

2020 U.S. Census FAQs

Q. Am I required to participate in the Census?

A. Yes. Getting a complete and accurate census count is critically important. That's why your response is required by law. If you do not respond, the U.S. Census Bureau will follow up in person to collect your response.

Q. Is my information protected?

A. Yes. Your personal information is kept confidential. The Census Bureau is bound by federal law to protect your information, and your data is used only for statistical purposes. Your responses are compiled with information from other homes to produce statistics, which never identify your home or any person in your home. Learn more about how [your information is protected](#).

Q. How do I know where to be counted?

A. Everyone should be counted where they live on April 1, 2020. If you have special circumstances such as students, military, and foreign citizens, visit the [Census Bureau's website](#) to determine where you should be counted.

Q. How do I respond?

A. By April 1, 2020, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. You will have three options for responding: online, by phone, by mail. The 2020 Census marks the first time you'll have the option to respond online. You can even respond on your mobile device.

Q. What questions will be asked on the survey?

A. The questions are only regarding who lives in your home. Click [here](#) for a full list of questions.

Q. Why is the Census important?

A. The 2020 Census will provide a snapshot of our nation—our population, where we live, and so much more. Participating in the Census enables a more accurate allocation of resources for your entire community.

The information gathered from the Census is also important for these four reasons:

1. \$3,253,452,654: this is the amount of funds distributed among the Utah cities and towns based on the Census results. These funds go toward many programs including education, healthcare, housing assistance, and infrastructure. (\$675+ billion federally)
2. US Constitution: conducting a Census every 10 years is required by the U.S. Constitution.
3. Fair representation: the Census results are used to reapportion the House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state gets.
4. Redistricting: after each Census, state officials use the results to redraw the boundaries of their Congressional and State Legislative districts, adapting to population shifts.

Q. How can I avoid scams and fraud?

A. It is important to know that the Census Bureau will not send unsolicited emails to request your participation in the 2020 Census. Further, during the 2020 Census, the Census Bureau will never ask for: your Social Security number, your bank account or credit card numbers, money or donations. In addition, the Census Bureau will not contact you on behalf of a political party.

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If someone visits your home to collect a response for the 2020 Census, you can do the following to verify their identity:

- First, check to make sure that they have a valid ID badge, with their photograph, a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark, and an expiration date.
- If you still have questions about their identity, you can call 800-923-8282 to speak with a local Census Bureau representative.

If you suspect fraud, call 800-923-8282 to speak with a local Census Bureau representative. If it is determined that the visitor who came to your door does not work for the Census Bureau, contact your local police department.