

In March 2010, more than 130 million households across the nation received a census questionnaire. Required once every 10 years by the U.S. Constitution, the census counts every person living in the United States, including citizens, noncitizens, immigrants, college students, elderly, homeless, and children.

Despite trends over the past decade towards declining census survey participation, 73% of Massachusetts households mailed back their census forms, more than the national average of 72%. This summer, census workers will visit all households that did not return a census form and the final mail return rate will be announced in the fall.

All five counties in the First Congressional District of Massachusetts participated at a better rate than the national average, some of them significantly higher.

1 **st** **District County**

Rate of Participation in 2000

Rate of Participation in 2010

Berkshire

72

73

Franklin

74

80

Hampden

74

76

Hampshire

79

80

Worcester

77

75

Increased participation is a result of strong efforts across local communities, Complete Count Committees, and friends and neighbors spreading the word about the importance of being counted. It is imperative that all Massachusetts residents be counted so that our communities can receive their fair share of tax dollars.

If you want to check out what your community's response rate is, the Census Bureau has an interactive map on their website at <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/take10map/> .