

Shape Your Future, START HERE: Responding to the 2020 Census

Erika H. Becker-Medina

Chief of the Decennial Communications Coordination Office, U.S. Census Bureau

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Shape
your future
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United States[®]
Census
2020

2020 Census

A Complete and Accurate Count of the Population and Housing



Count everyone once,
only once, and in the right place.

2020 Census responses are confidential

- Responses to the 2020 Census are confidential and cannot be shared with immigration or law enforcement agencies
- Census Bureau employees take a lifetime oath to protect the personal information of every respondent
- Any Census Bureau employee that violates this law is subject to a penalty of up to \$250,000 and/or up to 5 years in prison
- Responses to the 2020 Census are secure
- No matter how you respond, your information remains protected



How We Invite Everyone to Respond

Every household will have the option of responding online, by phone, or by mail.

Nearly every household will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census from either a postal worker or a census worker.



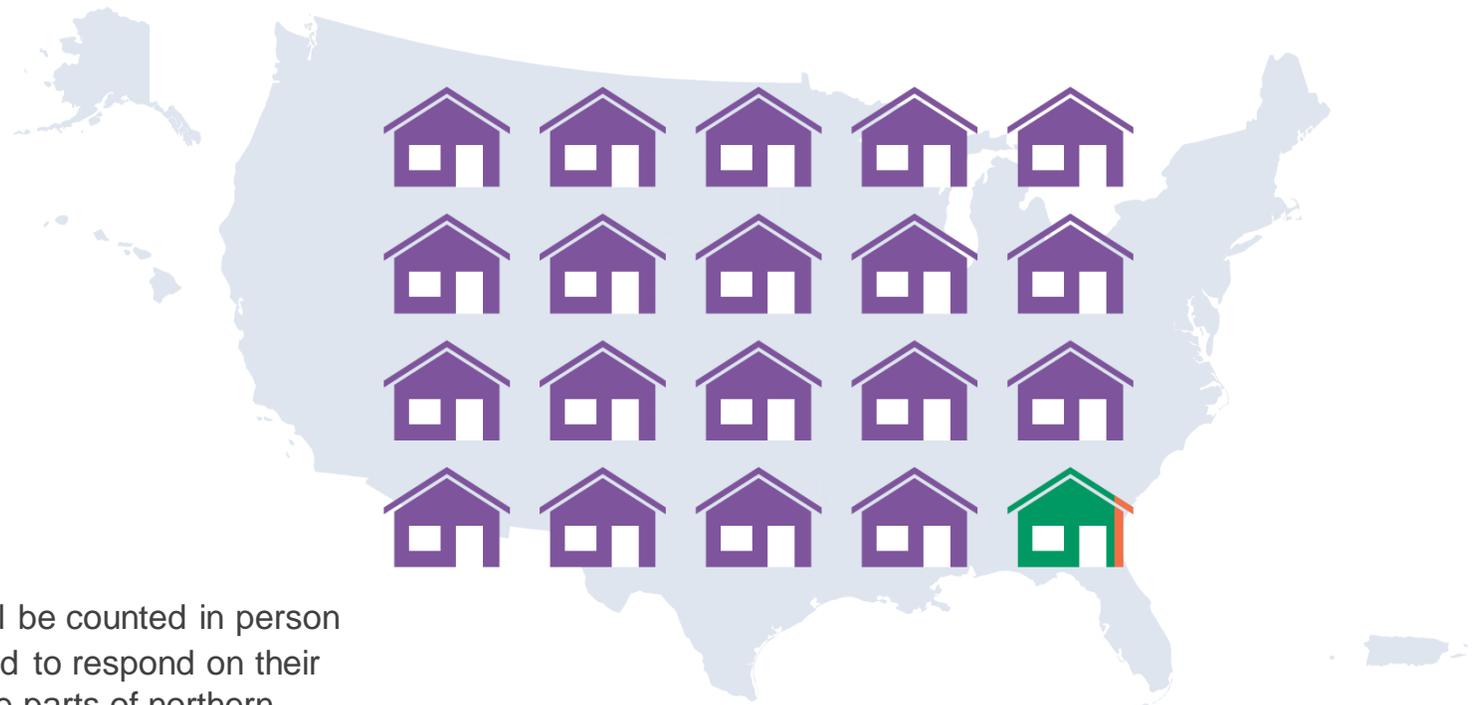
95% of households will receive their census invitation in the mail.



Almost 5% of households will receive their census invitation when a census taker drops it off. In these areas, the majority of households may not receive mail at their home's physical location (like households that use PO boxes or areas recently affected by natural disasters).



Less than 1% of households will be counted in person by a census taker, instead of being invited to respond on their own. We do this in very remote areas like parts of northern Maine, remote Alaska, and in select American Indian areas that ask to be counted in person.



What to expect in the mail

WHAT WE WILL SEND IN THE MAIL

On or between	You'll receive:
March 12-20	An invitation to respond online to the 2020 Census. (Some households will also receive paper questionnaires.)
March 16-24	A reminder letter.
	If you haven't responded yet:
March 26-April 3	A reminder postcard.
April 8-16	A reminder letter and paper questionnaire.
April 20-27	A final reminder postcard before we follow up in person.

Every household will have the option of responding online, by phone, or by mail.

Every household that hasn't already responded will receive reminders and a paper questionnaire.

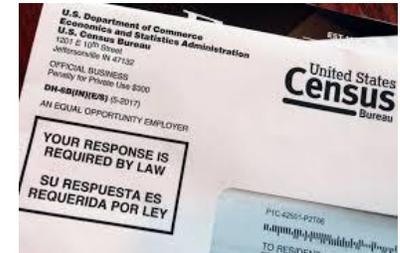


<https://gis-portal.data.census.gov/arcgis/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=7ef5c37c68a64ef3b2f1b17eb9287427>

Responding is easier than ever

Self-response is easier than ever: online, by phone, or by mail.

- You will be able to respond anytime, anywhere, and from any device.
- You will be able to respond in English or in one of the 12 select languages.
- Website and call centers go live on March 12.
- Live customer service reps available for all 13 languages from 7am to 2am Eastern Time.



Language support for the 2020 Census

Over 99 percent of all U.S. households will be able to respond to the census in their language.

Over 99% of the nation's households speak English or one of these 12 languages:

Spanish	Tagalog
Chinese ¹	Polish
Vietnamese	French
Korean	Haitian Creole
Russian	Portuguese
Arabic	Japanese

¹Simplified Chinese for online questionnaire; both Mandarin and Cantonese for phone support/response.



<https://www.census.gov/library/fact-sheets/2020/dec/2020-support-languages.html>

Spanish Support for the 2020 Census

All households will have the option to respond in Spanish online or by phone.



Households will receive an invitation to participate in the census. The English invitation will include instructions in Spanish for how to respond in Spanish online or by phone using a direct toll-free line in Spanish.



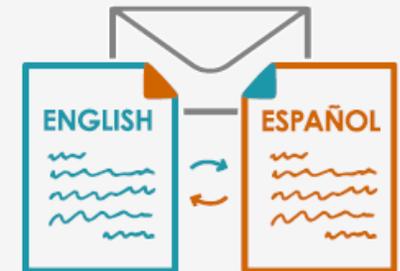
All households that have not yet responded by mid-April will receive a paper questionnaire.



Households in select areas needing Spanish assistance will receive an English/Spanish bilingual questionnaire.



About 13 million households across the nation (roughly 9%) will receive bilingual English/Spanish invitations.



<https://www.census.gov/library/fact-sheets/2019/dec/respond-to-2020-census-spanish/respond-to-2020-census-english.html>

Additional language support for the 2020 Census

The Census Bureau will help people respond in 59 non-English languages by providing:

- **Video language guides** narrated in the 59 languages to help people respond online.
- **Print language guides** written in the 59 languages to help people complete the English paper questionnaire.
- **Census takers with a Language Identification Card** that features a brief statement in the 59 languages. If the census taker encounters a language barrier at the door, they can request that a census taker who speaks the household's language returns to complete the interview.



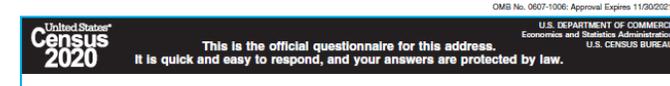
<https://www.census.gov/library/fact-sheets/2020/dec/2020-support-languages.html>

Questions Asked

The 2020 Census is easy.
You will answer a simple questionnaire about yourself
and everyone who is living with you on April 1, 2020.

Explore the questions you'll be asked on your 2020 Census form:
<https://2020census.gov/en/about-questions.html>

You'll find tips for responding and information on how the Census Bureau will use your answers.

The image is a screenshot of the 2020 Census questionnaire form. It features a blue header with the text "Start here OR go online at [url removed] to complete your 2020 Census questionnaire. Use a blue or black pen." Below the header, there are several sections of text and questions. The first section is titled "Before you answer Question 1, count the people living in this house, apartment, or mobile home using our guidelines." and includes instructions on how to count people. The second section is titled "The census must also include people without a permanent place to live, so:" and includes instructions on how to count people without a permanent place to live. The third section is titled "The Census Bureau also conducts counts in institutions and other places, so:" and includes instructions on how to count people in institutions and other places. The fourth section is titled "1. How many people were living or staying in this house, apartment, or mobile home on April 1, 2020?" and includes a question and a box for the answer. The fifth section is titled "2. Were there any additional people staying here on April 1, 2020 that you did not include in Question 1?" and includes a question and a list of checkboxes for different types of people. The sixth section is titled "3. Is this house, apartment, or mobile home — Mark X ONE box:" and includes a question and a list of checkboxes for different types of housing. The seventh section is titled "4. What is your telephone number?" and includes a question and a box for the answer. The form also includes a "FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY" box and a "Start here" button.

Internet Self-Response

 An official website of the United States government [Here's how you know](#)

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FAQ

INSTRUCTIONS



ENGLISH ▾

ENGLISH

ESPAÑOL

中文

TIẾNG VIỆT

한국어

РУССКИЙ

العربية

TAGALOG

POLSKI

FRANÇAIS

KREYÒL AYISYEN

PORTUGUÊS

日本語

Welcome to the 2020 Census

- It's quick and easy. The 2020 Census questionnaire will take about 10 minutes to complete.
- It's safe, secure, and confidential. Your information and privacy are protected.
- Your response helps to direct billions of dollars in federal funds to local communities for schools, roads, and other public services.
- Results from the 2020 Census will be used to determine the number of seats each state has in Congress and your political representation at all levels of government.

Getting started:

- You must complete your questionnaire once you begin. If you leave the questionnaire and return later, you will have to start over.
- Do not use the web browser buttons (back, forward, or close browser). Use the buttons within the questionnaire to navigate.
- For best results, use the latest version of Chrome, Firefox, Internet Explorer, or Safari. Enable cookies.

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Start Questionnaire

ENGLISH

ESPAÑOL

中文

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한국어

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日本語

A preview of the online questionnaire is available at <https://www.census.gov/library/video/2019/preview-2020-census-video-language-guide.html>.

Who to Count: Special Circumstances

The 2020 Census will count everyone living in the United States and five U.S. territories.

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How the 2020 Census Counts People Experiencing Homelessness

The 2020 Census has procedures that count people outdoors, where they receive services, and at other locations where they are known to sleep.



Outdoor and Other Locations

The Census Bureau works with local groups to identify outdoor and other locations where people are known to sleep. Census takers will count people in person at these previously identified locations on April 1, 2020 (Census Day).

The Census Bureau works with service providers to get a complete and accurate count at their locations, between March 30 and April 1.



Emergency and Transitional Shelters



Soup Kitchens



Regularly Scheduled Mobile Food Vans

<https://census.gov/library/fact-sheets/2020/dec/2020-census-counts-homeless.html>

How Are People Counted at RV Parks, Campgrounds, and Other Transitory Locations?

If you are living or staying at a campground, an RV park, a hotel, or another transitory location, the Census Bureau has a special process for how you should respond to the 2020 Census.

What are transitory locations?

Transitory locations include campgrounds, RV parks, marinas, hotels, motels, racetracks, circuses, and carnivals.

Each transitory location has multiple units, which can be rooms in a lodging facility or spaces where a tent, boat, recreational vehicle (RV), or other structure may be parked or located.

How Are People in Transitory Locations Counted?

Census takers will visit each transitory location at a scheduled time between April 9 and May 4, 2020, to conduct interviews with individuals in occupied units using a paper questionnaire.

College Students

Getting counted is easier than your next class.

Students who live in university-owned or managed housing.

If you live in on-campus housing—like a residence hall, dorm, or apartment—or in off-campus housing that is owned or managed by your college or university, **the Census Bureau will work with your college or university to count you.**



Students who do NOT live in university-owned or managed housing.

If you live in off-campus housing that is not owned or managed by your college or university, make sure you and your roommates submit only one response that includes everyone who lives there. Beginning in mid-March 2020, you can respond to the census online, by phone, or by mail. Even if you spend time somewhere else during school breaks, you should be counted at your off-campus address.

If you are an international student, the same rules apply both on and off campus.

U.S. college students who are living and attending college outside the United States are not counted in the census.

Other Special Circumstances

Foreign Citizens in the United States

Citizens of foreign countries who are living in the United States, including members of the diplomatic community, should be counted at the U.S. residence where they live and sleep most of time.

Citizens of foreign countries who are visiting the United States on vacation or business on April 1, 2020, should not be counted.

<https://2020census.gov/en/who-to-count.html>

People Who Move On Census Day

People who are moving should count themselves just once, in one home.

- If they move into their new residence on April 1, 2020, they should count themselves at that residence.
- If they move out of their old residence on April 1, 2020, but have not yet moved into their new home, they should count themselves at their old residence.

2020Census.gov

The screenshot shows the homepage of the 2020 Census website. The background is a photograph of a diverse group of people, including men, women, and children, walking across a city street. The text 'Shape your future. START HERE.' is overlaid in large white font. A blue button with the text 'GET INVOLVED' is positioned at the bottom center. The top navigation bar includes the 'United States Census 2020' logo on the left, a search bar, and a language selector set to 'English'. Below the navigation bar, there are five menu items: 'Partners', 'Educators', 'News & Events', 'Get the Facts', 'How To Respond', 'Why Your Answers Matter', and 'Privacy and Security'.

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Partners Educators News & Events

Search English

Get the Facts How To Respond Why Your Answers Matter Privacy and Security

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