



Census Update 2005

Randomly Selected Households Receive the 2005 Census Update Survey

The Montgomery County Planning Board is conducting the ninth Census Update Survey during May and June. The mail survey of 24,000 households collects basic demographic data such as age, race, education, employment, and housing characteristics. As rapidly changing demographics shape Montgomery County's profile, the survey results will help planners understand the underlying components of change, such as aging baby boomers, new immigrant households, and minority suburbanization.

It is important that the randomly selected households chosen to participate in the 2005 Census Update Survey return their surveys, so that the results will accurately reflect the community. Information provided will help plan appropriate kinds and levels of service for transportation, schools, housing, social services, libraries, and parks. Answers will give the up-to-date population information needed to help target resources most effectively. The household survey serves to update the federal decennial census last conducted in 2000.

Information gathered through the Census Update Survey is strictly confidential. Under no circumstances are individual replies shared with anyone. Responses are used only in the tabulation of statistical summaries for geographic areas. Cooperation of the randomly chosen County residents is essential to ensure the statistical reliability of the findings. A prompt reply will save time and expense by eliminating the need for follow-up contacts.

Montgomery County government agencies, as well as private and nonprofit organizations, rely on the population and housing data compiled from the Census Update Survey. Results from the 2003 Census Update Survey are available in the Research and Technology Center's section on M-NCPPC's website www.mcfacts.org. The survey results are the foundation of M-NCPPC's Montgomery County Department of Park & Planning's forecasts of population, households, and transportation, and provide a demographic snapshot for a community's master plan. Other examples of how information from past household surveys have been used include:

- Forecasting public facility needs such as parks, libraries, police stations, based on population size and characteristics by planning areas.
- Helping the Montgomery County Public Schools' staff estimate the number of school age children by housing type in each school district.
- Anticipating and planning for a variety of government programs, such as services for the elderly and children, and affordable housing by describing the characteristics of appropriate population groups.
- Updating federal census data that is used to obtain various types of federal and state grants.
- Determining the need for retail development by describing the characteristics of households within specific trade areas.
- Facilitating transportation planning by describing current means of travel, commuting patterns, and other indicators of the transportation impacts of increases in housing and jobs.

For more information about the ongoing 2005 Census Update Survey, please contact M-NCPPC's Research and Technology Center at 301-495-4719.