

The U.S. Constitution requires every 10 years there be a count of every person living in the United States.

The census is key to the allocation of billions of dollars in federal funding to states and localities.

April 1, 2020
"Census Day"

(although households can respond before or after that date)

Census responses are confidential.

U.S. law strictly prohibits the Census Bureau from sharing personal census responses with anyone -- including law enforcement, courts, or any government agency.



Beginning on March 12, 2020, the Census Bureau will mail every household in the U.S. an invitation to respond to the census by phone, on a paper questionnaire, or online, which is the method being encouraged.

online form

- respond via smartphone, tablet, or computer
- is secure
- responses will be encrypted

completing the questionnaire takes about 10 minutes

online & phone questionnaire available in 13 languages

2020 CENSUS

Libraries can help bridge the digital divide -- so everyone gets counted.

The U.S. population is increasingly diverse -- geographically, culturally, and linguistically -- with households becoming more complex, and a greater share of residents falling into "harder to reach" categories.

An underfunded census would jeopardize the availability and validity of data used to make essential economic, political, and planning decisions in private, public, and nonprofit sectors over the next decade.

The Census Bureau has one chance to get the count right -- there are no do-overs.

Source: The Census Project



A demographic group at great risk of being undercounted:
college students.

Facts about how college students will be counted:

- Students will be counted at the residence where they live/sleep most of the time, which may be their college address not their parents' home.
- Students living in the same off-campus apartment will be counted as one household on the same census questionnaire.
- Students living in on-campus dormitories will be counted by the housing facility, rather than directly responding to the census.
- Students who are foreign citizens, such as international students, will be counted the same way as all other students.

2020 CENSUS
fair
accurate
inclusive

2020
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<http://www.ala.org/advocacy/govinfo/census>

