

Check the mail for '90 census questionnaire

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The 1990 Census made its entry Friday when the U.S. Postal Service began delivering about 95 million census questionnaires to housing units across the country.

The questionnaire packages mailed to most reservation and rural households will include instructions to complete the form and hold it for a census taker. Census takers will begin visiting households to pick up questionnaires in mid-April. Most households in cities and larger communities will be asked to mail back the completed forms in postage-paid envelopes provided in the census mailing package.

For 1990, the U.S. Census Bureau is targetting American Indians and Alaska Natives in a campaign called, "Listen to the Drum, Answer the Census."

The Census Bureau expects to count more than 250 million people before this once-a-decade exercise is over. Local census takers will be available to answer questions about the form when they begin visiting households in late April. As all census employees, census takers hired temporarily must take an oath that they will not reveal any information about an individual or household recorded on the forms.

Native Americans are asked to be specific when asked to name the enrolled or principal tribe.