2020 Census: Things You Need to Know

The U.S. Constitution mandates that everyone in the country be counted every 10 years. The first census was in 1790. A census means a count of all residents living in the U.S.

Impact in Our Community
- Apportion representation among states
- Draw congressional and state legislative districts, school districts, and voting precincts. Illinois has already
- Distribute federal dollars to states
- Infrastructure needs, such as road construction and repair
- Social service programs that provide aid for senior citizens, veterans and low-income families
- Informs organizational decisions, such as, where to locate, size of market, etc, for businesses and non-profits
- Enforce voting rights and civil rights legislation

Who to Count
- Count everyone who is or will be living in your household as of April 1, 2020 whether they are related to you or not.
- This includes roommates, young children, and newborns and anyone who is renting space in your home.
- If someone is staying in your home on April 1 and has no usual home elsewhere, you should count them.

Dates to Remember
- March 12 – 20 Invitation by mail (not P.O.) Nationally, about 95% of all households
- March 12– July 31, 2020 Self-Response by internet, phone, paper
- March 16 – April 10 Delivered door to door. (P.O.Box areas, rural routes, etc.) About 5% of the households
- May 13, 2020 – July 24, 2020 In-person data collection

Invitation to Respond and Census ID
- It will be addressed to “Resident” at your address. (It will not include your name)
- It will include a unique code linked to your address (your census ID). The census ID is not required to use, but it helps avoid the Census Bureau visiting a house in person.
- If a respondent does not complete the online process and is timed-out, the respondent will need to sign back in using the same unique Census ID to fill out the questionnaire from the beginning.
- If a respondent does not have an ID, they will need to select the option for “Non-ID Response”.

Information from https://2020census.gov
Responding

- Respondents should enter their own information. Staff will not do this for you.
- Response information from outside the Census Bureau’s online form will not be collected.
- Library staff are not Census Employees.
- Respondents that want assistance should contact a Census Bureau staffed phone number for help. See Contact Us below.

Contact Us

- **For general questions:** Visit our Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page at [https://2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov) or call 301-763-INFO (4636) or 800-923-8282.
- **For information on services for people who are deaf or hard of hearing:** Call the TTY number at 800-877-8339 to reach the Federal Relay Service.
- **For current partners:** State and local organizations can find a partnership representative in their area on our Regional Census Centers page. For Illinois, call 312-579-1500.

Fighting 2020 Census Rumors - Setting the Record Straight

- The 2020 Census does **not** ask whether you or anyone in your home is a U.S. citizen.
- Everyone counts. The 2020 Census counts everyone living in the country, including non-citizens. [Learn more about who should be counted when you complete the 2020 Census.](https://2020census.gov)
- The law prevents the Census Bureau from sharing your information with law enforcement.
- Your answers cannot be used to impact your eligibility for government benefits. Your answers are only used to create statistics about our country.
- The Census Bureau is bound by Title 13 of the U.S. Code to protect your personal information and keep it strictly confidential. That’s every answer, to every question.

During the 2020 Census, the Census Bureau will **never** ask you for:

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

If someone claiming to be from the Census Bureau contacts you via email or phone and asks you for one of these things, it's a scam, and you should not cooperate. For more information, visit [Avoiding Fraud and Scams](https://2020census.gov) at [https://2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov). Have you seen or heard something about the 2020 Census that is confusing? Let the Census Bureau know by contacting rumors@census.gov. Then be sure to spread the word to make sure everyone has the right information about the 2020 Census.

Information from [https://2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov)