

1950 UNITED STATES FEDERAL CENSUS

The Big Count

United States Federal Census History

A census is a count and description of the population of a country, state, county, or city for a given date. Census lists are also called "schedules." In the United States, a nationwide census has been taken every ten years since 1790. A well-indexed census is one of the easiest ways to locate where an ancestor lived and when they lived there.¹

1 "United States Census," *FamilySearch Wiki* (https://www.familysearch.org : accessed 21 August 2022).

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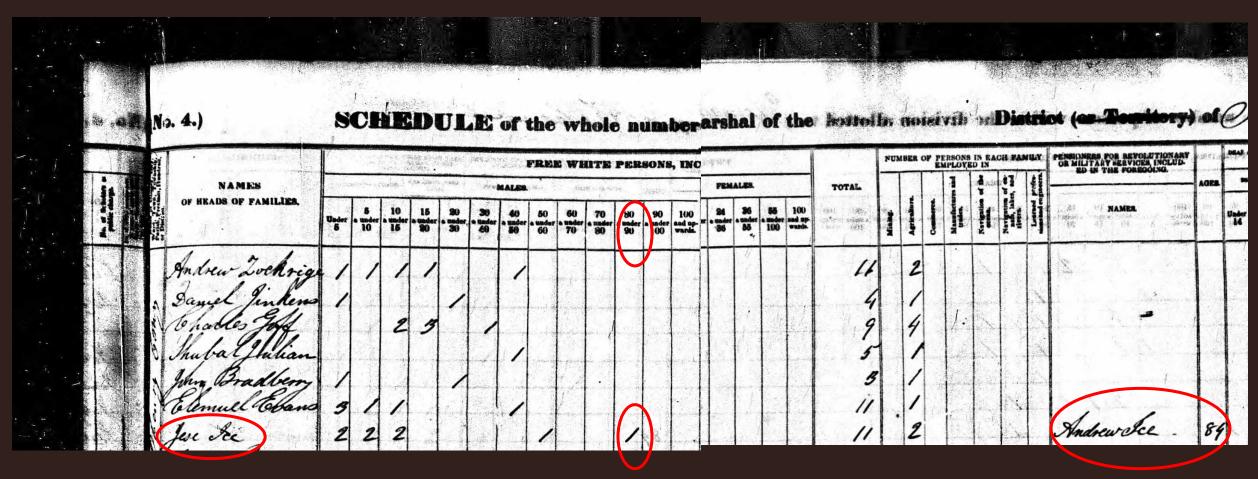
TYPES OF INFORMATION FOUND ON A U.S. CENSUS²

2 "United States Census," *FamilySearch Wiki* (https://www.familysearch.org : accessed 21 August 2022).

Federal Census Contents Names, ages, 1850-1940 birthplaces Birthplaces of parents 1880-1940 1880-1940 Relationships Family and Neighbors All years 1900-1930 Immigration year 1910-1940 Citizenship

Census Tips

1790-1840 Only heads of household listed with tick marks used for others in household. -1840 included a column for pensioners of the Revolutionary or other military service.



Census Tips 1850, 1860, and 1870 included all names in the household but no relationships noted to head of household.

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Typically, you can find head of household, names of those in the household, age, gender, occupation, and place of birth.

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1880 included all names in the household with relationships now noted to head of household, along with race, gender, age, occupation, and place of birth for person, their father, and their mother.

Where's the 1890 United States Federal Census?³

Most of the census' population schedules were badly damaged by a fire in the Commerce Department Building in January 1921. For more information about the fire, the National Archives published an article, "First in the Path of the Firemen: The Fate of the 1890 Population Census," in its Spring 1996 *Prologue*.

The extant schedules are numbered and noted following rolls 1-3 below.

Roll 1

Perry County, Alabama (Perryville Beat No.11 and Severe Beat No. 8) [fragments 1-455]. Roll 2

District of Columbia. Q, 13th, 14th, R, Q, Corcoran, 15th, S, R, and Riggs Streets, Johnson Avenue, and S Street [fragments 456-781].

Roll 3

Muscogee County (Columbus), Georgia; McDonough County (Mound Twp.), Illinois; Wright County (Rockford), Minnesota; Hudson County (Jersey City), New Jersey; Westchester County, (Eastchester); and Suffolk County (Brookhaven Twp.), New York; Gaston County (South Point Twp. and River Bend Twp.) and Cleveland County (Twp. No. 2), North Carolina; Hamilton County (Cincinnati) and Clinton County (Wayne Twp.), Ohio; Union County (Jefferson Twp.), South Dakota; Ellis County (J.P. No. 6, Mountain Peak, and Ovilla Precinct), Hood County (Precinct No. 5), Rusk County (No. 6 and J.P. No. 7), Trinity County (Trinity Town and Precinct No. 2) and Kaufman County (Kaufman) [fragments 782-1,233], Texas.

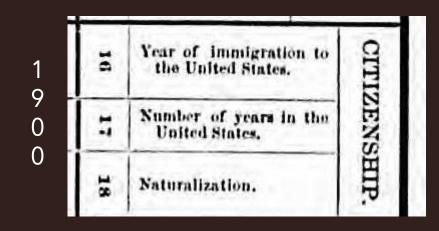
3 "Availability of 1890 Census," The United States Census Bureau (https://www.census.gov : accessed 21 August 2022).



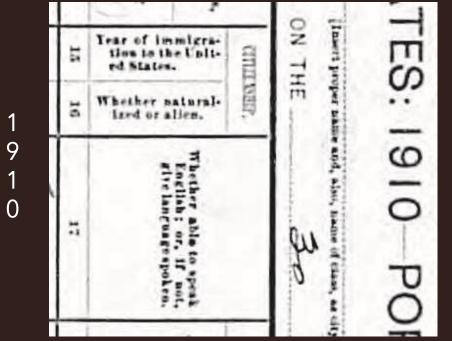
A newspaper photograph captured the scene after a devastating fire and pointed out the need for safe storage of national records. Photo courtesy of the National Archives.

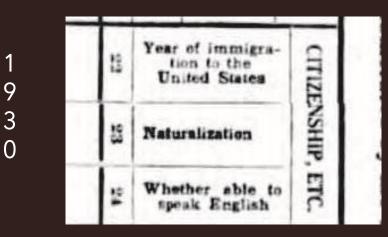
Census Tips

1900 through 1930 included valuable information about immigration and naturalization.



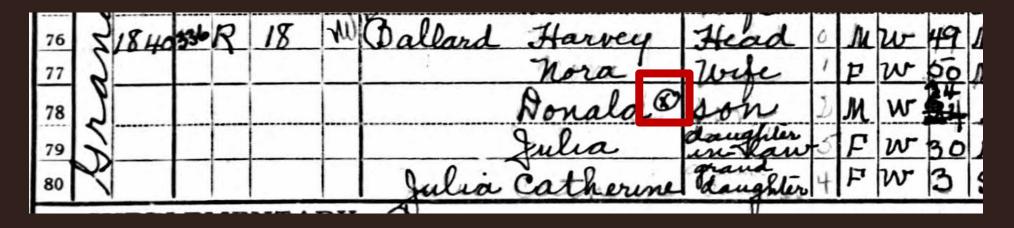
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Census Tips

Look for the X on the 1940 census! This mark indicates who gave the information for that household.



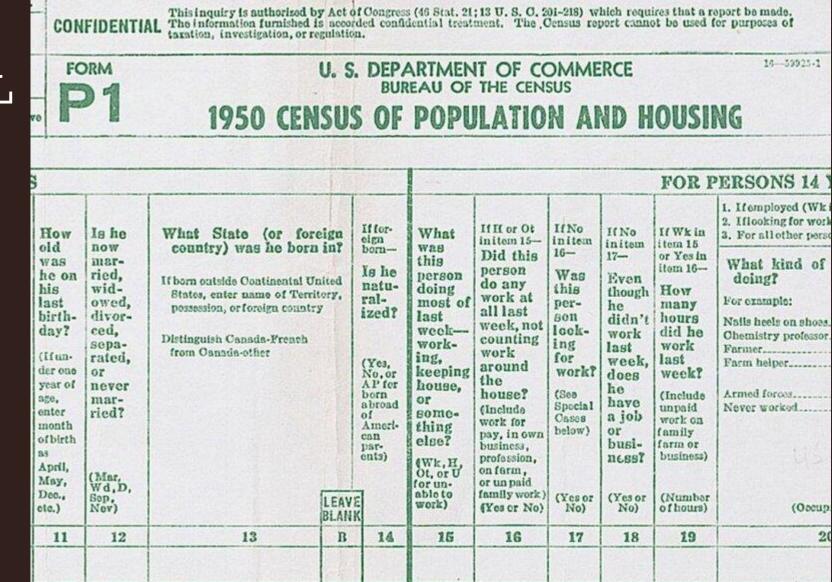
Also, look for the supplemental lines for more information.



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1950 UNITED STATES FEDERAL CENSUS



1950 CENSUS ENUMERATOR INSTRUCTIONS





Every American citizen should know that all personal information given to the U. S. Census is *confidential*—under the law!

It is not available to any individual or to any other Government agency! Not to the Income Tax Office! Not to the Department of Justice –not even the F.B.I.! Not to anybody!

Uncle Sam takes the Census-not to pry into your past and presentbut to help you plan for the future!



Like other American business firms, we believe that business has a responsibility to contribute to the public welfare. This advertisement is therefore sponsored by

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Since Census facts and figures are their best to tell you beforehand what

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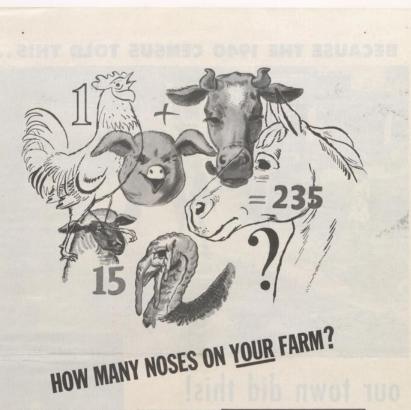
planning all kinds of good things like new answers ready!

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NAME OF SPONSOR

estly. Your radio and newspapers will do



You count them now and then, don't you – to keep your place running right and to plan ahead for the future?

Of course you do-and it's the same way with Uncle Sam. To keep the Government running right, he takes a Census every ten years. Census facts and figures are used by leaders in business, local, state and national governments in planning all kinds of good things, A better farm program, for example. Better schools and school buses, better roads, better housing, more hospitals; a better distribution of services like electric power, gas and water. Even the number of Congressmen your state is entitled to is determined by the Census. And since the prosperity of the farmer, you are being asked this year to fill out a *special* questionnaire, in addition to the regular one.

This will be mailed to you ahead of time, so you'll be able to fill it out evenings, and have a chance to check your records for accurate answers.

If you possibly can, have this questionnaire all filled out and ready when the Census-Taker comes. This will save time all around, and your cooperation will be appreciated.

> Like other American business firms, we believe that business has a responsibility to contribute to the public welfare. This advertisement is therefore sponsored by

NAME OF SPONSOR

AD NO. BC-2-4 cols. x 200 lines

Information You Give to the Census-Taker is STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL

Every American citizen alendal harow that all personal information given to the U. S. Cennus is confidential-maker the law! It is not available to any individual or to any other Government agency? Not to the lacous Tax Officie? Not to the Department of justice-more even the FLH.1 Not to amplody? Uncle Sam takes the Cennus-not to pry into your past, and present-but to help you plain for the

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You can tell your right age to this gentleman!

Bashful about your age? Don't worry-Uncle Sam will keep your secret. All personal information you give the U. S. Census-Taker is strictly confidential!

Under U. 5. low such information is not available to any individual or to any other Government agency. Not to the Income Tax office. Not to the Justice Department—not even the F.B.I. Not to anybody!

Uncle Sam takes the Census-not to pry into your past and present-but to help you plan a better future.

And last but not least, the number of Congressmen your state is entitled to depends on population figures gathered by the Census.

A Consus-Taker will call on you some time after April 1. Do your part by giving clear, direct answers to his questions.

Remember, the information you give him is as *confidential* as the vote you cast during elections.

WHAT TO DO WHEN THE CENSUS-TAKER COMES

Ask him to show his official card. This identifies him as an employee of the Census Bureau.

Be friendly. Invite him in. He will stay only a few minutes.

In non-English-speaking homes, have an adult or older child ready to translate.

Answer all questions accurately and honestly. Remember --the information you give is strictly confidential. Under law, it is not available to any individual or any other Government agency.



Radio and newspapers will tell you beforehand what most of the questions are. Watch for them and have your answers ready.

Like other American business firms, we believe that business has a responsibility to contribute to the public welfare. This advertisement is therefore sponsored by

NAME OF SPONSOR



BECAUSE THE 1940 CENSUS TOLD THIS...



our town did this!

- It's a wonderful new playground to keep our kids off the streets . . . and we got it because the 1940 Census figures showed our children *needed* it.
- That's the way the Census works... that's the way it's been working since the first Census in 1790. Leaders in industry, business, labor and civic groups use Census facts in planning playgrounds, parks, schools, roads, housing; a better distribution of services like gas, electricity, water, and telephones; better transportation systems. Even our representation in Congress is determined by the Census.
- A new Census will begin April 1. When the Census-Taker calls, give him straightforward, honest answers. That's one way you can help make this community of ours a better place to live in.

AD NO. BC-3

5 cols. x 200 lines



Like other American business firms, we believe that business has a responsibility to contribute to the public welfare. This advertisement is therefore sponsored by

NAME OF SPONSOR

NOTE: This ad requires special handling This advertisement was designed for the joint sponsorship of several local firms. If the pictures used in the ad do not apply, please substitute other pictures that do, and re-write the lead paragraph to conform.

Help the 1950 Census. What to do when the Something New has been added ... Census-Taker comes Ask him to show his official card. This identifies him as an employee of the Census Bureau of the U. S. Department of Commerce. Be friendly. Invite him in. He will stay only a 2 Be friendly. few minutes In non-English-speaking homes, have an adult or older child ready to translate. 3 4. Answer all questions accurately and honestly. Remember-the information you give to articity confidential. Under law, it is not available to any individual or any other Government agency. Radio and newspapers will do their best to tell you beforehand what must of the questions are. Wotch for them and have your answers ready. AN ACCURATE CENSUS HELPS YOU GET THINGS LIKE: Fair Representation in Corgona
 Better schools and phyground
 Better boung better hospitals
 Better parks and reads
 Better local transportation systems
 * Better distribution of such previoes as telephones, electric steer, dat, walter. Let's make him count in America's Future ! NAME OF SPONSOR Of owned, a he will depend on the kind of world grower up in. And lake will depend, in a great est, on the anover you grow whose the Canas. Supervised the Canas. AD NO. BC-8-3 cols. x 133 lines SHOWN IN REDUCED SIZE American husiness firms, we believe that business has a responsibility ate is the public welfare. This advertisement is therefore scenario do NAME OF SPONSOR THE CENSUS HELPS AD NO. BC-5-4 cols. x 150 lines SHOWN IN REDUCED SIZE OU COUNT IN AME Remember . . . EVERYTHING YOU TELL THE Information You Give to the Census-Taker is ... CENSUS-TAKER IS CONFIDENTIAL UNDER THE LAW! STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL! AD NO. BC-11-4 x 23/4 inches Every American citizen should know you and the leaders in industry, business, that all personal information given to the labor and civic groups in your community U.S. Cennus is confidential-under the law! plan for the future! Use these drop-ins wherever space It is not available to any individual or to Better schools, better roads, better parks, any other Government agency! Not to playgrounds . . , better housing and hosthe Income Tax Office! Not to the Depart- pitals . . . better distribution of such servment of Justice-toot even the F.B.L. Not ices as telephones, electric power, gas and to analisadul water . . . fair representation in Congress Uncle Sam takes the Census-not to pry -and many other things you profit by-are into your past and present-but to help dependent on the Census. Do your part! the other American histories firms, we believe that between has a impensibility a savelyhole to the public welfare. This advertisement is therefore sponsored by NAME OF SPONSOR AD NO. BC-9-4 cols. x 100 lines AD NO. BC-11-31/2 x 21 inches SHOWN IN REDUCED SIZE

1950 Census Enumeration District Maps



Was everyone counted on the standard Form P1, 1950 Census of Population and Housing?

•No. The 1950 census was the last census in which most people were visited by an enumerator with a large multi-family form (Form P1, 1950 Census of Population and Housing). Different forms were used in selected areas in Michigan and Ohio. Self-enumeration on "household" forms was tested in Ingham and Livingston Counties, Michigan, and Franklin County, Ohio. In addition, "household" forms were also tested in selected Enumeration Districts in Genesee County, Michigan, and in Coshocton, Defiance, Delaware, Fulton, Henry, Knox, Licking, Lucas, Ottawa, Paulding, Putnam, Richland, Van Wert, and Williams Counties, Ohio, but the enumerators completed the forms for households in those areas.

•Different standard census forms were used in Alaska (P82), Hawaii (P87), American Samoa (P80), Guam (P85), Panama Canal Zone (P91), Puerto Rico (P93), and the U.S. Virgin Islands (P97).

•Form P2, *Individual Census Report*, was used for military personnel living in barrack-type facilities on U.S. soil; travelers enumerated at hotels, YMCAs, and campgrounds; and possibly in other situations. Different standard Individual Census Report forms were used in U.S. territories. However, information on Individual Census Reports was usually copied onto the Form P1, 1950 Census of Population and Housing (or equivalent territorial form).

•Form P4, *Crews of Vessels Report*, was used for crew members of U.S.-flag commercial and military vessels in U.S. and territorial ports. However, information on Crews of Vessels Reports was usually copied onto the Form P1, 1950 Census of Population and Housing (or equivalent territorial form).

•The Bureau of the Census later estimated that the census undercounted (missed) approximately 4.1 percent of the population.

How did NARA create the name index?

NARA used an Artificial Intelligence Optical Character Recognition

(OCR) text extraction tool to extract the names from digital images of

the census schedules. However, this technology cannot produce

perfect results due to:

•Illegible handwriting

•Poor image orientation

•Variations in image quality (light, dark, or poor contrast)

•Text obscured by handwritten flourishes from letters on the line above or below.

•Different handwriting styles

•Surnames written only on the line for the Head of Household and other persons in the household with a different surname

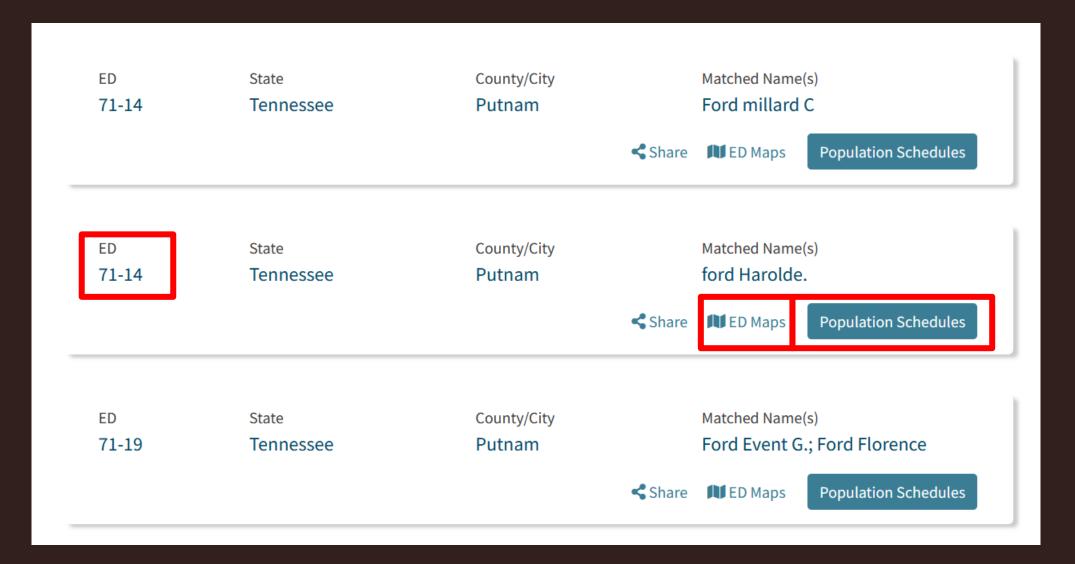
The Enumeration District description refers to aerial photographs. Where are they?

Although the Census Bureau's written descriptions of Enumeration Districts refer to aerial photographs in their possession at that time, they were not retained by the Bureau and are not in NARA holdings.



1950 Census Search on NARA https://1950census.archives.gov/

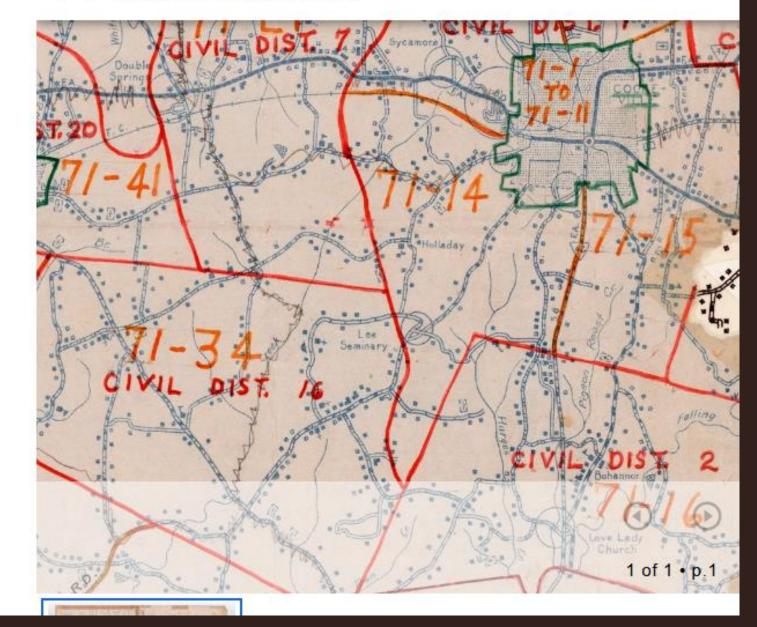
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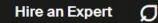


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Enumeration District Map

≡ Tennessee, Putnam





Search > Census & Voter Lists

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Search Match First & Middle Name(s)	all terms exactly	Last Name	NATIONAL ARCHIVES NATIONAL
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1950 United States Federal Census

1950 Census on Ancestry.com: Same result as NARA but no enumeration district map.

1950 Census on FamilySearch.org

https://www.familysearch.org/1950census/

https://www.familysearch.org/getinvolved/1950



Review Families Verify details listed for each person in a household.





1950 United States Federal Census General Tips

•Tip #1: Search for the first and last name of the head of household (plus state and county of residence if known) because the surname was written on the census form only on the line for the head of household and other persons in the household with a different surname.

•Tip #2: To narrow your search to find specific records, you can select multiple filters. Or to conduct a broader search, you may choose to select one filter at a time.

•Tip #3: You don't have to know the exact spelling of a person's name in order to perform a name search. Enter as much as you know. The search engine will return any close variations or matches.

•Tip #4: Once you've found a record of interest, click on the buttons or links labeled "Population Schedules," "ED Maps," or "View Original ED Description" to view a digitized copy of the records.

•Tip #5: Use the built-in transcription feature to correct and add names to the site's name index. Your contributions can help make the 1950 Census population schedules more discoverable for everyone.

Looking Ahead: The 2030 U.S. Census

Census Bureau Invites Public Input on Designing 2030 Census

August 17, 2022 Release Number CB22-CN.16

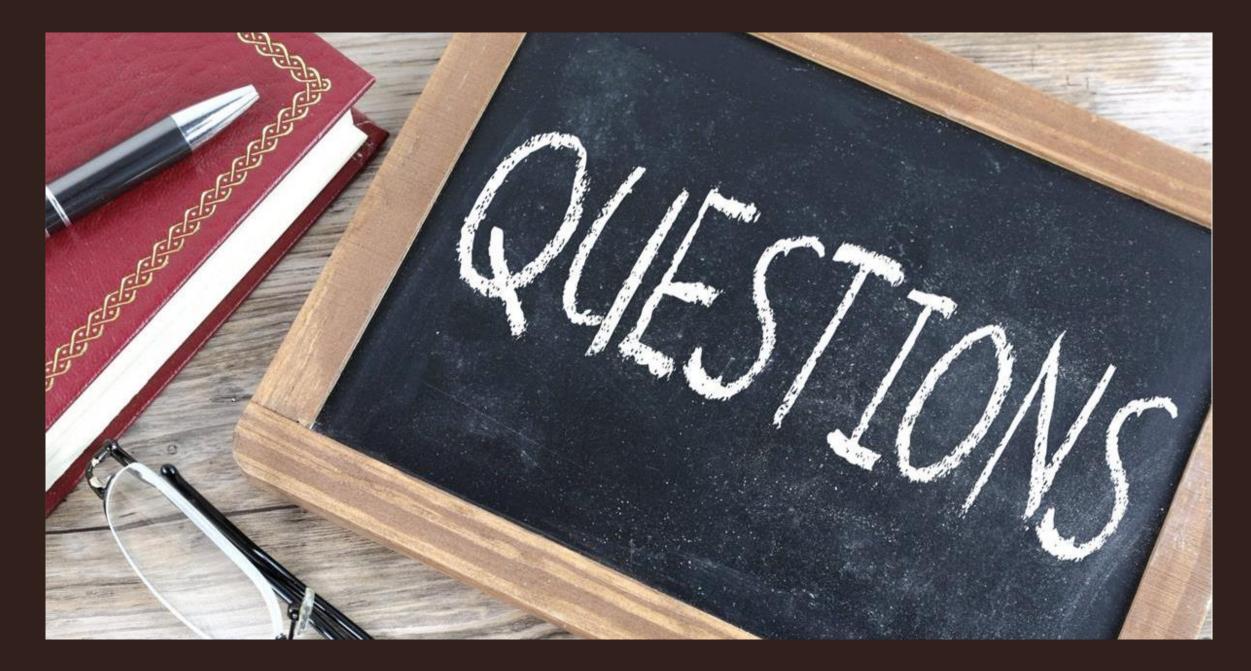
Feedback Is Critical for Informing Plans for the Next Decennial Headcount

https://www.census.gov/newsroom/pressreleases/2022/designing-2030-census.html



Looking Ahead: The 1960 U.S. Census

Save the date! Release Date: 1 April 2032 NOTE: The 1950 census was the last time enumerators personally visited most households with large multifamily census sheets. During the 1960 and later censuses, households received enumeration forms in the mail and mailed them back to the Census Bureau.



THANK YOU & HAPPY HUNTING!

HOOSIER CONNECTIONS IN HENRY COUNTY with KAYE FORD

https://www.hchc.me

kaye@hchc.me

