

# Census 2020 101

The goal of the 2020 Census is to count everyone once, only once, and in the right place. The Census Bureau will continue to improve its use of mobile technology, geospatial innovations, and internet self-response.

**It's Important. It's Easy. It's Safe.**

## What is the census?

- The census is a count of all persons living in the United States that is conducted every ten years by the federal government and is required by the U.S. Constitution.
- It is used to determine the number of seats each state has in the House of Representatives, how federal and state legislative districts are redrawn, and the appropriation of federally funded programs.

## When will the 2020 Census be conducted?

- Census Day is April 1, 2020. Data collection will begin on March 23, 2020 and continue through August 2020.
- Households will receive a postcard with instructions for completing the census beginning in March 2020.

**Start** **End**  
**03/23/2020** **08/2020**

## Who should respond to the census?

- Everyone! Census postcards are sent to all households in the United States to collect information about each person living in the household.
- The Census Bureau is conducting special counts for populations living in group quarters or who are unsheltered.

**Special Count Efforts Target:** Homeless populations  
University students  
Prison populations  
Other persons living in institutional settings

## How can people complete the census?

- The Census Bureau is collecting census forms in four ways:

 Online, using the internet or a cell phone,

 Over the telephone, by calling the census call center listed on the census card,

 Using a paper form, or

 By responding to a census enumerator

- Census forms are available in 13 different languages.

## What questions will be asked?

- 11 questions, 10 minutes per person
  - » Name
  - » Relationship to householder
  - » Phone number
  - » Household tenure (own/rent)
  - » Age
  - » Number of persons in the household
  - » Sex
  - » Does a person usually stay or live somewhere else?
  - » Citizenship
  - » Hispanic origin
  - » Race



## Are census responses confidential?

- All data are protected under Title 13 of the U.S. Code. Records are confidential for 72 years by law. All Census Bureau employees swear a lifetime oath to protect respondent information.
- The U.S. Census Bureau will never share a respondent's personal information with other government agencies.
- Data is only released in summary tables, no individual records are released.
- All Census Bureau employees swear a lifetime oath to protect respondent information. The penalty for wrongful disclosure is up to 5 years imprisonment and/or a fine of \$250,000.

## Did you know...

Census counts are used in distributing over \$13.1 billion in federal funds per year in Colorado, this translates to \$2,300 per person per year.

### Those dollars help fund:

- » Title 1 grants to educational agencies
- » Head Start programs
- » Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
- » Transportation (public transit, road rehabilitation, and construction)
- » Emergency food and shelter
- » Health and human services programs

See <http://bit.ly/countingfordollars>

## Do people have to answer all census questions?

- While the law requires persons to answer all census questions accurately, an incomplete census form will still be included in the head count.

## Getting Involved

- The administration of the decennial census is managed by the U.S. Census Bureau. Local governments, schools, and not-for-profit organizations can follow the preparations for the 2020 Census. They can support the census by communicating the importance of the census to their residents, students, and clients.

## Learn About the Census

- Read [The 2020 Census at a Glance](http://bit.ly/censusataglance): <http://bit.ly/censusataglance>
- Follow the U.S. Census Bureau: [How to Support the 2020 Census](http://bit.ly/supportcensus2020): <http://bit.ly/supportcensus2020>
- Review the [Census 2020 Planning Documents](http://bit.ly/planningdocs2020): <http://bit.ly/planningdocs2020>
- Learn about the [Census Statistics in Schools Program](http://bit.ly/censusstatsinschools): <http://bit.ly/censusstatsinschools>
- Counting for Dollars, [Colorado](http://bit.ly/countingfordollars): <http://bit.ly/countingfordollars>