



## 2020 U.S. Census FAQ

**What is the Census?** The Census is a count of every person who lives in the United States and its territories. It is mandated by the U.S. Constitution and takes place every 10 years.

**Why is the Census important and what is it used for?** Participating in the Census is a chance to shape your future. Responses help determine where over \$675 billion in federal funds are distributed each year to communities nationwide — for health care, schools, roads, and more. The information is also used to redraw legislative districts and it determines the number of seats New Jersey has in the U.S. House of Representatives. Following the 2010 U.S. Census, NJ lost a seat in the House.

**Should undocumented residents complete a Census form?** Yes, every person living in the United States should respond to the Census. Respondents will not be asked for their citizenship status. Information collected in the Census can only be used to create statistics. No individual information is released.

**How can I complete the Census questionnaire?** The Census can be completed online, by phone, or by mail. Assistance is available at Community Census Support Centers located throughout the County.

**Is the information I provide safe?** Responses to the 2020 U.S. Census are safe, secure, and protected by federal laws. The information collected in the Census cannot be used against anyone by any government agency or court in any way — not by the FBI, not by the CIA, not by the Department of Human Services, and not by ICE. No identifying information can be released by the Census.

**Is the online process secure?** All responses submitted online are encrypted to protect personal privacy. Once responses are received, they are no longer online.

**What does the Census ask?** The Census asks a few simple questions, like the age, sex, and number of people who live in each household, including children.

**Can I skip a Census question?** You can skip questions and/or submit an incomplete Census form and still be included in the count. The U.S. Census Bureau uses a statistical procedure to fill in any missing responses. While you can be fined for refusing to answer a Census question or intentionally giving a false answer, the penalty has been enforced rarely in the past. An incomplete form may also result in follow-up by the U.S. Census Bureau.

**What is not included in the Census survey?** The Census will never ask for Social Security numbers, bank or credit card numbers, money or donations, or anything related to political parties.

**Is the Census available in multiple languages?** The Census form will be available in English and 12 additional languages. Videos and guides to the form are available online in 59 languages.

**Is there a place to go where I can access a computer to complete the Census?** Yes. Please contact your municipality or go to <http://www.MiddlesexCountyNJ.gov/Census> for information on Community Census Support Centers.

**Why does the Census ask about home ownership and renting?** Home ownership rates serve as an indicator of the nation's economy and help in decision-making and administration of housing programs.

**Why does the Census ask for a phone number?** Your phone number will only be used if the U.S. Census Bureau needs to contact you regarding your Census form. Your phone number will never be shared.

**Will the U.S. Census Bureau keep contacting me if I don't complete the form?** If you don't respond to the 2020 U.S. Census, the U.S. Census Bureau will send up to five mailings to your address and a Census employee to your door. For up to six days (with the possibility of more than one contact attempt per day), a Census employee will attempt to gather Census information from someone in the household. The employee may also contact neighbors to request a proxy response for unresponsive households.

**Should newborns be included in the Census response?** Yes, newborns living in your household as of April 1, 2020 should be included.

**How does the U.S. Census Bureau know where people live?** The U.S. Census Bureau relies on a "Master Address File" which includes addresses served by the U.S. Postal Service, information gathered from local governments, and information updated by U.S. Census Bureau employees in the field.

**When will 2020 U.S. Census statistics be released?** Spring 2021

**Where can I get more information about the Census?** Visit [2020Census.gov](https://2020census.gov) or call the Census Bureau Customer Service Center at 1-800-923-8282 or 301-763-INFO.

**How can I find information about getting a job with the Census?** [2020census.gov/jobs](https://2020census.gov/jobs)  
1-855-JOB-2020