

Confidentiality & Security

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

United States®
Census
2020

Learn more at 2020census.gov.

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.

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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.



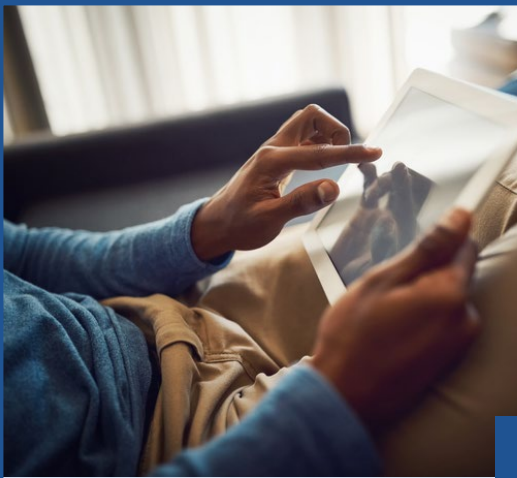
Laws protecting personal census information have withstood challenges.

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.

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The Census Trust & Safety Team

Protecting the Count in 2020

The use of digital platforms changed how people get their news and updates, making it easier to spread scams and false information. The U.S. Census Bureau is dedicated to protecting you from misinformation and disinformation about the 2020 Census. Help us protect the count by reporting **inaccurate, suspicious, or fraudulent information** you read, hear, or spot online, including:



A **rumor** in a message board or group claiming the information you provide will be publicly disclosed.



A **post** shared on social media discouraging participation in the 2020 Census.



A **suspicious email** requesting your social security number or bank account information for the 2020 Census.



An **advertisement** on social media sharing fake 2020 Census websites and inaccurate information.

What Can You Do?



Report suspicious information and tips to: rumors@census.gov.



Flag suspicious information on **Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube** and other platforms.



Call the **Census Bureau Customer Service Hotline** at 1-800-923-8282 to report suspicious activity.



Reach out to us on our **verified social media accounts** (@uscensusbureau).

Why it Matters

The census is one of the most important events in the United States. Every 10 years, the census helps **determine the number of seats your state gets in Congress and how billions of dollars in federal funding are distributed to states and communities each year.**

Help the Census Bureau **protect the accuracy of the count by reporting inaccurate, suspicious, or fraudulent information.**

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2020 Census Safety and Security



Your responses to the 2020 Census are safe.

Your responses to the 2020 Census are protected by law. Under Title 13 of the U.S. Code, the U.S. Census Bureau cannot release any information that identifies you individually. Every Census Bureau employee and contractor is sworn for life to always protect your information. Violating that oath carries stiff penalties for all Census Bureau workers — a fine up to \$250,000 and/or up to five years in prison.

The Census Bureau uses your information for statistical purposes only, such as helping to inform decisions for new hospitals, schools and roads.

Responses to the 2020 Census are secure.

The Census Bureau has a team of cybersecurity experts who monitor and protect all agency technology around the clock. Our cybersecurity meets the highest standards for protecting your information. From the moment we collect your responses, our goal — and legal obligation — is to keep them safe. The Census Bureau's technology is protected by strong authentication and authorization methods and is fully "locked down" so that it can only be accessed by fully vetted individuals who are trained in data and cyber security. These individuals make sure we keep pace with evolving threats and security advancements.

No matter how you respond, your information remains protected.

The Census Bureau designed the information collection process with layers of security to keep your information safe and secure.

Whether you respond online, by phone, by mail, or if a census employee comes to your door, your information is collected, transmitted and kept secure throughout the process. When you are on our secure website, you can verify it's safe by making sure the address begins with 'HTTPS' and includes a lock symbol. If you're visited by a census employee, know that the technology they use has the same strong security controls, and is fully compliant with the standards mandated for Federal systems.

The Census Bureau works with the federal intelligence cyber community and industry experts to stay abreast of emerging cyber threats to continuously update protections and safeguards for your information.

Connect with us:

@uscensusbureau

For more information:

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Your responses are safe with us.

Your responses to the 2020 Census are safe, secure, and protected by federal law. Your answers can only be used to produce statistics. These statistics are used to determine each state's representation in Congress and to inform the allocation of more than \$675 billion in federal funding annually. Local leaders may use these statistics to make decisions about programs and services for their community.

No matter how you respond—online, by phone, or by mail—your responses are important and confidential. **Your responses cannot be used against you in any way.**

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We are committed to confidentiality.

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.

Through the Census Bureau's strong precautions, cybersecurity programs, and data encryption, your online responses are safe from hacking and other cyberthreats.

By law, your responses and personal information cannot be shared with law enforcement agencies — not the FBI, ICE, or even local police.

For more information, visit:
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Your responses are safe.

Your responses to the 2020 Census will never be shared with other government agencies. It's the law. It's also an oath every Census Bureau employee must swear to uphold.

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