

Census 2020

It is hard to believe that the 2020 Census is already underway. As we enter the next decade, Census day falls on Wednesday April 1st, 2020. In the weeks leading up to April 1st, you will begin to get a reminder in the mail. This year, for the first time, the Census will take place online.

Here's some Frequently Asked Questions:



What is the decennial census?

Every 10 years, the federal government conducts a population count of everyone in the United States. Data from the census provide the basis for distributing more than \$675 billion in federal funds annually to communities across the country to support vital programs—impacting housing, education, transportation, employment, health care, and public policy. They also are used to redraw the boundaries of congressional and state legislative districts and accurately determine the number of congressional seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives.

What this means to our local community is how much money we receive in federal funding. Estimates show for every person undercounted, Berks County could lose up [to \\$2,093](#) per person per year in federal funding. That totals

to over \$350 million given our projected undercount from the previous census (16,000 people).

Why is it important to me?

Responding to the census is not only your civic duty; it also affects the amount of funding your community receives, how your community plans for the future, and your representation in government. Specifically, data from the 2020 Census are used to:

- Ensure public services and funding for schools, hospitals, and fire departments.
- Plan new homes and businesses and improve neighborhoods.
- Determine how many seats your state is allocated in the House of Representatives.

How can I respond?

In 2020, for the first time ever, the U.S. Census Bureau will accept responses online, but you can still respond by phone or mail if you prefer. Responding should take less time than it takes to finish your morning coffee.

Where can I go to learn more?

You can learn more about the 2020 Census by visiting www.2020census.gov



2020 Census – Be Counted!

Why participate?

- ✓ We'll give you 675 billion reasons! If you suffered damages from the flooding rains this year, you need to be counted! If you drive on roads or over bridges that need to be repaired, you need to be counted! If you send kids to school or subsidized daycare, if you use free lunches at school, if you go to the senior center or use our playgrounds, you need to be counted! There's approximately \$675 billion in small business loans, federal funds, grants and support to states, counties and communities distributed annually; all based upon Decennial Census counts. This money is spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works and other vital programs and infrastructure. This money will end up in someone's community. Do all you can to make your claim so we can have those dollars – OUR DOLLARS – end up here in the Borough of Wyomissing!

- ✓ It's CONFIDENTIAL!! Even those who are not US Citizens need to be counted to ensure proper allocation of these funds. With all applicable laws and privacy policies nobody should fear completing the census. Under Title 13 of the U.S. Code, the Census Bureau cannot release any identifiable information about individuals, households or businesses, *even to law enforcement agencies!* The information collected can be used for statistical purposes only. Additionally, all Census Bureau staff take a lifetime oath to protect your personal information and any violations comes with a penalty of up to \$250,000.00 and/or up to 5 years in prison. Learn more about the Census Bureau's data protection and privacy program at www.census.gov/privacy.

- ✓ It's your civil duty and completing the census is mandatory! Respond next year, or Census Enumerators will come knocking! If a response is not received for your address by the end of April 2020, you will likely see a Census Bureau worker knocking at your door! Do your part and BE COUNTED!

Fact Sheet

November 2019



The 2020 Census counts every person living in the United States and five U.S. territories. It takes less than 10 minutes to complete and you can respond to the census in three ways:



Online



By Phone



By Mail

Your answers help determine:

- The number of seats each state gets in the House of Representatives
- The boundaries for congressional districts, state legislative districts, and school districts
- The distribution of more than **\$675 billion in federal funding** to hospitals, fire departments, schools, road repair, and many other projects.

Why is April 1, 2020 so important?

When completing the census, you'll note where you are living on April 1. Even if you fill your form out early, April 1 is used as a reference point.

Remember:

If a child spends time between two homes, count them where they stayed on Census Day, April 1.

College students not living in their parent's home while attending college should be counted where they live and sleep most of the time.

Parents should include children even if they are in the hospital.

How does the Census Bureau protect my data?

If you submit your census online, your information is encrypted. The Census Bureau's cybersecurity program meets the highest and most recent standards for protecting personal information.

Your Census information is confidential.

Federal law protects your census responses. Your answers can only be used to produce statistics.

By law, the Census Bureau cannot share your information with immigration or law enforcement agencies, or allow it to be used to determine your eligibility for government benefits.

**DID YOU
KNOW**



The United States has counted its population every 10 years since 1790.



The Census is required by the Constitution of the United States.



Every Census Bureau employee takes an oath to protect your personal information for life.

Avoid Scams!

The U.S. Census Bureau will never ask for:

- Your Social Security number
- Your bank account or credit card numbers
- Money or donations
- Anything on behalf of a political party

If a website, e-mail, or person claiming to be from the Census Bureau asks you for one of these things, you may be the target or victim of a scam.

Learn more about the 2020 Census by visiting the official U.S. Census Bureau website. [2020census.gov](https://www.2020census.gov)