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United States®
Census
2020



TOP 20 FACTS TO KNOW ABOUT THE 2020 CENSUS

What is the Census: Background and History?

1. The decennial census, undertaken every ten years, is a count of the total number of persons living in the United States, including citizens, legal residents, long-term visitors, and undocumented immigrants of all ages from zero to the oldest living resident. Citizenship is **NOT** required to be counted in the 2020 Census. **Everyone Counts!**
2. The census count is **mandated** by the U.S. Constitution and conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, a nonpartisan federal government agency.
3. The 2020 Census will count the population in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories, and mark the 24th time that the country has counted its population since 1790.
4. Census data are the most authoritative data of the U.S. Government.

Why the Census Matters?

5. Census data are used to **reapportion legislative seats** in the U.S. House of Representatives; each count can give states more political power or reduce the state's political power.
6. Census data are used to determine the amount of **federal funding** to states and local governments and to calculate the rate at which federal funds match state spending on programs including Medicaid, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).
7. Data from the 2020 Census will be used to determine how approximately **\$1 trillion** in federal funds will be distributed to state and local governments.

How Will the 2020 Census Work?

8. U.S. households will receive a postcard invitation to respond to the short questionnaire—**online**, by phone, or by mail beginning March 12 (Alaska will begin counting January 21.)
9. The decennial census will ask general biographical data including name, age, sex, race, and relationship to the head of household. Questions of homeownership, telephone number and the total count of all persons in the home are asked of the head of household.
10. The Census Bureau will count persons living in places where people live in groups: college/university student housing; residential treatment centers; nursing home; group homes; military barracks; correctional facilities, and maritime and military vessels.
11. The Census Bureau will devote three days to counting people who are experiencing homelessness across the country:
 - **March 30, 2020:** Counting people who are in shelters.
 - **March 31, 2020:** Counting people at soup kitchens and mobile food vans.
 - **April 1, 2020:** Counting people in non-sheltered, outdoor locations, such as tent encampments and on the streets.

How You Can Help: Be a Fulton Census Ambassador!

12. Inform others that the 2020 Census is: **Easy, Safe and Important**. Inform parents that an accurate count can bring helpful resources and programs to their communities for schools, food and nutrition programs and much more.
13. Invite Census Bureau Partnership Specialists to events, religious institutions and schools.
14. Display Census logos on your computers, mobile phones, etc.; use Census branded items; wear buttons and other paraphernalia.
15. Leverage social media and websites to encourage others to serve as Census Ambassadors and to motivate your network to complete the questionnaire.

What the Census Bureau Will Not Do or Ask:

16. **Never** ask for Social Security Numbers.
17. **Never** ask for money or bank account information for donations.
18. **Never** send requests on behalf of a political party.
19. **Never** request personal pin codes, passwords, or similar access information.
20. **Not** release or share your information for 72 years. Data are used for statistical purposes only until the 72-year embargo period ends. The Census Bureau is bound by federal law to protect your answers and keep the responses strictly confidential. U.S. Census Bureau employees take an oath to protect your information or risk five years in prison and a fine of \$250,000.

2020 Census Engagement Timeline:

- **January 21:** The U.S. Census Bureau starts counting the population in remote Alaska. The count officially begins in the rural Alaskan village of Toksook Bay.
- **March 12 - 20:** Households will begin receiving official Census Bureau mail with detailed information on how to respond to the 2020 Census online, by phone, or by mail.
- **March 30 - April 1:** The Census Bureau will count people who are experiencing homelessness over these three days.
- **April 1:** Census Day is observed nationwide. When you respond to the census, you'll tell the Census Bureau where you live as of April 1, 2020.
- **April:** Census takers will begin visiting college students who live on campus, people living in senior centers, and others who live among large groups of people.
- **May - July:** Census takers will begin visiting homes that haven't responded to the 2020 Census to help make sure everyone is counted.

Georgia lost \$3 billion due to undercounts in the 2010 Census. Despite a significant undercount, as a result of the 2010 population count of 9,687,653, Georgia gained a congressional seat and was allocated \$15.88 billion in direct federal funding.

Failure to count just 25 households at 2½ people each could mean the loss of \$1,000,000 over the 10-year census period in federal funds for programs such as Medicaid, social services block grants and vocational education over a decade. Billions for hospitals, schools, roads, and other vital programs depend on an accurate census count.