

Count Question Resolution Program

- The Count Question Resolution – or CQR – program was created to specifically address instances where a state, local or tribal government believes a boundary, geocoding or processing error was made in the 2010 Census for their jurisdiction.
- The Census Bureau’s goal is to count everyone once, only once, and in the right place. There are historically a small percentage of cases where a wrong geographic boundary or coding of a housing unit or group quarters was used to produce the official census population, housing and group quarters counts for a local area. There may also be cases where due to processing errors, the Census Bureau mistakenly duplicated or deleted living quarters that were identified during the census. For example, following the 2000 Census, the CQR program discovered about 2,700 people erroneously excluded in the national count of 281 million.
- The CQR program began accepting challenge submissions from governmental units on June 1, 2011. All challenges must be received by the Census Bureau no later than June 1, 2013, and can be submitted by mail or electronically to the CQR Program staff. It is important to note that the Census Bureau will not collect any additional data or conduct any field work during this challenge process.
- It is also important to note that CQR is not a mechanism or process to challenge or revise the population counts sent to the President in December 2010. The Census Bureau will not make any changes to the apportionment data, redistricting counts or official 2010 Census data products.
- The Census Bureau will post a list of the jurisdictions that file official challenges to their 2010 Census counts starting on June 6, 2011, and will update this list weekly. However, in compliance with the confidentiality requirements of Title 13, which ensures the confidentiality of personal information, we will not be able to disclose specific details about any challenges. The Census Bureau will only confirm that a challenge has been officially filed. Beginning June 6, 2011, a listing of CQR submissions will be available at: <http://2010.census.gov/2010census/about/cqr.php>.
- There are three types of challenges which can be made under CQR:
 - (1) Boundary—Inaccurate reporting or the inaccurate recording of boundaries legally in effect on January 1, 2010. The Census Bureau requires documentation to ensure that the geographic assignment information provided by governmental units does not, in fact, reflect boundary changes made after January 1, 2010.
 - (2) Geocoding—Challenges affecting the placement of living quarters and associated population within the correct governmental unit boundaries and census tabulation blocks.

(3) Coverage—Challenges, if upheld by the Census Bureau, resulting in the addition or deletion of specific living quarters and persons associated with them identified during the census process, but erroneously included as duplicates or excluded due to processing errors.

- The Census Bureau will research CQR challenges using existing census records, materials, and files in conjunction with the documentation received from the challenging governmental units.
- If a challenge results in a change, the Census Bureau will issue official revised counts to the affected governments. Officials will receive a letter from the Census Bureau indicating the changes made, and these changes will also be posted on our public website through errata documentation. These counts can be used by the governments for future programs that require official 2010 Census data. They will also be used to calculate subsequent population estimates for that community. Again, it's important to note that the Census Bureau will not make any changes to the apportionment data, redistricting counts or official 2010 Census data products.
- Beginning in the fall of 2011, all CQR challenge corrections will be available at www.census.gov/prod/cen2010/notes/errata.pdf or on the American Fact Finder at <http://factfinder2.census.gov>.
- To interview Census Bureau officials about the CQR program, please contact the Public Information Office at (301) 763-3030.
- From June 1, 2011 to June 1, 2013, challenges should be sent to:

Count Question Resolution Program
Decennial Management Division
U.S. Census Bureau
Washington, DC 20233

CQR Branch number: 301-763-9329
CQR FAX number: 301-763-9321
CQR Email: dmd.cqr@census.gov
CQR Web site: 2010census.gov/about/cqr