

2020 CENSUS: What you need to know in Massachusetts

What is the Census?

It is a count of **every person** living in the United States, required by the Constitution, and done **every 10 years**.



The U.S. Census Bureau collects information from every household and combines the data into **statistics** that are used to make key policy and budget decisions. The next Census starts in **March 2020**.

What does the Census ask?

For each household, it asks:

- **How many people** live here as of **April 1, 2020**?
- Do you **rent or own** your home?
- What's your **phone number**?

For each resident, it asks for:

- **Name** and **relationship**
- **Birth date**
- **Age** and **sex**
- **Race** and **ethnicity**.

That's it: quick and easy.

You will NOT be asked about your nationality or immigration status!

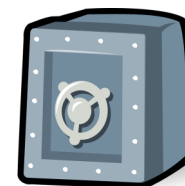
Who is counted in the Census?

EVERYONE in the household! It doesn't matter if you're a U.S. citizen or an immigrant, a child or an adult, the listed tenant or a friend or family member living with them, "officially" or not. If someone lives in two places (say, a child whose parents share custody, or a "snowbird" who winters in Florida), pick the home **where they live most of the time**.



The Census is safe and confidential!

The U.S. Census Bureau takes many steps to protect everyone's data, and **federal law strictly limits** how the information can be used. Your **responses cannot be used against you** by any government agency or court. They can only be combined with others to create statistical analyses. Individual household data **can't be shared with anyone** for 72 years.



There are **big penalties for anyone who breaks this law**: up to 5 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine per violation.

WHAT TO EXPECT? HERE'S A PREVIEW OF THE 2020 CENSUS FORM:

Start here OR go online at [url removed] to complete your 2020 Census questionnaire.
Use a blue or black pen.

Before you answer Question 1, count the people living in this house, apartment, or mobile home using our guidelines.

- Count all people, including babies, who live and sleep here most of the time.
- If no one lives and sleeps at this address most of the time, go online at [url removed] or call the number on page 8.

The census must also include people without a permanent place to live, so:

- If someone who does not have a permanent place to live is staying here on April 1, 2020, count that person.

The Census Bureau also conducts counts in institutions and other places, so:

- Do not count anyone living away from here, either at college or in the Armed Forces.
- Do not count anyone in a nursing home, jail, prison, detention facility, etc., on April 1, 2020.
- Leave these people off your questionnaire, even if they will return to live here after they leave college, the nursing home, the military, jail, etc. Otherwise, they may be counted twice.

1. How many people were living or staying in this house, apartment, or mobile home on April 1, 2020?

Number of people =

2. Were there any additional people staying here on April 1, 2020 that you did not include in Question 1?
Mark ☒ all that apply.

- ☐ Children, related or unrelated, such as newborn babies, grandchildren, or foster children
- ☐ Relatives, such as adult children, cousins, or in-laws
- ☐ Nonrelatives, such as roommates or live-in babysitters
- ☐ People staying here temporarily
- ☐ No additional people

3. Is this house, apartment, or mobile home — Mark ☒ ONE box.

- ☐ Owned by you or someone in this household with a mortgage or loan? Include home equity loans.
- ☐ Owned by you or someone in this household free and clear (without a mortgage or loan)?
- ☐ Rented?
- ☐ Occupied without payment of rent?

4. What is your telephone number?
We will only contact you if needed for official Census Bureau business.

Telephone Number - -

[Form number removed]

IT'S ABOUT INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITIES

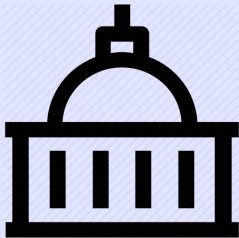
Census data are used to allocate over **\$675 billion** per year in federal funds, grants and support to states, counties and communities.



For Massachusetts, **\$16 billion** is at stake, or **\$2,372 per person**. That's money for schools, hospitals, roads, affordable housing, public works and other vital investments.

IT'S ABOUT FAIR POLITICAL REPRESENTATION

The 2020 Census will determine **how many seats** Massachusetts will have in Congress, and Census data will also be used to **redraw the boundaries** of congressional and state legislative districts.



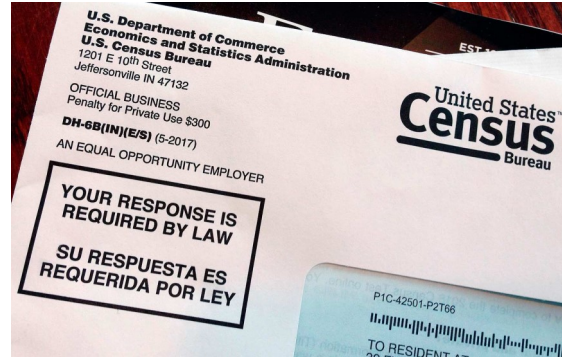
IT'S ABOUT WHO COUNTS IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Policymakers, researchers and business leaders use Census data to paint a picture of each community and guide key choices. But **past censuses have undercounted** many groups: renters, people of color, LGBTQ people, immigrants, children, senior citizens, and others. **We ALL deserve to be seen, heard and counted.**



How do I participate in the Census?

Every household will get a **letter from the Census Bureau** in **March 2020**, followed by a **reminder postcard**.



You will have **3 ways to respond**: online, by phone, or by filling out a paper form.



Online and by phone, you can answer in **English + 12 other languages**. The paper form is available in English and in Spanish.



You're asked to **respond by mid-May** at the latest; if you don't, a Census Bureau worker will be sent to get your response in person.



Where can I get more information?

MassCounts: www.masscounts.org

Mass. 2020 Census: sec.state.ma.us/census2020

U.S. Census Bureau: 2020census.gov

COMMIT
TO COUNT!



For Massachusetts' future



2020 CENSUS

What you need to know in Massachusetts

