

# A Health Care Provider's Guide to the 2020 Census

## Why Does the Census Matter?

The United States Census is how the federal government counts residents in each state. This population count determines how many U.S. Representatives in the Congress each state is allotted. The Census also informs distribution of federal funding for programs, including health care, education, food and nutrition, housing, and child care.



## When is the Census?

Residents will begin receiving information about the Census in March. While the Census can be completed anytime during the months of April and May, it is meant to provide a picture of who lived in the country on April 1, 2020, which is called "Census Day." During the month of March, people will receive an invitation to complete the questionnaire online, by phone, or via mail. Starting in May 2020, Census workers will begin visiting homes that have not submitted a questionnaire to collect data in person.



## Who is Counted?

EVERYONE counts in the Census, regardless of documentation status, race, ethnicity, or income. This is a snapshot of who is residing in the United States on April 1. It includes medical trainees, every single young child, including babies born on April 1, people experiencing homelessness, etc.



## How Do You Complete the Questionnaire?

In 2020, all residents will be able to complete the questionnaire online for the first time. The invitation will include the link. The questionnaire can also be completed via phone or mail if desired. The form will be available in multiple languages. Phone support will also be available in 12 languages.



## Is it Safe to Complete the Census?

All Census workers take an oath for life to protect data of respondents. They will not ask for documentation status, social security numbers, bank accounts, or credit card information. Anyone that asks for such information is NOT an official Census employee and should be reported. Furthermore, census data is protected by federal law and cannot be used against respondents by any government agency or court.



## What Happens if You Do Not Complete the Questionnaire?

Census workers, called enumerators, will begin visiting homes of people who have not completed the questionnaire in May. To avoid these home visits, which can be daunting, encourage your patients and colleagues to fill out the Census as soon as they receive the invitation. Critical Federal Funding for local schools, child care, & health centers are at risk when people are left out of the count.

For every person who is not counted \$2,372 of federal funding is lost per person per year.

## What about the Proposed Citizenship Question?

There will NOT be a citizenship question on the 2020 Census questionnaire. The current Administration considered including a question assessing citizenship status of members in a household; however, this addition will NOT be included. The Census is a population count, not a citizenship count.



For more information, visit [www.2020Census.gov](http://www.2020Census.gov) / Questions? Email [CAN@childrens.harvard.edu](mailto:CAN@childrens.harvard.edu)