

Introduction

Together, we can ensure
that our community receives the
resources it needs.

United States®
Census
2020

Learn more at 2020census.gov.

The 2020 Census at a Glance

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

The U.S. Census Bureau is the federal government's largest statistical agency. We are dedicated to providing current facts and figures about America's people, places, and economy. Federal law protects the confidentiality of all individual responses the Census Bureau collects.

The U.S. Constitution requires that each decade we take a count—or a census—of America's population.



The census provides vital information for you and your community.

- It determines how many representatives each state gets in Congress and is used to redraw district boundaries. Redistricting counts are sent to the states by March 31, 2021.
- 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 determine where to open places to shop.

Each year, the federal government distributes more than \$675 billion to states and communities based on Census Bureau data.

In 2020, we will implement 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, as well as by mail. We will use data that the public has already provided to reduce followup visits. And, we are building an accurate address list and automating our field operations—all while keeping your information confidential and safe.



KEY MILESTONES

- 2018**
 - 2018 End-to-End Census Test
 - 2020 Census questions sent to Congress by March 31, 2018
 - Six regional 2020 Census offices and 40 area census offices open
- 2019**
 - Partnership activities launch
 - Complete Count Committees establish
 - Census takers update address list in person
 - Remaining 248 area census offices open
- 2020**
 - Advertising begins in January 2020
 - Public response (online, phone, or mail) begins
 - **Census Day—** April 1, 2020
 - Census takers visit households that haven't responded
 - Apportionment counts sent to the President by December 31, 2020
- 2021**
 - Redistricting counts sent to the states by March 31, 2021

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Overview of Census Bureau Programs

CENSUSES

- The **decennial census** is the once-a-decade population and housing count of all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Island Areas. The results of the census determine the number of seats for each state in the U.S. House of Representatives and are used to draw congressional and state legislative districts. Federal agencies use the results to distribute more than \$675 billion in federal funds each year.
- The **economic census** measures the nation's economy every five years, providing vital statistics for virtually every industry and geographic area in the country.
- The **Census of Governments** provides comprehensive data about the 90,000 state and local governments in the nation every five years.

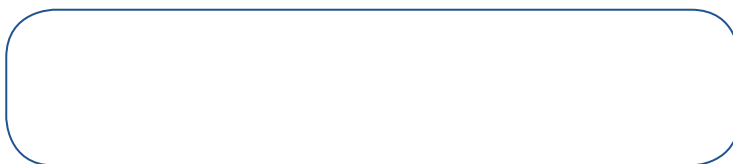
SURVEYS

- The **American Community Survey** (ACS) is an ongoing national survey—sampling approximately 3.5 million addresses annually—that provides vital information about our nation's housing and people. The ACS is the only source of comparable, quality information about the people in all our communities. These data show what the U.S. population looks like and how it is changing. ACS data are used to assess the past and present and to plan for the future.
- **Demographic surveys** measure income, poverty, education, health insurance coverage, housing quality, crime victimization, computer usage, and many other subjects.
- **Economic surveys** are conducted monthly, quarterly, and yearly. They cover selected sectors of the nation's economy and supplement the economic census with more-frequent information about the dynamic economy. These surveys yield more than 400 annual economic reports, including principal economic indicators.
- **Sponsored surveys** are demographic and economic surveys that we conduct for other government agencies. They include the Current Population Survey, the National Health Interview Survey, and the National Survey of College Graduates.

For more information, go to [census.gov](https://www.census.gov).

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Contact us at:



Your information is protected by law

The law requires the Census Bureau to keep your information confidential and use your responses only to produce statistics. We cannot publicly release your responses in any way that could identify you. We will never share your information with immigration enforcement agencies such as ICE, law enforcement agencies such as the FBI or police, or allow it to be used to determine your eligibility for government benefits.

Our Mission

To serve as the nation's leading provider of quality data about its people and economy.

Our Vision

To be the trusted source for timely and relevant statistical information, and the leader in data-driven information.

Census History

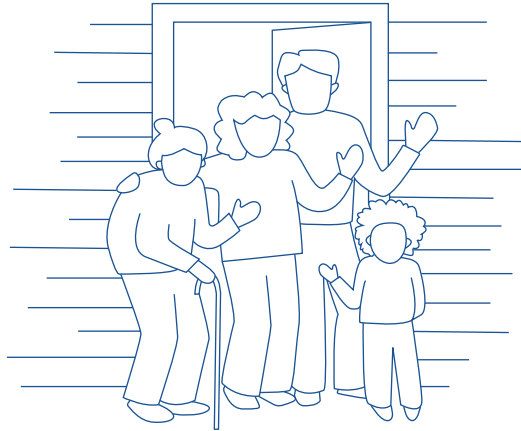
Thomas Jefferson directed the first decennial census in 1790. As required by the U.S. Constitution, a census has been taken every 10 years thereafter. In 1840, the Census Act authorized the establishment of a centralized Census Office. In 1902, the Census Office became a permanent organization within the Department of the Interior. A year later, it was renamed the Bureau of the Census and moved to the new Department of Commerce and Labor.

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.

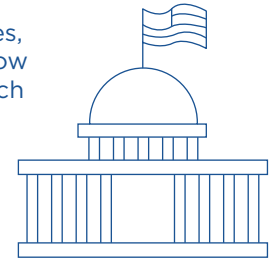
Everyone counts.

The census counts every person living in the United States once, only once, and in the right place.



It's about fair representation.

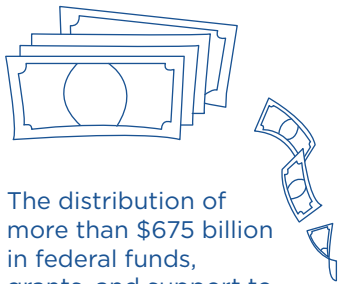
Every 10 years, the results of the census are used to reapportion the House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state gets.



It's in the Constitution.

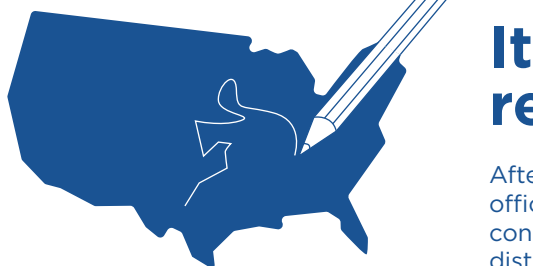
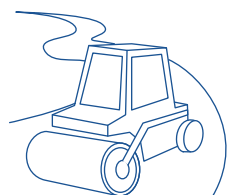
The U.S. Constitution mandates that everyone in the country be counted every 10 years. The first census was in 1790.

It's about \$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.

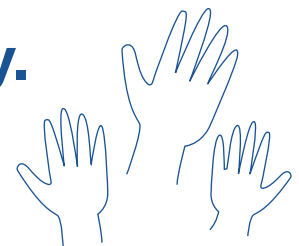


It's about redistricting.

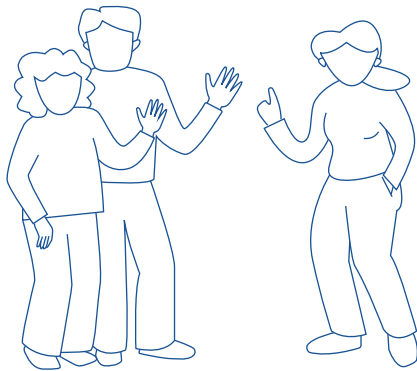
After each decade's census, state officials redraw the boundaries of the congressional and state legislative districts in their states to account for population shifts.

Taking part is your civic duty.

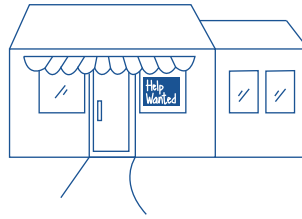
Completing the census is mandatory: it's a way to participate in our democracy and say "I COUNT!"



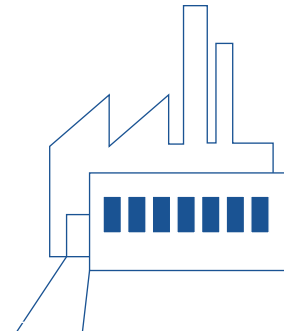
Census data are being used all around you.



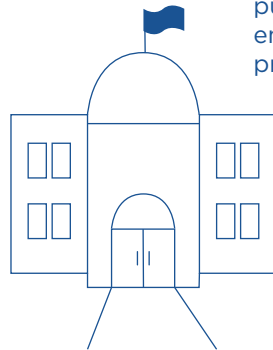
Residents use the census to support community initiatives involving legislation, quality-of-life, and consumer advocacy.



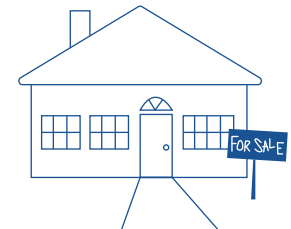
Businesses use census data to decide where to build factories, offices, and stores, which create jobs.



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



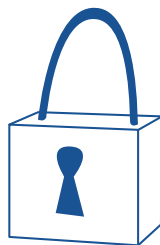
Real estate developers use the census to build new homes and revitalize old neighborhoods.



Your privacy is protected.

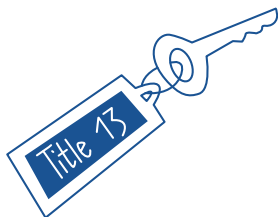
It's against the law for the Census Bureau to publicly release your responses in any way that could identify you or your household.

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



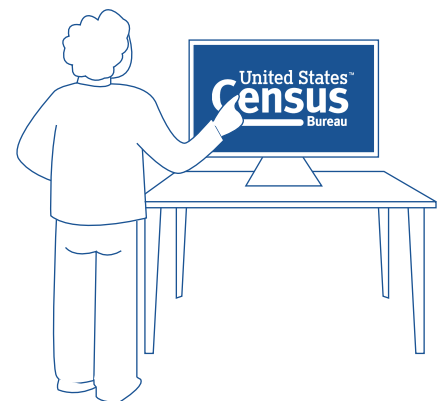
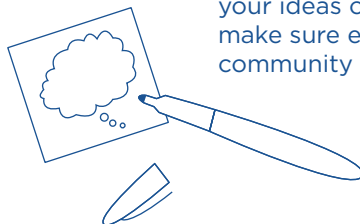
2020 will be easier than ever.

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.



Programs Influenced by U.S. Census Bureau Data

The 2020 Census can help shape the future of your community. Your responses inform how the following programs are funded every year.

The programs listed below are examples from the “Uses of Census Bureau Data in Federal Funds Distribution”^{**} report, which provides estimates of the federal funds distributed each year in whole or in part using 2010 U.S. Census Bureau data.



Community Support

Section 8 Housing Assistance
Payment Programs



Family Services

Child Abuse and Neglect
State Grants



Education

Head Start



Food Assistance

Supplemental Nutrition
Assistance Program (SNAP)



Employment

Unemployment Insurance



Healthcare

Medical Assistance
Program (Medicaid)



Entrepreneurship

Small Business
Development Centers



Infrastructure

Highway Planning
and Construction



Environment

State Wildlife Grants



Public Safety

Assistance to
Firefighters Grant

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For more information:

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^{*}<https://www.census.gov/library/working-papers/2017/decennial/census-data-federal-funds.html>

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How the 2020 Census will invite everyone to respond

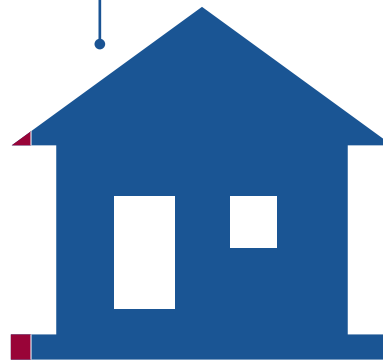
Nearly every household will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census either in the mail or from a census taker.

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 dorms, people living in nursing homes, or people experiencing homelessness.

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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 phone, or by mail.

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 them to go online to complete the census questionnaire.
- We are 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 package. The package will also include information about how to respond online or by phone.

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

- Every household that hasn't responded will receive reminders and will eventually receive a paper questionnaire.
- If you don't respond online, by phone, or by mail, we will follow up in person.

What we will send you in the mail:



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.



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.

For more information, visit:

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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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