

April 1 Is Census Day

The US Constitution mandates that the entire population of the US be counted every ten years. The first US census was conducted in 1790 by about 650 US marshals and their assistants. The 1790 census results led to an increase in the number of congressmen from 65 to 105. Currently there are 435 representatives in Congress.

The 2020 census will count every person living in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the five US territories. Each home will receive an invitation to respond to a questionnaire online, by telephone, or by mail. These invitations will arrive between March 12 and March 20. Between March 30 and April 1 the Census Bureau will count the homeless. During April, census takers will visit group homes like college dorms. From May to July, census takers will visit non-reporting homes. The results will be delivered in December.

The results of the census are used to allocate billions of dollars in federal funding and will most likely lead to the loss of congressional seats in some states and gains in others. There will be no questions involving citizenship, and the Census Bureau will never ask for social security numbers, for money, for anything on behalf of a political party, or for bank or credit card account numbers. Your information is confidential and is used only for statistics.

You will be asked how many people were living in your home on 4-1-20. Include any friend or family members who live and sleep there most of the time. Include roommates, young children, newborns, and anyone renting space in the home. College students who live away from home should be counted at their on- or off-campus residence. Students living abroad will not be counted. Encourage everyone you know to answer the questionnaire carefully and truthfully. Good luck!

Emily Owens, Appointed Office, Public Policy

Additional Information submitted by Rebecca Schejbal

**Shape Your Future: Census 2020
Be Counted**

Every ten years the United States Census Bureau counts every resident of the United States. It's easy, safe, and important. Census data determines your representation in Congress and determines how funds are spent in your community on things like roads, schools and hospitals.

In March 2020 your household will receive an invitation in the mail to respond. You can respond securely online, by mail, or by phone. Regardless of how you respond, your personal information is protected by federal law. By law, all responses to U.S. Census surveys are kept completely confidential.

The census form is available in English and 12 additional languages.

Shape Your Future and Be Counted

Thank you to Rebecca for the printable FAQ files that are included in the ALERT.