

# YOU COUNT! BE COUNTED.

## WHAT IS THE CENSUS?

The government counts everyone in the country. They ask questions about every home in the country. One person from every home answers the questions. This is called the census. **The census is when the government counts everyone in the country.**

The census happens every 10 years. **We will have a census in 2020.**

The government will send you a letter in the mail. They will send the letter in March. This letter has instructions on how to fill out the census.

The census asks one person in every home to answer a few questions. A home can be a house or apartment.

## WHAT QUESTIONS DOES THE CENSUS ASK?

The census asks two kinds of questions. It asks questions about your home. Then, it asks questions about each person who lives in your home.

The census asks these questions about your home:



**What is your phone number?**



**Do you own your home or rent it?**



**How many people live in your home?**

**Only one** person needs to respond to the census in each home. If you live with other people, you should talk to them about who will fill it out.



Your answers to the census are **secret**. The government will not share your answers with anyone. Your answers are used to count how many people there are in the country. **The law does not allow your answers to be shared for any other reason. The census does not ask if you are a citizen of the United States.**

The census also asks questions about you.

### The census will ask:

- **What is your name?** You put your name on the form.
- **What is your sex?** The census gives two options. You can choose “male” or “female.”
- **What is your age?** You put down how old you are on the form.
- **Are you Hispanic, Latino, or of Spanish Origin?** This question has to do with where your family comes from. The form uses the term Hispanic, Latino, or of Spanish origin, so if your family comes from a Spanish-speaking country, your answer to this question is probably yes.
- **What is your race?** For this question, you check boxes. The census lists different races. Some examples are “white,” “black,” or “American Indian.” You can check more than one box. After you check boxes, the census asks for more details, like what area, country, or tribe your family is from.



The census will also ask these same questions about the people who live with you.

## IS IT REALLY THE CENSUS?

Sometimes, people will mail you spam that says it is from the census. Here is how to tell if mail that says it's from the census is real or fake:

### THE CENSUS WILL NOT

An icon of a Social Security card with the letters "SSN" inside a purple-bordered box.

SSN

ask for your Social Security number



send people to jail for not answering questions



ask for money or your bank account information

## WHY IS THE CENSUS IMPORTANT FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES?

The law requires the census to collect information for the government. The government uses that information to make decisions. These decisions affect people with disabilities. There are two main ways the census affects people with disabilities.

### 1 Money for services and programs

Information from the census is used by federal, state, and local governments to make decisions about funding for services and programs. These services and programs include education, housing, health care, transportation, and other community needs. People with disabilities can benefit from these services. All communities benefit from these services.

Everyone needs to be counted to make sure the government has the right information to make decisions about these important services. Having enough money for programs and services for people with disabilities depends on having the right information. That is one reason why it is important for all people with disabilities to be counted in the census.



### 2 Representatives in Congress



The federal government makes laws for the whole country. The people who make these laws are called Members of Congress. Members of Congress are the people who make laws for the whole country.

We vote for our Members of Congress in elections.

One part of Congress is the House of Representatives. The Members of Congress in the House of Representatives are called Representatives.

Every state has a different number of Representatives, based on how many people live in the state.

Remember, **the census counts how many people live in the whole country and in each state. The government uses that number to figure out how many Representatives the state should have.** If people don't fill out the census, a state might get less Representatives. Then, the people in that state won't have as much of a say about decisions in Congress.

**We need to make sure every state has the right number of Representatives.**

## HOW DO I FILL OUT THE CENSUS?

The government sends you a letter in the mail. They will send the letter in March 2020. This letter has instructions on how to fill out the census online.

### There are three ways to fill out the census:

Remember, only one person in your home can fill out the census. If you live with other people, you should talk to them about who will fill it out.

There are guides to help people with disabilities fill out the census. There are large print guides. There are also guides in braille. If you have questions, you can **call 1-800-923-8282** or go to **2020census.gov**.



**ONLINE**



**PHONE**



**ON PAPER**

If you do not fill out the census, a census worker may come to your home to help you fill it out. They may come in May, June, or July.

## ARE THEY A REAL CENSUS WORKER?

All census workers have a badge proving they are a census worker. You can ask to see their badge to check that they work for the census.

### Every census worker's badge has four things on it:

1. The badge says "Department of Commerce."
2. The badge has the worker's name printed on it.
3. The badge has a picture of the census worker.
4. The badge has an expiration date on it. That means that the census worker can use the badge until that date. But they cannot use the badge after that date.

**A real census worker has all 4 things on their badge.**

**For More Resources, Visit [TheArc.org/Census](https://thearc.org/census)**