

2020 U.S. Census Fact Sheet

As the 2020 U.S. Census approaches, we want to ensure that members of our community have accurate information and the resources needed in order to participate fully in the civic responsibility.

What is the U.S. Census?

The U.S. Census is a count of all individuals living in the United States that takes place every 10 years. It is required by the Constitution.

Why participate in the U.S. Census?

Aside from being legally required, data from the U.S. Census are used to determine the distribution of funds for things like Medi-Cal, Supplemental Nutrition and Assistance Program (SNAP), housing assistance, school lunch programs, highways, and special education programs. An inaccurate count could decrease funding in these areas, affecting those in need in our communities.

In addition, the U.S. Census numbers are used to redraw electoral district maps, affecting the community's representation in federal and state government.

Is it secure?

The Census Bureau is legally required to keep the information gathered confidential, including from other government agencies, law enforcement, or landlords.

Will the U.S. Census ask about citizenship status?

No. While this question had been proposed, the Supreme Court ruled in June 2019 that the question could not be included on the 2020 Census.

When will the U.S. Census take place?

Forms will be mailed out in mid-March. Responses can be submitted by mail, by phone, or online.

How can I avoid scams?

U.S. Census staff will never ask for Social Security numbers, bank account information, or money.

If you want to verify that a person is really a U.S. Census worker, you can ask to see their ID badge or call 800-923-8282 to speak to a Census Bureau representative.

For more information:

For additional details directly from the Census Bureau, visit 2020census.gov.

You can also contact Melissa Vlach in the Office of Human Life & Dignity at vlachm@sfarch.org or (415) 614-5616.