

2020 Census at a Glance

The census is much more than just a head count. It provides a picture of our nation that helps determine where to build new schools, hospitals, and businesses; how federal funding is distributed; and how congressional seats are apportioned. It also helps us see how our communities have changed over time. That's why an accurate count is so important.

UNDERSTANDING THE CENSUS

Once every decade, the federal government conducts a census of the entire population to count everyone in the United States and record basic information about them. Our nation's founders believed this data was so important that they mandated the decennial census in the Constitution.



Easy and Convenient

In 2020, for the first time ever, the U.S. Census Bureau will accept responses online, but you can still respond by phone or mail if you prefer.



Confidential and Secure

Strict federal law protects your census responses. It is against the law for any Census Bureau employee to disclose or publish any census information that identifies an individual or business. Census Bureau employees take a lifelong pledge of confidentiality to handle data responsibly and keep respondents' information private. The penalty for wrongful disclosure is a fine of up to \$250,000 or imprisonment for up to 5 years, or both. No law enforcement agency (not the DHS, ICE, FBI, or CIA) can access or use your personal information at any time. Data collected can only be used for statistical purposes that help inform important decisions, including how much federal funding your community receives.

The Census Bureau will never ask for your Social Security number, bank or credit card account numbers, money or donations, or anything on behalf of a political party.

The Census Bureau has a robust cybersecurity program that incorporates industry best practices and federal security standards for encrypting data.

To make sure you and your community are counted, learn more about the 2020 Census by visiting 2020census.gov.

KEY MILESTONES FOR THE 2020 CENSUS

- **September 2018**—The Census Bureau's recruitment Web site went live: 2020census.gov/jobs. For each decennial census, the Census Bureau begins recruiting thousands of paid census takers to help ensure a complete and accurate count. Interested applicants can visit the Web site to apply for a variety of jobs beginning in 2019 and through summer 2020.
- **April 2019**—The 2020 Census Web site goes live: 2020census.gov. This site will be available in multiple languages and will provide downloadable materials, answers to frequently asked questions, and more information about how individuals and organizations can help spread the word about the 2020 Census.
- **August 2019**—New Statistics in Schools classroom activities are available online: census.gov/schools. The Statistics in Schools program provides resources for teaching and learning with real-life data.
- **January 2020**—The first enumeration of the 2020 Census takes place in Toksook Bay, Alaska. Local census takers must get a head start while the frozen ground allows easier access to remote areas with unique accessibility challenges.
- **March 2020**—The public can begin responding to the 2020 Census online at 2020census.gov. Replying by mail or phone will also be an option.
- **April 2020**—Every 10 years, we observe Census Day on April 1.
- **June 2020 through July 2020**—Census takers go door to door to count people who have not responded to the 2020 Census. Census takers are Census Bureau employees and will provide proof that they are official government personnel.
- **December 31, 2020**—By this date, as required by law, the Census Bureau reports to the President of the United States the population count and the apportionment of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives to each state.
- **2021**—Initial 2020 Census data are made available to the public on census.gov.

Respond to the 2020 Census¹

February	March 1-11	March 12-20	March 21-31	April 1	April 2-7
<p>It's almost time to respond.</p> <p>Respond next month when you receive your invitation. The invitation will include instructions for responding online and a phone number to call if you need help.</p> <p>Areas less likely to respond online will also receive a paper questionnaire.</p> <p>Plan to include everyone you expect to live in your home on April 1.</p> <p>You can respond online or by phone in one of 13 languages and find assistance in many more.²</p>	<p>Plan to respond when you receive your invitation.</p> <p>Invitations will arrive between March 12-20 with instructions for responding online.</p> <p>Areas less likely to respond online will also receive a paper questionnaire.</p> <p>If you need help completing the 2020 Census, you can call a toll-free phone number.</p> <p>Plan to include everyone you expect to live in your home on April 1.</p> <p>You can respond online or by phone in one of 13 languages and find assistance in many more.</p>	<p>Invitations to respond to the 2020 Census are in the mail.³ Respond when you receive yours.</p> <p>Invitations will arrive in the mail March 12-20.</p> <p>The invitation will include instructions for responding online.</p> <p>If you need help or would like to respond by phone, you can call a toll-free phone number.</p> <p>Respond at 2020census.gov or call one of the toll-free numbers.</p> <p>Use the Census ID included in your invitation. You can also respond without it by providing your address.</p> <p>Areas less likely to respond online will also receive a paper questionnaire that they can return in the mail.</p> <p>Include everyone you expect to live in your home on April 1.</p> <p>You can respond online or by phone in one of 13 languages and find assistance in many more.</p>	<p>Respond now. By now, most households⁴ should have received at least one invitation to respond.</p> <p>Respond at 2020census.gov or call one of the toll-free numbers.</p> <p>Use the Census ID from your invitation or provide your address when you respond.</p> <p>Or, if you received a paper questionnaire, fill it out and mail it back. (You can respond online if you prefer.)</p> <p>Include everyone you expect to live in your home on April 1.</p> <p>You can respond online or by phone in one of 13 languages and find assistance in many more.</p>	<p>Respond today.</p> <p>Respond at 2020census.gov or call one of the toll-free numbers.</p> <p>Use the Census ID from your invitation or provide your address when you respond.</p> <p>Or, if you received a paper questionnaire, fill it out and mail it back. (You can respond online if you prefer.)</p> <p>Today is Census Day. Include everyone who lives in your home today.</p> <p>You can respond online or by phone in one of 13 languages and find assistance in many more.</p>	<p>Respond now.</p> <p>If you haven't responded yet, we'll send you a paper questionnaire soon that you can fill out and mail back.</p> <p>Or, you can respond online at 2020census.gov or by calling one of the toll-free numbers.</p> <p>Include everyone who lived in your home on April 1.</p> <p>You can respond online or by phone in one of 13 languages and find assistance in many more.</p>

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April 8-16 ⁵	April 17-30	May 1-12	May 13-July 25	July 26-31
<p>Respond now.</p> <p>If you haven't responded yet, paper questionnaires are on the way. When you receive yours, fill it out and mail it back.</p> <p>Or, you can respond online at 2020census.gov or by calling one of the toll-free numbers.</p> <p>Include everyone who lived in your home on April 1.</p> <p>You can respond online or by phone in one of 13 languages and find assistance in many more.</p>	<p>Time is running short. Respond now.</p> <p>Respond online, by phone, or on the paper questionnaire you received in the mail or at your door. Census takers will visit if you don't respond.</p> <p>Include everyone who lived in your home on April 1.</p> <p>You can respond online or by phone in one of 13 languages and find assistance in many more.</p>	<p>Time is running short. Respond now.</p> <p>Census takers will begin visiting households soon to help you respond, if you haven't already.</p> <p>You can still respond online, by phone, or on the paper questionnaire you received in the mail or at your door.</p> <p>Include everyone who lived in your home on April 1.</p> <p>You can respond online or by phone in one of 13 languages and find assistance in many more.</p>	<p>It's not too late. Respond online, by phone, or when the census taker comes to your door.</p> <p>Census takers are visiting households now to collect responses from households that haven't responded yet.</p> <p>Include everyone who lived in your home on April 1.</p> <p>You can still respond online, by phone, or on the paper questionnaire you received in the mail.</p> <p>You can respond online or by phone in one of 13 languages and find assistance in many more.</p>	<p>This is the final week to respond to the 2020 Census.</p> <p>If you think you may not have been counted, respond now online at 2020census.gov or call one of the toll-free numbers. Or complete and mail back the paper questionnaire you received in the mail or at your door.</p> <p>Include everyone who lived in your home on April 1.</p> <p>You can respond online or by phone in one of 13 languages and find assistance in many more.</p> <p>Census takers are finishing their visits⁶ to collect responses from households that haven't responded yet.</p>

¹ These messages are geared toward households. We have special procedures to count people who don't live in households. For example, see information about group quarters at <https://go.usa.gov/xdmGb> and people experiencing homelessness at <https://go.usa.gov/xdmGh>

² See the 2020 Census Support for Languages fact sheet for more information at <https://go.usa.gov/xdmGD>

³ For Update Leave areas, use the following variation instead: Invitations to respond are on the way. A census taker will deliver an invitation to your door. Respond when you receive yours. The invitation will include a paper questionnaire, as well as instructions for responding.

⁴ If a household hasn't received an invitation, they can still respond online or by phone. Reminder: use the variation in the footnote above when speaking to audiences in Update Leave areas. Assure audiences in Update Enumerate areas that census takers are on their way (March 16 through April 30) to help them respond. To identify Update Leave and Update Enumerate areas, see <www.census.gov/data/data-tools/2020-tea-viewer.html>

⁵ Early Nonresponse Followup (NRF-U) begins in areas around selected colleges and universities on April 9.

⁶ A small number of households may be contacted for further follow-up through June 2021 as part of our Post-Enumeration Survey; see <https://go.usa.gov/xdmGb>