

Diverse Communities

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

United States®
Census
2020

Learn more at 2020census.gov.

American Indian & Alaskan Natives

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2020 Census Question on Race

Information for American Indians and Alaska Natives

How should I respond to the race question if I am American Indian or Alaska Native?

An individual's response to the 2020 Census race question is based upon self-identification. The U.S. Census Bureau does not tell individuals which boxes to mark or what heritage to write in.

People who identify as American Indian or Alaska Native may mark the American Indian or Alaska Native checkbox and enter the name of their enrolled or principal tribe(s) in the write-in area.

People may report multiple races and/or report multiple detailed groups. Each specific write-in area will record up to 200 characters and up to 6 detailed groups, allowing for long names and multiple groups to be reported.

Improvements to the 2020 race question.

Several question design improvements were made to help improve reporting of detailed American Indian and Alaska Native identities.

- Examples included for the "American Indian or Alaska Native" checkbox category.
- Detailed American Indian tribes, Alaska Native villages, and indigenous Central and South American responses collected via a dedicated write-in area.

Identifying as American Indian or Alaska Native on the census is a matter of self-identification.

The Census Bureau collects race data in accordance with the 1997 U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) standards on race and ethnicity. The 1997 OMB standards define "American Indian or Alaska Native" as "A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North and South America (including Central America), and who maintains tribal affiliation or community attachment."

Why does the census ask a question about race?

The question on race is asked of all people in the United States. These data are required for federal, state, and tribal programs and are critical factors in the basic research behind numerous policies, particularly for civil rights. Race data are used in planning and funding government programs that provide funds or services for specific groups.

These data are also used to evaluate government programs and policies to ensure they fairly and equitably serve the needs of all racial groups and to monitor compliance with antidiscrimination laws, regulations, and policies. States also use these data to meet legislative redistricting requirements.

7. What is this person's race?

Mark one or more boxes AND print origins.

- White – Print, for example, German, Irish, English, Italian, Lebanese, Egyptian, etc. ↴

- Black or African Am. – Print, for example, African American, Jamaican, Haitian, Nigerian, Ethiopian, Somali, etc. ↴

- American Indian or Alaska Native – Print name of enrolled or principal tribe(s), for example, Navajo Nation, Blackfeet Tribe, Mayan, Aztec, Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government, Nome Eskimo Community, etc. ↴

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese | <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnamese | <input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Filipino | <input type="checkbox"/> Korean | <input type="checkbox"/> Samoan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asian Indian | <input type="checkbox"/> Japanese | <input type="checkbox"/> Chamorro |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Asian – Print, for example, Pakistani, Cambodian, Hmong, etc. ↴ | <input type="checkbox"/> Other Pacific Islander – Print, for example, Tongan, Fijian, Marshallese, etc. ↴ | |

- Some other race – Print race or origin. ↴

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2020 Census Snapshot — American Indian/Alaska Native

What is the census?

Every 10 years, the United States counts everyone living in the country on April 1. Our tribes do not share enrollment numbers with the government, so it is important for all American Indians and Alaska Natives to participate in the 2020 Census.

What's in it for me?

The 2020 Census is an opportunity to provide a better future for our communities and future generations. By participating in the 2020 Census, you help provide an accurate count of American Indians and Alaska Natives. Your responses to the 2020 Census can help shape how billions of dollars in federal funds are distributed each year for programs and grants in our communities.

The 2020 Census is our count. Our responses matter. Regardless of age, nationality, ethnicity, or where we live, we all need to be counted.

Responding to the 2020 Census is:

> Easy

In early 2020, every household in the United States will receive a notice to complete the census online, by phone, or by mail.

> Safe

Your responses to the 2020 Census are confidential and protected by law. Personal information is never shared with any other government agencies or law enforcement, including federal, local, and tribal authorities.

> Important

The federal government and local American Indian and Alaska Native leaders and decision-makers will use 2020 Census data in a variety of ways that can benefit Native people and our communities.

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Frequently Asked Questions

- > Q. Who should complete the census questionnaire?**

A. One person in the home should complete the questionnaire and include every person living there, including relatives, nonrelatives, babies, and children.
- > Q. How can I answer the race question?**

A. An individual's response is based upon self-identification. You may mark one or more of the race categories and/or enter multiple tribes or multiple detailed groups. Each write-in area will record up to 200 characters and up to six detailed groups.
- > Q. What kind of assistance is available to help people complete the questionnaire?**

A. Assistance responding to the 2020 Census will be available on 2020census.gov and via our toll-free phone number. Language guides, language glossaries, and language identification cards will be available in 59 non-English languages. Large-print guides to the questionnaire will also be available upon request, as well as telephone devices for hearing impaired. On 2020census.gov, video tutorials and how-to resources can help you complete your census form. Many communities, partners, and local organizations will also provide assistance.
- > Q. How does the Census Bureau count people without a permanent residence?**

A. Census Bureau employees work extensively to take in-person counts of people living in group housing, like college dormitories and shelters, as well as those experiencing homelessness or who have been displaced by natural disasters.

For more information, visit:

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D-OP-AI-EN-055

2020 Census Key Dates



January-April 2020

First census enumeration takes place in Toksook Bay, Alaska.



March 2020

Census notices are mailed or delivered to households.



March-May 2020

Census takers visit each household to update address lists and collect information on the questionnaire.



April 1, 2020

Census Day



May-July 2020

Census takers visit households that have not completed the questionnaire.



December 31, 2020

By law, the Census Bureau delivers population counts to the President for apportionment of congressional seats.



March 2021

By law, the Census Bureau completes delivery of redistricting data to states.

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2020 Census Snapshot — Alaska Native

What is the census?

Every 10 years, the United States counts everyone living in the country, including newborn babies and young children, on April 1. Our tribes do not share enrollment numbers with the government, so it is important for all Alaska Natives to participate in the 2020 Census.

What's in it for me?

The 2020 Census is an opportunity to provide a better future for our communities and future generations. By participating in the 2020 Census, you help provide an accurate count of Alaska Natives. Your responses to the 2020 Census can help shape how billions of dollars in federal funds are distributed each year for programs and grants in our communities.

The 2020 Census is our count. Our responses matter. Regardless of age, nationality, ethnicity, or where we live, we all need to be counted.

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Your responses to the 2020 Census are confidential and protected by law. Personal information is never shared with any other government agencies or law enforcement, including federal, local, and tribal authorities.

> Important

The federal government and local Alaska Native leaders and decision-makers will use 2020 Census data in a variety of ways that can benefit Alaska Natives and our communities.

Frequently Asked Questions

> Q. Who should complete the census questionnaire?

A. One person in the home should complete the questionnaire and include every person living there, including relatives, nonrelatives, babies, and children.

> Q. How can I answer the race question?

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No matter where we live, our community counts.

Shape our future. Start here.

2020 Census

Every 10 years, the federal government counts everyone who lives in the United States.

Why is the 2020 Census important to us?

A complete and accurate count of American Indians and Alaska Natives throughout the United States contributes to better planning and decision-making for Indian Country, and it helps determine how billions of dollars in federal funding is distributed to communities and tribes for programs and grants. Your participation in the census builds on our communities' progress and helps shape our future for generations to come.

How will we be counted?

Beginning in early 2020, every household will receive a notice in the mail to complete the 2020 Census online, by phone, or by mail.

Will our information be kept confidential?

Yes. Your responses to the 2020 Census are confidential and protected by law. Personal information is never shared with any government agencies or law enforcement.

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According to us, we are resilient...

... when we participate in the 2020 Census. Alaska Natives need an accurate count in the 2020 Census no matter our age or where we live. The data we provide is used to inform others of the need for resources and programs in our communities.

Remember, your village or corporation does not provide enrollment numbers to the U.S. Census Bureau, so it is up to us to participate in the 2020 Census.

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According to us, we are irreplaceable...

... and when we participate in the 2020 Census, we show others how our communities have grown. We may think that our tribes will count us in the census, but we need to respond ourselves. Our tribes do not provide enrollment numbers to the U.S. Census Bureau.

The 2020 Census is the count for all American Indians and Alaska Natives, no matter our age or where we live. We use data from an accurate count to plan for programs and services in our communities.

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According to us, we are invincible...

... when we participate in the 2020 Census. Even if we live in urban or other off-reservation areas, we may think that our tribes will count us in the census, but that is not the case. Our tribes do not provide enrollment numbers to the U.S. Census Bureau, so we need to respond and make sure we are all counted.

The 2020 Census is the count for all American Indians and Alaska Natives, no matter our age or where we live. We use data from an accurate count to plan programs and services in our communities.

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