




COUNTING COLLEGE STUDENTS IN THE 2020 CENSUS

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WHERE ARE COLLEGE STUDENTS COUNTED?

GOVERNING POLICY:

2020 Census Residence Criteria and Residence Situations (otherwise and previously known as the “residence rules”)

https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/program-management/memo-series/2020-memo-2018_04-appendix.pdf?#

RULE:

College students are counted where they live/sleep most of the time.

TRANSLATION:

Unless they live with their parents or guardians while in college, students are counted at their college residence, whether they live on or off campus.

COLLEGE STUDENTS: *WHO* IS COUNTED?

YES!

- Students attending college/university in the U.S. on Census Day
- Foreign nationals living (on or off campus) in the U.S. while attending a college/university in the U.S. on Census Day

NO!

- U.S. citizen college students living outside of the U.S. and attending a college/university outside of the U.S. on Census Day (even if only for a semester abroad)

HOW ARE COLLEGE STUDENTS COUNTED?

If they are not living with their parents/guardians while attending college:

GROUP QUARTERS OPERATION:

Students living in college/university-run housing, such as dorms and residence halls, *whether on or off campus*

HOUSEHOLD ENUMERATION (Self-Response & NRFU):

Students living off campus in an apartment, house, or other independent residence

GROUP QUARTERS COUNT OF COLLEGE STUDENTS

GROUP QUARTERS (GQ) OPERATION UNIVERSE:

Students living in college/university-run housing, such as dorms and residence halls, *whether on or off campus*

- **No self-response (by any method)!**
- College administrators work with Area Census Office (ACO) staff (GQ enumerators) to determine enumeration method
- Institution can choose electronic data transfer, paper data transfer (less likely), or distribution/collection of paper Individual Census Questionnaires (modified version of household form)
 - In-person interview is possible if students don't return ICQ
- Timing: ~ April 2020 (Full GQ operation runs April 2nd – June 5th)

HOUSEHOLD COUNT OF COLLEGE STUDENTS

HOUSEHOLD ENUMERATION UNIVERSE:

Students living off campus in an apartment, house, or other independent residence

- **“Regular” household self-response by internet, phone, or paper questionnaire** (see 12/11/19 webinar PPT presentation)
- If living with roommates, one person should take responsibility for completing the form for entire household (Note: all others select “roommate or housemate” in relationship question)
- **Self-Response:** March 12th – April 30th; **“Early NRFU”** starts April 9th in neighborhoods with significant off-campus student population

COUNTING COLLEGE STUDENTS: *BOTTOM LINE*

- ✓ Mom & Dad should *not* include Terri on their household form if Terri attends college and doesn't live at home while school is in session.
- ✓ Colleges/universities and local governments should *not* encourage students living in school-run housing to self-respond.
- ✓ Terri should *not* self-respond to the census, on-line or any other way, if she lives in a dorm, residence hall, or fraternity/sorority. She might receive a paper ICQ through her school administrators (and would return the form to them, as instructed), but the school might instead transfer administrative records to the Census Bureau without her direct knowledge.
- ✓ If Terri lives off-campus in an apartment, she will receive census materials in the mail (most likely) in mid-March. She can self-respond for herself and her roommates (in other words, for the entire household) on-line, by phone, or using a paper questionnaire if they received one.

WHAT CITIES & PARTNERS CAN DO

- Make sure college/university administrators cooperate with ACO staff and prepare to facilitate an accurate Group Quarters enumeration. (Advance Contact runs Feb. 3rd – March 6th)
- Keep messaging simple but clear, so students know how they will be counted, depending on their housing circumstances.
- Coordinate messaging with school administrators and faculty.
- Target messages to students living off-campus in their own housing, urging self-response or cooperation with enumerators if they don't self-respond.
- Remind students living off-campus in non-college housing to include all people in the housing unit on their household form.

THANK YOU!
Happy Census Year!