

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 michael.moser@uvm.edu 802-656-0864
 - Jason Broughton, VT State Librarian- Jason.broughton@vermont.gov 1.802.636.0031

VERMONT

In FY2016, Vermont received

\$2,482,076,315

through 55 federal spending programs
guided by data derived from the 2010 Census.



The Counting for Dollars 2020 Project aims to understand 1) the extent to which the federal government will rely on data from the 2020 Census to guide the distribution of federal funding to states, localities, and households across the nation and 2) the impact of the accuracy of the 2020 Census on the fair, equitable distribution of these funds.

The project has analyzed spending by state for 55 federal programs (\$883,094,826,042 in FY2016). Three types of programs are analyzed:

- **Domestic financial assistance programs** provide financial assistance – including direct payments to individuals, grants, loans, and loan guarantees – to non-federal entities within the U.S. – such as individuals and families, state and local governments, companies, and nonprofits – in order to fulfill a public purpose.
- **Tax credit programs** allow a special exclusion, exemption, or deduction from gross income or provide a special credit, a preferential rate of tax, or a deferral of tax liability.
- **Procurement programs** award a portion of Federal prime contract dollars to small businesses located in areas selected on the basis of census-derived data.

The four uses of census-derived datasets to geographically allocate funding are:

- **Define eligibility criteria** – that is, identify which organizations or individuals can receive funds.
- **Compute formulas** that geographically allocate funds to eligible recipients.
- **Rank project applications** based on priorities (e.g., smaller towns, poorer neighborhoods).
- **Set interest rates** for federal loan programs.

The two categories of census-derived datasets are:

- **Geographic classifications** – the characterization (e.g., rural), delineation (e.g., Metropolitan Areas), or designation (e.g., Opportunity Zones) of specific geographic areas.
- **Variable datasets**
 - **Annual updates** of population and housing variables collected in the Decennial Census.
 - **Household surveys** collecting new data elements (e.g., income, occupation) by using the Decennial Census to design representative samples and interpret results.



Reports of the Counting for Dollars 2020 Project:

- **Report #1:** Initial Analysis: 16 Large Census-guided Financial Assistance Programs (August 2017)*
- **Report #2:** Estimating Fiscal Costs of a Census Undercount to States (March 2018)*
- **Report #3:** Role of the Decennial Census in Distributing Federal Funds to Rural America (December 2018)*
- **Report #4:** Census-derived Datasets Used to Distribute Federal Funds (December 2018)
- **Report #5:** Analysis of 55 Large Census-guided Federal Spending Programs (forthcoming)*
- **Report #6:** An Inventory of 320 Census-guided Federal Spending Programs (forthcoming)

* **Data available by state**

* **Source for this state sheet**

Counting for Dollars 2020

The Role of the Decennial Census in the Geographic Distribution of Federal Funds

REPORT

COUNTING FOR DOLLARS 2020:

VERMONT

Allocation of Funds from 55 Large Federal Spending Programs
Guided by Data Derived from the 2010 Census (Fiscal Year 2016)

Total Program Obligations: **\$2,482,076,315**

| Program | Dept. | Obligations | Program | Dept. | Obligations |
|---|-------|------------------------|---|-------|---------------------|
| Financial Assistance Programs | | \$2,442,326,777 | | | |
| Medical Assistance Program (Medicaid) | HHS | \$1,072,721,000 | Community Facilities Loans/Grants | USDA | \$12,643,300 |
| Federal Direct Student Loans | ED | \$294,458,824 | Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants | ED | \$10,640,019 |
| Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program | USDA | \$116,470,075 | Crime Victim Assistance | DOJ | \$4,718,903 |
| Medicare Suppl. Medical Insurance (Part B) | HHS | \$108,274,201 | CDBG Entitlement Grants | HUD | \$724,881 |
| Highway Planning and Construction | DOT | \$216,999,341 | Public Housing Capital Fund | HUD | \$1,860,000 |
| Federal Pell Grant Program | ED | \$36,600,000 | Block Grants for the Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse | HHS | \$6,459,874 |
| Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers | HUD | \$53,056,000 | Water and Waste Disposal Systems for Rural Communities | USDA | \$18,557,004 |
| Temporary Assistance for Needy Families | HHS | \$47,353,181 | Social Services Block Grant | HHS | \$3,095,990 |
| Very Low to Moderate Income Housing Loans | USDA | \$75,986,637 | Rural Rental Assistance Payments | USDA | \$11,110,509 |
| Title I Grants to LEAs | ED | \$34,509,182 | Business and Industry Loans | USDA | \$12,000,000 |
| State Children's Health Insurance Program | HHS | \$29,299,000 | Career and Technical Education - Basic Grants to States | ED | \$4,004,816 |
| National School Lunch Program | USDA | \$15,358,000 | Homeland Security Grant Program | DIIS | \$3,981,689 |
| Special Education Grants | ED | \$28,386,923 | WIOA Dislocated Worker Grants | DOL | \$823,490 |
| Section 8 Housing Assistance Payments Program | HUD | \$27,660,019 | HOME | HUD | \$3,407,339 |
| Federal Transit Formula Grants | DOT | \$26,249,000 | State CDBG | HUD | \$6,418,887 |
| Head Start | HHS | \$18,673,824 | WIOA Youth Activities | DOL | \$2,139,306 |
| WIC | USDA | \$13,591,000 | WIOA Adult Activities | DOL | \$2,028,449 |
| Title IV-E Foster Care | HHS | \$14,273,473 | Employment Service/Wagner-Peyser | DOL | \$2,499,791 |
| Health Care Centers | HHS | \$20,637,961 | Community Services Block Grant | HHS | \$3,756,915 |
| School Breakfast Program | USDA | \$5,700,000 | Special Programs for the Aging, Title III, Part C, Nutrition Services | HHS | \$3,348,608 |
| Rural Electrification Loans and Loan Guarantees | USDA | \$0 | Cooperative Extension Service | USDA | \$2,399,454 |
| Public and Indian Housing | HUD | \$3,472,000 | Native Amer. Employment & Training | DOL | \$74,480 |
| Low Income Home Energy Assistance | HHS | \$18,987,983 | | | |
| Child and Adult Care Food Program | USDA | \$6,447,000 | Federal Tax Expenditures | | \$34,984,331 |
| Vocational Rehabilitation Grants to the States | ED | \$11,990,345 | Low Income Housing Tax Credit | Treas | \$16,786,224 |
| Child Care Mandatory and Matching Funds | HHS | \$6,603,000 | New Markets Tax Credit | Treas | \$18,198,107 |
| Unemployment Insurance Administration | DOL | \$8,590,000 | | | |
| Federal Transit - Capital Investment Grants | DOT | \$584,400 | Federal Procurement Programs | | \$4,765,207 |
| Child Care and Development Block Grant | HHS | \$3,591,000 | HUBZones Program | SBA | \$4,765,207 |
| Adoption Assistance | HHS | \$9,109,704 | | | |

Prepared by Andrew Reamer, the George Washington Institute of Public Policy, the George Washington University. Spending data analysis provided by Sean Moulton, Open Government Program Manager, Project on Government Oversight. | January 30, 2019

Note: The sequence of the above programs is consistent with U.S. rank order by program expenditures. (See U.S. sheet in series.)

Counting for Dollars 2020 publications and spreadsheet with above data available at <https://gwipp.gwu.edu/counting-dollars-2020-role-decennial-census-geographic-distribution-federal-funds>

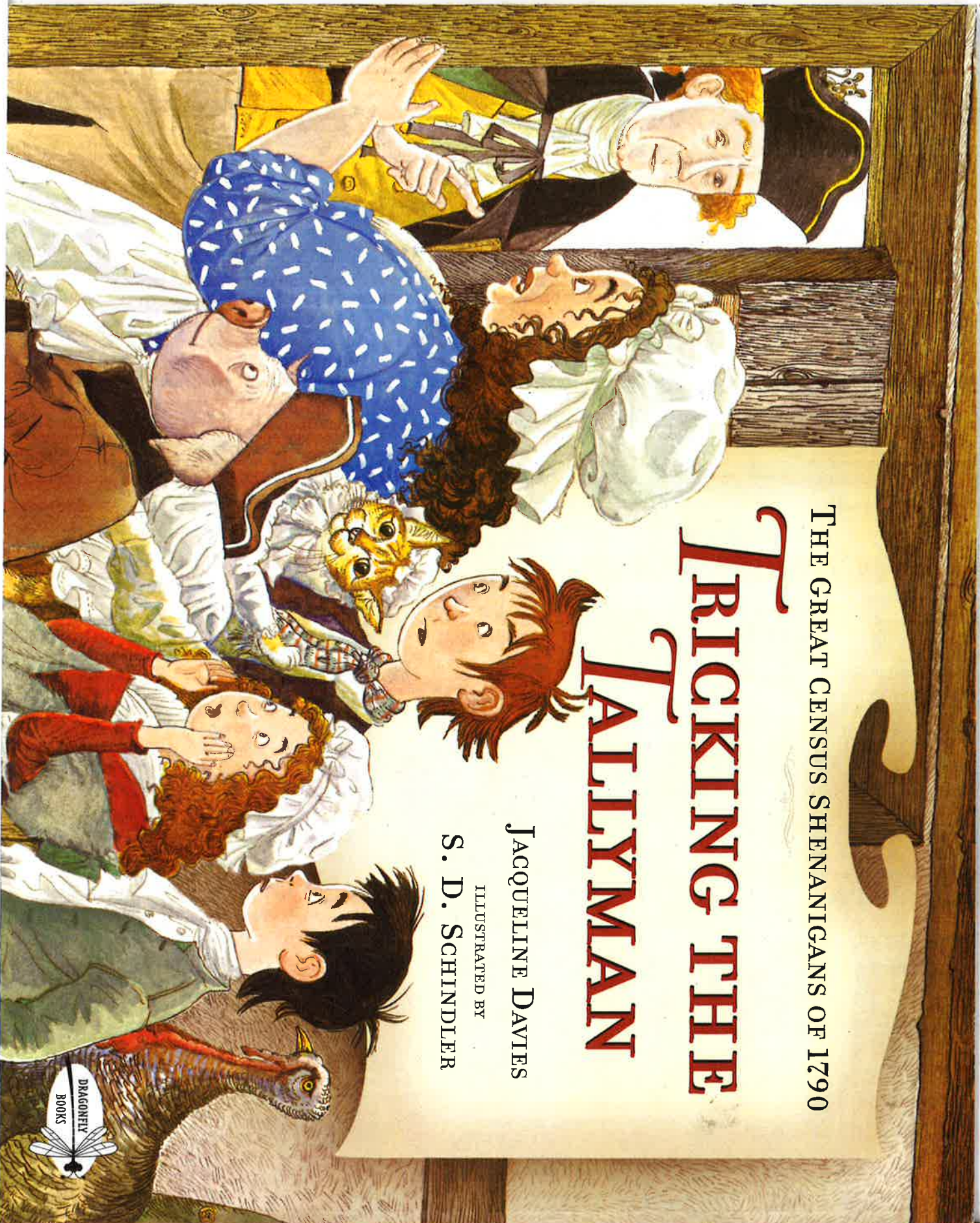
THE GREAT CENSUS SHENANIGANS OF 1790

TRICKING THE TALLYMAN

JACQUELINE DAVIES

ILLUSTRATED BY

S. D. SCHINDLER





Read to a Child!
THE 2001 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL

*How many people live on your street? In your whole city or town?
What if you had to count them all? Could you do that? How?*

It is 1790, the year of the very first U.S. census. Phineas Bump must deliver a count that is "fair and true" of every citizen in his territory. But folks in the town of Tunbridge don't want to be counted. So when the determined Bump knocks on their doors, he finds . . . much more than he counted on!
Will Tunbridge go down in history as the town that tricked the tallyman?

An NCSS-CBC Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People

A CBC Choices Book

A School Library Journal Best Book of the Year

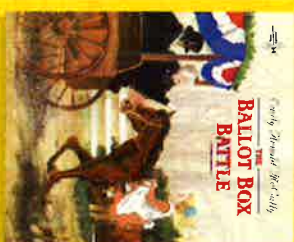
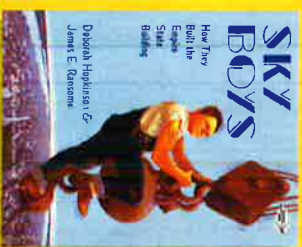
★ "Charming and humorous, this book is certain to appeal to children—and to educators." —*School Library Journal*, Starred
"Readers will learn about the census, plus enjoy the funny premise. Teachers will like this one for classroom use as the census approaches." —*The News Tribune*

DRAGONFLY BOOKS allow children to think . . . to imagine . . . to dream.

The theme of this book is:

OUR HISTORY

Need help choosing books your child will enjoy again and again?
Look for other books with this theme:



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US \$7.99 / \$8.99 CAN

ISBN 978-0-385-75519-1



5 0 7 9 9

Also available as an eBook
MANUFACTURED IN CHINA

Preparing My Library for the 2020 Census



LIBRARIES ARE essential partners in achieving an accurate and complete count in the 2020 Census. As trusted, welcoming institutions with a far-reaching geographic presence, libraries have important opportunities to inform and engage their communities.

With Census preparations ongoing and the questionnaire coming in March 2020, libraries should plan for potential impacts. The 2020 Census will:

- conduct its count primarily online for the first time,
- place an emphasis on reaching hard-to-count populations,
- hire more than 500,000 temporary workers through an online application process, and
- partner extensively with community and civic groups, agencies, and organizations.



HOW MIGHT THE 2020 CENSUS AFFECT LIBRARIES?

In late 2019 and early 2020, the Census Bureau, government leaders, or community groups may approach the library to host or participate in meetings, programs, or outreach activities. In addition, jobseekers may use library computers and internet access to apply for Census jobs.



In March and April 2020, community members may use library computers and internet access to complete the Census questionnaire online. Civic leaders may ask the library to publicize accurate information about the Census.

HOW CAN LIBRARIES PREPARE FOR THE 2020 CENSUS?

- Encourage staff to review training materials such as ALA's [Libraries' Guide to the 2020 Census](#),
- Assess your public access computers and internet to prepare for a potential spike in usage by people completing the Census questionnaire online,
- Reach out to your local Census Bureau Partnership Specialist and Complete Count Committee, and
- Consider offering programs or disseminating information about the 2020 Census.



CONTINUED



**FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES ABOUT LIBRARIES
AND THE 2020 CENSUS, VISIT ala.org/census**

Share your library's Census story with the hashtag **#CountOnLibraries**

IS FUNDING AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT LIBRARY CENSUS ACTIVITIES?

If your library will offer programs, expand technology resources, train staff, or extend hours, you might consider seeking funding to support these activities—either from dedicated Census-related funds or the library's usual sources of support.

Foundations: Many community and family foundations (or funder collaboratives) are providing funding to local nonprofits to support complete count efforts in the 2020 Census. Check with existing library funders to see if they are involved or if other funds might be available to support the library's work.

State and local government: Some state and local governments have dedicated funds to support 2020 Census preparations. Reach out to officials or your local **Complete Count Committee** to see if they have ideas for supporting the library.

Businesses: Local businesses may welcome the opportunity to support library programs and services. For instance, a grocery store might donate snacks for an event, or a technology retailer might donate tablet computers for Census respondents to use.

THE GAIL BORDEN PUBLIC LIBRARY FOUNDATION

in Elgin, IL
received funding
from a **statewide
complete count
funder collaborative**.



NEW YORK CITY
invested more than **\$1.4
million** in the city's three
public library systems
to promote
a complete
count in the
2020 Census.



Community organizations: Contact local civic clubs and service organizations, such as the League of Women Voters, about opportunities to partner with the library by sharing costs or providing volunteers.

Library Friends and Foundations: The library's most devoted supporters might be a source of funding or volunteers.

Census Bureau: While the Census Bureau does not provide direct funding to local agencies, they may be able to provide needed resources at no cost. Contact the Partnership Specialists in your **Regional Census Office** to request 2020 Census promotional materials, speakers for programs, messaging, and other resources.

FOR IDEAS ABOUT HOW TO TALK WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS
about the library's role in the 2020 Census, see "**How Community
Leaders Can Partner with Libraries to Achieve a Complete Count.**"



**FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES ABOUT LIBRARIES
AND THE 2020 CENSUS, VISIT ala.org/census**

Share your library's Census story with the hashtag **#CountOnLibraries**

CENSUS 101: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The 2020 Census is closer than you think!
Here's a quick refresher of what it is and why it's essential that everyone is counted.

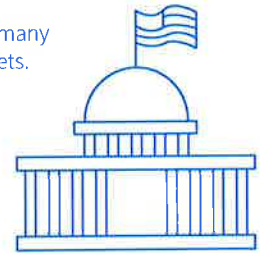
Everyone counts.

The census counts every person living in the U.S. once, only once, and in the right place.



It's about fair representation.

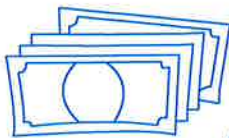
Every 10 years, the results of the census are used to reapportion the House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state gets.



It's in the constitution.

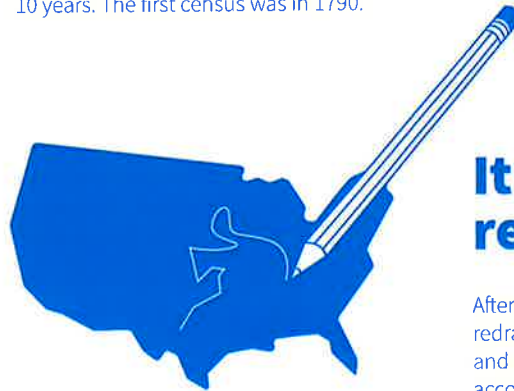
The U.S. Constitution mandates that everyone in the country be counted every 10 years. The first census was in 1790.

It's about \$675 billion.



The distribution of more than \$675 billion in federal funds, grants and support to states, counties and communities are based on census data.

That money is spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works and other vital programs.



It's about redistricting.

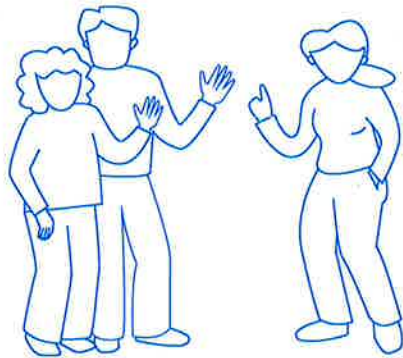
After each decade's census, state officials redraw the boundaries of the congressional and state legislative districts in their states to account for population shifts.

Taking part is your civic duty.

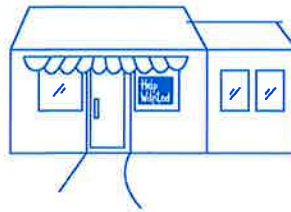
Completing the census is mandatory: it's a way to participate in our democracy and say "I COUNT!"



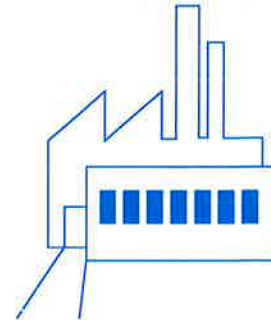
Census data are being used all around you.



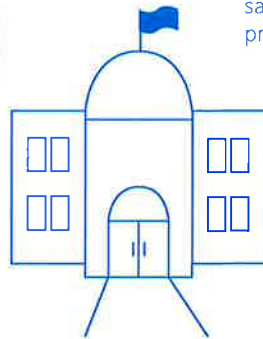
Residents use the census to support community initiatives involving legislation, quality-of-life and consumer advocacy.



Businesses use census data to decide where to build factories, offices and stores, which create jobs.



Local governments use the census for public safety and emergency preparedness.



Real estate developers use the census to build new homes and revitalize old neighborhoods.



Your privacy is protected.

It's against the law for the Census Bureau to publicly release your responses in any way that could identify you or your household.

By law, the Census Bureau cannot share your answers with any other government agency.



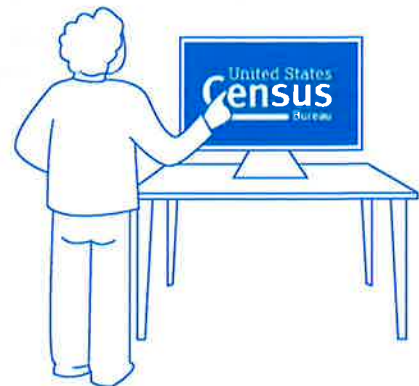
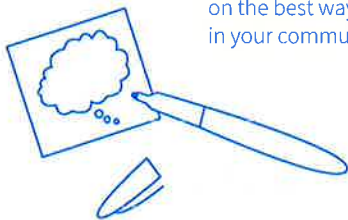
2020 will be easier than ever.

In 2020, you will be able to respond to the census online.



You can help.

You are the expert—we need your ideas on the best way to make sure everyone in your community gets counted.



United States
Census
Bureau

U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
[census.gov](https://www.census.gov)

FIND OUT HOW TO HELP AT
[CENSUS.GOV/PARTNERS](https://www.census.gov/partners)

Counting Young Children in the 2020 Census

Counting everyone once, only once, and in the right place

An estimated 5 percent of kids under the age of 5 weren't counted in the 2010 Census. That's about 1 million young children, the highest of any age group.

We need your help closing this gap in the 2020 Census. Here's what our research tells us about why young children are missed and what you can do to help make sure they are counted.



Common situations where young children aren't counted

How you can help?



The **child splits time between two homes.**

The child lives or stays with **another family or with another relative such as a grandparent.**

- Emphasize that the census counts **everyone where they live** and sleep most of the time, even if the living arrangement is temporary or the parents of the child do not live there.
- If the child truly spends equal amounts of time between two homes, count them where they stayed on **Census Day, April 1**. Coordinate with the other parent or caregiver, if possible, so the child is not counted at both homes.
- If it's not clear where the child lives or sleeps most of the time, count them where they stayed on Census Day, April 1.



The child lives in a **lower income household.**

- Explain to service providers and families that responding to the census helps determine **\$675 billion in local funding** for programs such as food stamps (also called the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program or SNAP), the National School Lunch Program, and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). When children are missed in the census, these programs miss out on funding that is based on the number of children counted.



The child lives in a household with **young parents or a young, single mom.**

- Explain that filling out the census yourself, on your own schedule, is easier than having to respond when a census worker knocks on your door. Remind these households that the form should **only take about 10 minutes** to fill out and can be done online or over the phone, in addition to mailing it back.
- Encourage moms with young children to ask other household members to count them and their children on the form if others live in the household.



The child is a **newborn.**

- Emphasize that parents should **include babies** on census forms, even if they are still in the hospital on April 1.
- **Encourage facilities** providing services to newborns to remind parents about the importance of counting their children on the census form.
- Highlight the fact that the census form only takes about 10 minutes to complete, and parents can **fill it out online or over the phone in addition to paper** at a time that works best for them.

Common situations where young children aren't counted

How you can help?



The child lives in a household that is **large, multigenerational, or includes extended or multiple families.**

- Remind the person filling out the form to count all children, including nonrelatives and children with no other place to live, even if they are only living at the address temporarily on April 1.
- Spread the word that the census **counts all people living or staying** at an address, not just the person or family who owns or rents the property.



The child lives in a household that **rents or recently moved.**

- Encourage renters and recent movers to complete their census forms **online or over the phone**, right away. That way they don't need to worry about paper forms getting lost in the move.
- **Focus efforts** on multiunit buildings that are likely to have renters.



The child lives in a household where they're **not supposed to be**, for one reason or another.

- Please explain to those that have children living in places where they aren't allowed (for example, grandparents in a seniors-only residence that have a grandchild living with them, a family with more people, including children, than the lease allows) that they should include the children because the **Census Bureau does not share information** so it can't be used against them.
- Emphasize the Census Bureau's legal commitment to keep census **responses confidential**.
- Explain that the Census Bureau **will never share information** with immigration enforcement agencies like Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), law enforcement agencies like the police or Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), or allow this information to be used to determine eligibility for government benefits.



The child lives in a **non-English or limited-English speaking** household.

- **Conduct outreach** and create resources in non-English languages that highlight the importance of counting young children.
- **Encourage non-English speakers to self-respond** to the census and let them know that for the 2020 Census, the online form and telephono lino will be available in 13 languages, including English. Language guides will be available in 59 languages other than English.



The child lives in a household of **recent immigrants or foreign-born adults.**

- Work with community members to conduct outreach in neighborhoods with recent immigrants. **Focus efforts** on the **community's gathering places** like local grocery stores, places of worship, and small restaurants.
- Emphasize the **Census Bureau's legal commitment** to keep census responses confidential. Explain that the Census Bureau will never share information with immigration enforcement agencies like Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), law enforcement agencies like the police or Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), or allow this information to be used to determine eligibility for government benefits.

How the 2020 Census will invite everyone to respond



Every household will have the option of responding online, by mail, or by phone.

Nearly every household will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census from either a postal worker or a census worker.



95% of households will receive their census invitation in the mail.



Almost 5% of households will receive their census invitation when a census taker drops it off. In these areas, the majority of households may not receive mail at their home's physical location (like households that use PO boxes or areas recently affected by natural disasters).



Less than 1% of households will be counted in person by a census taker, instead of being invited to respond on their own. We do this in very remote areas like parts of northern Maine, remote Alaska, and in select American Indian areas that ask to be counted in person.

Note: We have special procedures to count people who don't live in households, such as students living in university housing or people experiencing homelessness.

How the 2020 Census will invite everyone to respond



What to Expect in the Mail

When it's time to respond, most households will receive an invitation in the mail.

Every household will have the option of responding online, by mail, or by phone.

Depending on how likely your area is to respond online, you'll receive either an invitation encouraging you to respond online or an invitation along with a paper questionnaire.

Letter Invitation

- Most areas of the country are likely to respond online, so most households will receive a letter asking you to go online to complete the census questionnaire.
- We plan on working with the U.S. Postal Service to stagger the delivery of these invitations over several days. This way we can spread out the number of users responding online, and we'll be able to serve you better if you need help over the phone.

Letter Invitation and Paper Questionnaire

- Areas that are less likely to respond online will receive a paper questionnaire along with their invitation. The invitation will also include information about how to respond online or by phone.

WHAT WE WILL SEND IN THE MAIL

| On or between | You'll receive: |
|-------------------------|--|
| March 12-20 | An invitation to respond online to the 2020 Census. (Some households will also receive paper questionnaires.) |
| March 16-24 | A reminder letter. |
| | If you haven't responded yet: |
| March 26-April 3 | A reminder postcard. |
| April 8-16 | A reminder letter and paper questionnaire. |
| April 20-27 | A final reminder postcard before we follow up in person. |

We understand you might miss our initial letter in the mail.

- Every household that hasn't already responded will receive reminders and will eventually receive a paper questionnaire.
- It doesn't matter which initial invitation you get or how you get it—we will follow up in person with all households that don't respond.

The 2020 Census and Confidentiality

Your responses to the 2020 Census are safe, secure, and protected by federal law. Your answers can only be used to produce statistics—they cannot be used against you in any way. By law, all responses to U.S. Census Bureau household and business surveys are kept completely confidential.

Respond to the 2020 Census to shape the future.

Responding to the census helps communities get the funding they need and helps businesses make data-driven decisions that grow the economy. Census data impact our daily lives, informing important decisions about funding for services and infrastructure in your community, including health care, senior centers, jobs, political representation, roads, schools, and businesses. More than \$675 billion in federal funding flows back to states and local communities each year based on census data.



Your census responses are safe and secure.

The Census Bureau is required by law to protect any personal information we collect and keep it strictly confidential. The Census Bureau can only use your answers to produce statistics. In fact, every Census Bureau employee takes an oath to protect your personal information for life. Your answers cannot be used for law enforcement purposes or to determine your personal eligibility for government benefits.

By law, your responses cannot be used against you.

By law, your census responses cannot be used against you by any government agency or court in any way—not by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), not by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), not by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and not by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The law requires the Census Bureau to keep your information confidential and use your responses only to produce statistics.



The law is clear—no personal information can be shared.

Under Title 13 of the U.S. Code, the Census Bureau cannot release any identifiable information about individuals, households, or businesses, even to law enforcement agencies.

The law states that the information collected may only be used for statistical purposes and no other purpose.

To support historical research, Title 44 of the U.S. Code allows the National Archives and Records Administration to release census records only after 72 years.

All Census Bureau staff take a lifetime oath to protect your personal information, and any violation comes with a penalty of up to \$250,000 and/or up to 5 years in prison.

There are no exceptions.

The law requires the Census Bureau to keep everyone's information confidential. By law, your responses cannot be used against you by any government agency or court in any way. The Census Bureau will not share an individual's responses with immigration enforcement agencies, law enforcement agencies, or allow that information to be used to determine eligibility for government benefits. Title 13 makes it very clear that the data we collect can only be used for statistical purposes—we cannot allow it to be used for anything else, including law enforcement.

It's your choice: you can respond securely online, by mail, or by phone.

You will have the option of responding online, by mail, or by phone. Households that don't respond in one of these ways will be visited by a census taker to collect the information in person. Regardless of how you respond, your personal information is protected by law.

Your online responses are safe from hacking and other cyberthreats.

The Census Bureau takes strong precautions to keep online responses secure. All data submitted online are encrypted to protect personal privacy, and our cybersecurity program meets the highest and most recent standards for protecting personal information. Once the data are received, they are no longer online. From the moment the Census Bureau collects responses, our focus and legal obligation is to keep them safe.

We are committed to confidentiality.

At the U.S. Census Bureau, we are absolutely committed to keeping your responses confidential. This commitment means it is safe to provide your answers and know that they will only be used to paint a statistical portrait of our nation and communities.

Learn more about the Census Bureau's data protection and privacy program at www.census.gov/privacy.



Laws protecting personal census information have withstood challenges.

In 1982, the U.S. Supreme Court confirmed that even addresses are confidential and cannot be disclosed through legal discovery or the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). In 2010, the U.S. Justice Department determined that the Patriot Act does not override the law that protects the confidentiality of individual census responses. No court of law can subpoena census responses.