



## What is the census and why should I take part?

The census is a survey that happens every 10 years and gives us a picture of all the people and households in England and Wales. It has been happening for over 200 years.

The census is unique. There is simply nothing else that gives so much detail about us and the society we live in. It tells us what our needs are now, and what they are likely to be in the future. It also gives a snapshot of how we live, for future generations to look back on.

Knowing what your community's needs are helps plan and fund public services in the South Hams and across England and Wales. This means the information you give in the census informs things that affect all of us, like transport, education, and healthcare. Information from the census is also important in helping lots of other people and organisations do their work.

Charities and voluntary organisations often use it as evidence to get funding. It helps businesses to understand us as customers and, for example, decide where to open new shops.

Plus, those doing research, like university students and people looking into their family history, use the information.

Without the census – and without you telling us about you, your household, and your home – it would be much more difficult to do this. That is why it is so important you take part. You will be helping make sure you and your community get the services you need for the next 10 years and beyond.