

Overall Timeline

Counting every person living in the United States is a massive undertaking, and efforts begin years in advance. Here's a look at some of the key dates along the way, as they are currently scheduled:

2020

- **January 21:** The Census Bureau started counting the population in remote Alaska. The count officially began in the rural Alaskan village of Toksook Bay.
- **March 12 - March 20:** Households received official Census Bureau mail with detailed information on how to respond to the 2020 Census online, by phone, or by mail.
- **April 1:** This is Census Day, a key reference date for the 2020 Census—**not a deadline**. We use this day to determine who is counted and where in the 2020 Census. When you respond, you'll tell the Census Bureau where you live as of April 1, 2020, and include everyone who usually lives and sleeps in your home. You can respond before or after that date. We encourage you to respond as soon as you can.
- **April 29 - May 1:** The Census Bureau will count people who are experiencing homelessness over these three days. As part of this process, the Census Bureau counts people in shelters, at soup kitchens and mobile food vans, on the streets, and at nonsheltered, outdoor locations such as tent encampments.
- **April 16 - June 19:** Census takers will work with administrators at colleges, senior centers, prisons, and other facilities that house large groups of people to make sure everyone is counted.
- **May 27 - August 14:** Census takers will interview homes that haven't responded to the 2020 Census to help make sure everyone is counted.
- **December:** The Census Bureau will deliver apportionment counts to the President and Congress as required by law.

2021

- **March 31:** By this date, the Census Bureau will send redistricting counts to the states. This information is used to redraw legislative districts based on population changes.

Why Does the Census Bureau Refer to April 1?

April 1 is a key reference date for the 2020 Census. When completing the census, you will include everyone living in your home on April 1, 2020. You can choose to respond before or after April 1.

Monitoring COVID-19

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the U.S. Census Bureau has adjusted 2020 Census operations to protect the health and safety of our employees and the public, and to ensure a complete and accurate count of all communities based on guidance from federal, state, and local health authorities.

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2020 Census Operational Adjustments Due to COVID-19

We're adapting or delaying some of our operations to protect the health and safety of our staff and the public and make sure we get the same population counted another way.

The table below summarizes the adjustments to operations. Should any additional adjustment become necessary, the Census Bureau will promptly publish the change in an updated document.

Census Bureau Update on 2020 Census Field Operations

March 28, 2020

Release Number CB20-RTQ.14

MARCH 28, 2020 — Based on continuing assessments of guidance from federal, state and local health authorities, the U.S. Census Bureau is suspending 2020 Census field operations for two additional weeks to April 15, 2020. The Census Bureau is taking this step to help protect the health and safety of the American public, Census Bureau employees, and everyone who will go through the hiring process for temporary census taker positions.

The Census Bureau continues to evaluate all 2020 Census field operations, and will communicate any further updates as soon as possible.

The 2020 Census is open for self-response online at 2020Census.gov, over the phone by calling the number provided in your invitation, and by paper through the mail.