**2020 Census Frequently Asked Questions**

1. **Question:** What will the Census [ask?](https://files.nc.gov/census/documents/files/Census_2020_FAQ_Resource_Guide_English.pdf)

**Answer:** The 2020 Census asks how many people are living or staying at each address. For each person, they will ask about name, sex, age, date of birth, relationship, and race. They also will ask whether the housing unit, such as the house, apartment, or mobile home, is owned or rented, and for contact information in case additional information is needed. When completing the Census, you should count everyone who is living in your household on April 1, 2020 – including infants.

1. **Question:** Will the 2020 Census ask me about my citizenship status?

**Answer:** No, the Census cannot ask questions about your:

* Citizenship status
* Religious affiliation
* Social security number
* Political affiliation
* Donations
* Tax information

1. **Question:** Will my information be secure?

**Answer:** Yes, individual census responses are protected by US law and cannot be shared for 72 years. Information cannot be shared with service providers, other government agencies or law enforcement.

1. **Question:** Do I include my children on the form?

**Answer:** Yes, all children of all ages count. This misconception leads to the highest percentage of undercount among any group. If you have a newborn in the hospital on April 1, 2020 or after – they count too.

1. **Question:** What makes the Census different this year?

**Answer:** This is the first year that the Census will be offered online. It can also be completed via phone or hard copy, which will be distributed via US Postal Services.

1. **Question:** How can people [submit](https://files.nc.gov/census/documents/files/Census_2020_FAQ_Resource_Guide_English.pdf) responses?

**Answer:** The 2020 Census is the first U.S. Census to allow response by smartphone or online. You can choose to respond by phone or by mail. Census forms will be available in English and Spanish, and Census support and assistance will be available in 59 languages, American Sign Language, braille, and large print.

1. **Question:** When will I receive my Census questionnaire?

**Answer:** Homes will begin receiving their invitation to respond to the 2020 Census between March 12–20. These official Census Bureau mailings will include detailed information and a Census ID for completing the census online. During this time, homes in areas that are less likely to respond online will receive a paper questionnaire (sometimes known as the census form). All homes will receive a paper questionnaire if they do not first respond online or by phone. When responding, use blue or black ink to fill in the questionnaire. Do not use a pencil. When finished, return the questionnaire in the envelope provided.

1. **Question:** Can I or my organization fill out the Census form on someone else’s behalf?

**Answer:** No, only official Census Bureau personnel are allowed to distribute and collect hard copy census responses. Your organization may aid in the collection of census responses by serving as a Partner Questionnaire Assistance Center (PQAC). PQAC's allow for individuals and household to use a computer or tablet on-site to complete the census online.

1. **Question:** Who can I contact if I have questions?

**Call Centers**: For questions about responding to the 2020 Census, call our hotline in English 844-330-2020.  Visit our [Responding by Phone](https://2020census.gov/en/ways-to-respond/responding-by-phone.html) page for more information and for live agent support lines in Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Korean, Russian, Arabic, Tagalog, Polish, French, Haitian Creole, Portuguese, or Japanese.

**Online Support:**Find moreinformation and to viewa [sample form](https://2020census.gov/content/dam/2020census/materials/partners/2019-08/2020-informational-questionnaire.pdf) and [FAQ](https://2020census.gov/en/help.html) at [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov/en.html).

For online language guides in any of 59 languages, visit our [Language Support page](https://2020census.gov/en/languages.html).

**Call Center:** 301-763-INFO (4636) or 800-923-8282 or [ask.census.gov](https://ask.census.gov/)

**TDD:** TTY users can dial 1-800-877-8339 to use the Federal Relay Service

1. **Question:** If I share custody of a child and/or children who should count the child in their submission?

**Answer:** The household where the child stays most often should count them.If their time is evenly divided between homes, or you don’t know where they stay most often, count them where they are staying on [April 1, 2020.](https://2020census.gov/content/dam/2020census/materials/partners/2019-10/Handout_for_Partners_CYC.pdf)

1. **Question:** What is the deadline to respond?

**Answer:** There is no firm deadline, however you should respond as soon as you receive your response information card. If you have not responded, it becomes more likely a census worker will knock on your door after April 1. Online responses will only be allowed through July 31, 2020.

1. **Question:** What are “Hard to Count” communities?

**Answer:** Hard to Count Communities are groups who are more likely to not be counted by the Census than other Americans. Historically, marginalized communities are at a greater risk of being undercounted. North Carolina’s Hard-to-Count Communities include:

* Young children < age 6
* Hispanic or Latinx individuals
* Native Americans
* Black or African Americans
* Migrant populations
* Seniors

1. **Question:** Where are college students, prisoners, military personnel, and other people living in ground quarters supposed to be [counted?](https://files.nc.gov/census/documents/files/Census_2020_FAQ_Resource_Guide_English.pdf)

**Answer:** The Census counts everyone, once, only once, and in the right place. College dorms, prisons, military barracks, and long-term nursing homes are examples of Census group quarters. The Census will work with administrative staff at these places to count everyone. Students or military personnel living in apartments will receive their own Census mailings.  Everyone should answer their Census form based on where they usually reside as of April 1, 2020.

1. **Question:** What’s the best way to [identify](https://www.census.gov/about/regions/denver/contact/identify.html) a census taker or Census Bureau field representative?

**Answer:** If you are visited by someone from the Census Bureau, they may be working on the 2020 Census or one of our other surveys. The Census Bureau conducts over 100 surveys throughout the country in addition to the decennial census. **All census takers or field representatives will have an ID badge which will include:**

* Name
* Photograph
* Department of Commerce watermark
* Expiration date

They will have an official bag and Census Bureau-issued electronic device, such as a laptop or smartphone, bearing the Census Bureau logo. Census takers and field representatives will conduct their work between the hours of 9 A.M. and 9 P.M., local time. Census representatives will be at local organizations and community events with computer tablets to help individuals respond online to the 2020 Census.

To learn more about a census taker visiting on behalf of the 2020 Census, please see information about Avoiding Fraud and Scams. The best way to avoid being visited at home by a census taker, or enumerator, is to complete the 2020 Census online, by phone, or by mail. Census takers for the 2020 Census report to their local Regional Census Centers. Please contact your local Regional Census Center if you have questions about the 2020 Census or local census takers.

For Census Bureau surveys other than the 2020 Census, Census Bureau field representatives report to one of six Regional Offices across the country. If you wish to independently confirm that the person at your door is a Census Bureau field representatives conducting a household survey other than the 2020 Census you can enter their name in the Census Bureau’s staff search website, or contact the Regional Office for your state.

1. **For additional information please contact your county’s census representative:**

***Halifax County Northampton County***

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***Sources:***

* Counting Young Children in the 2020 Census: [*https://2020census.gov/content/dam/2020census/materials/partners/2019-10/Handout\_for\_Partners\_CYC.pdf*](https://2020census.gov/content/dam/2020census/materials/partners/2019-10/Handout_for_Partners_CYC.pdf)
* Census 2020 Frequently Asked Questions: [*https://files.nc.gov/census/documents/files/Census\_2020\_FAQ\_Resource\_Guide\_English.pdf*](https://files.nc.gov/census/documents/files/Census_2020_FAQ_Resource_Guide_English.pdf)

***Additional Resources:***

* *Make NC Count website:* [*https://census.nc.gov/*](https://census.nc.gov/)
* *U.S. Census Bureau website:* [*https://www.census.gov/*](https://www.census.gov/)
* *NC Counts Coalition website:* [*https://www.nccensus.org/*](https://www.nccensus.org/)