



# 2020 Census: How Survivors of Domestic Violence Including Immigrant and AANHPI Survivors Can Safely Participate



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## Roadmap



- What is the Census/Background
- How is Census Data Used
- Census and Voting
- What Information is Being Collected
- US Census & Individuals in the Community - What to Expect
- Participating in the Census with Safety & Confidentiality in Mind
- Resources

## What is the Census?

- Every 10 years, the United States conducts a “Decennial Census.”
- The goal of the census is to count every person who lives in the country where they live.
- The census is mandated in the Constitution and it is required by law that you respond.

## 2020 Census: Background

- The census collects information about the name, sex, age, date of birth, and race of every individual in a household.
- In the past, every household would get a form in the mail seeking information about everyone who lives in the house. If people do not fill out and submit the census, then people called “Enumerators” will come to your home and ask for the information directly.
- The 2020 Census will be asking people to fill out the information either on a form they receive in the mail or via an online form.

## 2020 Census and the Pacific Islands

The 2020 Island Areas Censuses will count every person living in American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The 2020 Island Areas Censuses will be 100% paper-based and led by Census takers. In March 2020, Census Takers will begin conducting in-person interviews.

## How is Census Data Used?

- Census data is used to help the Federal government decide where money should go.
- Over \$600 billion per year is distributed to communities across the United States based on census data.
  - This funding includes money on infrastructure and roads, health care, schools, and more.
- The more accurate the census count is in your community, the more likely your community is to get the resources that it needs to serve community members.

## How is Census Data Used

- Local government and others use census data to determine where to provide services like bus routes, design school districts, where to build businesses, and how to prepare for emergencies.
- Census data is also used to work on Civil Rights issues including determining if states are violating the Civil Rights Act in housing, employment, or education.

## Examples of Programs that Use Census Data

The census influences funding and planning for services, programs, and resources, such as these, among others:

- Victim Services Funding determined by formula, ie FVPSA, VOCA, STOP, SASP, RPE
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
- Section 8 housing choice vouchers and housing assistance payment programs
- Educational programs
- Public transportation
- Services for those with limited English language proficiency
- Forecasting future housing needs for each segment of the population

## The Census and Voting

- Enforcement of the Voting Rights Act also heavily relies on information gathered in the census.
- Census data is used for reapportionment and redistricting. Reapportionment happens following the census
  - Process that decides how many seats a state has in the House of Representatives.
  - If the population of a state raises or lowers dramatically, the # of House members may change as a result.

## The Census and Voting

- Redistricting is the process of dividing up a state into districts based on how many seats the state has.
- Districts are also drawn using census data for state legislative bodies. Redistricting should keep communities together, which is not possible without an accurate census that tells us where people are.

## How do they know everyone's address?

- The Census Bureau collects addresses from multiple sources, through program called the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA)
- Through LUCA program, states, counties, cities, towns, and tribes can work with the Census Bureau to update their list of addresses
- The Census Bureau has been working with their contacts & relevant government entities since January 2017

## Who is Allowed to be an Official Census Taker?

- The Census Bureau hires for the Census Process and makes every person who interacts with census data take an oath of confidentiality for life.
- If an employee reveals any confidential information, they face 5 years in prison, or \$250,000 in fines, or both.
- Nonprofits and other groups can't be involved as census takers in the same way they can with other processes like voter registration.

## The American Community Survey (Long Form)

- The ACS is a separate survey that is sent to a smaller group of people in the country every year.
- The ACS is much longer than the Census Form and collects in- depth information to help learn more about the population of the country.
- Unlike the census, the ACS is conducted all year every year, but is only sent to a random group of people at any time.

## The American Community Survey (Long Form) Cont.

- The ACS used to be a part of the census and was called the “long form,” so if you hear someone refer to the long form census they mean the ACS. Since the ACS is a part of the census, it is required by law that you respond to the ACS if you receive it.

# Concerns Raised By the Census

## Title 13 - US Census Participation



- Participation in the US Census is required by law
  - *But it's up to the individual to decide if and how they will participate*
- Up to \$100 fine for non-participation; up to \$500 fine for giving knowingly false answers





## Title 13 - US Census & Confidentiality

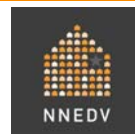
- US Census Bureau cannot publish individual information for 72 years
- US Census Bureau can only use collected information to produce statistics
- Census Bureau employees with access to data are legally required for life to maintain confidentiality
  - Punishment for violation - up to 5 years in prison and \$250,000 fine



## Title 13 - US Census & Data Privacy

- Cybersecurity upgrades & ongoing threat tests for 2020
- Updated “Disclosure Avoidance Methods” to guarantee the privacy of individual information

## US Census - Information Requested



- Name (or Adult 1, Child 1, etc.)
- Sex
- Date of birth
- Age on Census Day
- Hispanic origin
- Race
- Alternate address when not staying at shelter



## Concerns Raised By the Census

### Citizenship Question

- Many immigrant populations and minorities report being concerned that the information they provide on the census will be used against them
- Multiple lawsuits challenged the Census Bureau's inclusion of a citizenship question
- The Supreme Court ruled that the government did not produce sufficient evidence that including a citizenship question on the census was necessary to enforce the Voting Rights Act.
- **As a result, the 2020 census will not have a question regarding citizenship status.**

## Questions on the ACS



- The ACS asks much more in-depth questions, and is much longer than the census.
- Topics on the ACS include the acreage of your property, commuting time to work, computer and internet use, educational level, health insurance coverage, languages spoken at home, vehicles, veteran status, and more.
- The ACS also includes questions on where you were born and whether you are an American citizen.

## US Census & Individuals in the Community - What to Expect



- Advertising campaigns are underway
- This month (March 2020), forms will be delivered to all residences in the US
- Form can be completed via mail, phone or online



## US Census & Individuals in the Community - What to Expect, cont.

- Non-responses will prompt door to door follow up by field agents.  
**Field agents will carry:**
  - ID with name, photo, Dept. of Commerce watermark, expiration date
  - Official bag with logo or laptop
  - Letter on official letterhead about purpose of visit
  - 9 AM - 9 PM local time
  - Provide supervisor information upon request
  - Confirm employment by census staff web search or calling regional office



## Language Access

The Census Bureau will be expanding the language access program for the 2020 census.

For the first time, individuals will be able to complete the census online. The online form will be available in English and translated into the following twelve non-English languages:

- |                        |                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| ● Spanish              | ● Portuguese Arabic |
| ● Chinese (Simplified) | ● Japanese          |
| ● Vietnamese           | ● Tagalog           |
| ● Korean               | ● Polish            |
| ● Creole               | ● French            |
| ● Russian              | ● Italian           |

The mail-in form will still only be offered in English and Spanish.

The Census Bureau will also be offering language glossaries in 59 non-English languages

## US Census & Domestic Violence Shelters



- **In 2010, the US Census Bureau designed separate specialized protocol for victims in shelter, which continued in 2020:**
  - Shelters offered the opportunity to work with specially trained census workers
  - Final response data from shelters will be blended with other types of group quarters data to help mask

## US Census & Domestic Violence Shelters, cont.



- **If a shelter did not opt into the special process, they will receive outreach similar to all households. They'll have 2 options:**
  - Complete the mailed form as if a household
  - Don't complete it. Non-response worker will follow up
    - Can notify the worker of shelter status and be included in the special process
- **Important that survivors in shelter decide for themselves about if and how they want to participate**

## US Census & Domestic Violence Shelters, cont.



DV shelters funded by VAWA, FVPSA VOCA:

- Can only share survivor information when explicitly allowed by a survivor through a release of information
  - Take active precautions not to share information accidentally
  - Choose options that allow survivors to respond to the US Census themselves



## Resources



**2020 US Census Safety & Security FAQ** [www.census.gov/newsroom/press-kits/2019/2020-safety-security.html](http://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-kits/2019/2020-safety-security.html)

**Disclosure Avoidance Methods** [www.census.gov/newsroom/blogs/research-matters/2018/08/protecting\\_the\\_confidential.html](http://www.census.gov/newsroom/blogs/research-matters/2018/08/protecting_the_confidential.html)

**Data Security & the 2020 US Census** [www.commerce.gov/news/blog/2018/08/our-highest-priority-protect-and-secure-2020-census](http://www.commerce.gov/news/blog/2018/08/our-highest-priority-protect-and-secure-2020-census)

**Regional Offices** <https://www.census.gov/about/regions.html>

### Federal Laws that Protect Census Confidentiality:

[https://www.brennancenter.org/sites/default/files/2019-08/Report\\_Federal\\_Laws\\_Census\\_Confidentiality.pdf](https://www.brennancenter.org/sites/default/files/2019-08/Report_Federal_Laws_Census_Confidentiality.pdf)

### Technology Safety Resources

[www.techsafety.org](http://www.techsafety.org)

### The 2020 Census Matters For Asian Pacific Islander Communities

<https://acrs.org/2020-census-matters-asian-pacific-islander-communities/>

### Why the Census Matters for AANHPI Communities

- **National Factsheet (Census data & population estimates):**  
<https://www.advancingjustice-aaajc.org/sites/default/files/2019-08/National%20Factsheet.pdf>
- **Find State-Specific Factsheets:** <https://www.advancingjustice-aaajc.org/publication/state-factsheets-why-census-matters-asian-american-native-hawaiian-and-pacific>
- **Why the Census Matters for AANHPI Communities (cont.)**
- **Factsheet:** <https://www.advancingjustice-aaajc.org/sites/default/files/2019-04/Simplified%20Factsheet.pdf>

## Counting AA, NH & PI Communities: Resources (Cont.)



### Will you count? AANHPIs in the 2020 Census

<http://civilrightsdocs.info/pdf/census/2020/Fact-Sheet-AA-NHPI-HTC.pdf>

### 2020 Census & Beyond: Mapping Geography & Diversity of AANHPI

<http://censusmaps.aapidata.com/>

### 2020 Census: What's at Stake

[https://www.apalnet.org/uploads/8/3/2/0/83203568/2020\\_census\\_-\\_whats\\_at\\_stake.pdf](https://www.apalnet.org/uploads/8/3/2/0/83203568/2020_census_-_whats_at_stake.pdf)

**Census 2020:** <https://www.apiavote.org/census>

## Counting AA, NH & PI Communities: Resources (Cont.)

**NHPI Get Out the Count Resources: Factsheets** *\*Note: Resources are available in eight different languages* <https://www.countusin2020.org/resources-nhpi>

### Island Areas Census FAQ's

<https://2020census.gov/content/dam/2020census/materials/island-areas/Island%20Areas%20Censuses%20Frequently%20Asked%20Questions%20-%20Revised%2009252019.pdf>

**Empowered Pacific Islander Coalition:** [www.empoweredpi.org](http://www.empoweredpi.org)

**Marshallese link:** <https://youtu.be/9IdNG2f5kps>

**Samoan link:** <https://youtu.be/D-d IXESvyw>





## Contact Us With Follow Up Questions!



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