



2020 Census

You Count!

What is the census?

The United States Constitution requires that the federal government conduct a count of every person living in the country at least once every 10 years. This count, or census, must include every resident, regardless of age or immigration status. The government will begin the next census in mid-March 2020.

Why should I respond to the census?

It is extremely important for every person to respond to the census with complete and accurate information. Accurate census data has significant impacts on daily life. For example:

- Census data is used to determine the amount of representation each state receives in Congress, and each community receives in state and local government. Failing to respond can deprive you of fair representation.
- Census data is used to determine how much federal money communities receive for healthcare, housing, education, and transportation. Failing to respond can deprive your community of much needed funds for schools, hospitals, and highways.
- Individuals and businesses regularly use census data to make decisions that significantly impact local economies. Failing to respond can deprive your community of economic opportunities.

In addition, every person is required by law to provide full and accurate responses to the census.

What questions does the census include?

The census questionnaire asks only for basic information for each person in the household. These include questions about each person's name, sex, date of birth, race, relation to the rest of the household, and whether the person is of Hispanic origin. The census questionnaire also asks for at least one phone number for each household.

Does the census include questions about citizenship or immigration status?

No, the census questionnaire does not include any questions about the citizenship or immigration status of any person in the household.

How do I know if I'm being scammed?

There are some questions that the U.S. Census Bureau will NEVER ask. If you are asked to provide any of the following information, it is likely a scam:

- Your Social Security Number
- Money or Donations
- Your Bank or Credit Card Account Numbers
- Your Mother's Maiden Name
- Passwords
- Your Support for a Political Party or Candidate

Additionally, the U.S. Census Bureau will never threaten to arrest you or your family or to cut off any benefits you receive.

How do I respond to the census?

In mid-March, the U.S. Census Bureau will send a postcard to every house, apartment, or other dwelling in the United States. This document will provide instructions for responding to the census online, or requesting a paper survey. Alternatively, anyone can respond to the census by phone. For more information about responding, please visit the Census Bureau's website at 2020census.gov.

Will my responses be confidential?

Yes, all responses to the census are protected under federal law. Any Census Bureau employee who discloses information about any person collected during the census is subject to five years in prison and a fine of \$250,000. This includes Census Bureau officials and enumerators.

Federal law also prohibits disclosures to courts or other federal and state agencies. Indeed, no law enforcement agencies, including DHS, ICE, FBI, CIA, or state or local police, can access the personal information you share with the Census Bureau. The Census Bureau takes confidentiality seriously, and has implemented important security programs designed to protect each person's data.

What happens if I DON'T respond to the census?

Starting in May 2020, the Census Bureau will send in-person enumerators to each household that has not responded to the census. These enumerators are Census Bureau employees, who will seek to collect only the information requested in the questionnaire. To verify that a census visit is legitimate, see the back panel of this publication.

To verify that a visitor is a Census Bureau employee:

Contact the Census National Processing Center at (800) 923-8282 or the New York Regional Census Office at (800) 262-4236.

Be careful of impostors – Census Bureau field representatives will present an ID badge including: their name, photograph, a Department of Commerce watermark, and an expiration date; will be carrying an official bag with the Census Bureau logo or a laptop for conducting the survey, and provide you with a letter on official letterhead stating why they are visiting.

Census Mail:

Be careful of look-a-like mail - most census and survey-related materials are mailed from, and returned to, the Census Bureau's National Processing Center at 1201 East 10th St. in Jeffersonville, IN.

To verify its legitimacy, contact the Census National Processing Center listed above. Do NOT call the number given on the form you receive.

Census Surveys/Phone Calls

Along with the once-in-a-decade population count, the Census Bureau conducts more than 130 surveys each year. Official Census employees conducting a survey will identify themselves and the name of the survey. If they are unable to reach you, they will leave a message with a case ID associated with your survey.

Be careful of scams. Don't call a phone number given to you by the caller. Don't trust caller ID – scammers use caller ID spoofing to make it appear that the call is from a government or Census Bureau number.

For more information,
**contact the U.S. Census Bureau
at 2020census.gov**