

The 2020 Census at a Glance

Counting everyone once, only once, and in the right place.

The U.S. Census Bureau is the federal government's largest statistical agency. We are dedicated to providing current facts and figures about America's people, places, and economy. Federal law protects the confidentiality of all individual responses the Census Bureau collects.

The U.S. Constitution requires that each decade we take a count—or a census—of America's population.



The census provides vital information for you and your community.

- It determines how many representatives each state gets in Congress and is used to redraw district boundaries. Redistricting counts are sent to the states by March 31, 2021.
- Communities rely on census statistics to plan for a variety of resident needs including new roads, schools, and emergency services.
- Businesses use census data to determine where to open places to shop.

Each year, the federal government distributes hundreds of billions of dollars to states and communities based on Census Bureau data.

In 2020, we will implement new technology to make it easier than ever to respond to the census. For the first time, you will be able to respond online, by phone, as well as by mail. We will use data that the public has already provided to reduce followup visits. And, we are building an accurate address list and automating our field operations—all while keeping your information confidential and safe.



KEY MILESTONES

- 2018**
 - 2018 End-to-End Census Test
 - 2020 Census questions sent to Congress by March 31, 2018
 - Six regional 2020 Census offices and 40 area census offices open
- 2019**
 - Partnership activities launch
 - Complete Count Committees establish
 - Remaining 248 area census offices open
- 2020**
 - Advertising begins in early 2020
 - Public response (online, phone, or mail) begins
 - **Census Day**—April 1, 2020
 - In-person visits to households that haven't responded begin
 - Apportionment counts sent to the President by December 31, 2020
- 2021**
 - Redistricting counts sent to the states by March 31, 2021

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Overview of Census Bureau Programs

CENSUSES

- The **decennial census** is the once-a-decade population and housing count of all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Island Areas. The results of the census determine the number of seats for each state in the U.S. House of Representatives and are used to draw congressional and state legislative districts. Federal agencies use the results to distribute more than \$675 billion in federal funds each year.
- The **economic census** measures the nation's economy every five years, providing vital statistics for virtually every industry and geographic area in the country.
- The **Census of Governments** provides comprehensive data about the 90,000 state and local governments in the nation every five years.

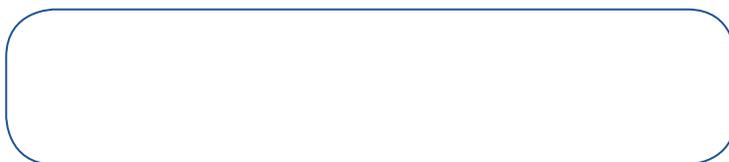
SURVEYS

- The **American Community Survey** (ACS) is an ongoing national survey—sampling approximately 3.5 million addresses annually—that provides vital information about our nation's housing and people. The ACS is the only source of comparable, quality information about the people in all our communities. These data show what the U.S. population looks like and how it is changing. ACS data are used to assess the past and present and to plan for the future.
- **Demographic surveys** measure income, poverty, education, health insurance coverage, housing quality, crime victimization, computer usage, and many other subjects.
- **Economic surveys** are conducted monthly, quarterly, and yearly. They cover selected sectors of the nation's economy and supplement the economic census with more-frequent information about the dynamic economy. These surveys yield more than 400 annual economic reports, including principal economic indicators.
- **Sponsored surveys** are demographic and economic surveys that we conduct for other government agencies. They include the Current Population Survey, the National Health Interview Survey, and the National Survey of College Graduates.

For more information, go to [census.gov](https://www.census.gov).

Follow us [@uscensusbureau](https://twitter.com/uscensusbureau)

Contact us at:



Your information is protected by law

The law requires the Census Bureau to keep your information confidential and use your responses only to produce statistics. We cannot publicly release your responses in any way that could identify you. We will never share your information with immigration enforcement agencies such as ICE, law enforcement agencies such as the FBI or police, or allow it to be used to determine your eligibility for government benefits.

Our Mission

To serve as the nation's leading provider of quality data about its people and economy.

Our Vision

To be the trusted source for timely and relevant statistical information, and the leader in data-driven information.

Census History

Thomas Jefferson directed the first decennial census in 1790. As required by the U.S. Constitution, a census has been taken every 10 years thereafter. In 1840, the Census Act authorized the establishment of a centralized Census Office. In 1902, the Census Office became a permanent organization within the Department of the Interior. A year later, it was renamed the Bureau of the Census and moved to the new Department of Commerce and Labor.

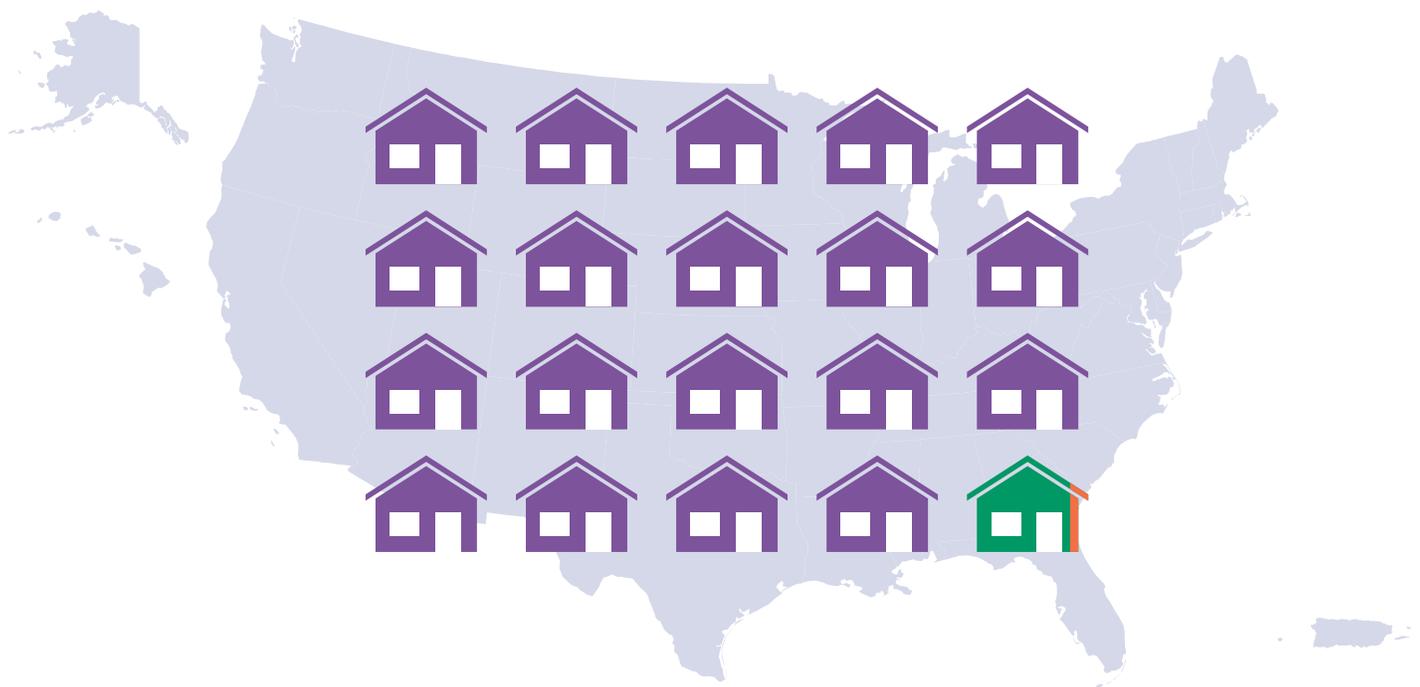
How the 2020 Census will invite everyone to respond



Every household will have the option of responding online, by mail, or by phone.

Nearly every household will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census from either a postal worker or a census worker.

 **95%** of households will receive their census invitation in the mail.



 **Almost 5%** of households will receive their census invitation when a census taker drops it off. In these areas, the majority of households may not receive mail at their home's physical location (like households that use PO boxes or areas recently affected by natural disasters).

 **Less than 1%** of households will be counted in person by a census taker, instead of being invited to respond on their own. We do this in very remote areas like parts of northern Maine, remote Alaska, and in select American Indian areas that ask to be counted in person.

Note: We have special procedures to count people who don't live in households, such as students living in university housing or people experiencing homelessness.

How the 2020 Census will invite everyone to respond



What to Expect in the Mail

When it's time to respond, most households will receive an invitation in the mail.

Every household will have the option of responding online, by mail, or by phone.

Depending on how likely your area is to respond online, you'll receive either an invitation encouraging you to respond online or an invitation along with a paper questionnaire.

Letter Invitation

- Most areas of the country are likely to respond online, so most households will receive a letter asking you to go online to complete the census questionnaire.
- We plan on working with the U.S. Postal Service to stagger the delivery of these invitations over several days. This way we can spread out the number of users responding online, and we'll be able to serve you better if you need help over the phone.

Letter Invitation and Paper Questionnaire

- Areas that are less likely to respond online will receive a paper questionnaire along with their invitation. The invitation will also include information about how to respond online or by phone.

WHAT WE WILL SEND IN THE MAIL	
On or between	You'll receive:
March 12-20	An invitation to respond online to the 2020 Census. (Some households will also receive paper questionnaires.)
March 16-24	A reminder letter.
	If you haven't responded yet:
March 26-April 3	A reminder postcard.
April 8-16	A reminder letter and paper questionnaire.
April 20-27	A final reminder postcard before we follow up in person.

We understand you might miss our initial letter in the mail.

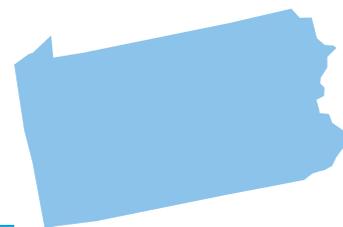
- Every household that hasn't already responded will receive reminders and will eventually receive a paper questionnaire.
- It doesn't matter which initial invitation you get or how you get it—we will follow up in person with all households that don't respond.

PENNSYLVANIA

In FY2016, Pennsylvania received

\$39,179,047,733

through 55 federal spending programs
guided by data derived from the 2010 Census.



The **Counting for Dollars 2020 Project** aims to understand 1) the extent to which the federal government will rely on data from the 2020 Census to guide the distribution of federal funding to states, localities, and households across the nation and 2) the impact of the accuracy of the 2020 Census on the fair, equitable distribution of these funds.

The project has analyzed spending by state for 55 federal programs (\$883,094,826,042 in FY2016). Three types of programs are analyzed:

- **Domestic financial assistance programs** provide financial assistance – including direct payments to individuals, grants, loans, and loan guarantees – to non-federal entities within the U.S. – such as individuals and families, state and local governments, companies, and nonprofits – in order to fulfill a public purpose.
- **Tax credit programs** allow a special exclusion, exemption, or deduction from gross income or provide a special credit, a preferential rate of tax, or a deferral of tax liability.
- **Procurement programs** award a portion of Federal prime contract dollars to small businesses located in areas selected on the basis of census-derived data.

The four uses of census-derived datasets to geographically allocate funding are:

- **Define eligibility criteria** – that is, identify which organizations or individuals can receive funds.
- **Compute formulas** that geographically allocate funds to eligible recipients.
- **Rank project applications** based on priorities (e.g., smaller towns, poorer neighborhoods).
- **Set interest rates** for federal loan programs.

The two categories of census-derived datasets are:

- **Geographic classifications** – the characterization (e.g., rural), delineation (e.g., Metropolitan Areas), or designation (e.g., Opportunity Zones) of specific geographic areas.
- **Variable datasets**
 - **Annual updates** of population and housing variables collected in the Decennial Census.
 - **Household surveys** collecting new data elements (e.g., income, occupation) by using the Decennial Census to design representative samples and interpret results.



Reports of the Counting for Dollars 2020 Project:

- **Report #1:** Initial Analysis: 16 Large Census-guided Financial Assistance Programs (August 2017)*
- **Report #2:** Estimating Fiscal Costs of a Census Undercount to States (March 2018)*
- **Report #3:** Role of the Decennial Census in Distributing Federal Funds to Rural America (December 2018)*
- **Report #4:** Census-derived Datasets Used to Distribute Federal Funds (December 2018)
- **Report #5:** Analysis of 55 Large Census-guided Federal Spending Programs (forthcoming)*†
- **Report #6:** An Inventory of 320 Census-guided Federal Spending Programs (forthcoming)

* Data available by state

† Source for this state sheet

Counting for Dollars 2020

The Role of the Decennial Census in the Geographic Distribution of Federal Funds

REPORT

COUNTING FOR DOLLARS 2020:

PENNSYLVANIA

Allocation of Funds from 55 Large Federal Spending Programs Guided by Data Derived from the 2010 Census (Fiscal Year 2016)

Total Program Obligations: **\$39,179,047,733**

Program	Dept.	Obligations	Program	Dept.	Obligations
Financial Assistance Programs		\$38,624,615,396			
Medical Assistance Program (Medicaid)	HHS	\$17,035,666,000	Community Facilities Loans/Grants	USDA	\$34,837,940
Federal Direct Student Loans	ED	\$5,232,355,537	Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants	ED	\$91,965,059
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program	USDA	\$2,729,024,683	Crime Victim Assistance	DOJ	\$86,776,184
Medicare Suppl. Medical Insurance (Part B)	HHS	\$2,744,751,997	CDBG Entitlement Grants	HUD	\$132,117,621
Highway Planning and Construction	DOT	\$1,967,464,015	Public Housing Capital Fund	HUD	\$119,163,000
Federal Pell Grant Program	ED	\$840,800,000	Block Grants for the Prevention and Treatment of Substance Abuse	HHS	\$59,100,201
Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers	HUD	\$609,804,000	Water and Waste Disposal Systems for Rural Communities	USDA	\$54,938,900
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	HHS	\$719,499,305	Social Services Block Grant	HHS	\$63,184,601
Very Low to Moderate Income Housing Loans	USDA	\$610,322,282	Rural Rental Assistance Payments	USDA	\$33,889,200
Title I Grants to LEAs	ED	\$567,812,540	Business and Industry Loans	USDA	\$26,410,000
State Children's Health Insurance Program	HHS	\$365,076,000	Career and Technical Education - Basic Grants to States	ED	\$40,722,778
National School Lunch Program	USDA	\$369,272,000	Homeland Security Grant Program	DHS	\$30,994,986
Special Education Grants	ED	\$436,302,376	WIOA Dislocated Worker Grants	DOL	\$37,223,657
Section 8 Housing Assistance Payments Program	HUD	\$429,812,058	HOME	HUD	\$61,971,119
Federal Transit Formula Grants	DOT	\$524,110,000	State CDBG	HUD	\$37,464,741
Head Start	HHS	\$298,934,211	WIOA Youth Activities	DOL	\$29,627,611
WIC	USDA	\$202,895,000	WIOA Adult Activities	DOL	\$29,235,262
Title IV-E Foster Care	HHS	\$165,566,842	Employment Service/Wagner-Peyser	DOL	\$27,298,958
Health Care Centers	HHS	\$116,277,037	Community Services Block Grant	HHS	\$30,532,767
School Breakfast Program	USDA	\$110,896,000	Special Programs for the Aging, Title III, Part C, Nutrition Services	HHS	\$31,087,029
Rural Electrification Loans and Loan Guarantees	USDA	\$18,000,000	Cooperative Extension Service	USDA	\$17,167,885
Public and Indian Housing	HUD	\$283,543,000	Native Amer. Employment & Training	DOL	\$856,953
Low Income Home Energy Assistance	HHS	\$203,485,100			
Child and Adult Care Food Program	USDA	\$113,446,000	Federal Tax Expenditures		\$494,745,779
Vocational Rehabilitation Grants to the States	ED	\$144,407,083	Low Income Housing Tax Credit	Treas	\$343,843,308
Child Care Mandatory and Matching Funds	HHS	\$115,576,000	New Markets Tax Credit	Treas	\$150,902,471
Unemployment Insurance Administration	DOL	\$135,940,000			
Federal Transit - Capital Investment Grants	DOT	\$255,903,604	Federal Procurement Programs		\$59,686,559
Child Care and Development Block Grant	HHS	\$80,442,000	HUBZones Program	SBA	\$59,686,559
Adoption Assistance	HHS	\$120,664,274			

Prepared by Andrew Reamer, the George Washington Institute of Public Policy, the George Washington University. Spending data analysis provided by Sean Moulton, Open Government Program Manager, Project on Government Oversight. | January 30, 2019

Note: The sequence of the above programs is consistent with U.S. rank order by program expenditures. (See U.S. sheet in series.)

Counting for Dollars 2020 publications and spreadsheet with above data available at <https://gwipp.gwu.edu/counting-dollars-2020-role-decennial-census-geographic-distribution-federal-funds>

How census data is used

- 1 Decision making at all levels of government.
- 2 Drawing federal, state, and local legislative districts.
- 3 Attracting new businesses to state and local areas.
- 4 Distributing over \$675 billion annually in federal funds and even more in state funds.
- 5 Forecasting future transportation needs for all segments of the population.
- 6 Planning for hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, and the location of other health services.
- 7 Forecasting future housing needs for all segments of the population.
- 8 Directing funds for services for people in poverty.
- 9 Designing public safety strategies.
- 10 Development of rural areas.
- 11 Analyzing local trends.
- 12 Estimating the number of people displaced by natural disasters.
- 13 Developing assistance programs for American Indians and Alaska Natives.
- 14 Creating maps to speed emergency services to households in need of assistance.
- 15 Delivering goods and services to local markets.
- 16 Designing facilities for people with disabilities, the elderly, or children.
- 17 Planning future government services.
- 18 Planning investments and evaluating financial risk.
- 19 Publishing economic and statistical reports about the United States and its people.
- 20 Facilitating scientific research.
- 21 Developing “intelligent” maps for government and business.
- 22 Providing proof of age, relationship, or residence certificates provided by the Census Bureau.
- 23 Distributing medical research.
- 24 Reapportioning seats in the House of Representatives.
- 25 Planning and researching for media as backup for news stories.
- 26 Drawing school district boundaries.
- 27 Planning budgets for government at all levels.
- 28 Spotting trends in the economic well-being of the nation.
- 29 Planning for public transportation services.
- 30 Planning health and educational services for people with disabilities.
- 31 Establishing fair market rents and enforcing fair lending practices.
- 32 Directing services to children and adults with limited English-language proficiency.
- 33 Planning urban land use.
- 34 Planning outreach strategies.
- 35 Understanding labor supply.
- 36 Assessing the potential for spread of communicable diseases.
- 37 Making business decisions.
- 38 Understanding consumer needs.
- 39 Planning for faith-based organizations.
- 40 Locating factory sites and distribution centers.
- 41 Distributing catalogs and developing direct mail pieces.
- 42 Setting a standard for creating both public and private sector surveys.
- 43 Evaluating programs in different geographic areas.
- 44 Providing genealogical research.
- 45 Planning for school projects.
- 46 Developing adult education programs.
- 47 Researching historical subject areas.
- 48 Determining areas eligible for housing assistance and rehabilitation loans.