

CENSUS 2020 | Questions and Scenarios

Once a decade, America comes together to count every resident in the United States. The decennial census was first taken in 1790, as mandated by the [Constitution](#). It counts our population and households, providing the basis for [reapportioning congressional seats](#), redistricting, and distributing more than \$675 billion in federal funds annually to support states, counties and communities' vital programs — impacting housing, education, transportation, employment, health care and public policy.

1. I am not a citizen, unsure about safety of answer.



- Your information is private and it is against the law for anyone with access to your information to share it. Your response to the census is key for us and our community to receive the funding and resources that we need.

Federal law protects your information. The Census Bureau is bound by Title 13 of the U.S. Code. Every person with access to your data is sworn for life to protect your information and understands that the penalties for violating this law apply for life. If anyone violates this law, it is a federal crime; penalties are severe, including a federal prison sentence of up to five years, a fine of up to \$250,000, or both. Additionally, responses collected by the Census Bureau are used for statistical purposes only. The Census Bureau publishes only aggregated statistics and may not publish information that would identify an individual, business, or organization. Federal, state, and local government agencies are prohibited from using statistical datasets produced by the Census Bureau to the detriment of any individual who responded to a census.

2. I don't think the census is important



- Filling out the census means you will have the opportunity to notify the government that you are here and it will influence your future to be thoroughly represented by public officials!
- The census will determine what resources we can lose and gain.
- Filling out this form means you are exercising your voice and power as a resident of your community and nation. Your voice matters!

It is important that everyone participates because the census directly affects the distribution of more than \$675 billion in federal funding annually, including funding for schools, roads, hospitals, and social service programs. Census data is used to determine how many congressional seats each state gets and to draw congressional districts.

3. I don't have access to a computer



- You can call or fill out the paper form. Households that have not responded will receive the paper form April 8-16. You can also check with a local community-based organization, community center, or library to see if they can offer assistance or access to a computer

4. What if I cannot read?



- The form can be completed through a phone call.

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5. I have a physical disability and cannot fill it out



- You can still participate over the phone or online with accessible technology. You can also ask a family member or friend for assistance with filling out the form.

6. They have a developmental disability, so don't have the mental capacity to fill it out.



- If they are in an institution, they will be counted through group quarters.
- Whoever is completing the census form for the household should include the individual.

7. I don't speak one of the languages that you can respond to the census in.



- You can ask a friend or family member to translate for you, but you must complete the form yourself or go to Census Assistance Center.

8. I thought they filled it out, but can't remember



- If you are not sure, do not use your household ID. You can fill out the form online or via phone with a non-household ID.

Households should not answer again using the same ID because the processing systems will only accept a unique household ID once. Anyone who thinks they were left off should do a non-ID response by phone or internet.

9. Someone in our household already filled it out, but they didn't include everyone in the household



- If you forgot someone, have them fill out a non-ID response.

10. Does Census collect data on LGBTQ communities?



- Yes, in a limited way. The 2020 Census will ask a question about same-sex relationships.

For the first time, the Census 2020 will be asked to define their relationship using the words "same-sex" and "opposite-sex".

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11. What if I do not identify with one gender or the other?



- Unfortunately, the census is still gender binary. Please fill it out the best you can so that you can be counted. Historically people have skipped questions and still been counted.

12. How is race captured on the Census form?



- There are multiple ways to indicate your racial background depending on which races you identify as. Please refer to our sheet on Census and Race/Ethnicity for more details.

13. I don't have a permanent address



- You can fill out the address wherever you are on Census Day (April 1). You can even list an address like a library or other location.

14. I will be traveling for the next 6 months



- Please fill out the address where you reside most of the time.

15. I am moving before the end of the year



- Use the address where you reside currently and located on Census Day (April 1).

16. I am divorced and have shared custody of my children (unsure who should count them)



- Be sure to list the children in the household they are living in on Census Day (April 1).

17. I have a student who is in college.

Should my child be counted at home or at school?



- The student is counted where they are living on Census Day (April 1). For example, if they are living on campus in a dorm, they will be counted by the dorm housing authority. If they are living in an apartment, they will get their own form to fill out. Please encourage them to do so.

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19. I am pregnant. Should I count my baby?



- Congratulations! Unless your baby is born on or before Census Day (April 1), you cannot count your child.

**20. My mother visits with me for part of the year from abroad.
Should she be counted if she is living with me on April 1?**



- She should be counted if she has lived with you for at least 6 months + 1 day.

**21. I live in a nursing home.
How can I make sure I am counted correctly?**



- You will be counted through group quarters.

**22. There are a few restaurant workers who live in the back room of
a restaurant. How would they be counted?**



- Census forms are sent to households and not places of business. They would be considered homeless and the Area Census Office would take steps to count them.

**23. I am incarcerated | A member of my household is incarcerated
I have a felony on my record and don't know if I can fill it out**



- Incarcerated individuals are always counted in the Census.
- Anyone incarcerated will be counted through group quarters.
- Even if you have a felony, you need to count yourself.

**24. I want to provide my tablet or laptop to assist individuals in
completing the census. Will they accept multiple completed
census forms online if it is coming from the same IP address?**



- Multiple census forms can be completed online from one computer. For example, many individuals will rely on computers provided by the libraries to complete the census form for their household.

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There are multiple ways to indicate your racial background depending on which races you identify as.

Question 8: Is Person 1 of Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin?

→ NOTE: Please answer BOTH Question 8 about Hispanic origin and Question 9 about race. For this census, Hispanic origins are not races.

8. Is Person 1 of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin?

☐ No, not of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin

☐ Yes, Mexican, Mexican Am., Chicano

☐ Yes, Puerto Rican

☐ Yes, Cuban

☐ Yes, another Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin – *Print, for example, Salvadoran, Dominican, Colombian, Guatemalan, Spaniard, Ecuadorian, etc.*

Question 9: What is the Person 1's race?

9. What is Person 1's race?

Mark ☒ one or more boxes **AND** print origins.

☐ White – *Print, for example, German, Irish, English, Italian, Lebanese, Egyptian, etc.*

☐ Black or African Am. – *Print, for example, African American, Jamaican, Haitian, Nigerian, Ethiopian, Somali, etc.*

☐ American Indian or Alaska Native – *Print name of enrolled or principal tribe(s), for example, Navajo Nation, Blackfeet Tribe, Mayan, Aztec, Native Village of Barrow, Inupiat Traditional Government, Nome Eskimo Community, etc.*

<input type="checkbox"/> Chinese	<input type="checkbox"/> Vietnamese	<input type="checkbox"/> Native Hawaiian
<input type="checkbox"/> Filipino	<input type="checkbox"/> Korean	<input type="checkbox"/> Samoan
<input type="checkbox"/> Asian Indian	<input type="checkbox"/> Japanese	<input type="checkbox"/> Chamorro
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Asian – <i>Print, for example, Pakistani, Cambodian, Hmong, etc.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Pacific Islander – <i>Print, for example, Tongan, Fijian, Marshallese, etc.</i>	

☐ Some other race – *Print race or origin.*

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If I am multiracial, how do I note that on the census?

- You can indicate what your racial background is by checking multiple boxes and writing in responses.

There are multiple ways to indicate your racial background depending on which races you identify as. Note the pictures as examples.

7. What is this person's race?
Mark ☒ one or more boxes **AND** print origins.

☐ White – Print, for example, German, Irish, English, Italian, Lebanese, Egyptian, etc. →

☐ Black or African Am. – Print, for example, African American, Jamaican, Haitian, Nigerian, Ethiopian, Somali, etc. →

☒ Other Asian – Print, for example, Pakistani, Cambodian, Hmong, etc. →

☐ Some other race – Print race or origin. →

Hmong and Laotian

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Mark ☒ one or more boxes **AND** print origins.

☐ White – Print, for example, German, Irish, English, Italian, Lebanese, Egyptian, etc. →

☒ Black or African Am. – Print, for example, African American, Jamaican, Haitian, Nigerian, Ethiopian, Somali, etc. →

Haitian

☐ American Indian or Alaska Native – Print name of enrolled or principal tribe(s), for example, Navajo Nation, Blackfeet Tribe, Mayan, Aztec, Native Village of Barrow Inupiat Traditional Government, Nome Eskimo Community, etc. →

☐ Chinese ☐ Vietnamese ☐ Native Hawaiian

☐ Filipino ☐ Korean ☐ Samoan

☐ Asian Indian ☒ Japanese ☐ Chamorro

☐ Other Asian – Print, for example, Pakistani, Cambodian, Hmong, etc. → ☐ Other Pacific Islander – Print, for example, Tongan, Fijian, Marshallese, etc. →

If I identify as Middle Eastern and/or North African population, how do I complete the racial question on the census?

- Check off "White" and to also write in your "origins." Among the suggested answers are examples of two of the largest Middle Eastern and North African nationality groups in the U.S. —"Lebanese" and "Egyptian."

The U.S. Census Bureau must adhere to the 1997 Office of Management and Budget (OMB) standards on race and ethnicity which guide the Census Bureau in classifying written responses to the race question. Currently White is defined as a person having origins in any of the original peoples of Europe, the Middle East, or North Africa.

I am thinking of not marking myself as Chinese or providing any disaggregated data.

- Mark yourself as Asian if that is how you identify.
- Provide and note your specific Asian identity (e.g. Korean) since this allows identification and trends of different health, education, economic and other issues within Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities. With this data we can address the needs of these communities.
- By providing ethnic specific data, we can benefit from the growth of our communities and address their needs. In the 1900 Census, the questionnaire offered five categories: White, Black, Chinese, Japanese, and American Indian. By the 1980 census, the race question offered nine AANHPI subgroup check-off boxes and space to write-in a different subgroup rather than an umbrella term.