

Fraudulent Activity and Scams

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:**
 - Asks for your full social security number
 - Asks for money or a donation
 - Sends requests on behalf of a political party
 - 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 Scam
 - Check for a valid Census ID badge
 - Call your [regional office](#) to verify you are in a survey
- Email Scams
 - If you think it is a bogus email, do not reply or click on any links within the email.
 - Do not open any attachments. Attachments may contain code that could infect your computer
 - Forward the email or web site URL to the Census Bureau at ITSO.Fraud.Reporting@census.gov.
 - 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 Scams
 - Contact the [United States Postal Inspection Service](#)