

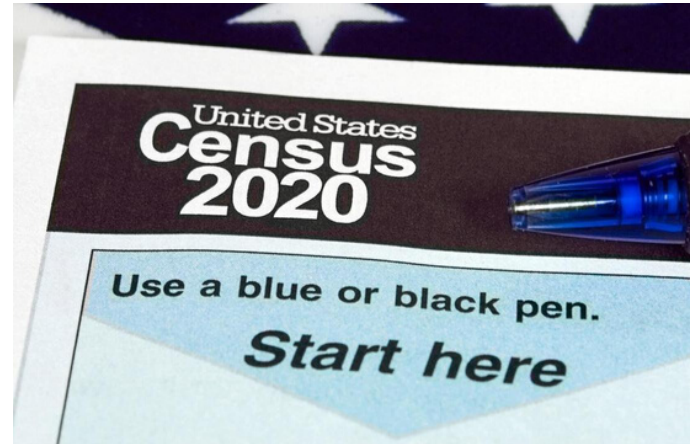
2020 CENSUS: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Census?

The US Census creates a picture of our country. It's a population count of every person living in the United States, required by the Constitution and done every 10 years.

Why is the Census important?

Census data determines the resources for community and defines our voice in government for the next 10 years. Your participation will help your family and community get their fair share of resources, services, and representation.



The 2020 Census data will determine the allocation of \$675 billion in federal funding every year to states across the United States. For Massachusetts, more than \$16 billion is affected by the census. That's money for schools, hospitals, roads, affordable housing, childcare, senior centers, public works, and other vital investments.

Census data also determine the redistricting at all levels of government:

- Legislative districts for city councils and school committees at the municipal level;
- State legislative districts; and
- Congressional districts.

How will I find out about the Census?

March 12–20	Your household will receive a letter from the Census Bureau with a unique identification number that is tied to your home address.
March 16–24	Reminder letter
	If you haven't responded yet:
March 26–April 3	Reminder postcard
April 8–16	Reminder letter and paper questionnaire
April 20–27	Final reminder postcard before a Census-taker visits your home
Mid-May	If you have not responded yet by mid-May, a Census-taker will visit your home to get your response in-person.



Are my answers confidential?

The Census is safe and confidential. The Census Bureau takes many steps to protect everyone's data, and federal law strictly limits how the information can be used. U.S. Code Title 13 protects the confidentiality of individual responses:

- Private information (e.g. names, addresses, phone numbers) is not published until 72 years after collection.
- Your Census responses cannot be used against you in any court of law or by law enforcement. No agency can access your individual responses.
- Census staff take a lifetime oath and if violated the penalty is up to \$250,000 and/or up to 5 years in prison.

What information will be requested?

The 2020 Census will ask quick and easy questions:

- How many people were living in this house, apartment, or mobile home on April 1, 2020?
- Does this person usually live or stay elsewhere?
- Is this a house, apartment, or mobile home – (owned, rented, occupied without payment of rent)?
- What is your phone number?

And for each resident:

- Name
- Relationship to the person filling out the questionnaire
- Birth date
- Age
- Sex
- Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin
- Race
- Ethnicity

The 2020 Census **will not ask questions** about immigration or citizenship.

How can I fill out the 2020 Census?

Individual households:

- A household can self-respond in three ways: online, by phone or filling out a mail-in form.
- Census takers will visit individual homes where no one from a household responded by mid-May to get responses in person.

People experiencing homelessness:

- People experiencing homelessness will be counted through the Service-Based Enumeration (SBE) at service sites and pre-identified outdoor sites on March 30, March 31, and April 1, 2020.
- These locations are shelters, soup kitchens, regularly scheduled mobile food vans and target non-sheltered outdoor locations.
- If a person who is experiencing homelessness would like to fill out a questionnaire, they can describe where they are staying (i.e. under highway, park) and include the town/city and state in the address section.

Administrative and Transitory Locations:

- Census-takers will begin administrative and transitory location counts at the end of March.
- Administrative counts will be for group quarters (e.g. college students who live on campus, people living in senior centers, and others who live among large groups of people).
- Note that college students living off campus should self-respond according to the individual household process.
- Transitory locations are places where people are unlikely to live/stay year round. They include RV parks, campgrounds, racetracks, circuses and carnivals, marinas, hotels and motels, and some migrant worker housing.



How do I distinguish between an authentic U.S. Census Bureau contact and fraudulent activity and scams?

The 2020 Census does not ask for:

- Your Social Security number;
- Money or donations;
- Anything on behalf of a political party; or
- Your bank or credit card account numbers.

If you are visited by someone from the Census Bureau, here are some tips to help you confirm that they are truly a Census field representative:

- Must present an ID Badge which contains: photograph of field representative, Department of Commerce watermark, and expiration date.
- Will provide you with supervisor contact information and/or the regional office phone number for verification, if asked.
- Will provide you with a letter from the Director of the Census Bureau on U.S. Census Bureau letterhead.
- May be carrying a laptop and/or bag with a Census Bureau logo.
- You can call the Census Bureau and verify the identity of the Census Bureau employee at your door at 1-800-923-8282.

What if I am away from my residence on April 1, 2020?

Even if you are away from your home on April 1, you count at the address where you live and sleep most of the year.

Can I respond if I misplaced or never received a unique ID for the Census?

Yes, you can still respond. If you don't know the unique ID, you must include your home address in the questionnaire.

Can I skip questions?

It is possible to skip a question, and your form will still be counted. However, the Census Bureau might follow up if you skip questions on the form to ask for the missing information, either by phone or by sending a Census-taker to your home. The fewer questions that you skip, the less likely it is that the Census Bureau will follow up.

Could my answers affect my benefits?

No. Filling out the questionnaire will not impact an individual's eligibility for any benefits programs.

I've already received a survey in the mail. Is that the same thing?

The Census Bureau and municipalities send out surveys, such as the American Community Survey and the town or city local census, to households every year. In addition, in July and August 2019, the Census Bureau sent out a test questionnaire to random households. None of these surveys is the 2020 Census questionnaire. The 2020 Census is a national survey that only happens every 10 years. You should receive your first notice in mid-March.

What happens if more than one Census form is completed for my household?

Using the identification number and home addresses, the Census Bureau has an internal process to avoid counting residents of a single household more than once. Duplicates from the same household are discarded.

Will there be a problem if multiple people respond online from the same location or IP address?

No. It does not matter where you take the questionnaire. What is important is the address that you put in your form.



How should young children be counted?

Count **all children** who live in your home, including grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and children of friends and relatives.

Children who share time between homes count where they live and sleep most of the time. If they cannot determine a place where they live most of the time, they are counted where they are staying on April 1, 2020.

Newborn babies who are still in the hospital on April 1, 2020, count in the home where they will live and sleep most of the time, even if they are still in the hospital. Any baby born before April 1, 2020, at 11:59:59 p.m. counts in the 2020 Census.

How are children and staff in residential school-related facilities counted?

Students living away from their parents' or guardians' home while attending boarding school below the college level, including Bureau of Indian Affairs boarding schools, are counted at their parents' or guardians' home.

Students in residential schools for people with disabilities are counted at the school. Staff members living at boarding schools or residential schools for people with disabilities on Census Day are counted where they live and sleep most of the time. If they do not have a usual home elsewhere, they are counted at the school.

How and where are incarcerated individuals counted?

Through an administrative count at the place where they are incarcerated.

Is Massachusetts expected to lose another Congressional seat in 2020?

No. An analysis from Election Data Services (EDS), using estimates from the Census Bureau, does not project Massachusetts losing a Congressional seat.

What if someone needs language assistance?

The **online** and **telephone** self-response questionnaires will be available in English and 12 other languages: Spanish, Chinese (simplified online, Cantonese and Mandarin by phone), Arabic, French, Haitian Creole, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Tagalog and Vietnamese.

The **paper** questionnaire is available only in English and Spanish.

Census guides are available in more languages:

Albanian	Igbo	Somali
Amharic	Ilocano	Spanish
Arabic	Indonesian	Swahili
Armenian	Italian	Tagalog
Bengali	Japanese	Tamil
Bosnian	Khmer	Telugu
Bulgarian	Korean	Thai
Burmese	Lao	Tigrinya
Chinese	Lithuanian	Turkish
Croatian	Malayalam	Twi
Czech	Marathi	Ukrainian
Dutch	Navajo	Urdu
Farsi	Nepali	Vietnamese
German	Polish	Yiddish
Greek	Portuguese	Yoruba
Gujarati	Punjabi	
Haitian Creole	Romanian	Braille
Hebrew	Russian	Large Print
Hindi	Serbian	American Sign Language
Hmong	Sinhala	
Hungarian	Slovak	

