

# 2020 Census: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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## WHAT IS THE CENSUS?

The Census counts every living person in the U.S. every 10 years and is mandated in the U.S. Constitution. The next Census occurs in April 2020.

## WHY IS THE CENSUS IMPORTANT?

Census data is used to distribute more than \$675 billion in federal funding and determine the number of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives.

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## HOW DOES THE CENSUS IMPACT MY COMMUNITY? (Immigrants)

Census data is used to forecast housing needs, map public transportation, direct services to children and adults with limited English ability, draw school boundaries, plan for clinics and hospitals, and more.

## CAN I TRUST THE CENSUS? IS MY INFORMATION CONFIDENTIAL?

Yes, your information is protected and the Census Bureau is required to keep all your information confidential. It is never shared with police, ICE, the FBI or any other immigration or law enforcement agency. Violators can get up to 5 years in jail and/or a fine of \$250,000.

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## HOW ARE SURVEYS CONDUCTED?

The 2020 Census is the first time that the survey will be conducted by mail, telephone, in person and online.

## CAN I SKIP QUESTIONS ON THE CENSUS?

The Census is so important that responses are required. If you skip too many, you'll receive a follow-up phone call or visit from the Census Bureau to answer the questions you skipped.

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## WHAT IF I DON'T COMPLETE IT OR TURN IT IN?

If you don't complete the Census, staff will try to contact you by phone and if you do not reply, they will visit your home to complete the survey. Just as you are required to pay taxes, you are also required to complete the Census.

United States  
**Census  
2020**



**COMPLETE COUNT  
COMMITTEE**



**CA**  
CENSUS  
2020 