

WHAT IS THE 2020 CENSUS?

Every 10 years, the government reports the number of people who live in the U.S. as of April 1, 2020 (Census Day) by conducting a count called the Census. It is mandated by the Constitution and if you live in the U.S. you are required by law to respond.

THE CENSUS WILL ASK:

The census asks questions about your home and about each person who lives in your home. Only one person needs to respond to the census in each home.

- Age
- Race
- Sex
- The number of individuals living in a household
- If the household owns or rents the property



For a sample of the paper questionnaire that will be used during the 2020 Census, [click here](#): [Sample 2020 Census Form](#).

THE CENSUS WILL NOT ASK:



citizen information (e.g. Social Security Number)

disability information

bank account information

WHAT ABOUT PRIVACY CONCERNS?

All Census responses are kept confidential and private. It's the law. Your responses cannot be shared or used against you by any government agency or court in any way. The law does not allow your answers to be shared for any other reason. It's also an oath every Census employee must swear to uphold.

WHY IS THE CENSUS SO IMPORTANT?

Information from the census is used by federal, state, and local governments to make decisions about funding for services and programs. When you fill out the census, you help:

- **Determine how many seats your state gets in the U.S. House of Representatives.** The census counts how many people live in each state. The government uses that number to figure out how many Representatives the state should have. If people don't fill out the census, a state might get less Representatives and won't have as much of a say about decisions in Congress. That happened to Massachusetts in 2010. Massachusetts went from 10 Congressional Districts to 9 after the 2010 Census count. We need to make sure Massachusetts has the correct number of Representatives in 2020.

- **Guide how more than \$675 billion in federal funding is distributed to states and communities each year.** Information from the census is used by federal, state, and local governments to make decisions about funding for services and programs. In 2016, Massachusetts received almost \$23 billion for 55 federal programs guided by the 2010 Census data. Over \$9 billion went to Medicaid funding.
- **Create jobs, provide housing, prepare for emergencies, and funding for schools (including Special Education), Medicaid, public transportation, libraries, and building new school construction, roads, hospitals, and other community needs.** When there isn't enough money, services and programs for people with disabilities (and others) can be cut.

HOW IS THE CENSUS TAKEN?

By April 1, 2020, every household will receive notice to participate in the Census. You will have three options for responding:



Online: For the first time, the 2020 Census will provide the option to respond online. You can even respond on your mobile device!



Phone: Phone and online options will be available in 12 languages in addition to English. Language guides can be found here: [2020 Census Language Guides](#).



Mail: Hard-copy mail forms will only be available in English & Spanish.

DID YOU KNOW?

There are tools to help people with disabilities fill out the census. There are large print guides and guides in braille. Telephone contact centers will utilize Telephone Device for the Deaf (TDD) technology for the phone questionnaire. The internet questionnaire will also be accessible to individuals with disabilities. If you have questions, you can call [1-800-923-8282](tel:1-800-923-8282) or go to 2020census.gov.

If you don't respond by late April, you will receive a home visit from a census worker.

The Arc of Massachusetts is a designated Census Questionnaire Assistance Center and available to answer any of your Census questions. Contact us at [\(781\) 891-6270](tel:781-891-6270) or census@arcmass.org.

For more census information, visit arcmass.org/census.