



HOW DOES THE CENSUS IMPACT PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES?

According to the Centers for Disease Control, 61 million adults in the United States live with a disability – about 26% of the US population. However, people with disabilities are considered hard-to-count populations by the Census Bureau and face a higher risk of being undercounted. Disability is not only its own category, it is also a subset found within every social, economic, and racial demographic in the United States. Nearly one in five people with disabilities live in areas that are hard-to-count.



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, which impacts representation in Congress and influences boundaries for school and voting districts.
- Guide how more than \$675 billion in federal funding is distributed to states and communities each year, which includes important programs/services like Medicaid, housing vouchers, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Vocational Rehabilitation programs, school programs (including special education), and public transportation.

Possible Reasons Why People with Disabilities Do Not Participate in the Census

- They have never been asked
- They believe that the census will not have an impact on their life
- They don't feel comfortable sharing personal information
- They are worried that the information will be used against them

Reasons Why People with Disabilities WILL Participate in the 2020 Census

- Surveys are conducted in partnership with a trusted community group, advocacy organization, or person they already know.
- Completing the survey in a place where they are comfortable, such as an independent living center.
- Having someone they trust with them when they are completing the census on a computer or by smartphone.
- Understanding how important completing the census is.
- Having access to web-based information in accessible formats or census information in plain language



The Arc of Massachusetts (“The Arc”) is a designated Census Questionnaire Assistance Center and available to answer any of your Census questions.

Contact The Arc at
(781) 891-6270 or
census@arcmass.org.

For more information, visit
arcmass.org/census.



DISABILITY LAW CENTER, INC.

The Disability Center of Massachusetts is a U.S. Census Partner and available to answer any of your Census questions.

Please contact us at
(617) 723-8455 or
mail@dlc-ma.org.

For more information, visit
<https://www.dlc-ma.org/the-2020-census-and-disability/>.