What is a census?
Decennial census
Census geography framework
What the Census Bureau Does

• Collects, produces, and publishes data on the people and the economy of the U.S. through:
  – Decennial Census of Population and Housing: every 10 years
  – Population estimates and projections: every year
  – American Community Survey: every year
  – Economic Census: every 5 years
  – Census of Governments: every 5 years
  – > 100 Annual, Quarterly or Monthly Surveys, including 13 principal economic indicators
Decennial Census Background

• Conducted every 10 years since 1790
• Mandated by our U.S. Constitution
  • Counts are used to determine representation in Congress
• Participation required by law
• Federal law protects the personal information you share during the census
• Information from every person in every household in the United States
• Persons are counted at the household they “live or stay” as of April 1 of Census Year
2010 Census Questions

- Only ten questions related to:
  - Name
  - Gender
  - Age
  - Race
  - Ethnicity
  - Relationship to Householder
  - Home rent or ownership
Surveys, Estimates, and Projections

• A **survey** collects data from a sample of population or households
  – Random sample
  – Representative sample

• **Estimates** provide data about the population for an area at a particular time in the past

• **Projections** provide data about the population for an area at a future time
Collecting data from households and business establishments and assigning to the correct Location

- **Respondents** are associated with a location
- A **Location** is an address or a location description
- The preferred method to collect data uses a mailout/mailback system for the questionnaire
- Need to know the location of each address
- Some do not have a mailing address that can be assigned to a location
  - RFD #1
  - P.O. Box
Availability of data by geographic entity varies across and within data tabulation programs due to:

- Data reliability concerns
- Ability to geocode responses
- Data disclosure concerns
- Sources of input data
- Cost of collection, processing, and tabulation
Population Estimates and Projections

- Population Projections
  - Cohort-component method
  - Based on most recent census
  - US, region, division, and state projections to 2050

- Population Estimates
  - US, state, and county estimates based on demographic components of change
  - Place and county subdivision estimates based on the housing unit method
  - Based on most recent census