



2020 Census Factsheet

The Census takes place every 10 years across the country. It is the federal government's way of counting everyone who lives in the United States.

WHY IS THE CENSUS IMPORTANT?

- It determines the number of elected representatives each state has in Congress.
- It determines how much money goes to each state for more than 120 federal programs including SNAP, Medicaid, Medicare, Head Start, LiHEAP and WIC.
- It affects \$22 billion in funding to Massachusetts; or nearly \$2500 per person per year.

HOW DOES THE CENSUS WORK?

Census forms will be mailed to all households in the United States in English and Spanish, and will contain information on how to request language guides in 59 languages.

You may also complete the Census form online in English, Spanish, Cantonese, Mandarin, Vietnamese, Korean, Russian, Arabic, Tagalog, Polish, French, Haitian Creole, Portuguese, and Japanese.

The Census form will ask questions about your age, race, relationship status, gender, and whether you own or rent your home.

You should complete the Census to the best of your knowledge.

If there is a question on the 2020 Census that asks whether you or your family members are citizens, you can decide whether or not to answer that question. Incomplete forms will still be counted.

Your information is confidential and cannot be shared with any other government agency or used as evidence against you in court.

WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU DON'T COMPLETE THE CENSUS?

If you do not complete the Census, or leave too many questions blank, a Census worker may visit your home to help you complete the form.

Census field workers will clearly identify themselves with an official Census Bureau badge.

If you are uncomfortable having a Census worker at your home, you may ask them to leave Census materials for you to answer at your convenience.

Census workers will never ask for your social security number, bank account, or credit card information. Do not give this information to anyone claiming to be a Census worker.

Need help? Call our Census Hotline at 617-482-1145

Visit www.lawyersforcivilrights.org/census