

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:

2020CENSUS.GOV

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

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