



# Frequently Asked Questions

## What is the Census?

The U.S. census is a national population count that occurs every 10 years.

## Why should I participate?

Residents should complete the census because it is safe, easy, and important.

- **Safe:** Your personal information is confidential, including citizenship and other sensitive data, by law. Disclosure of personal data is subject to fine or imprisonment.
- **Important:** Data from the census provides the basis for annually distributing more than \$675 billion in federal funds which helps fund our roads, schools, hospitals, Medicaid, and many other programs.
- **Easy:** You can complete the census online, by phone, or by mail. You can respond in 13 different languages via phone or online.

## How can I complete the Census?

Every household can respond online, by mail, or by phone.

## When will I receive an invitation?

Most households will receive a letter asking you to go online to complete the census questionnaire in March 2020.

## How long will it take?

Completing the census should take no more than 10 minutes.

## Can I complete the census for a family member?

Yes, you may help someone in your family complete their census. No power of attorney or guardianship is required.

## What if I forgot to respond?

If you haven't responded by April 1, 2020, you will receive a reminder and will eventually receive a paper questionnaire in the mail. Census workers, also known as enumerators, will only visit households that did not respond to the Census survey in late April through early July 2020.

## What questions will be asked?

The census will collect basic information about the people living in your household. The Census Bureau will never ask for social security numbers, bank or credit card account numbers, money, donations, or anything on behalf of a political party.

## Is there a citizenship question?

No. The citizenship question will not be on the census and information cannot be accessed by any law enforcement agency, including DHS, ICE, FBI, or any other organization.

## How secure is my information?

Personal data and census information is secure. The U.S. Census Bureau has a robust cybersecurity program and follows federal security standards for encrypting data.

## If I share a dwelling, how should I complete the Census?

The Census Bureau encourages residents to complete one form per household to the best of your ability. However, if two families live in one dwelling and complete two separate forms under the same address, the U.S. Census Bureau will merge those surveys. No individual will be omitted.

## What if I'm moving or share custody?

Census Day is April 1, 2020. If you're moving or share custody of children, count yourself and your kids where they will be located on April 1, 2020.