The 2020 Census at a Glance

The U.S. Constitution requires that each decade we take a count—or a census—of America's population. The 2020 Census goal is to count everyone once, only once, and in the right place.

The census provides vital information for you and your community.

- It determines how many representatives each state gets in Congress.
- Communities rely on census statistics to plan for a variety of resident needs including new roads, schools, and emergency services.
- Businesses use census data to help provide more local jobs and places to shop.

Each year, the federal government distributes hundreds of billions of dollars to states and communities based on U.S. Census Bureau data.

In 2020, we will introduce new technology to make it easier than ever to respond to the census. For the first time, you will be able to respond online, by phone, or by mail. We will use data that the public has already provided to cut down on household visits. And, we are building a more accurate address list and automating our field operations—all while keeping your information confidential and safe.

The Census Bureau is the leading source of statistical information about the nation's people. We provide snapshots on population size and growth and detailed portraits of our changing communities.

Foundation of a Successful Census

Establish Where To Count

- Using aerial imagery and in-field work to identify new homes and buildings
- Partner with U.S. Postal Service
- Local governments input through the Boundary Annexation Survey and Local Update of Census Addresses
- Comprehensive review of all addresses

Motivate People To Respond

- Partner with community leaders and trusted voices
- Use tailored messages
- Encourage self-response

Count The Population

- Respond online, by phone, or by mail
- Visit households that do not respond
- Online forms in multiple languages
- Mailed Individual Census ID is not required for online response

Release Census Results

- Deliver apportionment counts to the President by December 31, 2020
- Release counts for redistricting by April 1, 2021
- Make it easier for the public to access data

United States Census Bureau

U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
census.gov

August 2017

Become a 2020 Census Partner

Your partnership sends a strong message to your community about the importance of the census and the benefits of being counted. By partnering with the Census Bureau, you can help:

- Assure people that it is important—and safe—to respond to the census.
- Ensure accurate census data, which guide funding decisions for your community and affect your community's representation in Congress.
- Spread the word about temporary census jobs in your community.

Get Involved: What Can You Do Now?

- Create or join a Complete Count Committee and partner with other trusted voices and influential leaders in your area who are committed to increasing census participation. Encourage your peers to get involved too.
- Raise awareness by including census information in newsletters, social media posts, podcasts, mailings, and on Web sites.
- Help recruit census workers when jobs become available.

You can make a difference

As an influential community, business, or organization leader, you can raise awareness and encourage participation.

Key Dates

2017
- Local Update of Census Addresses—invitations sent to local governments for completion in 2018
- Publish final 2020 residence criteria and situations

2018
- Question wording to Congress—March 31, 2018
- 2018 End-to-End Census Test
- Regional Census Centers opening

2019
- Opening Field Offices
- Complete Count Committees established

2020
- Advertising—begins in early 2020
- Begin self response
- **Census Day**—April 1, 2020
- Nonresponse Followup—early April–late July
- Apportionment counts to the President—December 31, 2020

2021
- Redistricting counts to the States—March 31, 2021

For more information, go to *census.gov*.

To get involved in your community, contact us!

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Form D-3234 (E)

The 2020 Census and Confidentiality

*Your responses to the 2020 Census are safe, secure, and protected by federal law. Your answers can only be used to produce statistics—**they cannot be used against you in any way**. By law, all responses to U.S. Census Bureau household and business surveys are kept completely confidential.*

Respond to the 2020 Census to shape the future.

Responding to the census helps communities get the funding they need and helps businesses make data-driven decisions that grow the economy. Census data impact our daily lives, informing important decisions about funding for services and infrastructure in your community, including health care, senior centers, jobs, political representation, roads, schools, and businesses. More than $675 billion in federal funding flows back to states and local communities each year based on census data.

Your census responses are safe and secure.

The Census Bureau is required by law to protect any personal information we collect and keep it strictly confidential. The Census Bureau can only use your answers to produce statistics. In fact, every Census Bureau employee takes an oath to protect your personal information for life. Your answers cannot be used for law enforcement purposes or to determine your personal eligibility for government benefits.

By law, your responses cannot be used against you.

By law, your census responses cannot be used against you by any government agency or court in any way—not by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), not by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), not by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and not by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The law requires the Census Bureau to keep your information confidential and use your responses only to produce statistics.

The law is clear—no personal information can be shared.

Under Title 13 of the U.S. Code, the Census Bureau cannot release any identifiable information about individuals, households, or businesses, even to law enforcement agencies.

The law states that the information collected may only be used for statistical purposes and no other purpose.

To support historical research, Title 44 of the U.S. Code allows the National Archives and Records Administration to release census records only after 72 years.

All Census Bureau staff take a lifetime oath to protect your personal information, and any violation comes with a penalty of up to $250,000 and/or up to 5 years in prison.

United States Census 2020

There are no exceptions.

The law requires the Census Bureau to keep everyone's information confidential. By law, your responses cannot be used against you by any government agency or court in any way. The Census Bureau will not share an individual's responses with immigration enforcement agencies, law enforcement agencies, or allow that information to be used to determine eligibility for government benefits. Title 13 makes it very clear that the data we collect can only be used for statistical purposes—we cannot allow it to be used for anything else, including law enforcement.

It's your choice: you can respond securely online, by mail, or by phone.

You will have the option of responding online, by mail, or by phone. Households that don't respond in one of these ways will be visited by a census taker to collect the information in person. Regardless of how you respond, your personal information is protected by law.

Your online responses are safe from hacking and other cyberthreats.

The Census Bureau takes strong precautions to keep online responses secure. All data submitted online are encrypted to protect personal privacy, and our cybersecurity program meets the highest and most recent standards for protecting personal information. Once the data are received, they are no longer online. From the moment the Census Bureau collects responses, our focus and legal obligation is to keep them safe.

We are committed to confidentiality.

At the U.S. Census Bureau, we are absolutely committed to keeping your responses confidential. This commitment means it is safe to provide your answers and know that they will only be used to paint a statistical portrait of our nation and communities.

Learn more about the Census Bureau's data protection and privacy program at **www.census.gov/privacy**.

Laws protecting personal census information have withstood challenges.

In 1982, the U.S. Supreme Court confirmed that even addresses are confidential and cannot be disclosed through legal discovery or the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). In 2010, the U.S. Justice Department determined that the Patriot Act does not override the law that protects the confidentiality of individual census responses. No court of law can subpoena census responses.

United States Census 2020

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Counting Young Children in the 2020 Census

Counting everyone once, only once, and in the right place

An estimated 5 percent of kids under the age of 5 weren't counted in the 2010 Census. That's about 1 million young children, the highest of any age group.

We need your help closing this gap in the 2020 Census. Here's what our research tells us about why young children are missed and what you can do to help make sure they are counted.

Common situations where young children aren't counted	How you can help?
The **child splits time between two homes**. The child lives or stays with **another family or with another relative such as a grandparent**.	• Emphasize that the census counts **everyone where they live** and sleep most of the time, even if the living arrangement is temporary or the parents of the child do not live there. • If the child truly spends equal amounts of time between two homes, count them where they stayed on **Census Day, April 1**. Coordinate with the other parent or caregiver, if possible, so the child is not counted at both homes. • If it's not clear where the child lives or sleeps most of the time, count them where they stayed on Census Day, April 1.
The child lives in a **lower income household**.	• Explain to service providers and families that responding to the census helps determine **$675 billion in local funding** for programs such as food stamps (also called the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program or SNAP), the National School Lunch Program, and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). When children are missed in the census, these programs miss out on funding that is based on the number of children counted.
The child lives in a household with **young parents or a young, single mom**.	• Explain that filling out the census yourself, on your own schedule, is easier than having to respond when a census worker knocks on your door. Remind these households that the form should **only take about 10 minutes** to fill out and can be done online or over the phone, in addition to mailing it back. • Encourage moms with young children to ask other household members to count them and their children on the form if others live in the household.
The child is a **newborn**.	• Emphasize that parents should **include babies** on census forms, even if they are still in the hospital on April 1. • **Encourage facilities** providing services to newborns to remind parents about the importance of counting their children on the census form. • Highlight the fact that the census form only takes about 10 minutes to complete, and parents can **fill it out online or over the phone in addition to paper** at a time that works best for them.

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Common situations where young children aren't counted	How you can help?
 The child lives in a household that is **large, multigenerational, or includes extended or multiple families**.	• Remind the person filling out the form to count all children, including nonrelatives and children with no other place to live, even if they are only living at the address temporarily on April 1. • Spread the word that the census **counts all people living or staying** at an address, not just the person or family who owns or rents the property.
 The child lives in a household that **rents** or **recently moved**.	• Encourage renters and recent movers to complete their census forms **online or over the phone**, right away. That way they don't need to worry about paper forms getting lost in the move. • **Focus efforts** on multiunit buildings that are likely to have renters.
 The child lives in a household where they're **not supposed to be**, for one reason or another.	• Please explain to those that have children living in places where they aren't allowed (for example, grandparents in a seniors-only residence that have a grandchild living with them, a family with more people, including children, than the lease allows) that they should include the children because the **Census Bureau does not share information** so it can't be used against them. • Emphasize the Census Bureau's legal commitment to keep census **responses confidential**. • Explain that the Census Bureau **will never share information** with immigration enforcement agencies like Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), law enforcement agencies like the police or Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), or allow this information to be used to determine eligibility for government benefits.
 The child lives in a **non-English or limited-English speaking** household.	• **Conduct outreach** and create resources in non-English languages that highlight the importance of counting young children. • **Encourage non-English speakers to self-respond** to the census and let them know that for the 2020 Census, the online form and telephone line will be available in 13 languages, including English. Language guides will be available in 59 languages other than English.
 The child lives in a household of **recent immigrants or foreign-born adults**.	• Work with community members to conduct outreach in neighborhoods with recent immigrants. **Focus efforts** on the **community's gathering places** like local grocery stores, places of worship, and small restaurants. • Emphasize the **Census Bureau's legal commitment** to keep census responses confidential. Explain that the Census Bureau will never share information with immigration enforcement agencies like Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), law enforcement agencies like the police or Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), or allow this information to be used to determine eligibility for government benefits.

How the 2020 Census will invite everyone to respond

Every household will have the option of responding online, by mail, or by phone.

Nearly every household will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census from either a postal worker or a census worker.

95% of households will receive their census invitation in the mail.

Almost 5% of households will receive their census invitation when a census taker drops it off. In these areas, the majority of households may not receive mail at their home's physical location (like households that use PO boxes or areas recently affected by natural disasters).

Less than 1% of households will be counted in person by a census taker, instead of being invited to respond on their own. We do this in very remote areas like parts of northern Maine, remote Alaska, and in select American Indian areas that ask to be counted in person.

Note: We have special procedures to count people who don't live in households, such as students living in university housing or people experiencing homelessness.

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How the 2020 Census will invite everyone to respond

What to Expect in the Mail

When it's time to respond, most households will receive an invitation in the mail.

Every household will have the option of responding online, by mail, or by phone.

Depending on how likely your area is to respond online, you'll receive either an invitation encouraging you to respond online or an invitation along with a paper questionnaire.

Letter Invitation

- Most areas of the country are likely to respond online, so most households will receive a letter asking you to go online to complete the census questionnaire.
- We plan on working with the U.S. Postal Service to stagger the delivery of these invitations over several days. This way we can spread out the number of users responding online, and we'll be able to serve you better if you need help over the phone.

Letter Invitation and Paper Questionnaire

- Areas that are less likely to respond online will receive a paper questionnaire along with their invitation. The invitation will also include information about how to respond online or by phone.

WHAT WE WILL SEND IN THE MAIL	
On or between	**You'll receive:**
March 12–20	An invitation to respond online to the 2020 Census. (Some households will also receive paper questionnaires.)
March 16–24	A reminder letter.
	If you haven't responded yet:
March 26–April 3	A reminder postcard.
April 8–16	A reminder letter and paper questionnaire.
April 20–27	A final reminder postcard before we follow up in person.

We understand you might miss our initial letter in the mail.

- Every household that hasn't already responded will receive reminders and will eventually receive a paper questionnaire.
- It doesn't matter which initial invitation you get or how you get it—we will follow up in person with all households that don't respond.

Why We Ask

The 2020 Census is easy. The questions are simple.

NAME

We ask for names to ensure everyone in the house is counted. Listing the name of each person in the household helps respondents include all members, particularly in large households where a respondent may forget who was counted and who was not.

SEX

We ask about the sex of each person to create statistics about males and females. Census data about sex are used in planning and funding government programs, and in evaluating other government programs and policies to ensure they fairly and equitably serve the needs of males and females. These statistics are also used to enforce laws, regulations and policies against discrimination in government programs and in society.

AGE AND DATE OF BIRTH

We ask about age and date of birth to understand the size and characteristics of diferent age groups and to present other data by age. Local, state, tribal and federal agencies use age data to plan and fund government programs that provide assistance or services for specific age groups, such as children, working-age adults, women of childbearing age, or the older population. These statistics also help enforce laws, regulations and policies against age discrimination in government programs and in society.

HISPANIC, LATINO OR SPANISH ORIGIN

We ask about whether a person is of Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin to create statistics about this ethnic group. The data collected in this question are needed by federal agencies to monitor compliance with antidiscrimination provisions, such as under the Voting Rights Act and the Civil Rights Act.

RACE

We ask about a person's race to create statistics about race and to present other statistics by race groups. The data collected in this question are needed by federal agencies to monitor compliance with anti-discrimination provisions, such as under the Voting Rights Act and the Civil Rights Act. State governments use the data to determine congressional, state and local voting districts.

WHETHER A PERSON LIVES OR STAYS SOMEWHERE ELSE

Our goal is to count people once, only once and in the right place according to where they live on Census Day. Keeping this goal in mind, we ask this question to ensure individuals are not included at multiple addresses.

RELATIONSHIP

We ask about the relationship of each person in a household to one central person to create estimates about families, households and other groups. Relationship data are used in planning and funding government programs that provide funds or services for families, people living or raising children alone, grandparents living with grandchildren, or other households that qualify for additional assistance.

Why We Ask

The 2020 Census is easy. The questions are simple.

The census asks questions that provide a snapshot of the nation. Census results afect your voice in government, how much funding your community receives, and how your community plans for the future.

When you fill out the census, you help:

- Determine how many seats your state gets inCongress.
- Guide how more than $675 billion in federal funding is distributedto states and communities eachyear.
- Create jobs, provide housing, prepare for emergencies, and buildschools, roads andhospitals.

POPULATION COUNT (NUMBER OF PEOPLE LIVING OR STAYING)

We ask this question to collect an accurate count of the number of people at each address on Census Day, April 1, 2020. Each decade, census results determine how many seats your state gets in Congress. State and local offcials use census counts to draw boundaries for districts like congressional districts, state legislative districts and school districts.

ANY ADDITIONAL PEOPLE LIVING OR STAYING

Our goal is to count people once, only once and in the right place according to where they live on Census Day. Keeping this goal in mind, we ask this question to ensure that everyone living at an address is counted.

OWNER/RENTER

We ask about whether a home is owned or rented to create statistics about homeownership and renters. Homeownership rates serve as an indicator of the nation's economy and help in administering housing programs and informing planning decisions.

PHONE NUMBER

We ask for a phone number in case we need to contact you. We will never share your number and will only contact you if needed for offcial Census Bureau business.

Revised July 12, 2019

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United States Census 2020

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United States Census Bureau

Test mailing

U.S. Census Bureau
Washington, DC 20233-0001
Office of the Director

C19 950 664 789 12 521 1907 11
V8W9R-3VHMP
T5SEQ001-010205

TO THE RESIDENT OF:
25 LINWOOD AVE
NORTH READING MA 01864-2055

June 13, 2019

A Message from the Director, U.S. Census Bureau

Dear Resident:

To prepare for the 2020 Census, the Census Bureau is conducting the **2019 Census Test**. The Census Bureau conducts this important 10-minute survey to help make the 2020 Census easier, more convenient, and less costly.

Results from the 2020 Census will be used to:

- Direct billions of dollars in federal funds to local communities for schools, roads, and other public services.
- Help your community prepare to meet transportation and emergency readiness needs.
- Determine the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives and your political representation at all levels of government.

Respond by July 1 at **respond.census.gov/2019CensusTest**	Your Census ID is: **V8W9R - 3VHMP**

The Census Bureau is using the internet to securely collect your information. Responding online helps us conserve natural resources, save taxpayer money, and process data more efficiently. If you are unable to complete your questionnaire online, we will send you a paper questionnaire in a few weeks for you to complete and mail back.

The census is so important that your response is required by law, and your answers are kept completely confidential. If you do not respond, we will need to send a Census Bureau interviewer to your home to collect your answers in person. If you need help completing your questionnaire, please call toll-free 1-866-208-8248.

Thank you in advance for your prompt response.

Enclosures

Mensaje importante: Para completar su cuestionario, visite **respond.census.gov/2019CensusTest** o llame gratis al 1-888-369-3597.