

Service-Based Enumeration for the 2018 Census Test

Preparing for the 2020 Census

Service-Based Enumeration (SBE) provides an opportunity for people without conventional housing or people experiencing homelessness to be included in the census by enumerating them at places where they receive services or at pre-identified outdoor locations. SBE for the 2018 Census Test will include: collecting respondent information using the individual census questionnaire, studying methods and procedures to prevent duplication of records of individuals, and determining the number of enumerators needed for this operation in the 2020 Census.

For the 2018 Census Test, SBE will be a field operation conducted in one location: Providence County, Rhode Island. It will be conducted from July 25, 2018, through July 27, 2018.

Purpose

- The goal of SBE is to include people in the 2018 Census Test who may not be included when we count people at their homes or in other group settings.
- During the SBE operation, we count people who receive services at the following types of locations:
 - **Emergency and Transitional Shelters for People Experiencing Homelessness** where people who are experiencing homelessness stay overnight. These include shelters that operate on a first-come, first-served basis where people must leave in the morning and have no guaranteed bed for the next night, shelters where people know that they have a bed for a specified period of time, even if they leave the building every day, and places that provide temporary shelter during extremely cold weather (such as churches). Examples include missions, hotels and motels used as shelters, and places for children who are runaways, neglected, or experiencing homelessness.
 - **Soup Kitchens** that offer meals for people experiencing homelessness. These places may use service lines or serve bag or box lunches.
 - **Regularly Scheduled Mobile Food Vans** that visit certain locations to provide food to people experiencing homelessness.
 - **Targeted Non-Sheltered Outdoor Locations** where people experiencing homelessness live without paying to stay.

Data Collection

- The type of data the Census Bureau asks for each person are name, sex, date of birth, age on Census Day, Hispanic origin, race, and an alternate address where they live or stay when not at a facility.
- Enumeration option planned for SBE is:

- In-person Interview: Using an individual census questionnaire, a Census Bureau worker will conduct an interview with each person who was served or was staying at this facility on Census Day.
- A second enumeration option available for shelters in addition to the In-person Interview is:
 - Paper Response Data Collection: A Census Bureau worker will meet with the GQ contact person of this facility to obtain a paper listing of census response data for each person who was served or was staying at this facility on Census Day. This paper list should include the first and last name, sex, date of birth, age on Census Day, Hispanic origin, race, and an alternate address for each resident.