

## Overview of the 2020 Decennial Census and Vermont

- The Decennial Census is a count of all people living in the U.S.
- It is part of our [U.S. Constitution](#) and has been conducted every ten years since 1790.
- The count is used to determine States' representation in the U.S. House of representatives, to distribute federal funds (our taxpayer dollars) back to the states through over 300 Federal programs like transportation, housing and SNAP benefits, and the data are used locally for statewide redistricting.
- A recent [George Washington University study](#) determined that in 2016 VT received around \$4,000 in Federal funds per Vermonter. This is a strong pocketbook incentive for our State Government and for all Vermonters to be counted.
  
- The 2020 Decennial Census is underway already. (Counting remote communities, verifying addresses, outreach partnerships)
- 2020 marks the first time the Census can be completed online. [A link to online response information.](#)
- The Census Bureau will mail out postcards to households across America in mid-March.
- A householder can complete the form for their household online, by phone or by mail.
- The questions are simple and not intrusive. They include:
  - Number of people currently living in the household
  - Each Person's Name
  - Each Person's Age
  - Each Person's (Binary) Sex
  - Each Person's self-identified Ethnicity and/or Race
  - Each Person's relationship to the respondent (Child, Partner, etc.)
  - Whether the home is Owned (with/without mortgage), Rented or Occupied rent-free
  - A contact phone number for one person in the home (in case of follow-up)
  - [A link to the sample questionnaire.](#)

Here is [a link to the VT State Data Center's 2020 Decennial Census Info site.](#)

Here is [a link to the Vermont Department of Libraries Complete Count Committee Webpage](#)

- The Governor created the VT Statewide Complete Count Commission by executive order to conduct 2020 Census outreach in VT and especially within VT's "Hard to Count" populations.
  - Hard to Count populations are those that are known to respond (or be counted) at lower rates than the average. They include youth, those experiencing homelessness, those with varying citizenship status (EVERYONE living in the U.S. counts!), those from LGBTQIA communities, People of Color, and others.
- The work of the Statewide complete count commission is complimented by the work of numerous local complete count groups across the state.

- Currently, the Statewide and local groups are reaching out across the state to communicate the importance, ease and security of the 2020 Decennial Census.
  - We're doing so across media and through networks with the goal of ensuring all Vermonters have heard about the Census, have access to truthful information about the Census, and feel secure about being counted.
  
- Census Languages
  - The internet and phone response options are available in 13 languages. (English, Arabic, Chinese, French, Haitian Creole, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese)
  - Additional language guides, glossaries, and identification cards are available in 60 languages.
  
- For more information about the 2020 Census, or to schedule a presentation about the Census- please contact:
  - Michael Moser, Coordinator- [VT State Census Data Center](http://VT State Census Data Center) [michael.moser@uvm.edu](mailto:michael.moser@uvm.edu) 802-656-0864
  - Jason Broughton, VT State Librarian- [Jason.broughton@vermont.gov](mailto:Jason.broughton@vermont.gov) 1.802.636.0031