

# SPELMAN COLLEGE CENSUS INFORMATION CENTER

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## Welcome Back to Campus



The 2009-2010 school year has officially started! This year marks many significant developments in the nation and at home, including the first 100 days of President Barack Obama's presidency, preparation for Census 2010, and the 2009 Atlanta mayoral election.

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### Census Information Center Resources:

[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)

[www.cdc.gov/scientific.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/scientific.htm)

[www.quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/13000.html](http://www.quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/13000.html)

[www.scorecard.org/env-releases/state.tcl?fips\\_state\\_code=13](http://www.scorecard.org/env-releases/state.tcl?fips_state_code=13)

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## Why is Census 2010 significant?

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You may be wondering, what is so special about the United States Census 2010? To begin, the census is only administered every 10 years so the most recent **nationwide data** we have comes from 2000. It is very important that government officials have up-to-date information on its citizens.

U.S. Census information serves as the basis for many decisions concerning infrastructure and services like:

- Congressional representation
- Governmental services
- Hospitals
- Emergency services
- Job training centers
- Schools
- Senior centers
- Bridges, tunnels and other-public works projects

Source: US Census Bureau 2009a

Without census data, local, state, and national officials would not know how many hospitals to build and where to build them. Officials would not know how many 911 call centers or operators are necessary to provide sufficient emergency services to American communities. According to Professor C.A. Le of University of Massachusetts Amherst, an “accurate count of the U.S. population forms the basis for many important but often overlooked political, economic, and social decisions that are made that end up affecting our daily lives” (US Census Bureau 2009a).

## U.S. Census 2010 Partnership Program

There are many ways to partner with the U.S. Census 2010. According to the census website, partners can include “government, non-profit, corporate or community organizations that have formally pledged their commitment to share the 2010 Census message and mobilize their constituents in support of the Census Bureau’s goal of achieving a complete count” (US Census 2009c). One such example is the Spelman College Census Information Center. Please visit:

<http://2010.census.gov/partners/partners/>

for more information.

## The Impact of the US Census

In what other ways has US Census data been used? Many researchers, academics, lobbyists, and lawmakers rely on census data to make critical decisions. Here are just a few examples:

1. An organization called the **Organic Consumers Association** used census data to influence the Environmental Protection Agency to cease testing dangerous chemicals on low-income children in Florida. The association’s petition based on census data eventually stopped the harmful testing (US Census Bureau 2009b).
2. The **Medford Green Alliance** in Boston, MA presented census data to the Medford City Council demonstrating the need to extend existing public bus lines to other areas in the community (Contreras 2008; Medford Green Line Alliance 2008).

Coming Soon: In the October and November newsletters, we will be discussing the potential impact that racial changes in Atlanta’s population may have on the 2009 mayoral election.

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## Counting Dorms and Residence Halls in 2010 Census

A college dorm and residence hall is considered Group Quarters and will be counted during April 1 – May 15, 2010. Currently, the Census Bureau is collecting information about each group quarter, including the contact person, the name of the facility, and the maximum number of persons that stay or live at the Group Quarters. Individuals living in dormitories, fraternity, and sorority houses will all be provided with an individual Census report.

Source: US Census 2009d

### References

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## What is the Census Information Center?

The Census Information Center (CIC) is a cooperative program between the U.S. Census Bureau and 52 national, regional, and local non-profit organizations. This program represents the interest of underserved communities. The centers serve as repositories of census data and reports, making census information and data available to the public and the communities they serve. The CICs use census data in areas such as program planning, assessing advocacy needs, defining service areas, public policy development, developing new business enterprises, and conducting race/ethnic related research. Individually, and in concert with other community service organizations, the Spelman College's CIC focuses on strengthening community development organizations by improving access to information and national resources for Atlanta University Center (AUC) faculty and students, local activists, minority low income groups, housing, and neighborhood development organizations. Most of the Spelman CIC's projects involve assessment of area needs and local population characteristics.

### Spelman College

#### Census Information Center

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## Census Information Center History

### The Primary Objectives are:

- Make the Spelman's CIC a resource for information on Census related data for diverse community groups
- Promote university community involvement in community development.
- Promote AUC student and faculty development and involvement in community services.
- Promote awareness of the Census as a resource base.
- Encourage AUC students and faculty to integrate Census material in their classrooms, research and career plans.

The Spelman College Census Information Center (CIC) was established in 2000 by economics professor Dr. Ronnie Tribble, and is now directed by Dr. Bruce Wade, professor and former chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology.

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