

CENSUS 2020 AND YOU

I COUNT 2020

FAYETTEVILLE, AR

What is the Census?

According to the US Constitution, every 10 years, the United States counts every person living in the country. This information is used for the next ten years for a number of things, including:

- To determine how many Representatives each state gets in Congress, and to determine how city and county districts are represented locally.
- To distribute hundreds of billions of dollars to states and communities for programs that support education, housing, health facilities, transportation, emergency services, food assistance, and more.

The state of Arkansas receives more than \$9 billion each year through these federal spending programs.

Do I need to complete the census if I came to the US from another country?

Yes! It's important that everyone be counted, regardless of citizenship status, even if you are living here temporarily to work or go to school.

Stand Up and Be Counted! Your power is in your numbers!

Census data is used to determine what kinds of goods and services are provided in communities. It can also be used to attract businesses that serve diverse populations. It's important that you be counted to ensure that your needs are taken into consideration when these decisions are being made.

What kind of questions are asked on the census?

Census forms are completed by household. The census asks questions about who is living in your place of residence on April 1, 2020. You will be asked to provide each person's name, age, date of birth, race, gender, and relationship to the person answering the questionnaire.

How do I complete the census questionnaire?

The US Census Bureau will offer three ways to respond: online, by telephone, or on paper using a mail-in form. People can respond in 12 non-English languages over the phone or via the Internet.

When will the census take place?

Postcards with information will go out in late March, and you may respond at any time before mid-September. To avoid having a census-taker visit your home, you should complete your census as early as possible.

Your Census Information is Safe

Is there a question about citizenship?

No. The 2020 Census does not include any questions about citizenship.

Can my answers be shared with other government agencies?

No. By law the information gathered by the census can not be shared with immigration or law enforcement, the IRS, or any other agency.

Census staff take a lifetime oath to protect the privacy and security of census information. Failure to do so could incur a penalty of up to \$250,000 and/or up to five years in prison.

Data gathered in the census is used for statistics and demographics only. Personal information gathered in the census is sealed for 72 years.

Are my answers safe online?

Yes. The US Census online survey site is safe and secure.

Who is Counted Where?

Frequently Asked Questions

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I'm a college student from out of town, should I be counted in Fayetteville?
Yes. For the purposes of the census, you should be counted in Fayetteville if you are living here on April 1, 2020. College students should count themselves at the on- or off-campus residence where you live and sleep most of the time.



Should newborn babies be counted?
Yes. Even if they are not yet home from the hospital, infants should be counted at the home where they will live most of the time.



What if my child only lives with me part of the year?
Ideally, your child should be counted in the household where he or she lives and sleeps most of the year. But if your child's time is divided 50/50 between two households, they should be counted in the household where they are sleeping on the night of April 1, 2020.



I'm housing a friend or family member temporarily. Do I count them as part of my household?
If this person is living with you temporarily, and has no permanent home to return to on April 1, 2020, then yes, count them with your household.



How do I answer if I'm homeless?
In 2020, the Census Bureau will devote three days to counting people who are experiencing homelessness across the country, with checks in place to ensure that people aren't counted more than once. These counts are done after months of outreach and in coordination with local census offices, partners, shelter directors, service providers, and others:

March 30, 2020: Counting people who are in shelters.

March 31, 2020: Counting people at soup kitchens and mobile food vans.

April 1, 2020: Counting people in non-sheltered, outdoor locations, such as tent encampments and on the streets.

Other Concerns



Does my census information have to match my income tax information?
No. The census counts the number of people living in your residence, even if only temporarily, on April 1, 2020, whether or not you claim them on your income tax forms.



Can the census information impact custody of my children?
No. Census information is not shared with any other government agency, and cannot be used against you in any way.



Can the census information impact my eligibility for public assistance?
No. This information is not shared with any other agency.