

What You Need to Know About the U.S. Census

What is the U.S. Census?

Mandated by the U.S. Constitution, the census is a complete count of the U.S. population conducted every 10 years by the U.S. Census Bureau, a nonpartisan government agency. Each home will receive a short questionnaire to respond to — online, by phone, or by mail starting March 12th.

Why does it matter?

Every year, billions of dollars in federal funding go to hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads, and other state and local resources based on census data. The census results also determine the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives and are used to draw congressional and state legislative districts. Governments, businesses, communities, and nonprofits all rely on census data to make critical decisions that affect your daily life. Census results impact our local programs like Medicare, Medicaid, Head Start, WIC and SNAP.

Why should you respond?

First of all, it's required by law, even if you recently completed another survey from the census Bureau. A complete and accurate count is critical for you and your community, because the results will affect community funding, congressional representation, and more.

What questions are asked?

The census aims to create a complete snapshot of America's people in numbers, location, and key characteristics. Questions include:

- How many people are living or staying at your home as of April 1, 2020?
- Is your home owned or rented?
- What is the sex, age and race of each person in your home?
- What is the relationship of each person in your home?

What questions are NEVER asked?

Beware of impostors trying to get your money or financial information. The Census Bureau will NOT ask for your Social Security number, for your bank or credit card numbers, for anything on behalf of a political party, or for money or donations. They will also not ask to be invited in your home. Make sure the census taker has a badge with a picture ID and the Census Bureau logo beside their picture. If you are hesitant, take a couple minutes and call the Census Bureau Customer Service at 1-800-923-8282.

How is your information used and protected?

Your data is used only for statistical purposes that never identify your home or any person in your home. From the beginning of the data collection process, the Census Bureau follows industry best practices and federal requirements to protect your data. Under Title 13, the Census Bureau cannot release any identifiable information about you, your home, or your business—even to law enforcement agencies.

Help your community get its fair share of the \$675 billion dollars in federal funding--make sure you and your household are counted in the 2020 Census.