

COUNT ON ME



Campaign for an Accurate 2020 Census

Speakers of languages other than English are among the most likely to be excluded from census figures

What is the Census?

The 2020 Census counts every person living in the United States. It is conducted every 10 years by the U.S. Census Bureau, a nonpartisan government agency. The results of the census determine how many politicians represent your area, how many votes your state gets for the President, as well as **federal funding** for states and communities. More than \$675 billion goes toward hospitals, fire departments, **schools**, roads, etc. every year based on census statistics.

Why does it matter?

A new school to ease overcrowded classrooms. A new road to ease overcrowded commutes. There are many ways the 2020 Census can shape your community. The results help determine how more than **\$675 billion in federal funding** is distributed to states and communities every year.

Census data also influences redistricting. The U.S. Census Bureau provides population counts to the states so that they can redistrict based on the population shifts, meaning your community will have greater government representation.

You count!

Article 1, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution makes it clear that the census should count ALL PEOPLE LIVING IN THE U.S. REGARDLESS OF THEIR CITIZENSHIP OR RESIDENCY STATUS, "Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons..." Federal law (92 Stat. 915; Public Law 95-416; October 5, 1978) prohibits the Census Bureau from sharing an individual's census responses with other government agencies, including immigration authorities and other law enforcement, until **72 years after the information is collected.**

YOUR INFORMATION WILL NOT BE SHARED WITH OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES. The U.S. Census Bureau is bound by law to protect your answers and keep them strictly confidential. In fact, every employee takes an oath to protect your personal information for life. 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.

Your children count!

Children suffer the most through undercounting: The Census Bureau admits that as many as 5% of children under age five were missed in 2010. This not only decreases the money allocated to a state through various federal grants, but also reduces some services, including Head Start, which provides early childhood education to low-income families. The impact is multiplied when an undercount fails to provide enough money, resulting in fewer places in the program, and the **underfunding lasts for 10 YEARS!**

It is important to count any children who are living with you or sleeping at your house. This includes all children, including grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and the children of friends. Newborn babies also count, even those who are still in the hospital on April 1, 2020.

How do you participate?

By April 1, 2020, households will receive an invitation to participate in the census. You will then be able to respond online, by phone, or by mail. Speakers of languages other than English or Spanish will have to respond online. Visit www.2020census.gov for info. **Ask your child's teacher for help** if needed.

Provided by Language Magazine, www.languagemagazine.com/countonme References available online.