

# 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.*



U.S. Department of Commerce  
Economics and Statistics Administration  
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU  
[census.gov](http://census.gov)

## 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



# Design for 2020 Census

The 2020 Census: A New Design for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

## Motivate People to Respond

**Conduct a nation-wide communications and partnership campaign**

- Maximize outreach using traditional and new media
- Target ads to specific audiences
- Work with trusted sources to inspire participation

TELEPHONE AND PAPER SELF-RESPONSE



NONRESPONSE FOLLOWUP



**Count the Population**  
**Collect data from all households, including group and unique living arrangements**

- Make it easy for people to respond anytime, anywhere
- Encourage people to use the new online response option
- Use the most cost-effective strategy to contact and count nonrespondents
- Knock on doors only when necessary
- Streamline in-field census-taking

INTERNET SELF-RESPONSE

## Establish Where to Count

**Identify all addresses where people could live**

IN-FIELD



IN-OFFICE

- Conduct a 100% review and update of the nation's address list
- Minimize field work with in-office updating
- Use multiple data sources to identify areas with address changes
- Get local government input

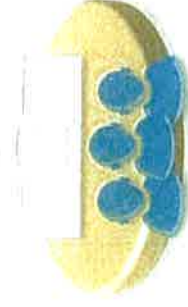


**Count Everyone Once  
In the Right Place**

## Release Census Results

**Process and Provide Census Data**

- 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 get data



# CENSUS 101: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The 2020 Census is closer than you think!  
Here's a quick refresher of what it is and why it's essential that everyone is counted.

## Everyone counts.

The census counts every person living in the U.S. once, only once, and in the right place

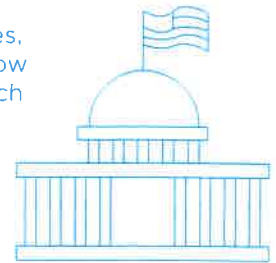


## It's in the constitution.

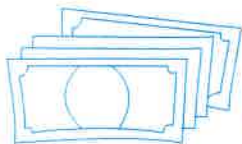
The U.S. Constitution mandates that everyone in the country be counted every 10 years. The first census was in 1790.

## It's about fair representation.

Every 10 years, the results of the census are used to reapportion the House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state gets.

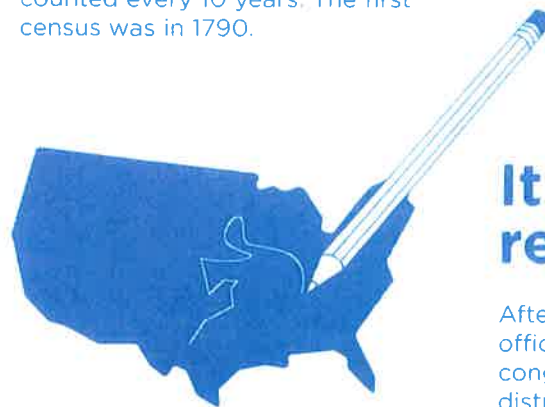


## It's about \$675 billion.



The distribution of more than \$675 billion in federal funds, grants and support to states, counties and communities are based on census data.

That money is spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works and other vital programs.

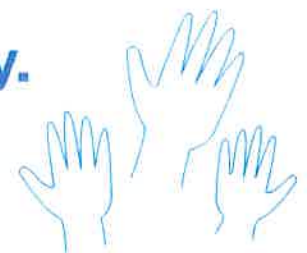


## It's about redistricting.

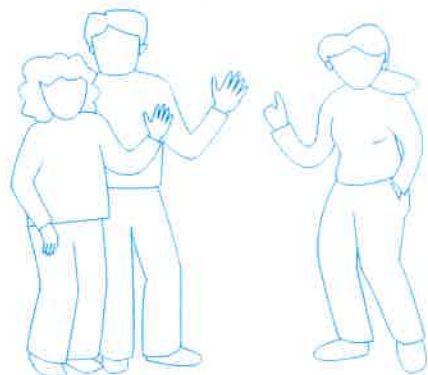
After each decade's census, state officials redraw the boundaries of the congressional and state legislative districts in their states to account for population shifts.

## Taking part is your civic duty.

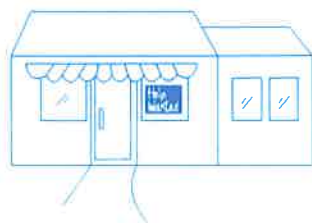
Completing the census is mandatory: it's a way to participate in our democracy and say "I COUNT!"



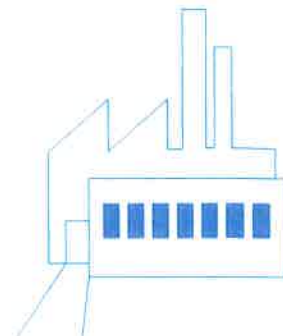
## Census data are being used all around you.



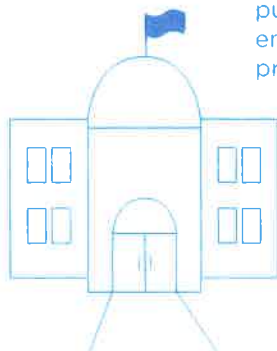
Residents use the census to support community initiatives involving legislation, quality-of-life and consumer advocacy



Businesses use census data to decide where to build factories, offices and stores, which create jobs.



Local governments use the census for public safety and emergency preparedness.



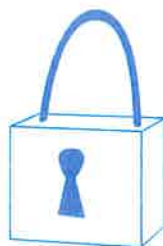
Real estate developers use the census to build new homes and revitalize old neighborhoods



## Your privacy is protected.

It's against the law for the Census Bureau to publicly release your responses in any way that could identify you or your household.

By law, the Census Bureau cannot share your answers with any other government agency



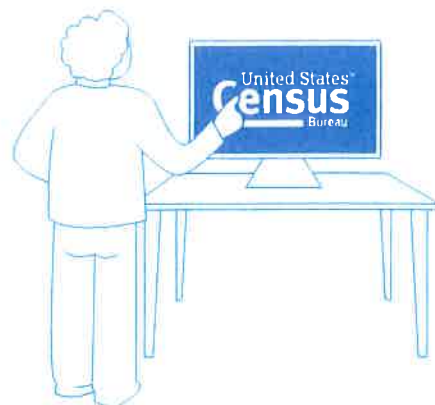
## 2020 will be easier than ever.

In 2020, you will be able to respond to the census online.



## You can help.

You are the expert—we need your ideas on the best way to make sure everyone in your community gets counted.



# 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.

## 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](http://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.

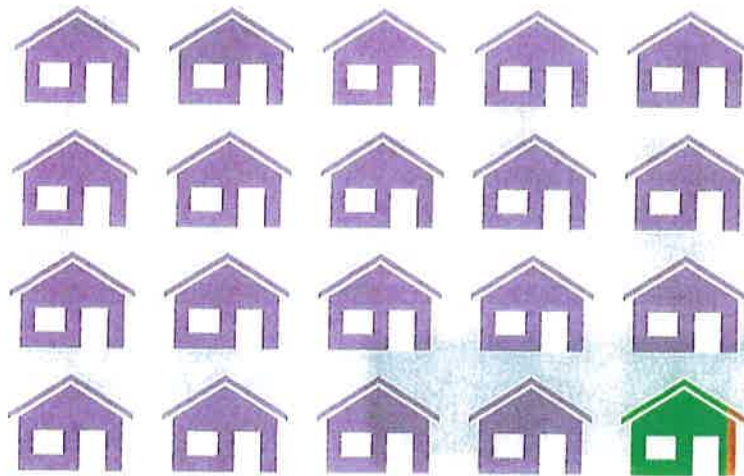
# How the 2020 Census will invite everyone to respond





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.

# 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.  |
|                  | <b>If you haven't responded yet:</b>  |
| 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.