Census 2020 Fact Sheet for Public Libraries and Librarians

The goal of the 2020 Census is to count everyone once, only once, and in the right place. Libraries play a central role in gathering a complete count of the population. It’s Important. It’s Easy. It’s Safe.

What is the census?

- The census is a count of all persons living in the United States that is conducted every ten years by the federal government and is required by the U.S. Constitution.
- It is used to determine the number of seats each state has in the House of Representatives, how federal and state legislative districts are redrawn, and the appropriation of federally funded programs.

How can people complete the census?

- The Census Bureau is collecting census forms in four ways:
  - Online, using the internet or a cell phone,
  - Over the telephone, by calling the census call center listed on the census card,
  - Using a paper form, or
  - By responding to a census enumerator.
- Census forms are available in 13 different languages.

When will the 2020 Census be conducted?

- Households will receive a postcard with instructions for completing the census beginning in March 2020.

Who should respond to the census?

- Everyone! Census postcards are sent to all households in the United States to collect information about each person living in he household.
- The Census Bureau is conducting special counts for populations living in group quarters or are unsheltered.

Special Count Efforts Target:

- Homeless populations
- University students
- Prison populations
- Other persons living in institutional settings

What questions will be asked?

10 Questions, 10 Minutes per Person

- Name
- Phone Number
- Age
- Sex
- Hispanic Origin
- Race
- Relationship to householder
- Household tenure (own/rent)
- Number of persons in the household
- Does a person usually live or stay somewhere else?
Are census responses confidential?

- All data are protected under Title 13 of the U.S. Code. Records are confidential for 72 years by law. All Census Bureau employees swear a lifetime oath to protect respondent information.
- The U.S. Census Bureau will never share a respondent’s personal information with other government agencies.
- Data is only released in summary tables, no individual records are released.

Did you know...
Census counts are used in distributing over $13 billion in federal funds per year in Colorado, this translates to $2,300 per person per year.

Those dollars help fund:
- Title 1 grants to educational agencies
- Head Start programs
- Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
- Transportation (public transit, road rehabilitation, and construction)
- Emergency food and shelter
- Health and human services programs


Do people have to answer all census questions?

- While the law requires persons to answer all census questions accurately, an incomplete census form will still be included in the head count.

How can public libraries support census data collection?

- Public libraries are important resources for Colorado’s communities. Patrons will likely use library resources (especially Wi-Fi and public internet connections) to complete their census form.
- Libraries can support the census in multiple ways:
  - Host a dedicated workstation for census form submission.
  - Learn about the census using resources available from the Colorado State Demography Office website and the U.S. Census Bureau: demography.dola.colorado.gov/census_2020/ and https://2020census.gov/en
  - Post information about the Importance, Ease and Safety of Census 2020
  - Encourage your patrons to complete and submit their census form.

Additional fact sheets available for download at: demography.dola.colorado.gov/census_2020/
If you have additional questions, please contact the State Demography Office: 303.864.7753