

# 2020 Census FAQ

## What is the census?

The census is a count of every person who lives in the United States and its territories. It happens every 10 years. In early 2020, you will be asked to count everyone who lives in your home as of April 1. Responding to the 2020 Census is a chance to shape your future.

## What's in it for me?



Your responses inform where over \$675 billion is distributed each year to communities nationwide for clinics, schools, roads, and more.



Census data gives community leaders vital information to make decisions about building community centers, opening businesses, and planning for the future.



Responding also fulfills your civic duty because it's mandated by the U.S. Constitution. The United States has counted its population every 10 years since 1790.



Your responses are used to redraw legislative districts and determine the number of seats your state has in the U.S. House of Representatives.

## Is my information safe?

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 by any government agency or court in any way—not by the FBI, not by the CIA, not by the DHS, and not by ICE.

## When can I respond to the census?

In early 2020, every household in America will receive a notice to complete the census online, by phone, or by mail. In May, the U.S. Census Bureau will begin following up in person with households that have yet to respond.

## What will I be asked?

You will be asked a few simple questions, like age, sex, and the number of people who live in your home, including children.

## What won't be asked?

The census will never ask for Social Security numbers, bank or credit card numbers, money or donations, or anything related to political parties.

For more information, visit:

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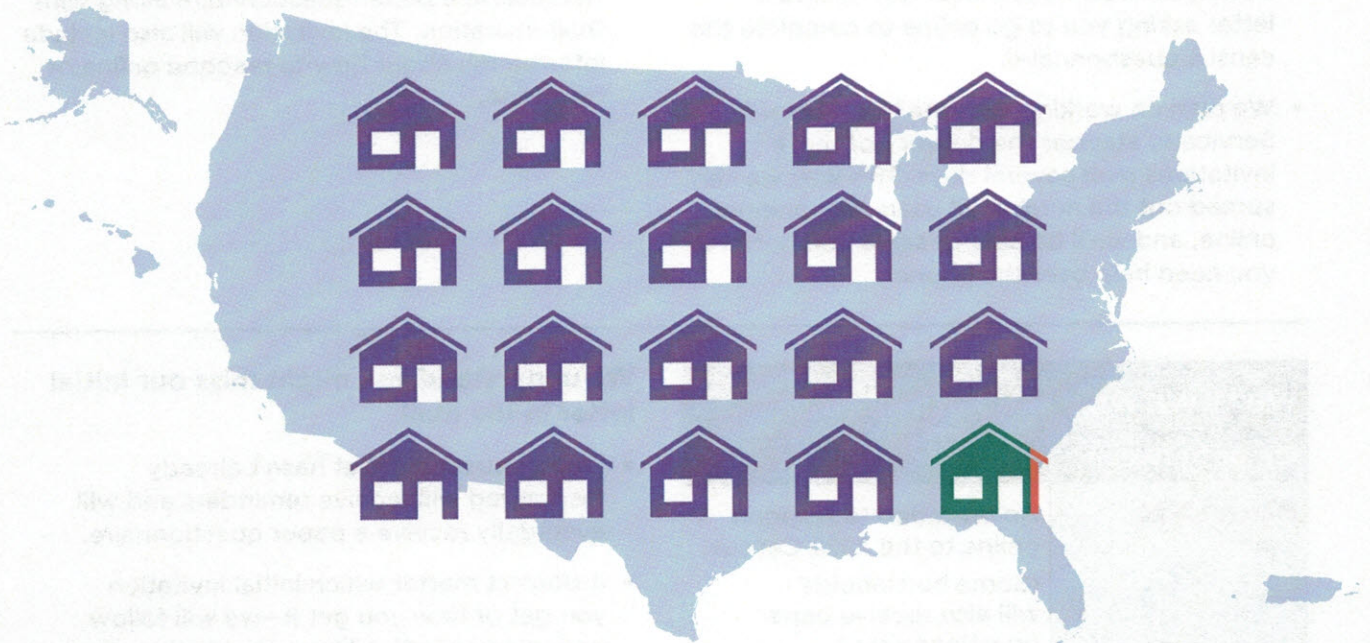
# How the 2020 Census will invite everyone to respond





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.

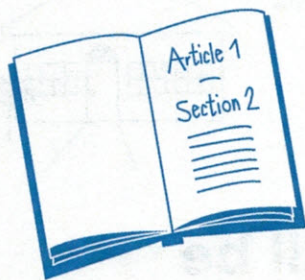
- Every household that hasn't already responded will receive reminders and will eventually receive a paper questionnaire.
- It doesn't matter which initial invitation you get or how you get it—we will follow up in person with all households that don't respond.

# 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.

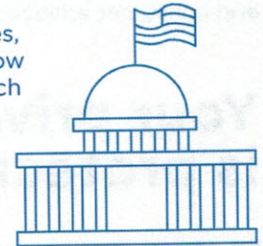


## It's in the constitution.

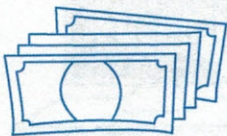
The U.S. Constitution mandates that everyone in the country be counted every 10 years. The first census was in 1790.

## 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.

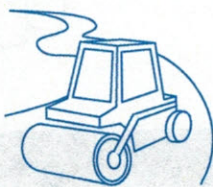


## It's about \$675 billion.



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.

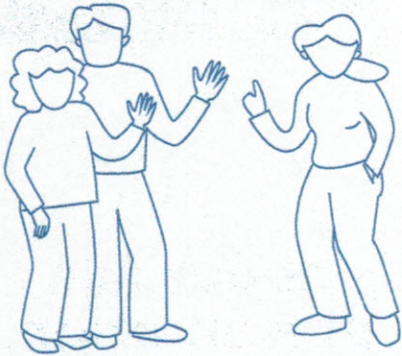
After each decade's census, state Officials redraw the boundaries of the congressional and state legislative districts in their states to account for population shifts.

## Taking part is your civic duty.

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



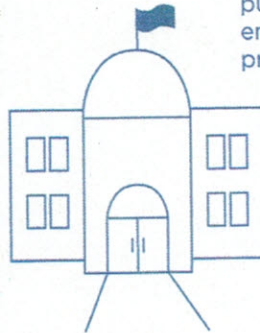
# Census data are being used all around you.



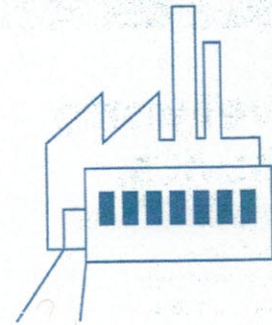
Residents use the census to support community initiatives involving legislation, quality-of-life and consumer advocacy.



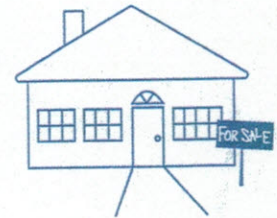
Businesses use census data to decide where to build factories, offices and stores, which create jobs.



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



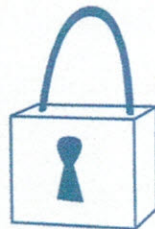
Real estate developers use the census to build new homes and revitalize old neighborhoods.



## Your privacy is protected.

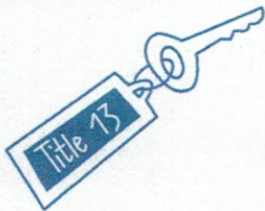
It's against the law for the Census Bureau to publicly release your responses in any way that could identify you or your household.

By law, your responses cannot be used against you and can only be used to produce statistics.



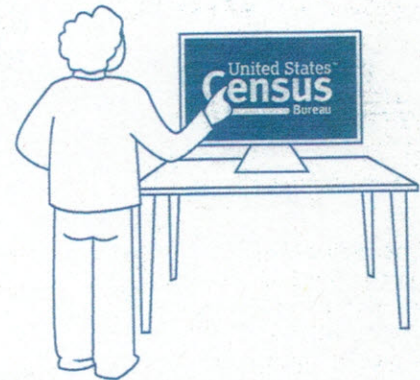
## 2020 will be easier than ever.

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.



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FIND OUT HOW TO HELP  
AT [CENSUS.GOV/PARTNERS](https://www.census.gov/partners)

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# Counting everyone in your household can shape your future.

Every 10 years, the United States counts everyone living in the country on April 1, regardless of their nationality or living situation. This includes renters.

To ensure an accurate count, remember to:



Count every person living or staying in your home.



Respond at the address where you were living or staying on April 1, 2020.

## What's in it for me?

The 2020 Census is an opportunity to create a better future for our communities and the next generation by providing an up-to-date count of our population. The data collected will help determine how over \$675 billion in federal funding is distributed each year for things like housing assistance, infrastructure, and public transportation.

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## What else do I need to know?

Responding to the 2020 Census is:

### > Easy

Every household in the United States will receive a notice to complete the census in early 2020. You can complete the form online, by phone, or by mail.

### > Safe

Your personal information is confidential, is protected by law, and can never be used to identify you. It can never be shared with law enforcement agencies or your property manager.

### > Important

Businesses and leaders in your community will use the data collected in the census to make decisions about where to build new buildings, revitalize old ones, open stores, create jobs, and more.



## Is the Census Bureau hiring?

Yes! Earn extra income while helping ensure that everyone in your community is counted. The U.S. Census Bureau has a variety of temporary jobs that need to be filled, including census takers, recruiting assistants, office staff, and supervisory staff. You must be at least 18 years old, have a valid Social Security number, and be a United States citizen to be eligible.

Interested? Apply at [2020CENSUS.GOV/JOBS](https://2020census.gov/jobs).

For more information, visit:

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