Understanding the Decennial Census

Erin Hutcheson

Population Division

Shape
your future
START HERE ›

United States®
Census
2020

What this talk is about

- Data Collection in the 2020 Census
- Data Processing in the 2020 Census

Shape
your future
START HERE >

United States®
Census
2020

Overview of the 2020 Census

Shape
your future
START HERE >

United States®
Census
2020

2020 Census

- Every 10 years

- Residence
  Population and
  Housing Units

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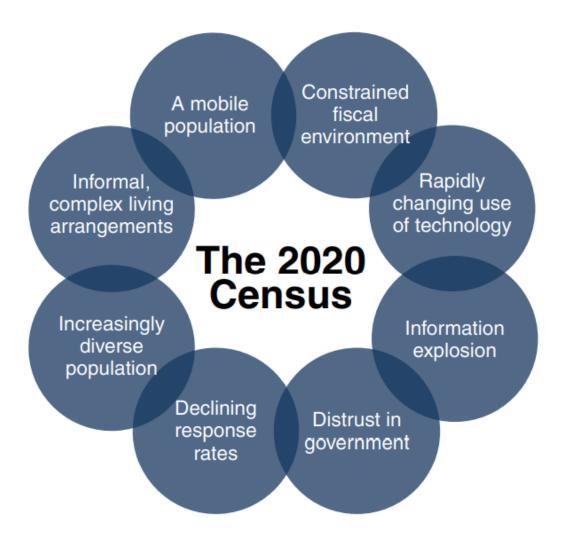only once, and in the right place.

Shape
your future
START HERE >

United States®
Census
2020

2020 Census Population Count
(resident population for 50 states, and DC)

331,449,281

Shape
your future
START HERE >

United States®
Census
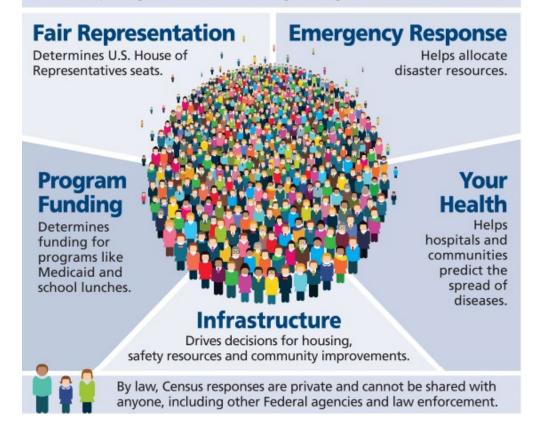2020

2020 Census Environment

Covid-19 Pandemic

Shape your future START HERE >

United States® Census 2020

Impacts of the Census

The 2020 Census Operational Overview

ESTABLISH WHERE TO COUNT

Identify all addresses where people could live.

MOTIVATE PEOPLE TO RESPOND

Conduct a nationwide communications and partnership campaign.

COUNT THE POPULATION

Collect data from all households, including group and unique living arrangements.

RELEASE CENSUS RESULTS

Process and provide Census data.

Shape your future
START HERE >

United States®
Census
2020

The 2020 Census Program

35 Operations!

Shape
your future
START HERE >

United States®
Census
2020

Data Collection Operations

Self Response Enumeration (paper, internet, phone)	Nonresponse Followup Enumeration (in-person, iPhone)	"Special Place" Enumeration (multiple modes)	Coverage Improvement Followup (phone)

Shape
your future
START HERE >

United States®
Census
2020

Pandemic Challenges

- Delay in Enumeration

- Hiring shortages

- Closure of Group Quarters

- Delay in Data Capture

- Compressed Data Processing Timeline

Shape
your future
START HERE ›

United States®
Census
2020

Self-Response Enumeration

Internet Self Response (ISR) – 53.5%

- First Census in which ISR was an option for all respondents

Individual Census Questionnaire (paper)

Census Questionnaire Assistance (phone)

Shape
your future
START HERE >

United States®
Census
2020

Census Questionnaire Assistance (telephone)

- Answer questions about the 2020 Census over the phone

- Complete Census enumeration over the phone

Shape
your future
START HERE >

United States®
Census
2020

The 2020 Census: Planned Contact Strategy

Internet First – 80%

1 Letter
2 Letter
3* Postcard
4* Paper Questionnaire + Letter
5* "It's not too late" Postcard

Internet Choice – 20%

1 Paper Questionnaire +Letter
2 Letter
3* Postcard
4* Paper Questionnaire + Letter
5* "It's not too late" Postcard

Shape
your future
START HERE >

United States®
Census
2020

Nonresponse Follow-up Enumeration

Nonresponse Follow-Up Enumeration sent enumerators to the doors of non-responding households and collected the responses.

Shape
your future
START HERE >

United States®
Census
2020

Coverage Improvement Follow-up (telephone)

Attempt to follow up where there are potential coverage issues:

- Count discrepancies on form
- Unduplication

Shape your future START HERE >

United States®
Census
2020

"Special Place" Enumeration (multiple modes)

- **Group Quarters**

- **Maritime Vessel**

- **Enumeration of transitory locations (boats, RVs)**

- **Service-Based Enumeration**

Shape
your future
START HERE >

United States®
Census
2020

Group Quarter enumeration modes

- Electronic response

- Drop off/pick up

- In person, using paper

- Paper listing

- Facility self enumeration

Shape
your future
START HERE >

United States®
Census
2020

Maritime Vessel enumeration mode

- Mail out/Mail back

Shape
your future
START HERE >

United States®
Census
2020

Transitory Location mode

- In person/paper

Shape
your future
START HERE >

United States®
Census
2020

Service Based Enumeration Modes

- In person enumeration/paper

- Paper listing

Shape
your future
START HERE >

United States®
Census
2020

Data Processing

- Variable Standardization

- Unduplication

- Count Imputation

- Edits and Characteristic Imputation

- Disclosure Avoidance

- Tabulation

Shape
your future
START HERE >

United States®
Census
2020

How to Learn More

[2020 Census Operational Plan and Detailed Operational Plans](#)

2020 Census Operational Plan
A New Design for the 21st Century

Issued December 2018
Version 4.0

United States® Census | U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

United States®
Census
2020

your future
START HERE >

United States®
Census
2020

23

Questions

Shape
your future
START HERE >

United States®
Census
2020

For More Information Contact

Erin Hutcheson
Population Division
erin.m.hutcheson@census.gov

Shape
your future
START HERE >

United States®
Census
2020