

Census 2020 Talking Points

What is the Census?

- A count of every person living in the U.S. as of April 1, 2020.
- The U.S. Constitution requires a census every 10 years.
- The first census was in 1790.

Why is the Census important?

- Census data determine how more than \$675 billion are spent.
- Census data are used by state officials to redraw the boundaries of congressional and state legislative district (also known as redistricting).
- Census data are used to reapportion the House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state gets.
- When the population is undercounted, jurisdictions don't receive the funding needed for vital community services.
- On average, Arlington County receives around \$50 million annually from federal assistance programs that rely on data derived from the Decennial Census. The federal assistance helps support a wide variety of services throughout Arlington.
- Over half of the funding received goes towards the following five programs: Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers HUD, National School Lunch Program USDA, Highway Planning and Construction DOT, Medical Assistance Program (Medicaid) HHS, and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program USDA.
 - Arlington County received \$18.7 million for the administration of Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers program which supported 1,504 households in FY2018.
 - Arlington Public Schools received \$4.5 million for the National School Lunch Program which provided free and reduced lunches to over 8,000 students.
 - Arlington received over \$5 million annually for transportation related projects. Since 2010, the following projects have benefited from federal assistance that relies on data derived from the Decennial Census: Columbia Pike Bus Stop improvements, Crystal City/Potomac Yard Transit Way, Rosslyn Station access improvements, Pentagon City Station access improvements, and Ballston multimodal improvements.
 - In addition, Arlington receives a combined total of \$1-3 million on an annual basis from the following agencies: Department of Homeland Security, Department of Justice, and Department of Labor.
- Census data inform planning decisions at the local, state, and federal level.
- Census data help local governments plan for future community needs and services, such as emergency services, schools, hospitals, human services, libraries, transportation, etc.
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How do people participate in the Census?

- In mid-March 2020, The Census Bureau will mail out an invitation for each household to participate in the 2020 Census.
- The census is administered based on residential addresses and allows for one submission per household.
- Every individual in the household must be counted, including those under the age of 5 years old.
- The invitation from the Census Bureau will provide three ways to participate in the 2020 Census. The responding household can choose from one of the following three options:
 - Respond online through a secure website (2020census.gov/my2020census.gov).
 - Respond over the telephone.
 - Respond by mailing a paper questionnaire (mailed to non-response households after April 8)
- NOTE: U.S. Census Bureau enumerators will visit non-response households in May

What if I need language assistance or other help completing my form?

- The online version will be available in 13 written languages upon request (English, Chinese, Korean, Russian, Spanish, Vietnamese, Arabic, French, Haitian Creole, Japanese, Polish, Portuguese, and Tagalog).
- People can call Census Questionnaire Assistance toll-free to provide their household responses by phone in the same languages (phone list below)
- The Census Bureau offers 59 non-English language guides in print and video on the 2020census.gov website.
- Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) assistance will be available.

LANGUAGE PHONE LINES

English: 844-330-2020	Spanish: 844-468-2020
Arabic: 844-416-2020	Korean: 844-392-2020
Chinese (Mandarin): 844-391-2020	Polish: 844-479-2020
Chinese (Cantonese): 844-398-2020	Portuguese: 844-474-2020
French: 844-494-2020	Russian: 844-417-2020
Haitian Creole: 844-477-2020	Tagalog: 844-478-2020
Japanese: 844-460-2020	Vietnamese: 844-461-2020
Telephone Display Device (TDD): 844-467-2020	

Will a census enumerator come to my home?

- Reminders will be mailed to households who haven't responded online/phone.
- A paper questionnaire will be sent in early April to those who haven't responded.
- Enumerators will follow up in person in the beginning of May to those who haven't responded.

What information is collected?

- Captures basic information such as name, age, sex, Hispanic origin, race and ethnicity, relationship of household members, and homeownership status.
- It's important to provide this information for EVERY person living at the household address
- NOTE: the 2020 Census does NOT include a question about citizenship

What information will NOT be collected by the Census?

The U.S. Census Bureau WILL NOT:

- Email you the 2020 Census Form
- Ask for your Social Security number, bank, credit card, or account numbers or
 - any personal information not included on the Census questionnaire.
- Ask for money or donations
- Ask for support for a political party
- Threaten jail time

If you experience ANY of the following questions, hang up and call the **National Processing Center at 800-523-3205, 800-642-0469 or 800-877-8339 (TDD/TTY)** to verify that a phone survey is legitimate.

- Don't listen to rumors or misinformation. The Census is a count of all residents, regardless of
 - citizenship or immigration status. Report misinformation and disinformation at **rumors@census.gov**.
- Don't trust caller ID or other scammers using "spoofing" tools to make it appear they are calling or emailing from a real Census Bureau location (phone or email).

How is census information kept confidential?

- Federal law protects your census responses.
- Your answers can only be used to produce statistics.
- Census data are confidential for 72 years.
- Under Title 13 of the U.S. Code, the Census Bureau cannot share your information with immigration enforcement agencies, law enforcement agencies, or allow it to be used to determine your eligibility for government benefits.
- Census Bureau employees are sworn for life to keep your information safe and secure. If they disclose any personal information, the punishment for them is 5 years imprisonment and/or a fine of \$250,000.