

# 2020 U.S. Census

## QUICK FACTS

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### What is the U.S. Census, and why is it important?

As mandated by the U.S. Constitution, the United States must count its population once a decade. The results are used to adjust or redraw electoral districts, based on where populations have increased or decreased. The 2020 Census will provide a snapshot of our nation—who we are, where we live, and so much more. The results of this once-a-decade count determine the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives. They are also used to draw congressional and state legislative districts. **Missouri lost one U.S. House seat after the 2010 census. It is important that all Missouri residents are counted so that our population has accurate representation at the state and federal levels.** State legislatures or independent bipartisan commissions are responsible for redrawing congressional districts. The U.S. Census Bureau provides states with population counts for this purpose. Read through this guide to find out how to respond, who to count, and how your response will help inform important federal and state decisions.

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### Federal Funding

The results of each census inform decisions about the distribution of hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding to communities across the country. Hospitals, fire departments, school lunch programs, and other critical programs and services depend on this funding to operate fully and effectively.

### Representation in Congress

The 2020 U.S. Census will determine each state's representation in U.S. Congress. The U.S. House of Representatives is fixed at 435 members, and after every census, results are used to determine which states gain and lose seats based on population. After the 2010 census, Missouri lost one Congressional seat, bringing our count to eight seats. There is a risk of losing yet another seat after this census, further stating the importance of a complete and accurate count—without an accurate count, Missouri's voice will not be accurately represented at the federal level.

### Impact at Home

The census count not only has an impact at the federal level, but even more so in our local communities. Local and state governments depend on census data to determine which areas of the state are growing or changing, and use this information to create public safety and policy plans, used in situations such as natural disasters. This data is also used to identify economic, social, and political trends, which influence public policy decisions.

### How Can I Respond to the Census?

**Only one person per household should respond for all those who live there.** In mid-March, households will begin receiving official Census Bureau mail with detailed information on how to respond to the 2020 Census. Every home will receive this material by April 1. There are three ways to respond:

- **Online**
- **By phone**
- **By mail**

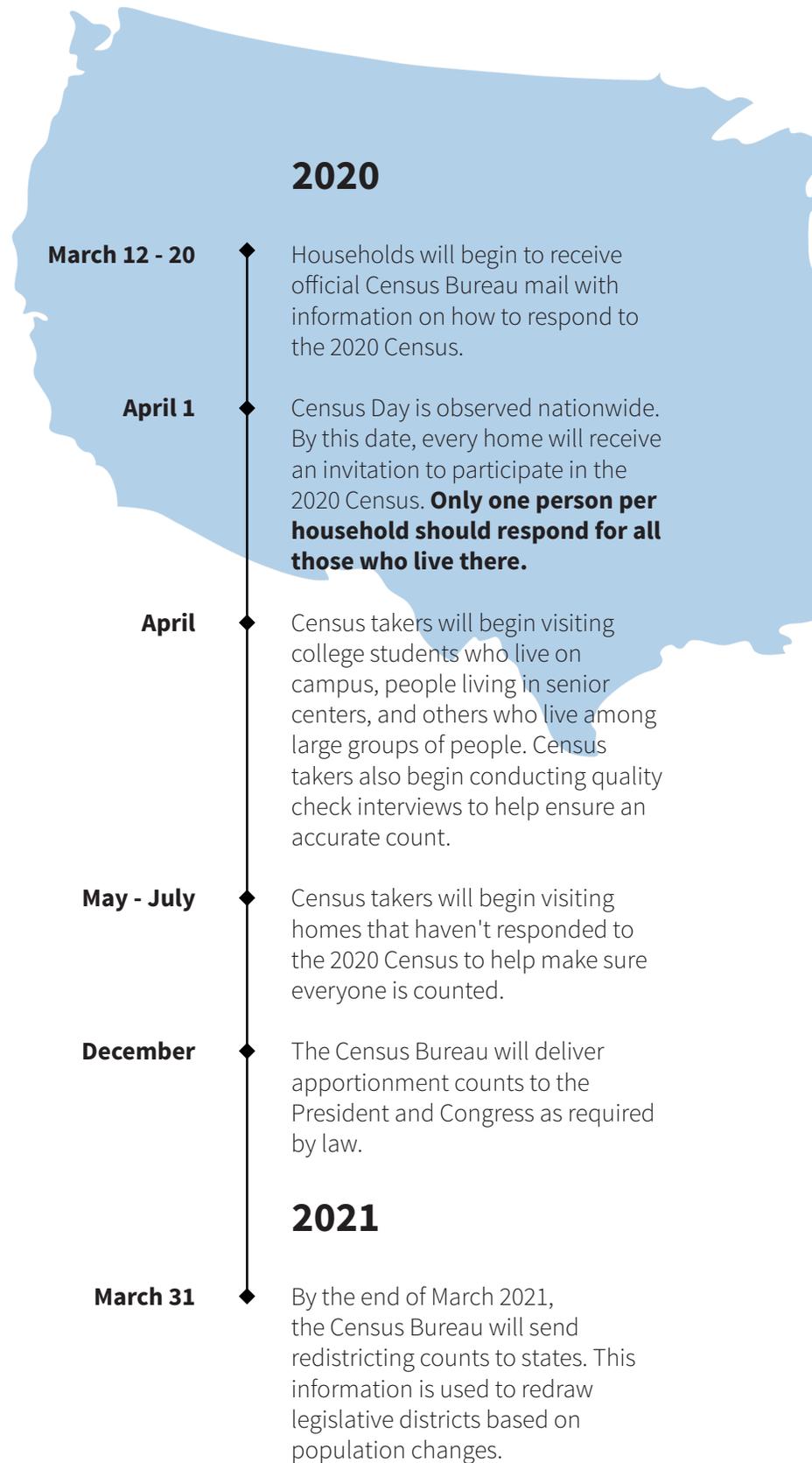
### Who is Required to Respond?

Everyone living in the 50 states, District of Columbia, and five U.S. territories is required by law to be counted in the 2020 Census.

### Who to Count

Tally everyone who is living in your home as of April 1, 2020, including friends or family who are living and sleeping there most of the time. If someone is staying in your home on April 1, and has no usual home elsewhere, you should count them in your response. Be sure to count roommates, young children, newborns, and anyone who is renting a space in your home. These people are often missed in the census.

# 2020 Census Timeline



## How the Census Bureau Protects Your Information

The Census Bureau is bound by Title 13 of the U.S. Code to keep your information confidential. The Census Bureau cannot release any identifiable information about you, your home, or your business, even to law enforcement agencies. The law ensures that your private data is protected and that your answers cannot be used against you by any government agency or court. **Your answers are used only to produce statistics. You are kept anonymous.**

It is important to know that the Census Bureau will not send unsolicited emails to request your participation in the 2020 Census. Further, the Census Bureau will never ask for:

- Your Social Security number
- Your bank account or credit card numbers
- Money or donations
- In addition, the Census Bureau will not contact you on behalf of a political party.

## Staying Safe at Home

If someone visits your home to collect a response for the 2020 Census, you can do the following to verify their identity: First, check to make sure that they have a valid ID badge, with their photograph, a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark, and an expiration date. If you still have questions about their identity, you can call 800-923-8282 to speak with a local Census Bureau representative.