

Dear US Census Partners and Supporters

It has come to our attention that persons posing as Census workers have been visiting households and demanding payment in return for assistance in filling Census forms. Unfortunately this and other scams may be unavoidable, but there is a lot you can do to protect yourselves and your communities from fraudulent activities and scams.

Please find below information provided by the US Census on identifying scams, verifying the identify of census workers and understanding what information is and is not collected by the census. Please read carefully and share with your constituents **and** disseminate this information as widely **as possible**. Thanks for your support and cooperation.

Best regards

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Fraudulent Activity and Scams:

http://www.census.gov/survey_participants/related_information/phishing_email_scams_bogus_census_web_sites.html

The Census Bureau uses a workforce of trained federal employees to conduct a variety of household and business surveys by telephone, in-person interviews, through the mail, and in limited cases through the Internet. We understand your personal information is sensitive, and go to great lengths to protect the data we collect. Although we cannot stop or warn against all bogus or false collections of data -- here are some tips to help you recognize fraudulent activity or unofficial data collections.

If you are contacted for any of the following reasons -- Do Not Participate. It is NOT the U.S. Census Bureau.

Phishing:

'Phishing' is the criminally fraudulent process of attempting to acquire sensitive information such as usernames, passwords, social security numbers, bank account or credit card details by masquerading as a trustworthy entity in an electronic communication. Phishing is typically carried out by email and it often directs users to enter sensitive information at a fake web site whose look and feel are almost identical to the legitimate one.

Other Scams:

- **The Census Bureau does NOT conduct the 2010 Census via the Internet**
- **The Census Bureau does not send emails about participating in the 2010 Census**
- **The Census Bureau never:**
 - o Asks for your full social security number
 - o Asks for money or a donation
 - o Sends requests on behalf of a political party
 - o Requests PIN codes, passwords or similar access information for credit cards, banks or other financial accounts.

How to report scams and bogus Census web sites

If you believe you have been contacted as part of bogus or fraudulent activity falsely representing the Census Bureau:

In-Person Scams

- o Check for a valid Census ID badge
- o Call your [regional office](#) to verify you are in a survey
- Email Scams
- o **If you think it is a bogus email, do not reply or click on any links within the email.**
- o **Do not open any attachments. Attachments may contain code that could infect your computer**
- o Forward the email or web site URL to the Census Bureau at ITSO.Fraud.Reporting@census.gov.
- o After you forward the email to us, delete the message. You will not receive a confirmation email after forwarding the information to us. However, the Census Bureau will investigate the information and notify you of its findings.

Mail and Phone Scams:

- o Contact the [Federal Trade Commission](#)

Is your survey legitimate?

You may further verify if a collection activity is legitimate by calling your [regional census office](#) regarding mail surveys, and our [National Processing Center](#) for phone surveys. Other questions may be answered through our [Are You In a Survey?](#) page.

For your protection:

<http://2010.census.gov/2010census/privacy/more-security-topics.php>

The 2010 Census does not collect any information about your taxes or income.

Additional security related information to keep in mind:

Any request for census information from the Census Bureau will be clearly marked as coming from the U.S. Census Bureau and as OFFICIAL BUSINESS of the United States

It is a federal offense for anyone to pretend they represent the Census Bureau, or any other office of the United States Government

When the 2010 Census takes place, you will receive a letter from the Census Bureau Director, notifying you that, in a few days, your household will receive a form in the mail, or a phone call from the Census Bureau, or a visit from a Census Bureau representative

Identifying the Census Taker

All census takers carry official government badges marked with just their name

You may also ask them for a picture ID from another source to confirm their identity

Some census workers might carry a "U.S. Census Bureau" bag

If you still are not certain about their identity, please call the [Regional Census Center](#) to confirm they're employed by the Census Bureau.

Most importantly, the Census Bureau will NEVER, under any circumstances, ask to enter your home.

How to Identify a Census Field Representative:

http://www.census.gov/regions/boston/www/contact_us/how_to_identify_a_census_field_representative.php

If you are visited by someone from the United States Census Bureau, here are some RECOGNITION TIPS to assure the validity of the field representative;

Must present an ID Badge which contains: photograph of field representative, Department of Commerce watermark, and expiration date.

Will provide you with supervisor contact information and/or the regional office phone number for verification, if asked.

Will provide you with a letter from the director of the Census Bureau on U.S. Census Bureau letterhead.

May be carrying a laptop and/or bag with a Census Bureau logo.

When in doubt, please call the Boston Regional Office for verification at 1-800- 562-5721. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m.- 4:30 p.m., Eastern Daylight Time.

<<Safety precautions against fraudulent activity and scams.doc>>

(Courtesy of Missy Dziczek of the Medway COA.)