



FAQ About Responding to the 2020 US Census



[Click here to see a sample copy of the 2020 Census Questionnaire.](#)

What if I don't have a 12-digit Census ID?

No problem! Click "If you do not have a Census ID, click here." Chances are your Census ID is still in the mail.

Why do they need my telephone number? Which one should I give?

Enter whatever phone number you use the most often. The U.S. Census Bureau will *only* contact you about your survey submission. Your phone number will not be used or distributed for other purposes. [More Info >](#)

Why does the census need my name?

Just in case they need to contact someone to ask about incomplete, inconsistent, or missing information on the form. This information is never published and is carefully protected to respect the personal information of respondents. [More Info >](#)

Should I expect a citizenship question?

NO! There are no questions about citizenship on the 2020 census. [More Info >](#)

Will I have to enter my social security number in the survey?

NO! The census will not ask for your social security number, or any identification number. It also will not ask for payment information, such as a credit card number. [More Info >](#)

The census is asking me to count other people that live with me. Who should I include?

Definitely include:

- Newborns and infants born on or before April 1, 2020.
- Children of all ages including biological, step, and adopted children, as well as grandchildren, foster children, and children in joint custody arrangements.
- Any other close or extended family members living there, even partners, grandparents, cousins, in-laws, etc.
- People who are not related to you, such as roommates, boarders, friends, or live-in employees.

Do NOT include:

- People who live away from the address most of the year like college students and armed forces, or people who are in a jail or detention center. [More Info >](#)

I'm being asked to identify as female or male. What if I don't identify with either?

Answer this question in whichever way feels best for you. Like many surveys, the available responses do not accommodate the different sexes and genders that exist. Transgender, non-binary, and gender-nonconforming respondents can self-identify in the way that feels most comfortable. The U.S. Census Bureau does not cross-reference individual answers on the census with any other documentation.

The census is strictly asking about the biological sex of each person to create statistics such as occupation by sex. [More Info >](#)

Why are there race and ethnicity questions?

These questions are important to evaluating existing federal programs and for the enforcement of civil rights! This data can help determine where there are inequalities or disparities and help address those issues and improve our communities.

Though many respondents expect to see a Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish category on the race question, this question is asked separately because people of Hispanic origin may be of any race(s). [More Info >](#)

What if I don't know the date of birth of other people at my residence?

You should estimate an age, but do *not* estimate a birthdate (m/d/y). You may leave the birthday section blank, but age is required.

What if I don't know the race or ethnicity of the other people in my residence?

If you are unsure about the race or ethnicity of any other people living at your residence, just ask! If you don't feel comfortable doing so, you may select the last option on the list, "*some other race*" - and you will be able to continue without entering an answer in the text box below.

How are my responses protected?

The U.S. Census Bureau is legally bound to strict confidentiality requirements. Individual records are not shared with anyone, including federal agencies and law enforcement entities. By law, the U.S. Census Bureau cannot share respondents' answers with anyone—not the IRS, not the FBI, not ICE, not the CIA, and not with any other government agency.

U.S. Census Bureau workers are sworn for life to protect confidentiality and are subject to a \$250,000 fine and/or up to five years in federal prison for the disclosure of information. Individual census responses cannot be released for 72 years. [More Info >](#)