

The 2020 Census Disability County Continues Questions & Answers



The 2020 Census is coming! It is so important that everyone is counted – but there are still many questions about the census.

Here are questions and answers about why the Census is important, what is in the census, and any help people with disabilities can get to complete the census. These questions come from an [online training](#) held in May 2020.

Disability is not asked about on the census. Why does our community need to fill it out?

It is important that [everyone is counted](#) because the census data impacts many key things. For example, census data is used to figure out how much money state and local governments get for Medicaid, housing vouchers, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and education programs. When there is not enough money, services and programs for people with disabilities can be cut. Census data is also used to determine how many representatives each state gets in the House of Representatives. For more on why the census matters, visit [Why the Census Matters for People with Disabilities: A Guide to the 2020 Census Operations & Challenges](#).

Is there a question about a person's documented status to be or remain in the United States?

No. The 2020 Census form includes basic questions about yourself and all household members living with you on April 1, including young children, relatives, and nonrelatives such as roommates. The 2020 Census will ask for information like your name, sex, date of birth, and race and ethnicity. The Census does not ask about citizenship status.

How are people with disabilities who live in group homes counted in the census?

Many people in group living situations will be counted through a process known as the Group Quarters (GQ) operation. GQ facilities include skilled nursing facilities, group homes, residential treatment centers, college or university student housing, prisons, military barracks, shelters for people experiencing homelessness, and vocational training facilities. For the 2020 Census, census staff will work with GQ housing administrators to set an agreed-upon date, time, and preferred way to get people to complete the census. The bureau will not directly invite people living in GQ facilities to self-respond. If you are unsure whether you are being counted in the GQ operation and your household did not receive a census mailing, ask your housing administrator or self-respond online or by phone.

For more information about group quarters, visit: <https://2020census.gov/en/conducting-the-count/gq/gqe.html>.

Do school districts send out census resources for special education students who are 18 and older to help them complete the census?

The U.S. Census Bureau recently mailed [2020 Census Statistics in Schools \(SIS\) kits](#) to every school in the nation. SIS is a nationwide initiative designed to engage educators to help their communities achieve a complete count in the 2020 Census. However, it is unclear at this time if SIS has worked with students with disabilities directly.

Can I request a reasonable accommodation to complete the census?

The Census Bureau has assured people that this year's census self-response options will be accessible for everyone. As of mid-April, the Census Bureau has released three factsheets addressing the accessibility of the 2020 Census including [Fact Sheet on Accessibility of the 2020 Census](#), [The 2020 Census is Accessible for Everyone](#) and [2020 Census 508 Frequently Asked Questions](#).

Online. The 2020 Census online self-response website will meet the latest web accessibility guidelines, so you should be able to navigate through census materials online without a mouse and use assistive technology such as a screen reader. A video guide in American Sign Language is available to help you complete the census online.

By Phone. Census Questionnaire Assistance phone lines are now available in English and 12 additional languages if you want to self-respond by phone or have any questions related to the census. You can also complete the census in English by calling 844-467-2020 to use TDD (Telephone Display Device).

By Mail. Braille and large print guides will be available to assist you with completing the paper questionnaire. A braille BRF file (a digital Braille file that can be read using a refreshable Braille display that is connected to a computer or smartphone, or with a Braille notetaker that is connected to the Internet.) and large-print English language guides, as well as non-English language guides, are now available on the bureau's website.

Can I help people with disabilities with challenges they may have completing the census?

You can ask someone you trust to help you fill out the 2020 Census. You can also ask for assistance from Census Bureau staff by calling the Census Questionnaire Assistance phone lines available in English (844-330-2020), Spanish (844-468-2020), and 11 additional languages, as well as an English-language line that uses TDD/TTY (844-467-2020). This information comes from [An Accessible 2020 Census](#), which provides more information about how you can get help to complete the census.

What is the American Community Survey (ACS)? How do you get the ACS?

Only those who are randomly selected by the U.S. Census Bureau can respond to the ACS. The ACS is different from the 2020 Census. The ACS is conducted every month, every year. The survey is sent to a sample of addresses (about 3.5 million) in the 50 states, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico and asks about topics not on the 2020 Census, such as education, employment, internet access, and transportation. Learn more about the ACS [here](#).

Where can I get more information?

For more information and resources about the census and people with disabilities, visit thearc.org/census.