

2012 Sierra County Health/Healthcare Needs Assessment Census Fact Sheet

What information is in the census?

The Census counts our population every 10 years. In addition to administering the census of population and housing, the Census Bureau conducts more than 200 annual surveys, including the American Community Survey, the Current Population Survey and economic censuses every five years.

How do you use Census data?

Census data is used to make economic development and funding decisions. Emerging trends are discovered by comparing one census to another. This allows hospitals, schools and businesses to prepare for opportunities or threats to the community.

What does the Census say about Sierra County?

A comparison between the 200 and 2010 Census shows that although the overall population dropped by 2.98%. There was a slight increase in the following age groups: 20-34 years, 55-64 years and 75 and older.

There was a slight decrease in the population of residents 19 years and under. There was also a decrease in the population of residents who are 35-54 years.

The leading causes of death in Sierra County are heart disease and cancer.

How will the Census data be used?

Census data is a starting point to look at the health needs of the community. However, many needs must be identified by the residents of the county through focus groups and forums that are part of the Health Needs Assessment.

How can I share my opinion about the health needs of the community?

Volunteers are needed to serve as Community Forum Facilitators who will provide support and group facilitation during the series of eight community forums. **Facilitator training will be held on February 22, 2012 from 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at WNMU- T or C Campus. Training will be led by Dr. Mark Kittleson, NMSU College of Health and Human Services**

It is vital to have community members participate in focus groups and community forums in order to have the best possible picture of the health needs of our county.

***For more information on the Needs Assessment process or
for information on volunteer opportunities:***

***Please contact Sharon Finarelli at 894-3469
or email SierraNeeds@aol.com***