

WHAT IS THE CENSUS?

The census is an official count of the United States population and takes place once every 10 years, as mandated by the U.S. Constitution.

The goal is to count every person residing in the United States and where they live.

WHY IS THE CENSUS IMPORTANT?

Census data is used to determine the amount of federal funding that communities receive for schools, healthcare, roads, housing and more.

It is also used to determine government representation, like allotment of congressional seats.

It is a vital aspect of your civic duty.

WILL MY PERSONAL INFORMATION BE SAFE?

Yes! The Census Bureau is prohibited by law from sharing your information.

It is illegal for any public or private entities (including other federal agencies and law enforcement) to gain access to personal information collected via the census.

WHAT'S DIFFERENT ABOUT THE 2020 CENSUS?

The census will be available online, over the phone, and on paper.

The online census questionnaire is available in 12 non-English languages: Arabic, French, Haitian Creole, Japanese, Polish, Portuguese, Tagalog, Chinese, Korean, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese. Telephone responses will be accepted in the same languages.

HOW IT WORKS

- 1** You will receive an invitation to participate in the census via mail in March 2020. If you don't receive an invitation, you can still respond by going to my2020census.org or by calling 1-844-330-2020.
- 2** Most households will be asked to fill out the census online or via phone. Some households may receive a paper questionnaire.
- 3** When completing the census, you should count everyone who is living in your house on April 1, 2020.
- 4** Every household that hasn't already responded will receive reminders and eventually a paper questionnaire.

It doesn't matter which initial invitation you get or how you get it — the US Census Bureau will follow up in person with all households that don't respond between May and July 31, 2020.

NEED HELP?

Email contact@becounted2020.org with questions or for assistance.

Call 311 for multilingual and interpretation services.



Census figures define political districts, fuel research, inform planning, and determine how federal funding is allocated throughout the country.

\$26 billion dollars came to Pennsylvania in 2015 based on census data. Here are a few examples of how our community benefits from census-derived funding.

TRANSPORTATION

In 2018, **\$28,019,359** was allocated to the Port Authority of Allegheny County from federal programs that use census data to allocate funds according to Southwest Planning Commission's annual listing of transit projects.



Every weekday, the Port Authority provides **220,000** rides on average.



Head Start programs served **1,953** children in Allegheny County in 2018.

EDUCATION

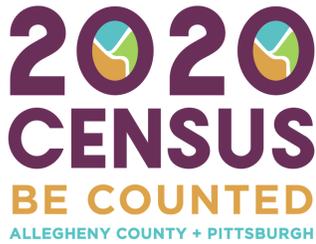
The Allegheny County Department of Human Services received over **\$10 million** in funding for Head Start programs which provide early learning programs to low income children from birth to age five.

COMMUNITY

SNAP, WIC, and the School Meals Program all rely on census data to provide needed services.



More than **7.5 million** meals were served throughout Allegheny County during the 2017/2018 school year.



GENERAL TALKING POINTS

The next decennial census will capture where you live on April 1, 2020.

- A census is an official count or survey of a population.
- The U.S. Constitution mandates a population count each decade, or every 10 years.
- The goal is to count everyone once – and only once, in the right place.
- Anyone living in the United States at the time of the census should participate, including non-citizens and permanent residents.

Participating in the 2020 Census is good for your community.

- Census figures define political districts, fuel research, and inform planning and decision-making for our communities.
- Census data is also used to distribute nearly \$675 billion dollars in federal funding to support many programs that help our schools, address hunger, and rebuild our aging infrastructure.

There are multiple ways to be counted in the 2020 Census.

- Most addresses will receive a mailing with instructions to participate online.
- You can also respond via mail or phone.
- In Spring/Summer 2020, Census Bureau employees will follow up in-person at addresses not yet counted.

Your personally identifiable information is protected by law and cannot be shared outside of the Census Bureau.

- Responses can only be used to produce statistical information.
- Your personal information cannot be seen or used by other government agencies or the courts.
- There are steep penalties for anyone who shares personally identifiable information.

Data security is the highest priority for the Census Bureau and extensive protections are in place to protect the integrity of the 2020 Census.

- Online responses are secured by multiple layers of encryption and isolated from online access as soon as you submit.
- The Census Bureau is working with the federal intelligence community and private industry to identify and respond to any external threats to its database.

If you don't have access to the internet in your home, you can still be counted.

- The online questionnaire can be completed on a smartphone.
- Households with limited internet access will be given the opportunity to respond via paper or telephone.



GENERAL TALKING POINTS

English language proficiency is not required to participate in the 2020 Census.

- The online census questionnaire is available in 12 non-English languages: Arabic, French, Haitian Creole, Japanese, Polish, Portuguese, Tagalog, Chinese, Korean, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese.
- Telephone responses will be accepted in the same additional 13 languages.
- Paper forms will be printed in English and Spanish.
- Language guides and glossaries will be available in 59 non-English languages, plus Braille.

The census questionnaire has ten questions and should take ten minutes.

- The census typically asks questions of people in homes and group living situations, including how many people live or stay in each household, and the gender, age, and race of each person.

Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh formed a Complete Count Committee.

- In October 2018, County Executive Rich Fitzgerald and Pittsburgh Mayor William Peduto formed a joint County-City Complete Count Committee in advance of the 2020 Census.
- The committee is charged with providing oversight for Allegheny County's participation in the census, acting as trusted census ambassadors, and helping identify and secure funding to carry out the goals of the committee.
- The Complete Count Committee was one of the first in Pennsylvania and is one of the largest and most active in the commonwealth.
- The CCC is composed of trusted voices from a variety of sectors, including foundations, education, business, healthcare, human services, government, and other community organizations.
- The CCC compiled a comprehensive 2020 Census Action Plan with input from all 6 committees to deliver a complete count.

CONNECT WITH US

Allegheny County & City of Pittsburgh
BeCounted2020.org • [@BeCountedSWPA](https://twitter.com/BeCountedSWPA)

US Census Bureau
2020Census.gov

[#BeCountedSWPA](https://twitter.com/BeCountedSWPA)
[#BeCountedAllegheny](https://twitter.com/BeCountedAllegheny)
[#BeCountedPGH](https://twitter.com/BeCountedPGH)



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the census and how often does it take place?

A census is an official count or survey of a population. The U.S. Constitution mandates a population count each decade, or every 10 years. The next decennial census takes place on April 1, 2020.

Why is the decennial census important?

The decennial census is important because it provides a snapshot of the entire nation. It is mandated by the Constitution and determines a state's representation in the U.S House of Representatives. Additionally, population data from the census determines critical funding that states receive.

What types of questions appear on the 2020 Census?

The decennial census typically asks questions of people in homes and group living situations, including how many people live or stay in each household, and the gender, age, and race of each person.

Questions asked on the census include:

- The number of people living or staying in a home on April 1, 2020
- Whether the home is owned with or without a mortgage, rented, or occupied with renters
- A phone number for a person in the home
- The name, sex, age, date of birth, and race of each person in the home
- Whether each person is of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin
- The relationship of each person to a central person in the home

What types of questions will NOT appear on the 2020 Census?

The census questionnaire will **NOT** ask you or any members of your household to provide your Social Security Number or your citizenship status.

Will someone from the Census Bureau come to my door?

The Census Bureau will send employees, sometimes referred to as enumerators, to visit households who have not responded to the 2020 Census questionnaire. They will be clearly identified as Census Bureau employees and they will ask you to fill out the survey while they are there.

How will people be counted who live in dormitories, nursing homes, shelters, or other facilities?

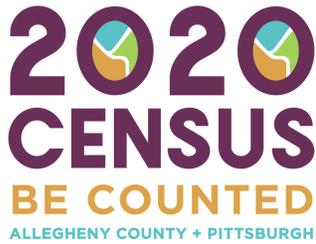
The Census Bureau will conduct a separate enumeration for people living in group quarters. For college students, enumeration will begin in March 2020.

How should on-campus and off-campus college students be counted?

College students should be counted where they live and sleep most of the time. College and university administrators will count students living on-campus during a specified enumeration period. However, students living off-campus will need to respond to the census questionnaire themselves.

How do pregnant individuals count the number of children in their household during the census?

According to the Census Bureau, you should count the number of children that are present in a household on April 1st, 2020. If the child has not been delivered by April 1st, the baby will not be counted until the next decennial census.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

If my grandchildren are living with me, should I count them?

Yes, if a grandchild is living with you full time, they should be counted on your census form. If they are sharing time between two physical locations (say their parents' home and your home equally) they should be counted at the home they are at on April 1, 2020.

Are there resources for people who do not speak English?

Yes, the census will be available in 13 languages. In addition to English, the census will also be made available in Arabic, French, Haitian Creole, Japanese, Polish, Portuguese, Tagalog, Chinese, Korean, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese. Telephone responses will be accepted in these 13 languages. Paper forms will be printed in English and Spanish. Language guides and glossaries will be available in 59 non-English languages, including Braille and American Sign Language.

When will households receive mailed communications to complete the 2020 Census?

Beginning March 2020, households will receive a postcard in the mail, with the option to fill out the census questionnaire either online, by phone, or request a paper copy.

Can non-census workers help individuals complete the 2020 Census questionnaire?

Yes. According to the Census Bureau, non-census workers can assist neighbors, friends, and loved ones in completing the census.

If you need assistance completing your 2020 Census questionnaire, you can visit a Census Hub in your local community. Census Hubs are publicly accessible spaces where people can ask questions about the census, receive support from trained staff members and complete the census online using available computers or mobile devices. Census Hubs are in familiar community spaces, including libraries, community centers, and some faith-based organizations. Please visit BeCounted2020.org to find the closest Census Hub near you.

What steps is the Census Bureau taking to protect my information when completing the 2020 Census questionnaire?

The Census Bureau cannot release any identifiable information about you or your home, even to law enforcement agencies. Census Bureau employees are bound by law to protect your answers and keep them strictly confidential. In fact, every employee takes an oath to protect your personal information for life. Visit the Census Bureau website to learn more information on how your information is being protected.

Are there jobs available with the Census Bureau during this process?

The Census Bureau is actively seeking individuals to apply for thousands of local job openings in the region. Eligible candidates should be 18 years or older and current U.S. citizens. Visit 2020Census.gov/jobs for more information and to apply.

Sign up for our email newsletter at BeCounted2020.org

WHAT IS THE CENSUS?

The census is an official count of the United States population and takes place once every 10 years, as mandated by the Constitution. The goal is to count every person residing in the United States and where they live. The census will ask a few questions about each resident, such as age on Census Day (April 1, 2020), sex and date of birth.

WHY IS THE CENSUS IMPORTANT?

Hundreds of millions of dollars come to Allegheny County each year based on census data. We want you to #BeCounted - for you and your fellow students:

#BeCounted for Education: The Federal Pell Grant Program uses census data to allocate nearly \$30 billion dollars to students to make college more affordable.

#BeCounted for Your Commute: Census data is used to allocate public transportation funding; federal funding has also provided \$28 million for clean diesel buses that are better for our environment.

#BeCounted for Your Community: The county receives \$70 million annually to provide social services that your friends and neighbors may rely on - including community mental health and health services, child wellness programs, food assistance, and more.

HOW AM I COUNTED?

College students should be counted where they live most of the time, which in most cases is where you go to school.

➔ **If you live in student housing, YOUR SCHOOL WILL COUNT YOU.**

➔ **If you live off campus, YOU NEED TO FILL OUT THE CENSUS QUESTIONNAIRE.**

THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW:

1

There are three ways to fill out the census, online, over the phone or by completing a paper copy and mailing it back.

2

If you live off-campus, your household will receive a postcard in the mail in March asking you to fill out the census. There will be several reminders before census employees start going door to door to count people who haven't responded.

3

One questionnaire should be filled out per household. You should include all roommates (non-students, too) who live and sleep in the home most of the time.

4

Let your parents and guardians know that that they should only include you on their census questionnaire if you live with them full time during the school year.

