

The 2020 Census: Why It Counts to be Counted.

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United States[®]
**Census
2020**

Questions?

Go to:
2020census.gov



Kentucky: By The Numbers
<http://kybtn.ca.uky.edu>

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What is the 2020 Census?

Every 10 years, a count is made of all persons living in the United States. It is called the Decennial Census.

Conducting the Decennial Census is part of our Constitution. In the Constitution, Article 1, Section 2, mandates that the U.S. conduct a count of its population once every 10 years. The first Census was in 1790.

The 2020 Census is conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau and will count every person living in the 50 states, District of Columbia, and the five U.S. territories (Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands).

Why is the Census important?

Data from the 2020 Census are used in many ways. The population count will determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives. The results are also used to draw congressional and state legislative districts.

Another important use of the Census results is that it impacts the amount of Federal funding that states and communities receive. Each year, \$675 billion in federal funding is based on data from the Census.

Just a few of the programs that you might be familiar with that rely on Census data include Medicaid, CHIP, WIC, SNAP, childcare, schools, school lunches, foster care, Head Start, and special education.

With Congressional representation and so much funding relying on data from the Census, it is important that everyone gets counted.

Will anyone know my answers?

By law, your answers cannot be used against you in any way. This includes any government agency such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

In fact, all Census Bureau employees take an **oath for life** to protect any identifiable information. The penalty for disclosure is a fine of up to \$250,000, imprisonment for up to 5 years, or both.

The information you provide on the Census is only for producing statistics. If you have seen census records in advertising for genealogical websites, know that it is only after 72 years and only for historical research that Title 44 of the U.S. Code allows the National Archives and Records Administration to release any records.

More information on the security of your answers is available in this factsheet:

<https://www.census.gov/library/fact-sheets/2019/dec/2020-safety-security.html>

How can I respond to the 2020 Census?

By April 1, 2020, every household will receive an official invitation by mail to participate in the 2020 Census.

You can respond in any of three ways:

online, by phone, or by mail.

When you respond to the Census, be sure and use the place where you live as of April 1, 2020.

Can I respond online?

Yes. For the first time, we can respond to the 2020 Census through a secure website.

If you do not have internet access, a paper copy will be mailed, or you can call the Census Bureau at the number provided in your invitation.

I received an email asking me to respond to the 2020 Census. Is it real?

No. Even if it looks real, **the Census Bureau will NEVER send you an email or text asking you to respond to the 2020 Census.**

The Census Bureau will ALSO NEVER ASK for your Social Security number, your bank account or credit card numbers, or ask for any money or donations.

To learn more, visit:

<https://2020census.gov/en/avoiding-fraud.html>

or

<https://2020census.gov/en/news-events/rumors.html>.

What happens if I don't respond right away?

Households will receive mailed reminders. By mid-April, every household that has not responded will receive a paper questionnaire in the mail. In mid-May, census takers will begin visiting households.

A census taker came to my house. How do I know they are from the Census Bureau?

You can verify the identity of a census taker by first checking to make sure that they have a valid ID

badge. The badge will have their photograph, a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark, and an expiration date. You can also call 800-923-8282 to speak with a local Census Bureau representative.

Who should I count for the 2020 Census?

For the Census, you should count everyone who lives in your home, even if you are not related.

It can sometimes be confusing to know where someone should be counted. College students who live at home, for instance, should be counted there. But for students who live away from home, either in dorms or off campus, they should be counted in their college town.

To learn more about how to count those serving in the military, this Census Bureau factsheet can help:

<https://www.census.gov/library/fact-sheets/2020/dec/2020-how-we-count-military.html>

Are some groups harder to reach than others?

Yes. But the Census Bureau has many resources to help out. Here are just a few of them:

People Experiencing Homelessness

<https://www.census.gov/library/fact-sheets/2020/dec/2020-census-counts-homeless.html>

Accessibility

<https://www.census.gov/library/fact-sheets/2019/dec/2020-census-accessible.html>

Spanish Speakers

<https://www.census.gov/library/fact-sheets/2019/dec/respond-to-2020-census-spanish.html>

<https://www.census.gov/library/fact-sheets/2019/dec/respond-to-2020-census-spanish/respond-to-2020-census-english.html>

Other Languages

<https://www.census.gov/library/fact-sheets/2020/dec/2020-support-languages.html>

How can I access more information about the 2020 Census?

The resources listed in this publication and many more are available at:

<https://2020census.gov/>