



National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights

310 8th Street, Suite 310, Oakland, CA 94607, USA

+1.510.465.1984 ph +1.510.465.1885 fax

Census 2020: We All Count

Article 1, Section 2 of the Constitution mandates that every ten years a count -- or census -- of the U.S. population is taken. Beginning on April 1, 2020, the U.S. Census Bureau will again administer this nationwide survey to count every resident in the United States.

What is Census 2020?

Data collected from each Census provides current facts and figures about the people, places, and economy of the U.S. Census data can only be used for statistical purposes; the confidentiality of all individual responses is protected under Title 13 of the U.S. Code. ***The sharing of an individual's personal Census information with public, state or local governments, law enforcement, and other federal agencies -- including ICE -- is a serious federal crime.***



CENSUS 101: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The 2020 Census is closer than you think! Here's a quick refresher of what it is and why it's essential that everyone is counted.

Everyone counts. The census counts every person living in the U.S. once, only once, and in the right place.

It's about fair representation. Every 10 years, the results of the census are used to re-apportion the House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state gets.

It's in the constitution. The U.S. Constitution mandates that every 10 years the country be counted every 10 years. The first census was in 1790.

It's about \$675 billion. The distribution of more than \$675 billion in federal funds grants and support to states, counties and communities are based on census data. That money is spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works and other vital programs.

It's about redistricting. After each decennial's census, state officials use the results of the congressional and state legislative districts in their states to account for population shifts.

Taking part is your civic duty. Completing the census is mandatory. It's a way to participate in our democracy and say "I COUNT!"

An Accurate Census is Essential for Democratic Processes and Supporting Communities:

- Census population data is used to reapportion the House of Representatives -- dictating how many seats each state will have for the following ten years and affecting state electoral votes.
- Census data is used to allocate more than \$675 billion in federal funds each year for education, health care, affordable housing, employment and infrastructure in marginalized and under-resourced communities.
- Communities rely on demographic Census data to identify resident characteristics and needs, and to determine what areas would benefit the most from the building of schools, roads, hospitals, and businesses.
- Organizers in immigrant communities are particularly mindful of Census data, which provides important information on issues and needs of growing immigrant populations.

Immigrant Undercounts: Immigrant-based communities are at the top of the list of "Hard-To-Count Populations" (HTC) when it comes to Census participation. New arrivals, lack of familiarity with the Census, language barriers, and lower responses from poor neighborhoods -- these are all factors that contribute to an undercount among immigrant communities, and are only exacerbated by an ongoing climate of fear and government distrust.

The Citizenship Question: The Trump Administration has officially deserted attempts to include a question about citizenship in the 2020 Census. However, the controversy has continued to raise concerns in immigrant communities and the Administration's insistence on the question appeared as yet another attempt to undermine immigrant community participation in civic life. Countless immigrant rights and other organizations, including NNIRR, are continuing to work with local Census outreach committees and in supportive coalitions to ensure a fair and inclusive count for Census 2020.

