The Census Bureau and all of its staff are under a lifetime oath to abide by all census confidentiality standards. Any violation comes with a penalty of up to $250,000 and/or up to 5 years in prison.

Your census responses and personal information are to be kept secure and private. This includes online responses. All data submitted online is encrypted to protect responder privacy.

Individual census information only becomes publicly available 72 years after the census was taken. Until then, it is entirely confidential and safeguarded by federal law.

For more information visit: www.census.gov/privacy