

# Consumer **ALERT**



ATTORNEY GENERAL OF TEXAS  
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## **AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY IS LEGITIMATE**

Each week, 17,000 Texans receive a packet from the US Census Bureau containing a 24-page *American Community Survey*. The survey asks for information about such sensitive issues as household income, property, benefits and expenses. Given the current level of concern about identity theft, a number of people have viewed the *American Community Survey* with suspicion and alarm. The survey is legitimate, however, and does actually come from the US Census Bureau.

Though the number of surveys being mailed out statewide in Texas is large, the odds of any one household receiving it are low – about one in 500. Therefore, if you receive a packet and ask around among your friends and neighbors, chances are they will tell you they did not receive one. This does not mean it's a scam.

If you receive a packet, you can look for the US Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census return address. And when you send the survey back in the envelope provided, you will see that it is addressed to the Director of the US Census Bureau. To see what the actual survey looks like, you can go to <http://www.census.gov/Press-Release/www/2004/ACSSurveyeng.pdf>. For a thorough overview of the survey process, you can go to <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>.

Sincerely,

Greg Abbott,  
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