

African American Census Guide



Help Shape Our Future - Be Counted In The 2020 Census

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2020 U.S. Census: Your Privacy Rights

The U.S. Census Bureau is bound by law to protect your answers and keep them strictly confidential. Each employee takes an oath to protect your personal information for life.

How is information from the census used?

The information you provide to the U.S. Census Bureau is used to inform political representation, and the distribution of billions of dollars in federal funds to Washington and all other states.

The answers you provide are used only to produce statistics.

You are kept anonymous: The Census Bureau is not permitted to publicly release your responses in any way that could identify you or anyone else in your home.

What do census workers do with my information?

The Census Bureau and all employees is bound by Title 13 of the U.S. Code to keep your information confidential.

This law protects your answers to the 2020 Census. Under Title 13, the Census Bureau cannot release any identifiable information about you, your home, or your business, even to law enforcement agencies. The law ensures that your private data is protected and that your answers cannot be used against you by any government agency or court.

Violating Title 13 is a federal crime, punishable by prison time and/or a fine of up to \$250,000.

When does the census become public?

The National Archives releases census records to the general public 72 years after Census Day. The 1940 records were released April 2, 2012. The 2020 census will be released in 2092.

Do my answers on the census impact my housing or other support benefits?

The information you provide on the census is not shared with anyone. It does not negatively impact food or housing benefits, or medical or childcare benefits. Your answers cannot be used for to determine your personal eligibility for government benefits, now or in the future.

Is information about my household shared with law enforcement?

By law, your census responses cannot be used against you by any government agency or court in any way—not by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), not by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), not by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and not by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

The law requires the Census Bureau to keep your information confidential and use your responses only to produce statistics.

This 2020 Census Guide is brought to you courtesy of the following partners:



Responding To The Census

Homes will begin receiving their invitation to respond to the 2020 Census between March 12-20. These official Census Bureau mailings will include detailed information and a Census ID for completing the Census online.

Who Should Respond?

The 2020 Census counts everyone living in the United States and its five territories (Puerto Rico, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands).

One person should respond for each home. That person must be at least 15 years old. They should live in the home or place of residence themselves and know general information about each person living there.

Please note: If you live in American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, or the U.S. Virgin Islands, the process for completing the census will be 100% paper-based and led by Census takers. Visit Counting the Island Areas for more information.

Who Should Be Counted and Where?

You should be counted where you are living and sleeping most of the time as of April 1, 2020. If you are responding for your home, count everyone who lives and sleeps there most of the time as of April 1, 2020. This includes young children, foster children, roommates, and any family members or friends who are living with you, even temporarily.

People in some living situations—including students, service members, and people in health care facilities—may have questions about how to respond or where they should count themselves. You may also have questions if you are moving, have multiple residences, or have no permanent address.



United States®
**Census
2020**

U.S. Census Bureau

Washington, DC 20233-0001
Office of the Director

March 12, 2020

Dear Resident:

This is your invitation to respond to the **2020 Census**. We need your help to count everyone in the United States by providing basic information about all adults, children, and babies living or staying at this address.

Results from the 2020 Census will be used to:

- Direct billions of dollars in federal funds to local communities for schools, roads, and other public services.
- Help your community prepare to meet transportation and emergency readiness needs.
- Determine the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives and your political representation at all levels of government.

Respond by April 1 at my2020census.gov	Your Census ID is:
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The Census Bureau is using the internet to securely collect your information. Responding online helps us conserve natural resources, save taxpayer money, and process data more efficiently. If you are unable to complete your 2020 Census questionnaire online, we will send you a paper questionnaire in a few weeks for you to complete and mail back.

The census is so important that your response is required by law, and your answers are kept completely confidential. If you do not respond, we will need to send a Census Bureau interviewer to your home to collect your answers in person. If you need help completing your 2020 Census questionnaire, please call toll-free 1-844-330-2020.

Thank you for your prompt response.

Sincerely,

Steven D. Dillingham
Director

Enclosures

census.gov

In 2020 And Beyond, We Demand To Make Black Count

By



Michelle Merriweather

President/CEO of the Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle



Ebony Miranda

Board Chair of Black Lives Matter Seattle King County

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Every 10 years, the federal government counts everyone living in the United States. But for African Americans the census has always been exclusionary and deeply flawed. It was intentionally designed to protect the institution of slavery, by reducing those who were enslaved to less than whole human beings.

Article 1, Section 2 of the Constitution states: “Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States... which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, *three fifths of all other Persons.*”

This was the law when the first census was completed in 1790 and for 75 years until the 14th Amendment was passed; enslaved Black people were legally considered less than. It is a legacy we still battle today. The intentional decision to undercount Black people in 1790 still hurts us in 2020.

We are not just *historically*

undercounted; we have been undercounted in every census since. There are significant institutional and systemic barriers to accurately count Black and Brown people and our communities. We are being left out. We are not getting the resources we deserve and have helped pay for.

The census is the process the government uses to decide how billions of dollars of funding to states and our communities will be divided and spent. We cannot afford to *not* be counted in the 2020 Census.

Being counted in the 2020 Census is as important as preserving and restoring the Voting Rights Act, reversing gerrymandering, protecting a person’s right to choose, and ending mass incarceration and the school-to-prison pipeline. The results of the census determine funding for Head Start, Free and Reduced Lunch, WIC, Medicaid, transportation and even Priority Hire in Seattle and King County.

This year will be the first time the census will be online. This is

another barrier to an accurate count; our communities are at a disadvantage because overall, we have less access to the tools needed to be counted—another consequence of years of discriminatory and insufficient policy and investment by the federal government in education, net neutrality, and infrastructure.

The Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle and Black Lives Matter Seattle King County, along with a host of community-based organizations across the state of Washington are working to make sure that we are *all* counted in the 2020 Census, because the consequences of an undercount are very real.

We all have to work together as community to make sure we are counted. Being counted is our right as people who contribute to the places and spaces that make home.

This is a call to action to make sure all of us are counted; neighbors, aunts, uncles, cousins and elders. This isn’t just about adding numbers to a page. This is about positioning

ourselves and our communities to fight for and achieve economic and social justice we are entitled to.

When we Make Black Count in the census, we then have the power to Demand to be Counted as lawmakers are making decisions about *our* communities and neighborhoods.

It is on all of us to make sure we are counted in the 2020 census. It starts by being committed to making sure the people you care about are counted, that they understand the census and its importance to the immediate future of our communities.

We are more than 3/5 and more than what history has set us out to be. This is our act of resistance. We cannot allow the census to be weaponized against us, and we will not be reduced or erased by it.

Pledge to be counted. Text @ULMS Census to 520-14. For more information about the census visit www.demandtobecounted.org and <https://urbanleague.org/2020-census/>

The 2020 Census can help shape the future of your community. Your responses inform how the following programs are funded every year.

The programs listed below are examples from the “Uses of Census Bureau Data in Federal Funds Distribution”* report, which provides estimates of the federal funds distributed each year in whole or in part using 2010 U.S. Census Bureau data.



Community Support

Section 8 Housing Assistance
Payment Programs



Family Services

Child Abuse and Neglect
State Grants



Education

Head Start



Food Assistance

Supplemental Nutrition
Assistance Program (SNAP)



Employment

Unemployment Insurance



Healthcare

Medical Assistance
Program (Medicaid)



Entrepreneurship

Small Business
Development Centers



Infrastructure

Highway Planning
and Construction



Environment

State Wildlife Grants



Public Safety

Assistance to
Firefighters Grant

How to Complete the 2020 U.S. Census

**In 2020, the U.S. Census will be conducted primarily online.
Here are all the ways to access and complete the census.**

Internet



Step 1:

Starting March 12 check your **mailbox** for an official letter from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Step 2:

Go to the official census **website** at:
www.2020census.gov

Step 3:

Click on: **RESPOND NOW**

Step 4:

Use the unique I.D. number to **complete the census**. If you did not receive a letter or do not have an I.D. number, use your address instead.

Mail



Step 1:

Starting March 12 the U.S. Census Bureau will attempt to contact you **3 times** by **mail** to complete the census **online**.

Step 2:

If you do not complete the census online, the U.S. Census Bureau will **mail** you a paper census questionnaire.

Step 3:

Fill out the official census form fully and to the best of your ability.

Step 4:

Mail the census form to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Phone



Step 1:

If you are unable to complete the census online, **call** the U.S. Census Bureau and complete the census on the phone.

Step 2:

Call 844-330-2020

Step 3:

Using your keypad, **follow** the prompts to speak with a U.S. Census worker.

Step 4:

Answer each question to **complete** the questionnaire.

Avoiding Census Fraud and Scams

The U.S. Census Bureau is committed to making the 2020 Census quick, easy, and safe for all participants. Here are some tips to help you stay safe.

Avoiding Scams Online

Phishing is a criminal act in which someone tries to get your information by pretending to be an entity that you trust. Phishing emails often direct you to a website that looks real but is fake—and may be infected with malware.

It is important to know that the Census Bureau will not send unsolicited emails to request your participation in the 2020 Census. Further, during the 2020 Census, the Census Bureau will never ask for:

- Your Social Security number.
- Your bank account or credit card numbers.
- Anything on behalf of a political party.
- Money or donations.

In addition, the Census Bureau will



U.S. Census workers that come to your door will always have a valid ID badge, with their photograph, a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark, and an expiration date.

not contact you on behalf of a political party.

Staying Safe at Home

If someone visits your home to collect a response for the 2020 Census, you can do the following to verify their identity:

- First, check to make sure that they have a valid ID badge, with their photograph, a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark, and an expiration date.
- If you still have questions about their identity, you can call 844-330-2020 to speak with a Census Bureau representative.

Reporting Suspected Fraud

If you suspect fraud, call 844-330-2020 to speak with a Census Bureau representative. If it is determined that the visitor who came to your door does not work for the Census Bureau, contact your local police department.

NEED HELP COMPLETING THE CENSUS?



Urban League of
Metropolitan Seattle

We are here. We are open! If you are in need of resources, we recommend that you call **(206) 461-3792** to make an appointment and **press 0** to speak with the receptionist.

Walk-in hours will be from **10AM-3PM Monday through Friday**. We will gladly work with you via phone as best as we can if you are exhibiting any signs of illness to assist you with information to save your home, find you a place to sleep, or connect to job opportunities.

For assistance completing your 2020 Census Questionnaire: please come by during walk-in hours, call, or email mmanus@urbanleague.org.

Main Office

105 14th Ave., Suite 200
Seattle, WA 98122

Office | 206.461.3792

info@urbanleague.org



@SeaUrbanLeague

For more updates and resources in regards to the COVID-19 impact in Seattle/King County, please visit the ULMS website at:
www.urbanleague.org/



Q&A: The Census And Incarcerated Individuals

By Rachel Friederich, WA. St. Dept. Of Corrections



Where are incarcerated individuals being counted?

Per federal statute, the Census Bureau is counting incarcerated individuals at the correctional facility in which they reside on census reporting day, April 1, 2020.

If I work at a correctional facility, who will submit the census for my facility?

The DOC Research & Data Analytics Unit will submit data electronically for the census count of the incarcerated population in state correctional facilities. All of the data for incarcerated individuals will be provided to the Census Bureau in this way.

What about people on work release or who are under community supervision?

The DOC Research & Data Analytics Unit will submit data for the work release population. Jail administrators will submit data for individuals in jail on census reporting day. Supervised individuals living in a residence outside of a prison, work release or jail will receive the same census in the mail the general public receives.

Will Census Bureau workers visit my worksite to survey?

Maybe. A census worker may contact those working in a prison, work release or jail for a phone or in-person interview between February 3, 2020 and March 6, 2020 to verify the facility's name, address, contact person, phone number and business email address and to collect an expected population count for the census reporting day, April 1, 2020.

They will ask to speak with the superintendent or other manager. They will never ask to enter a facility.

How do I identify a census worker?

All census workers should have an identification badge that includes their name, photograph, a Department of Commerce watermark and an expiration date. They'll also have official Census Bureau issued electronic devices, such as a laptop or smartphone with the Census Bureau logo. Census field workers conduct their work only between the hours of 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. local time.

What should I do if someone approaches me at work claiming to be a census worker?

You can call the Los Angeles Regional Census office at 1-800-922-3530 to verify their identity.

If you suspect the person might be part of a scam, report it to your supervisor immediately and do not let them in the facility.

What if I receive an email claiming to be from the Census Bureau?

Legitimate Census Bureau emails and links will always have a census.gov domain and will be encrypted. The Census Bureau will never initiate contact via email. If you receive an email claiming to be from the Census Bureau and it looks suspicious, do not open the email. Send it to the Fraud Reporting (email).

If incarcerated individuals are counted at their prisons, will this affect the redistricting process?

Per federal statute, the Census Bureau counts incarcerated individuals at their prison addresses.

In 2019, Washington state enacted an anti-gerrymandering law ensuring people living in state prisons will be counted as residents of their last known home address prior to incarceration at the time new legislative districts are drawn. Washington is one of five states that have prison-based gerrymandering laws in place.

The Census Bureau will give these states access to address processing tools to allow them to account for incarcerated persons at their pre-incarceration home address for redistricting purposes.

Census Undercounts Lead To Underfunded Schools

By Aaron Allen
The Seattle Medium

Did you know that your participation in the 2020 Census could impact your child's education? The data compiled from the 2020 Census will be used to determine Federal budgets for education and resources like free lunch, special education, and after-school programs and how much Federal funding will be allocated to your local school district.

By now, every household in the United States should have received a letter from the U.S. Census inviting them to participate in the 2020 Census either online, by phone or by mail. The survey has 10 questions relating to your marital status, place of residence, age and the number of people who live in your household.

One of the main purposes of the Census is to allocate legislative seats in the U.S. House of Representatives for each state. The seats are allocated by population, so the larger the population of a state as determined by the census will determine how many seats they have in Congress. However, the census has also become an invaluable tool for the government to understand the people it is created to serve and how to fund critical services to communities across the country.

Every 10 years the US census counts every resident in the United States. Based on the number of children in various communities through the census, Federal funds are allocated to help states fund education and education related programs.

Unfortunately, many urban areas and diverse communities across the country have been historically under-counted by the census, and subsequently their schools have been underfunded and unable to adequately meet the educational needs of these communities. Advocates say this is one of the main reasons why we see so many disparities in education, including access to proper resources like books, teachers, transportation and the poor condition of buildings.

In 2006 and 2009, Seattle Public Schools were facing budget shortfalls of \$21 million and \$25 million, respectively. In a cost savings attempt to balance its budget, Seattle Public Schools closed seven schools in 2006, including Martin Luther King Elementary School, and five additional schools in 2009, that included T.T. Minor and Van Asselt. The closures,



according to advocates, disproportionately affected low-income and minority communities, as the city saw the closing of school buildings that historically served these communities.

Sakara Remmu, who currently is the project manager for the Demand to be Counted 2020 Census Project for Washington state, served as education chair of the Seattle King County NAACP during the school closure process in Seattle. Remmu notes that these school closures and other educational disparities are directly related to inaccurate population statistics that stem from undercounts in the census.

“When we were fighting against school closures the [Seattle School] district’s main argument, besides ‘we can’t afford it,’ were the projected enrollment numbers for the next 10 to 20 years,” says Remmu.

Remmu recalls that, based on census data, the school district believed that people in the areas served by these schools were not having children, and therefore made

decisions to close the schools because they believed that there would not be enough students to fill the building in the coming years. Fast forward to today and it appears that the enrollment numbers are exceeding the projections of district officials at the time.

“Ten years later, they (school district officials) were like ‘where did all these children come from? We need to open these buildings,’” says Remmu.

“Today, we see that schools serving African American and other students of color right here in Washington state, don’t have enough free and reduced lunch, lack nursing and social work staff, or don’t have enough teachers or textbooks, or funding to offer advanced classes, music, art or job preparedness skills training,” added Remmu. “All of these things are connected to the census, and that’s why making sure our children are counted is extremely important to underserved communities.”

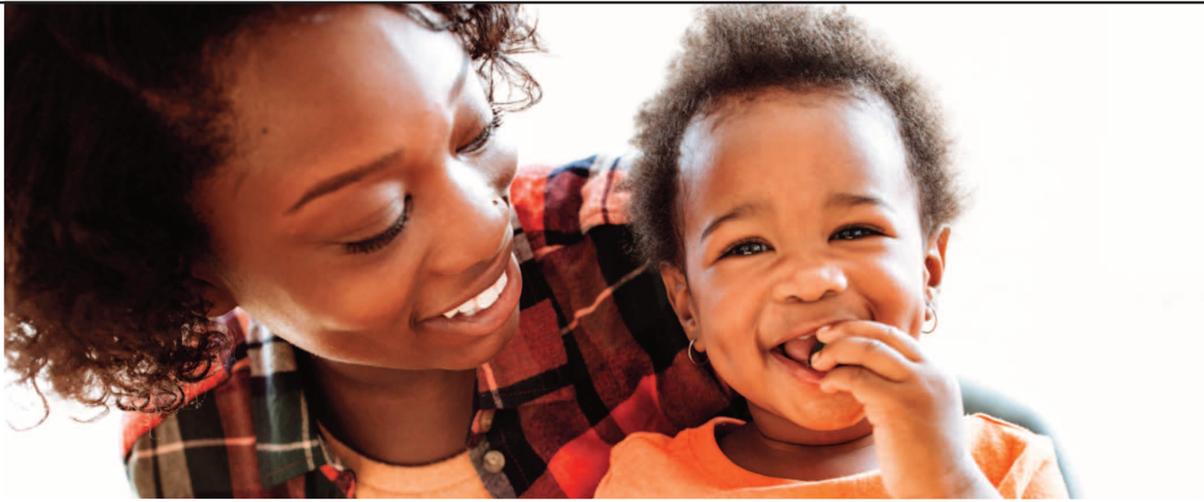
The National Education Association (NEA) is also concerned about the accuracy

of the census and how it can affect educational spending.

“Census data is the foundation for allocation of billions of dollars of federal education aid to states and localities using formulas that factor in population and poverty levels. An accurate census is key to schools getting the funding they need to serve every child who walks through their doors,” reads a statement from the organization about the 2020 Census. “We only have one shot every 10 years to get the census right. Students are counting on us.”

Representation is what Democracy is about, one person, one vote and it is essential that each person value that responsible if the financial and social well-being of a community is to be achieved and the census is a tool that aids in this endeavor.

How do we want to see the future for our children? Education is paramount in securing a head start in this unpredictable world and it is up to us, the community, to make sure the table is set.



FACT: Children under the age of 5 had the highest undercount of any age group in the 2010 Census.

Counting Young Children in the 2020 Census

THE PROBLEM

In the 2010 Census, the net undercount of children under the age of 5 was 4.6 percent. That's nearly 1 million children. Unlike other age groups, the undercount of young children grew between the 2000 Census and 2010 Census. This is not a new problem, and it's not unique to the United States.

Young children who are missed in the census tend to have complex living arrangements. They might live with only one parent; large, extended families; foster families; or multiple families under one roof. These children may stay in more than one home throughout the year and may not be related to the person responding to the census.



Why is counting young children important?

Newborn babies and young children under five are often missed in the census. The 2020 Census helps determine which areas qualify for the critical resources that children and families depend on for the next 10 years—basically, an entire childhood! Examples of resources that could be impacted include food assistance, Head Start, childcare, housing support, public schools, early intervention services for children with special needs, children's health insurance, and more. Knowing how many children there are and where they live is essential to getting those services and programs to them. That's why it's so important that every child be counted, even newborn babies.

Young children most likely to be missed tend to live with:

- Foster families.
- Multiple families.
- People who are not related to them.
- Grandparents, single parents, or young adults.
- Individuals with limited ability to speak English.
- Renters or people who have moved.
- Parents or guardians with lower incomes or without a permanent home.

All Children Need To Be Counted In The 2020 Census



Dr. Benjamin Danielson
Odessa Brown Children's Clinic

When the Odessa Brown clinic started in 1969-1970 the Central District was 73% African American. Since that time the numbers have gradually gone down and in the last 10-12 years it's rapidly changed; today the counts are below 10%, as we've seen displacement of families from community.

I know that the health and the well-being of children is dependent more on the many experiences outside a clinic like ours than it is within, and because I care about children being well, I care about the systems all around them supporting them adequately.

That's where the 2020 census becomes important. Healthcare can't happen if we don't start with the basics of making sure people are fed, making sure we understand what the measure of housing insecurity and homelessness is in a community, especially in the way that it impacts young people, and, knowing what kinds of infrastructure, services, and the kinds of basic things that a child needs in their world in order to see their world expand; we can't do any of that if we're not counted, and those are the things that actually make a child healthy and make for a lifelong wellness.

If you have children, make sure they are counted in 2020.

If you have children in your home, make sure they are counted in the right place.

Young children experience new adventures each day, and little ones need all of the support they can get during these early years.



Count children in the home where they live and sleep most of the time, even if their parents don't live there.



If a child's time is divided between more than one home, count them where they stay most often. If their time is evenly divided, or you don't know where they stay most often, count them where they are staying on Census Day—April 1, 2020.



If a child's family (or guardian) is moving during March or April 2020, count them at the address where they are living on April 1, 2020.



Count children in your home if they don't have a permanent place to live and are staying in your home on April 1, 2020, even if they are only staying with you temporarily.



Count newborn babies at the home where they will live and sleep most of the time, even if they are still in the hospital on April 1, 2020.

**Start shaping their future by
going to 2020CENSUS.GOV.**

**Shape
your future
START HERE >**

United States®
**Census
2020**

Census Counts Impact Local Affordable Housing Options

By Aaron Allen

The Seattle Medium

With homelessness on the rise, access to affordable housing is a major issue for advocates and policymakers in many U.S. cities including Seattle.

Many programs that provide financial security for low-income families and economic development for their communities are funded based in whole or in part on data derived from the U.S. Census.

Housing programs like the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program — which aids households with low-incomes in obtaining decent, safe, and sanitary rental housing — is an example of a program that is funded based on statistics from the census. More than 1,900 households with low incomes use the voucher program to afford housing in the Seattle area.

Low income housing falls under both State and Federal assistance programs which means population accountability is necessary for the government to adequately disperse funds to those programs. If your community is not accurately counted via the census the amounts of funding can fall short of what is needed to aid in the survival of communities particularly communities that are comprised of underrepresented populations.

Michelle Merriweather, President and CEO of the Urban League Metropolitan Seattle believes it is critical for communities of color to understand the relationship between the census, funding and public housing when it comes to access for affordable housing.

“Funding for Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers and the Assistance Payment Programs are allocated based on the census,” says Merriweather. “We still have an urgent need for affordable housing with data showing 4 in 10 low income people are experiencing homelessness or pay over half of their income in rent.”

Unfortunately, the lack of participation in the census by low-income and minority communities has historically led to population undercounts in these communities that have negatively impacted affordable housing efforts throughout the country.

A report by Georgetown Law’s Center on Poverty and Inequality suggest that



hard-to-count groups are once again at risk of being undercounted in the 2020 Census.

“Unfortunately, certain population groups – referred to as “hard-to-count” – are at a higher risk of not being fully counted in the census,” says the study.

“Households with low incomes are at risk of being undercounted,” the study continues. “People with low incomes have been undercounted in past censuses, disadvantaging their families, communities, and neighborhoods. More than 29 million people in or near poverty (below 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level) live in hard-to-count census tracts, making up

almost 50 percent of the U.S. population that lives in hard-to-count communities.”

When renters and transitory occupants are undercounted, districts and data may not accurately represent reality. Undercounting results in renters and their communities being denied a full voice in policy-making decisions. As a result, community’s run the risk of not being represented or prioritized according to their true share of the population.

Merriweather believes that we will see a shift towards more affordable housing options if we can get an accurate census count.

“When we completely count our community, there could be a growth in affordable housing and assistance with housing,” says Merriweather. “That is why it is imperative for all to complete the census and make sure that they are counted.”

All across the country advocates are encouraging everyone, including those who live in hard-to-count communities, to participate in the 2020 Census, so that their communities can have access to their fair share of resources that will help improve access to affordable housing options and funding for the next 10 years.



KING COUNTY METRO ENCOURAGES YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2020 CENSUS

An accurate count of everyone in King County means more federal dollars to fund our region's transportation services.

Being counted helps:

- Plan specific routes
- Assess how frequently transit should run
- Determine the times of day more service is required
- See where new and flexible services are needed
- Adjust transit services to meet changing transportation needs



King County
METRO

Moving forward together

What Does the Census Ask, and Why?

The census asks basic questions about who is living or staying in your household on April 1, 2020. Here are the questions on the 2020 Census, and information about why these questions are asked and how the information is used.

Question 1: How many people were living or staying in this house, apartment, or mobile home on April 1, 2020?

This helps count the entire U.S. population and ensures that we count people where they live most of the time as of April 1, 2020. Here, you'll count everyone living and sleeping in your home most of the time, including young children, roommates, and friends and family members who are living with you, even temporarily.

Question 2: Were there any additional people staying here on April 1, 2020, that you did not include in Question 1?

The goal of the 2020 Census is to count everyone just once and in the right place; to ensure that everyone in your home who should be counted is counted—including newborns, roommates, and those who may be staying with you temporarily.

Question 3: Is this house, apartment, or mobile home (mark ONE box) ...

This helps produce statistics about homeownership and renting. The rates of homeownership serve as one indicator of the nation's economy. They also help with administering housing programs, planning, and decision-making.

Question 4: What is your telephone number?

The Census Bureau asks for your phone number in case there are any questions about your census form. We will only contact you for official census business, if needed.

The Census Bureau does not release your phone number to anyone else.

Question 5: What is Person 1's name?

The Census Bureau asks a series of questions about each member of your household. This allows us to establish one central figure as a starting point.

If there is someone living in your home who pays the rent or owns the residence, start by listing them as Person 1. If the owner or the person who pays the rent does not live in your home, start by listing any adult living in your home as Person 1.

Question 6: What is Person 1's sex?

This helps create statistics which can be used in planning and funding government programs. This data can also be used to enforce laws, regulations, and policies against discrimination.

The census does not ask about gender identity. For this question, you only have the option to mark 1 box, "male" or "female."

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The Census And Education Funding

*Information provided by
The Seattle School District*



The 2020 Census count impacts the federal funds that communities receive each year for programs and services that are critical for schools, students, and younger children, such as:

- **Special education, Head Start, after-school programs, and classroom technology.**
- **Food assistance, including free and reduced-price school lunches.**
- **Maternal and child health programs.**

The census is important for school districts because **Title I funding is driven by census data.** That funding source is one of our largest grants. As you know Title I funds provide staff for reading and math support, instructional coaching and intervention. It also is used to fund social workers and other wrap around socioemotional support services for our students.

Title 1 is the largest federally funded educational program. A title 1 school is a school receiving federal funds for Title 1 students. The basic principle of **Title 1 is that schools with large concentrations of low-income students who also qualify for free/reduced lunch will receive supplemental funds to assist in meeting student's educational goals.**

For more information on how to get involved visit:

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sis/2020census/get-involved.html>

Millennials: We Count Too

By Wisdom Cole

National Organizing Manager, NAACP,
Youth & College Division

As a millennial in 2020, this will be the third time the Census has occurred in my lifetime. The first time it happened I was 6 years old in the first grade and my mother was pregnant with my baby sister. I remember the Census distinctively because they would play the Census commercials over and over while I was watching Nickelodeon.

My mother had to still work while she was pregnant as well as raise me and my younger brother with the help of my grandmother who had just come Nigeria to help with the pregnancy.

Sometimes my mother would have to leave us at home when she had to work long hours and both her and grandma did not like opening the door for strangers. I would be home watching cartoons after school hearing the Census volunteers knock on the apartment door multiple times, and even though we were home, we would never answer. If I really think about it, I am very unsure if my changing family at the time was counted in the 2000 Census.

The last time the census happened in 2010, I was a 16-year-old high school student and I made sure that we definitely did a better job of filling out the census that year. I remember actually filling it out together with my mom and what caught my eye about the census that year was the questions they asked about race.

I did not think the question was inclusive at all of anyone who was an African immigrant and identifying their country of origin. I could see how confusing it could be for someone still forming their understanding of their identity in America or still on the pathway to citizenship.

I share these Census stories because as the 2020 Census is quickly approaching, I applaud all the ways the Census Bureau has made the Census more accessible, but I recognize that there is still so much work to be done to ensure that everybody is counted. You can complete the census online, by mail, or in person which is great for young people living life on the next flight like myself.

Like many other millennials, I am not constantly checking my mail unless I'm



There is over \$675 billion in federal funding tied to this year's census count and we cannot go through another census like the one in 2010, where over 800,000 Black people were not counted and we missed out in the Census, costing our community over \$16 million dollars. *Photo/iStockphoto/NNPA.*

expecting something from Amazon and I'm not home waiting for someone to come to my house unless we planned to meet there. The online option of the census works for me but I understand that it does not work for all of us. There are communities with limited access to the internet, single parent households where the provider has to work long hours, and immigrant families that are unsure of the information that is necessary to provide.

These communities classified as "hard-to-count" are in fact some of the most necessary to count as the lack of resources for hospitals, public safety, and school infrastructure would impact them the most.

There is over \$675 billion in federal funding tied to this year's census count and we cannot go through another census like the one in 2010, where over 800,000 Black people were not counted and we missed out in the Census, costing our community over \$16 million dollars. We must think about the future of the Black community both present and those to be born in the next decade. This federal funding will be necessary for the world all people including young Black people will be growing up in.

The NAACP as well as our collation of partners through the racial equity anchor collaborative have taken the initiative to GET OUT THE 2020 COUNT.

We recognize that there are multiple factors that will inhibit a complete and accurate count of the census, so we are urging all of our members, activists, and allies to map the count. Through a very special partnership with ESRI we are able to identify the hard-to-count communities and use our power to mobilize our friends, families, and loved ones to be counted so that all of our needs are seen and heard in the 2020 Census.

For more information on what you can do to make sure everyone is counted in the 2020 census visit [makemyfamilycount.org/mapthecount](https://www.makemyfamilycount.org/mapthecount).

Questions About Race, Ethnicity And Foreign Ancestry And The 2020 Census

Frequently Asked Questions On Census 2020

By Khalil Abdullah

Special to the Trice Edney News Wire from Ethnic Media Services

(Trice Edney Wire) - Everyone in the United States plays a race or ethnic card some time, or at least everyone responding to the census. Despite the scientific view that race is an artificial social construct, unmoored from biological reality, is there a box that best describes you?

Whether you plan to respond to the census online, in writing, or by telephone, one question you'll have to answer will be how you self-identify.

What are the race and ethnic categories on the census form?

Answer: Your racial choices are: (1) White; (2) Black or African American; (3) American Indian or Alaskan Native; (4) Asian – with numerous boxes as subsets; and (5) Some other race. The questionnaire also asks, separately, if the respondent is “of Hispanic, Latino or Spanish origin,” but instructs that, “for this

What if I'm not White or Black? I'm Egyptian and my neighbor is from Iran. What are our options and who determines the categories?

Answer: You and your neighbor fall into what is called the MENA classification: Middle Eastern and North African. There was a proposal to add MENA to the 2020 form, but the Office of Management and Budget, which makes the assigned identity group determinations about the census, decided to keep the same basic categories that were on the 2010 census form.

So, if I'm MENA, what box best describes me?

Answer: That's a personal choice. Many MENA residents, and others, end up checking “Some other race,” the third-largest race category after White and Black or African American.

But I thought Hispanics and Latinos were now the second-largest racial group in the United States according to their population. So how do you get “Some other race” as the third-largest group?

Answer: As far as the census is concerned, Hispanics and Latinos are ethnic classifications not racial classifications. Some will check the “White” box and some will check the “Black” box or write in Afro Latino, for example, as an addition. Many will check the “Some other race” box.



MENA respondents also frequently check the “Some other race” box as well. They don't see themselves

Have census categories changed over time?

Answer: Yes. Mulatto, octoroon or quadroon once were options on the census form to describe African Americans of mixed heritage. One estimate calculates that 500,000 of these individuals checked the “White” box on the 1920 form. In later years, public demand and pressure resulted in the OMB removing “Negro” as an option for American-born residents of African descent. The term still appeared on the 2010 decennial census, but on the 2020 form the choices are “Black” or “African American.”

What if I was born here, but my parents are from Africa?

Answer: There is a lot of subjectivity involved in making these choices. For some, Black has come to mean anyone who is a descendant of the African diaspora, regardless of where they were born or live. One Somali man, a longtime resident and U.S. citizen, married an American woman who identified as Black. When asked how he describes his U.S.-born children, he said, “Well, now that I think about it, I guess they are African American.”

What if I am of mixed heritage? My parents are African American, but I know some of their ancestors were from

Europe. They were Irish, for example, Dutch or German. Other ancestors, we think, were Native American.

Answer: The questionnaire is set up so that you can “Mark one or more boxes AND print origins.” We know America has had a complicated history, as more people are discovering through genomic testing. One adult census respondent recalls discouraging his mother, who identifies as Black, from checking every major race category box on the form.

Why would it have mattered if she had? What difference does the box I check make or any information I may add?

Answer: For one, you have a better chance of “owning” who you are. Therefore, you are less likely to be misrepresented by a census employee who, without that information, would make a determination about your identity. So, in that sense, checking every box would be a more accurate contribution to understanding our country's history. Individual census data is sealed for 72 years, but in the future your descendants or distant relatives will be able to look you up by name on the census form you respond to this year. In fact, the census is among the primary tools genealogists and researchers use to trace family histories. You might also reflect on that first constitutionally mandated census in 1790. To achieve a political compromise, those held

in bondage were counted only as three-fifths of a person, and their names were not recorded on the census. Even as late as 1860, the last census before the Civil War, some owners reported the age and sex of their captives, but not their names.

But how does filling out the census or not filling out the census affect my immediate financial or economic condition?

Answer: For practical purposes, as a measure of population, census data is used to determine how the federal and state governments allocate funds and resources, in addition to determining the number of seats states get in the U.S. House of Representatives. Data can be a double-edged sword. Some data are critical to attempts to address structural disparities among America's peoples, but data also can be used as a guide to steer resources away from those deemed political adversaries. How and why data are used is an important conversation, but it's a different conversation from whether it is in your interest to respond to the census. However, unless you are clear about who you are by identity, you may be grouped with a different race than your preference. That was why the individual discouraged his mother from checking every box. He wanted to make sure that if there were resources linked to her identity, those resources would be allocated to and benefit the community with which she primarily identified.

How the 2020 Census will invite everyone to respond

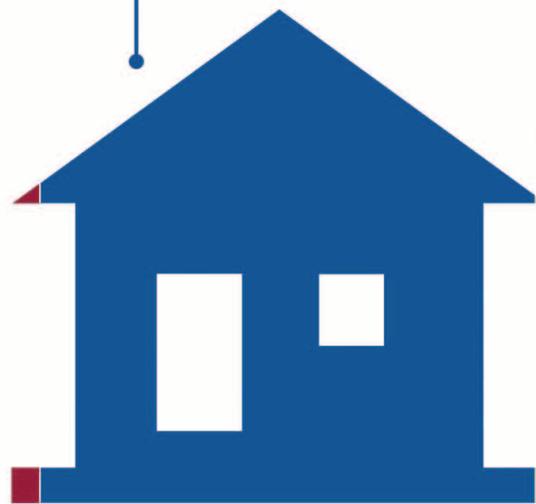
Nearly every household will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census either in the mail or from a census taker.

95% of households

will receive their census invitation in the mail.

Almost 5% of households →

will receive their census invitation when a census taker drops it off. In these areas, the majority of households may not receive mail at their home's physical location (like households that use PO boxes or areas recently affected by natural disasters).



Less than 1% of households

will be counted in person by a census taker, instead of being invited to respond on their own. We do this in very remote areas like parts of northern Maine, remote Alaska, and in select American Indian areas that ask to be counted in person.

Note: We have special procedures to count people who don't live in households, such as students living in dorms, people living in nursing homes, or people experiencing homelessness.

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Every 10 years, the U.S. counts everyone in the country: all residents of every ethnicity, regardless of immigration status, including kids, seniors, military members, and people experiencing homelessness.

Being counted helps our community get the funding we need for schools, affordable housing, health care, and more.

Complete the census before July 31, 2020 at 2020Census.gov

You will receive an invitation to complete the 2020 Census beginning March 12, 2020. Here's what you need to know:

- It is your right to complete the census.
- The census does not include a question about citizenship or immigration status.
- All answers are confidential and used only to produce statistics.
- It is illegal for census information to be shared with your landlord.
- It is illegal for census information to be shared with law enforcement or other agencies.
- It is illegal for census information to be used to identify people for deportation.

This is our moment to join together—as a neighborhood, a city, a county, a state, and a country—and make sure each and every one of us is seen and counted.