What is the census?

Every 10 years, the U.S. Census Bureau conducts a census to determine the number of people living in the United States.

What will the census ask?
The census asks for less personal information than most social media profiles. Items like name, gender, age, birthday, race/ethnicity, relationship to head-of-household, owner or renter and phone number are asked.

Who gets counted?
Census forms are filled out by household. Everyone living at the address matters and everyone needs to be counted, including children.

How do I fill it out?
People living in remote parts of the state will be counted in person. The Census Bureau will invite others to respond via mail and online. You’ll be asked 10 questions that take about 10 minutes total, whether you’re counted in person or you respond online.

How is census information used?
Being counted helps communities create jobs, provide housing, fund K-12 education, prepare for emergencies and build schools, roads, hospitals, libraries, and so much more.

Census data determines how many seats your state gets in Congress. State and local officials also use census data to draw boundaries for state and local legislative districts and school districts.

By federal law, individual census information cannot be shared. The Census Bureau has strong cybersecurity measures in place to protect your information and keep it secure.

Language assistance
Online form: 12 non-English languages.
Paper form: English and Spanish. Telecommunications help for the people who are deaf or hard of hearing.
Language guides (video and print): 59 non-English languages, including American Sign Language, Braille and large print. The Alaska Census Working Group will also provide translated materials in a number of languages. For access, go to www.alaskacounts.org

Key Dates

JANUARY 21, 2020
Remote Alaska Census operations begin in Toksook Bay, Alaska.

JANUARY – FEBRUARY
Western Alaska counted in person.

FEBRUARY – MARCH
Interior and Eastern Alaska counted in person.

MARCH – APRIL
North Slope and Aleutians counted in person.

APRIL 1, 2020
National 2020 Census Day + Non-response follow-up begins for households that didn’t submit census form.

JULY 2020
Self-response deadline.

DECEMBER 31, 2020
Census Bureau delivers count to President.

MARCH 2021
States receive official count.