



# Khmer Girls In Action

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## US Census 2010: Counting All Cambodians

The U.S Census counts every resident in the United States, and is required by the Constitution to take place every 10 years. This year's 2010 Census aims to count all U.S residents, citizens and non-citizens. The census DOES NOT ask about the legal status of respondents or their Social Security numbers. However, despite the simplicity of the questions and laws to protect people in filling out the census Khmer Girls in Action (KGA) is concerned that the Cambodian community will continue to be largely undercounted.

The census helps local communities receive federal funding for important social and public services such as hospitals, job training centers, schools, senior centers, and emergency services. In order to ensure there is enough money to provide services to the number of people living in Long Beach it is important the federal government get an accurate count. It's particularly important to get an accurate count of Cambodians living in Long Beach to ensure there is adequate funding for translations and interpretations in Khmer for a variety of services.

According to the 2000 US Census, Long Beach had a population of 461,522 people. Yet, KGA knows that there are more people living in this area because of the hard-to-count tracks that were identified in Long Beach that were not included in this population count. This oversight has potential dire consequences for Long Beach, as well as other communities in the LA area. KGA believes that if people are accurately counted, then resources could be adequately distributed. The allocation of resources, such as the examples mentioned above has not been distributed proportionately to the number of people living in Long Beach. This is reflected in the hard-to-count areas of Long Beach where the neighborhoods have high statistics of violence, mortality, poor mental and physical health, and rates of families with low socio-economic status. However, these are not reasons to leave people off the census. If anything, these are the people that need to be counted by the census most.

Census Questionnaire forms were mailed out in March 2010. The deadline to submit your census questionnaire form was April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010. However, it is still not too late to make sure that you and your family are counted. From May 1 until mid-July 2010, census takers will visit households that did not mail back their 2010 Census forms. If a census taker visits your home please open your door to them. They will ask you the ten questions on the Census questionnaire form that was sent to you. Please participate, you count and the Cambodian community is counting on you.

### **There are ten things to know what Census takers will do and not do.**

A Census Taker WILL:

1. Carry a white, government-issued ID card with official U.S. Census Bureau seal and his or her name handwritten on it and/or a black shoulder bag with "U.S. Census Bureau" written on it.
2. Introduce himself or herself and show you the confidentiality statement.
3. Census takers will have a flashcard containing a sentence about the 2010 Census written in approximately 50 languages.
4. If asked, provide contact information for a supervisor and/or the Local Census Office for verification.
5. Ask only the questions that are on the questionnaire.

A Census Taker WILL NOT:

6. Ask to enter your home.
7. Ask about your Social Security number or immigration status.
8. Ask for your income, bank account number, or other financial information.
9. Ask for PINs or passwords.
10. Ask for a donation or money.