

COUNT US IN  
2020

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COUNTUSIN2020.ORG

## How to Identify a Census Taker

### Will the Census Bureau send someone to my home?

The census begins in March 2020. The Census Bureau will mail you instructions and reminders to respond to the census through the end of April. You can respond by phone, online, or through the paper form. ***If you respond to the census in March or April, then a census taker will not come to your home. Starting in mid-May, census takers will visit households that have not yet responded to the census.***

### What is a census taker?

A census taker or census enumerator is someone hired from your local community by the Census Bureau to knock on doors and collect responses to the census for households that have not yet responded.

### When will census takers be out knocking on doors?

For most areas, census takers will visit homes from mid-May through the end of July. In areas with a lot of off-campus college students and where people live among large groups of people (for example, senior centers), this process starts earlier in April.

### This is how you identify a census taker:

***First, ask to see their ID badge. All census workers carry official government badges that include their name, photograph, a Department of Commerce watermark, and an expiration date.***



Department of Commerce Logo from [www.commerce.gov](http://www.commerce.gov) and Census Bureau logo from [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)

- A census taker carries an official bag with the Census Bureau logo and laptop, smartphone, or tablet for conducting the survey.
- The census taker will provide you with a letter in English from the Census Bureau on official letterhead stating why they are visiting your residence.
- Census takers conduct their work between the hours of 9AM and 9PM local time.

- Upon request, the census taker will provide you with their supervisor's contact information and/or the phone number for your [Regional Census Center](https://2020census.gov/en/contact-us/rcc) (<https://2020census.gov/en/contact-us/rcc>) which supervises the activities of all field representatives in your area.
- If you wish to independently confirm that the person at your door is a Census Bureau employee, you can enter their name in the [Census Bureau's staff search website](https://www.census.gov/cgi-bin/main/email.cgi) (<https://www.census.gov/cgi-bin/main/email.cgi>) or contact the Regional Census Center for your area.
- ***A census taker will never ask to enter your home.***

## What will a census taker ask me?

The census taker will ONLY ask the questions that appear on the census form (you must be at least 15 years old to answer questions): address, phone number, number of people living in your home, whether you rent or own your home, and basic information about each resident (name, age, birthdate, gender, relationship to you, race, ethnicity). Remember to include everyone who lives at your address -- babies, young children, other family members, and roommates. Sometimes people forget to include young children, but it is very important to count them too. See our factsheet on counting your family and young children at [www.countusin2020.org/resources](http://www.countusin2020.org/resources) for more information.

***The census taker will NOT ask for your citizenship status; driver's license; Social Security Number; credit card, bank, or other financial information; money or a donation; or PIN codes or passwords.***

How will the Census Bureau follow up with me if I do not respond to the census by May?

- Starting in mid-May, the census taker will come knock on your door to collect your responses for the census. You can complete your census with the census taker when they come to your door. If you do not do this, you can still complete your census by self-responding online or through the phone through July.
- If no one answers the door, they will leave a "Notice of Visit" postcard with a household ID that you can use to fill out the census online or through the phone.
- If you still do not respond, they will come back and leave a follow-up postcard a week later.
- Census takers will continue to visit or call up to six times.
- After the third try, census takers can ask a nearby reliable "proxy" for information such as a neighbor, letter carrier, etc. The census takers then fill out the response based on that information.

You can find more information about the census at [www.countusin2020.org/resources](http://www.countusin2020.org/resources).

## How to Identify a Census Taker

You can respond to the census:

- Online
- By phone
- Through the paper form

Starting in mid-May 2020, census takers will visit households that have not yet responded to the census



A census taker can be identified by their official Census Bureau:



ID

Bag or laptop  
Letter

You can also check with your Regional Census Center by phone or on the Census Bureau staff directory

A census taker will never ask to enter your home

A census taker will ONLY ask the questions that appear on the census form

Remember to include everyone who lives at your address

including babies, young children, other family members, and roommates

The census taker will NOT ask for your:

- Driver's license
- Social Security Number
- Credit card, bank, or other financial information
- Money or a donation
- PIN codes or passwords