Shape our children's future. Start with the 2020 Census.

What is the census and when does it happen?

Every 10 years, everyone living in the United States is asked to complete a simple but very important constitutional task: respond to the census. The 2020 Census is a questionnaire that asks a few basic questions, like the age, sex and number of people who live or stay in your home, including young children and newborn babies. The next decennial census starts in March of 2020 and responding is easy, safe, and important.

Why is counting young children important?

Newborn babies and young children under five are often missed in the census. The 2020 Census helps determine which areas qualify for the critical resources that children and families depend on for the next 10 years—basically, an entire childhood! Examples of resources that could be impacted include food assistance, Head Start, childcare, housing support, public schools, early intervention services for children with special needs, children's health insurance, and more. Knowing how many children there are and where they live is essential to getting those services and programs to them. That's why it's so important that every child be counted, even newborn babies.

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2020CENSUS.GOV.

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United States® Census 2020

Why are young children missed in the census?

There are many reasons why young children can be missed in the census. Young children who are missed in the census tend to live with large, extended families or with multiple families living under one roof. These children may stay in more than one home and may not be related to the person filling out the questionnaire or answering questions from a census worker.

It is important to remember that everyone living in a household, temporarily or permanently, relative or friend, needs to be included in the 2020 Census.

How does the Census Bureau count people without a permanent residence?

Census Bureau workers take in-person counts of people living in group quarters, such as college dormitories, military barracks, nursing homes and shelters, as well as those experiencing homelessness or who have been displaced by natural disasters. Children and families without a permanent residence who are staying temporarily with a friend or family on April 1, 2020 should be counted at that address.

Are census responses kept confidential?

The law requires that the Census Bureau keep all information confidential and use responses only to produce statistics. Your responses are protected and cannot be used against you. Census Bureau employees are sworn to protect your personal information for life and any violation comes with a penalty of up to $250,000 and/or up to five years in prison.

How can I help?

There are many ways you can help. Encourage adults with young children and newborn babies in their household to respond to the 2020 Census. Partner with the Census Bureau to help ensure all children are counted. Explain to others that an accurate count can bring helpful resources and programs to their community, particularly services that support children. Completing the 2020 Census is an easy, safe, and important way we can all help shape the future for children.

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