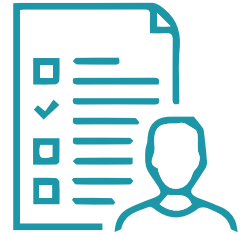


How the 2020 Census Counts People Experiencing Homelessness



The 2020 Census has an operation that counts people receiving services from shelters, soup kitchens, and mobile food vans, as well as people living in certain previously identified outdoor locations and other places where people are known to sleep.

COVID-19 delayed our plans to count people during this operation. Census takers now plan to resume this operation from September 22-24, 2020. People experiencing homelessness who are not counted in households or other operations are counted where they stay or receive services when census takers visit. These operations were originally scheduled for March 30-April 1.

The 2020 Census counts people living outdoors and at other locations where they are known to sleep.

The Census Bureau works with local groups to identify outdoor and other locations where people are known to sleep. Census takers will count people in person at these previously identified locations.



Outdoor and Other Locations

Potential outdoor locations include parks, wooded areas, designated beach areas, tent cities, alleys, and under highway systems.

The 2020 Census counts people at service locations.

The 2020 Census will count people at the following locations:



Emergency and Transitional Shelters

Shelters with sleeping facilities for people to stay overnight, missions, hotels and motels used as shelters, and places for children experiencing homelessness, neglected, or who have run away from home.



Soup Kitchens

Facilities that serve meals (using service lines or bag lunches).



Regularly Scheduled Mobile Food Vans

Stops where such vans distribute meals.

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The Census Bureau works with service providers to get a complete and accurate count at their locations.

Service providers decide whether people at their locations will be counted by:



- **In-person interview:** Using a paper questionnaire, a census taker interviews each person served a meal or staying at the facility.
- **Facility records:** Emergency and transitional shelters may opt to provide census workers with a paper listing of census response data for each person served or staying at the facility.

Census workers will begin contacting administrators in late August 2020 to:



1. Verify or confirm the address and contact information of the facility or food van stop.
2. Discuss the expected population at the time of enumeration.
3. Determine the best date and time (between September 22-24, 2020) for conducting the enumeration.
4. Discuss legal and security constraints or issues, and explain confidentiality procedures.
5. Determine preferred enumeration method.

Census statistics are crucial to programs and service providers that support people experiencing homelessness. A complete and accurate 2020 Census can ultimately help organizations provide better services, more food, and improved shelter options to those in need.

