



2020 Census Snapshot — American Indian/Alaska Native

What is the census?

Every 10 years, the United States counts everyone living in the country on April 1. Our tribes do not share enrollment numbers with the government, so it is important for all American Indians and Alaska Natives to participate in the 2020 Census.

What's in it for me?

The 2020 Census is an opportunity to provide a better future for our communities and future generations. By participating in the 2020 Census, you help provide an accurate count of American Indians and Alaska Natives. Your responses to the 2020 Census can help shape how billions of dollars in federal funds are distributed each year for programs and grants in our communities.

The 2020 Census is our count. Our responses matter. Regardless of age, nationality, ethnicity, or where we live, we all need to be counted.

Responding to the 2020 Census is:

> Easy

In early 2020, every household in the United States will receive a notice to complete the census online, by phone, or by mail.

> Safe

Your responses to the 2020 Census are confidential and protected by law. Personal information is never shared with any other government agencies or law enforcement, including federal, local, and tribal authorities.

> Important

The federal government and local American Indian and Alaska Native leaders and decision-makers will use 2020 Census data in a variety of ways that can benefit Native people and our communities.

2020CENSUS.GOV

D-OP-AI-EN-055

**Shape
our future
START HERE >**



Frequently Asked Questions

> Q. Who should complete the census questionnaire?

A. One person in the home should complete the questionnaire and include every person living there, including relatives, nonrelatives, babies, and children.

> Q. How do I fill out the race question correctly?

A. If you self-identify as American Indian or Alaska Native, you should check the American Indian or Alaska Native race box. You should then print the name of your enrolled or principal tribe in the write-in area.

> Q. What kind of assistance is available to help people complete the questionnaire?

A. Assistance responding to the 2020 Census will be available on 2020census.gov and via our toll-free phone number. Language guides, language glossaries, and language identification cards will be available in 59 non-English languages. Large-print guides to the questionnaire will also be available upon request, as well as telephone devices for hearing impaired. On 2020census.gov, video tutorials and how-to resources can help you complete your census form. Many communities, partners, and local organizations will also provide assistance.

> Q. How does the Census Bureau count people without a permanent residence?

A. Census Bureau employees work extensively to take in-person counts of people living in group housing, like college dormitories and shelters, as well as those experiencing homelessness or who have been displaced by natural disasters.

2020 Census Key Dates



January-April 2020

First census enumeration takes place in Toksook Bay, Alaska.



March 2020

Census notices are mailed or delivered to households.



March-May 2020

Census takers visit each household to update address lists and collect information on the questionnaire.



April 1, 2020

Census Day



May-July 2020

Census takers visit households that have not completed the questionnaire.



December 31, 2020

By law, the Census Bureau delivers population counts to the President for apportionment of congressional seats.



March 2021

By law, the Census Bureau completes delivery of redistricting data to states.

For more information, visit:

2020CENSUS.GOV

D-OP-AI-EN-055

**Shape
our future
START HERE >**



Counting young children in the 2020 Census

Counting everyone once, only once, and in the right place.

The 2020 Census helps determine which areas qualify for the critical resources that children and families depend on for the next 10 years—basically an entire childhood! An estimated 5 percent of kids under the age of five were missed in the 2010 Census. At about 1 million babies and young children, that's the largest undercount of any age group. We need your help closing this gap in the 2020 Census.

Here's what our research tells us about why young children are missed and what you can do to help make sure they are counted.

If the child splits time between two homes, or if the child lives or stays with another family or with another relative such as a grandparent.

- Emphasize that the census counts everyone where they live and sleep most of the time, even if the living arrangement is temporary or the parents of the child do not live there.
- If the child truly spends equal amounts of time between two homes, count them where they stayed on Census Day, April 1. Coordinate with the other parent or caregiver, if possible, so the child is not counted at both homes.
- If it's not clear where the child lives or sleeps most of the time, count them where they stayed on Census Day, April 1.

If the child lives in a home with a young, single parent or guardian.

- Explain that filling out the census yourself, on your own schedule, is easier than having to respond when a census worker knocks on your door. Remind these homes that the form should only take about 10 minutes to fill out and can be done online, by phone, or by mail.
- Encourage parents and guardians with young children to ask other household members to count them and their children on the form if others live in the home.

If the child is a newborn.

- Emphasize that parents and guardians should include babies on census forms, even if they are still in the hospital on April 1.
- Encourage facilities providing services to newborns to remind parents about the importance of counting their children on the census form.
- Highlight the fact that the census form only takes about 10 minutes to complete, and parents and guardians can fill it out online, by phone, or by mail at a time that works best for them.
- Explain to parents and guardians that if newborns are not counted, the next opportunity to count them will be when they are 10 years old. During those years, their communities could receive less funding for schools, parks, SNAP/WIC, hospitals, transportation, and other things kids need.

2020CENSUS.GOV

D-FS-YC-EN-134

**Shape
your future
START HERE >**

United States®
**Census
2020**

If the child lives in a home that is large, multigenerational, or includes extended or multiple families.

- Remind the person filling out the form to count all children, including nonrelatives, foster children, and children with no other place to live, even if they are only living at the address temporarily on April 1.
- Spread the word that the census counts all people living or staying at an address, not just the person or family who owns or rents the property.

If the child lives in a home that rents or recently moved.

- Encourage renters and recent movers to complete their census forms online or over the phone, right away. That way they don't need to worry about paper forms getting lost in the move.
- Focus efforts on multi-unit buildings that are likely to have renters.

If the child lives in a home where they're not supposed to be, for one reason or another.

- Please explain to those that have children living in places where they aren't allowed (for example, grandparents in a seniors-only residence that have a grandchild living with them, a family with more people, including children, than the lease allows) that they should include the children on their census form.
- Emphasize that responses to the 2020 Census are safe and confidential. Personal information is protected by law and cannot be shared with other law enforcement agencies—not the FBI, ICE, or even local police. It also cannot be used to determine personal eligibility for government benefits.
- Explain that all Census Bureau staff take a lifetime oath to protect your personal information, and any violation of this oath comes with a penalty of up to \$250,000 and/or up to five years in prison.

If the child lives in a lower-income home.

- Explain to service providers and families that responding to the census helps determine more than \$675 billion each year in local funding for programs and services such as food assistance, Head Start, childcare, housing, public schools, early intervention services for children with special needs, children's health insurance, and more. When children are missed in the census, these programs miss out on funding that is based on the number of children counted.

If the child lives in a non-English or limited-English speaking home.

- Conduct outreach and create resources in non-English languages that highlight the importance of counting young children.
- Encourage non-English speakers to self-respond to the census and let them know that for the 2020 Census, the online form and telephone line will be available in 13 languages, including English. Language guides will be available in 59 languages other than English.

If the child lives in a home of recent immigrants or foreign-born adults.

- Work with community members to conduct outreach in neighborhoods with recent immigrants. Focus efforts on the community's gathering places like local grocery stores, places of worship, and small restaurants.
- Emphasize that responses to the 2020 Census are safe and confidential. Personal information is protected by law and cannot be shared with other law enforcement agencies—not the FBI, ICE, or even local police. It also cannot be used to determine personal eligibility for government benefits.

For more information, visit:

2020CENSUS.GOV

D-FS-YC-EN-134

**Shape
your future
START HERE ➤**

United States®
**Census
2020**

Why We Ask

The 2020 Census is easy. The questions are simple.

Responses to census questions provide a snapshot of the nation. Census results affect your voice in government, how much funding your community receives, and how your community plans for the future.

When you fill out the census, you help:



Determine how many seats your state gets in Congress.



Inform how more than \$675 billion in federal funding is distributed to states and communities each year.



Create jobs, provide housing, prepare for emergencies, and build schools, roads and hospitals.

The 2020 Census will ask for the following information:

Number of people at address

We ask this question to collect an accurate count of the number of people at each address on Census Day, April 1, 2020. Each decade, census results determine how many seats your state gets in Congress. State and local officials use census counts to draw boundaries for congressional districts, state legislative districts, and school districts.

Any additional people living or staying there

Our goal is to count people once, only once, and in the right place according to where they live on Census Day. Keeping this goal in mind, we ask this question to ensure that everyone living at an address is counted.

Owner/Renter

We ask about whether a home is owned or rented to create statistics about homeownership and renters. Homeownership rates serve as an indicator of the nation's economy and help in administering housing programs and informing planning decisions.

Phone number

We ask for a phone number in case we need to contact you. We will never share your number and will only contact you if needed for official Census Bureau business.

2020CENSUS.GOV

D-FS-GP-EN-136

**Shape
your future
START HERE >**

United States[®]
**Census
2020**

Name

We ask for names to ensure everyone in the household is counted. This also helps us to keep ancestry records. Listing the name of each person in the household helps respondents include all members, particularly in large households where a respondent may forget who was counted and who was not.

Sex

We ask about the sex of each person to create statistics about males and females. Census data about sex is used in planning and funding government programs, and in evaluating other government programs and policies to ensure they fairly and equitably serve the needs of males and females. These statistics are also used to enforce laws, regulations, and policies against discrimination in government programs and in society.

Age and date of birth

We ask about age and date of birth to understand the size and characteristics of different age groups and to present other data by age. Local, state, tribal, and federal agencies use age data to plan and fund government programs that provide assistance or services for specific age groups, such as children, working-age adults, women of childbearing age, or the older population. These statistics also help enforce laws, regulations, and policies against age discrimination in government programs and in society.

Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin

We ask about whether a person is of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin to create statistics about this ethnic group. The data collected in this question is needed by federal agencies to monitor compliance with anti-discrimination provisions, such as the Voting Rights Act and the Civil Rights Act.

Race

We ask about a person's race to create statistics about race and to present other statistics by race groups. The data collected in this question is needed by federal agencies to monitor compliance with anti-discrimination provisions, such as the Voting Rights Act and the Civil Rights Act.

Whether a person lives or stays somewhere else

Our goal is to count people once, only once, and in the right place according to where they live on Census Day. Keeping this goal in mind, we ask this question to ensure individuals are not included at multiple addresses.

Relationship

We ask about the relationship of each person in a household to one central person to create estimates about families, households, and other groups. Relationship data is used in planning and funding government programs that provide funds or services for families, people living or raising children alone, grandparents living with grandchildren, or other households that qualify for additional assistance.

For more information, visit:

2020CENSUS.GOV

D-FS-GP-EN-136

**Shape
your future
START HERE >**

United States[®]
**Census
2020**