

2017 Census Test

Preparing for the 2020 Census



Colville Indian Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land, WA

The Census Bureau will conduct the 2017 Census Test on the Colville Indian Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land in Washington. The test areas include approximately 3,500 housing units.

Census Day is April 1, 2017.

The U.S. Census Bureau is researching modern and cost-efficient methods for the population to exercise its civic obligation to be counted in the 2020 Census. Whether through the internet, telephone, traditional paper questionnaires, or in-person visits, the Census Bureau is committed to making the mandatory once-a-decade headcount quick, easy and safe for all to participate.

The 2017 Census Test is both a site test on tribal lands and a nationwide self-response test. It will allow the Census Bureau to test the feasibility of collecting information on tribal enrollment as well as refine our methods for the 2020 Census for enumerating areas with unique location characteristics.

The Purpose of the 2017 Census Test

The test is conducted by the Census Bureau in tribal areas in Washington, North Dakota and South Dakota in preparation for the 2020 Census. It will allow the Census Bureau to test the feasibility of collecting tribal enrollment information. It will also refine our methods for enumerating areas with unique location characteristics, where we cannot mail to a street address. In addition to tribal areas, the test will oversample areas with relatively high populations of American Indians and Alaska Natives as a mechanism for testing potential tribal enrollment questions nationwide.

The 2017 Census Test will allow the Census Bureau to test the integration of systems for the Update Enumerate operation. Update Enumerate is a data collection operation where census field staff visit households to update the list of addresses and count the people at each address. This operation typically occurs in areas where we have a low likelihood of mail delivery, American Indian Reservations and communities with very small populations.

The test will be conducted on two American Indian areas. The selected test areas are the Colville Indian Reservation and Off-Reservation Trust Land in Washington and the Standing Rock Indian Reservation in North Dakota and South Dakota.

Goals

- Test the integration of operations and systems for Update Enumerate
- Test the integration of operations and systems for self-response
- Test the feasibility of collecting tribal enrollment information

Hiring Information

The Census Bureau will begin recruiting and accepting applications for temporary full-time and part-time positions in support of the 2017 Census Test in September 2016. Positions will be available from March to July 2017. More information will be available at that time.

For more information, visit census.gov.