

Census 2020 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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1. What about roommates? (How are they counted?)
 - When a household contains more than one person, the U.S. Census Bureau (USCB) asks respondents to identify the relationship of additional household residents. The possible relationships include: spouse/partner, children, brother/sister, father/mother, grandchild, parent-in-law, son/daughter-in-law, other relative, roommate/housemate, foster child, and other non-relative. More information, including the relationship question, is available at this [link](#).
2. If we do get a population count after the census to qualify Arizona for an additional U.S. House representative, when might we elect them?
 - Apportionment counts are due to the President by December 31, 2020 and the redistricting file (Public Law 94-171) is due to the states by March 31, 2021. The redistricting process should commence shortly thereafter. Professor Justin Levitt at Loyola University [points out](#) that Arizona state law does not impose a particular deadline for congressional redistricting.
 - In 2010, census redistricting data were delivered to Arizona on March 10, 2011 and the Independent Commission approved the redistricting plan in January 2012. Assuming a similar timeline for 2020, the 2022 midterm elections would be the earliest period for electing federal and state representatives based on Census 2020 data.
3. For students who are here for college and renting a home, are they to count themselves as Arizonans, even if they are residents of another state?
 - College students are to be counted at the on- or off-campus residence where they live and sleep most of the time. Even foreign and out-of-state students should be counted in Arizona if they are residing here while attending college. More information about counting students and others are found under the “Special Circumstances” heading on the Census Bureau’s [Who to Count](#) page.
4. What about temporary roommates? Are they counted in a rental place?
 - If someone is staying in your home on April 1, and has no usual home elsewhere, you should count them in your response to the 2020 Census. Temporary roommates are easy to miss because the person filling out the census form may not consider them a member of their household. But if they are not counted at another location they should be counted where they are staying, even if it is a temporary arrangement.
 - On the other hand, visitors who are in your home on April 1, 2020, but who will return to their usual residence, should be counted where they live and sleep most of the time. Citizens of foreign countries who are visiting the United States on vacation or business on April 1, 2020, should not be counted.

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5. Will the Census form be available in other languages besides English?
 - **Yes.** For the 2020 Census, the U.S. Census Bureau plans to provide the Internet Self-Response Instrument and Census Questionnaire Assistance in 12 non-English languages. Internet respondents will even be able to toggle back and forth between languages if needed.
 - The field enumerator instrument and materials, paper questionnaire, and mailings will be in English and Spanish.
 - Language guides, language glossaries, and language identification cards will be in 59 non-English languages. More information including lists of specific languages can be found on the Census Bureau's [Language Resources](#) page and on the AZ Census 2020 [webpage](#).

6. Is the census mandatory?
 - **Yes.** Title 13 of U.S code (Sections [221](#) and [3571](#)) requires individuals to answer the census truthfully to avoid criminal penalties.

7. How mobile-friendly is the online census?
 - According to [Census Counts](#), the best devices to use for responding online include desktop PCs, iPhone versions 5 and later, most iPad versions, and Samsung Galaxy phones and tablets.

8. Do people HAVE to provide their Social Security Number (SSN)?
 - **No.** The USCB will never ask respondents for social security numbers, money/donations, political questions, or bank/account information. See this [link](#) for more details.

9. What questions MUST be answered to have your form "count"? Conversely, what questions can people skip and still have their forms completed?
 - Respondents are expected to answer all questions. However, we expect that the USCB's top priority for non-response follow up will be to complete interviews with households that did not respond at all. It is possible that the workload will be too great for the Bureau to follow up with every household that skipped some questions.
 - Even some households that complete all questions may be contacted to verify information, but answering all questions on the internet or paper questionnaire will minimize the likelihood of an in-person follow up.

10. Does the Census impact Social Security?
 - **Indirectly, yes.** According to the [USCB](#), Social Security Administration (SSA) data are combined with Census data to understand how many people will need Social Security benefits in the coming years and for program funding.

11. Is it legal to have safe drop boxes in trusted community locations?
 - **No.** This [fact sheet](#) lists ways that official partners can support self-response. However, collecting questionnaires isn't one of them.



12. How are the race/ethnicity and gender of houseless people assessed? Is the enumerator guessing? Asking? How are people confirmed?
- The Census Bureau has special plans for operations that they refer to as [Service-Based Enumeration](#). This includes shelters and other places that people receive services such as soup kitchens, as well as “predetermined outdoor locations” selected based on months of outreach and coordination with local census offices, partners, shelter directors, service providers, and others. Most information will be collected from direct interviews with houseless individuals. While direct interviews are preferable, some facility administrators may choose to provide lists of respondents.
 - Service-Based Enumeration will be conducted over a three-day period from March 30 to April 1, 2020.
 - The Census Bureau has more information at [How We Count People Experiencing Homelessness](#).

