

The 2020 Census Explained

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What is the Census?

The Census is a survey of every person living in the United States. The Census happens every ten years and captures information about the growth and diversity of our nation. The last Census was in 2010 and the next will happen on April 1, 2020. Any information collected by April 1st, 2020 will be used starting January 1st, 2021 and last until 2031.

Make Sure You Count!

Based on the number of people counted by the census, the government distributes federal money to the states and determines elected representation. Importantly, census information is also used to plan community resources for the next 10 years. If someone isn't counted by the census, they may appear "invisible" and will not be included in plans for future public resources.



City planning relies on census data. Whether it's the size of the sidewalks in your neighborhood, the location of fire stations or libraries in your community, or the construction of highways and subway stations, the more people counted in an area, the more resources a city will provide to support them.



School locations and size are also determined by census data. School systems are able to project future number of students and provide class seats and resources accordingly. Undercounted communities may face fewer seats in child care programs, gifted and talented programs, and other resources for students.

Education

Like the school system, hospital locations and size are planned with census data. If you've ever had a long wait in an emergency room or have had to wait days for a doctors' appointment, it may be because of the hospital was planned to serve a smaller population.

Medicare and Medicaid funding is also distributed to states based on census data. If a state counted fewer people eligible for these benefits, they will receive less funding from the federal government.



Businesses use census data to decide where to build factories, offices, and stores. These decisions help businesses pursue customers, but they also create important jobs. If more people are counted in a growing area, businesses may choose to move there instead of a neighborhood where the number of people is declining.

How will CPC benefit from the Census?

- Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities constitute approximately 15% of NYC's population, but receive less than 1% of city funding.
- CPC's services and outreach are funded by \$6.2 million in public funding.
- A fair and accurate census is important for Asian Americans as the most comprehensive set of socioeconomic data points on Asian American communities, particularly for subgroups that include more than several dozen detailed racial and ethnic groups like Chinese, Vietnamese, Asian Indian, and Filipino. Detailed indicators about the diversity with Asian American communities allows for tailored resources and planning to support

Still Don't Believe the Census Is important?

Between the 2000 and 2010 census, Asians were counted as the fastest growing racial and ethnic group in the nation, growing by 30% percent in almost every state to total 17.3 million nationwide. New York City had the largest Asian population counted in 2010. Despite this growth, there are only 5 Asian American elected officials in New York's city, state, and federal representation. Complete community counts are an important part of making sure that community issues have power in decision making.

Make sure you, your family, and your neighbors are counted!

- Raise awareness by encouraging others to complete the census.
- Fill out the Census online and help a friend fill out theirs. Using a computer can be challenging, especially for older adults, new immigrants, or those without internet at home. You can reduce the need for an in-person Census visit by helping others use the online form.
- Sign up to work as an enumerator. English language learners and new immigrants are often undercounted by the Census due to fears or misunderstandings about its use. If you speak a language other than English, you can Indian, and Filipino. Detailed indicators about the diversity with Asian American communities allows for tailored resources and planning to support them.
- Know your rights. Share this information sheet with others and direct them to trusted community leaders to answer questions. It's easy for rumors to spread, but by knowing what to expect and where to find answers, you can reduce fear and stigma and encourage a complete count.
- Read up on Asian Americans Advancing Justice (AAJC)'s short article on "Debunking the Myths about the Citizenship Question on the 2020 Census Form": https://bit.ly/2KP8Q39



Key Words & Definitions

Apportionment: The number of seats that each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives based upon the U.S Census data. The more people counted in the census, the more seats the state receives. New York State currently has 27 seats in the House of Representatives. Since 1950, New York has lost 18 seats.

Enumeration: An enumeration is a count of the total population. The U.S. Census Bureau assigns each individual census taker an enumeration district (ED), a geographic area that represents a specified portion of the city or county which would then be subject to enumeration, or a count, of the population within an allotted time.

Enumerators: An individual census taker. If you do not fill out the Census online or by phone or mail, an Enumerators may visit your home to collect answers in person.

Households: A household includes all the persons who occupy a housing unit. A housing unit, like a building or large house, might share an address but be divided inside by apartmentsor a group of rooms. Every household is counted, so if you share an address, encourage everyone in your building to be counted.