

# 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.

## When will the 2020 Census be conducted?





- Census Day is April 1, 2020. Data collection will begin on March 23, 2020 and continue through August 2020.
- Households will receive a postcard with instructions for completing the census beginning in March 2020.

## 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?

## 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.

## 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 the 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



## 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.

## 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.

## 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

See <http://bit.ly/countingfordollars>

## 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/](http://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.