CENSUS 101: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

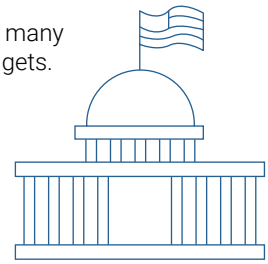
The 2020 Census is closer than you think!
Here's a quick refresher of what it is and why it's essential that everyone is counted.

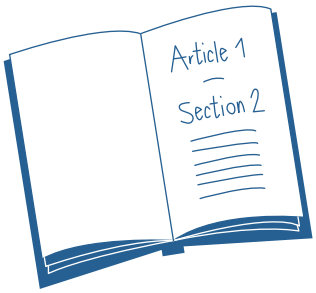
Everyone counts.

The census counts every person living in the U.S. once, only once, and in the right place.

It's about fair representation.

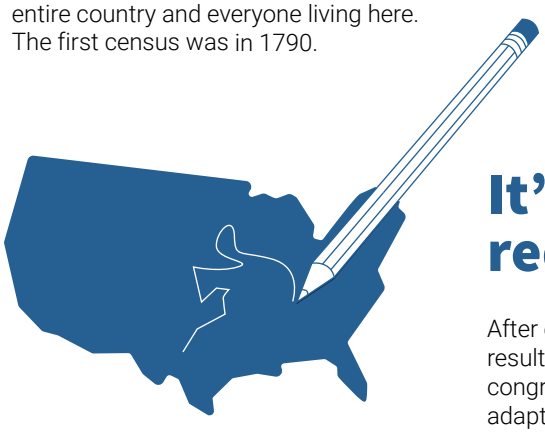
Every 10 years, the results of the census are used to reapportion the House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state gets.





It's in the Constitution.

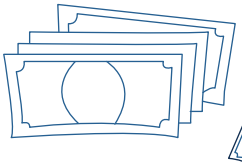
The U.S. Constitution requires a census every 10 years. The census covers the entire country and everyone living here. The first census was in 1790.

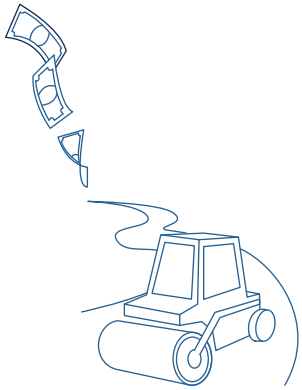


It's about redistricting.

After each census, state officials use the results to redraw the boundaries of their congressional and state legislative districts, adapting to population shifts.

It means $675 billion.

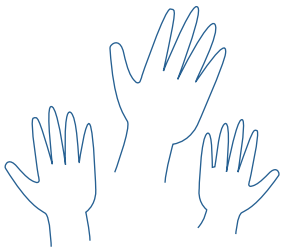




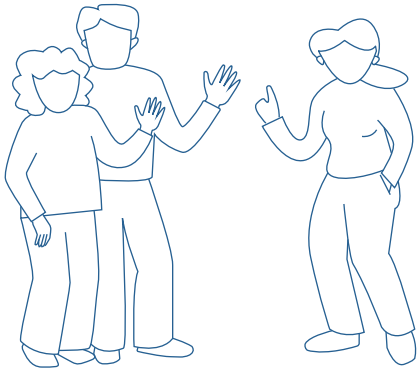
Census data determine how more than $675 billion are spent, supporting your state, county and community's vital programs.

Taking part is your civic duty.

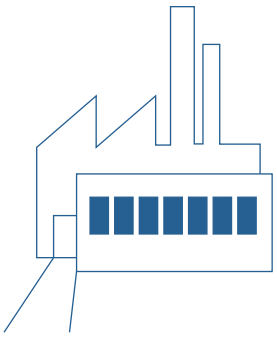
Completing the census is required: it's a way to participate in our democracy and say "I COUNT!"



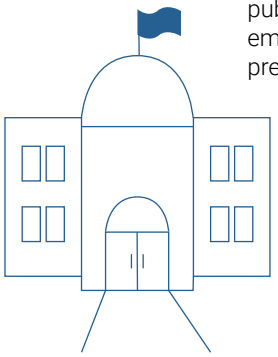
Census data are being used all around you.



Businesses use census data to decide where to build factories, offices and stores, which create jobs.



Local governments use the census for public safety and emergency preparedness.



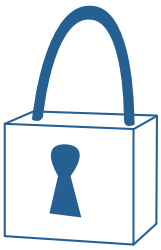
Residents use the census to support community initiatives involving legislation, quality-of-life and consumer advocacy.

Real estate developers use the census to build new homes and revitalize old neighborhoods.

Your data are confidential.

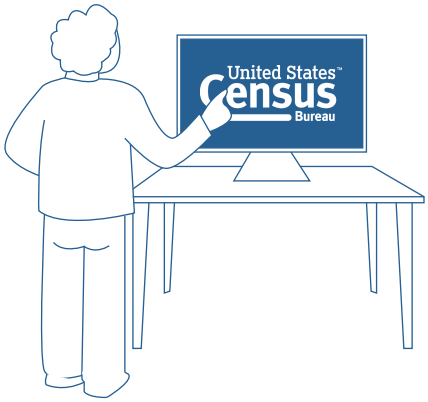
Federal law protects your census responses. Your answers can only be used to produce statistics.

By law we cannot share your information with immigration enforcement agencies, law enforcement agencies, or allow it to be used to determine your eligibility for government benefits.



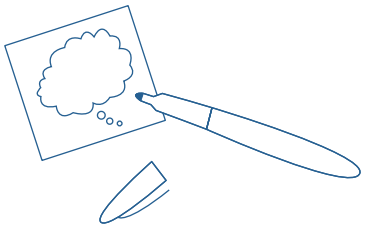
2020 will be easier than ever.

In 2020, you will be able to respond to the census online.



You can help.

You are the expert—we need your ideas on the best way to make sure everyone in your community gets counted.



United States Census Bureau

U.S. Department of Commerce
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
census.gov

FIND OUT HOW TO HELP AT CENSUS.GOV/PARTNERS