnaires are similar to the Census questionnaires used in 1990, but there are several differences. One of the questions on the Census 2000 long form is new. It asks about grandparents as caregivers. This information was requested to satisfy information for the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996 (welfare reform). Five subjects that were on the 1990 Census short form were moved to the Census 2000 long form: marital status, units in structure, number of rooms, value of home and monthly rent. Five subjects that appeared on the 1990 census long form were dropped: children ever born, year last worked, source of water, sewage disposal and condominium status. These subjects were not explicitly mandated by federal law.

Using Census Data

Knowing whether a subject was asked as a 100 percent question or as a sample question is important when using Census data. Census 2000 data products will be organized and released separately for the 100 percent questions and the sample questions. Data from the 100 percent questions are expected to be available by the end of 2001. Data from the sample questions will be available by the end of 2002. The 100 percent data will be found in different publications and at different Internet locations than the sample data.

Although the sample questions are only asked of about 17 percent of all households, these answers are applied to the entire population to produce estimates of the actual figures that would have resulted from a complete count. For example, the Census will publish the total number of college graduates in Chester County, not just the number of college graduates who answered the long form. The total number of college graduates is estimated by applying the responses to the sample question to the total County population.

Questions asked on the Short Form

(100 percent questions)

Population

Name
Sex
Age
Relationship
Hispanic origin
Race

Housing

Tenure (whether the home is owned or rented)

Additional questions asked on the Long Form

(Sample questions)

Population

Marital status
Place of birth, citizenship and year of entry
School enrollment and educational attainment
Ancestry
Residence five years ago (migration)
Language spoken at home
Veteran status
Disability
Grandparents as caregivers
Labor force status (current)
Place of work and journey to work
Work status last year
Industry, occupation and class of worker
Income (previous year)

Housing

Units in structure
Number of rooms
Number of bedrooms
Plumbing and kitchen facilities
Year structure built
Year moved into unit
House heating fuel
Telephone
Vehicles available
Farm residence
Value of home
Monthly rent (including congregate housing)
Shelter costs (selected monthly owner costs)