

USES OF CENSUS DATA

The federal government is the main user of census data. Many federal laws require the use of census data to distribute funding, monitor important programs, and enforce laws against discrimination. Below are some examples of how the data are used:

- School districts use census data about families and children to make long-term building, staffing, and funding decisions.
- Census data help communities and organizations provide programs and services that enable older adults, children, and families to enroll in and be eligible for housing, education, and financial assistance programs designed to assist them.
- States, cities, counties, and tribal governments use census data to plan programs, services, and development, and enforce laws, regulations, and policies against discrimination.
- Census data help communities understand whether available housing meets the needs of residents. When housing is not sufficient or affordable, these data can help communities enroll eligible households in programs designed to assist them, and can help communities qualify for grants as well.
- Businesses use census data to plan new sites for warehouses, factories, and storefronts, and recruit and hire workers.
- Governments, communities, and organizations use census data to qualify for many federal grant programs that fund all of these important programs and services.

PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

The Census Bureau is required by law to protect your information (Title 13, U.S. Code, Section 9). The Census Bureau is not permitted to publicly release your responses in a way that could identify anyone at your facility. We are conducting this survey under the authority of Title 13, U.S. Code, Sections 141, 193, 221 and 223. Federal law protects your privacy and keeps your answers confidential (Title 13, U.S. Code, Section 9). Per the Federal Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015, your data are protected from cybersecurity risks through screening of the systems that transmit your data. All web data submissions are encrypted in order to protect your privacy.

Title 13 of the U.S. Code protects the confidentiality of all your information. Violating the confidentiality of a respondent is a federal crime with serious penalties, including a federal prison sentence of up to five years, a fine of up to \$250,000, or both. Only authorized individuals have access to the stored data, and the information you provide to the Census Bureau may only be used by a restricted number of authorized individuals who are sworn for life to protect the confidentiality of your individual responses. Your answers cannot be used against you by any government agency or court.

For more information about how we protect your information, please visit our website at census.gov and click on "Data Protection and Privacy Policy" at the bottom of the home page. This page also includes information about the collection, storage, and use of these records; click on "System of Records Notices (SORN)" and look for Privacy Act System of Records Notice COMMERCE/CENSUS-5, Decennial Census Program.

Service-Based Enumeration

2018 Census Test



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ABOUT SERVICE-BASED ENUMERATION

The goal of Service-Based Enumeration is to include people who may not be counted when we count people at their home. During the Service-Based Enumeration operation, we count people who receive services at the following types of locations:

- **Emergency and Transitional Shelters for People Experiencing Homelessness:** Where people experiencing homelessness stay overnight. (Examples: missions, hotels and motels used as shelters, and places for children who are runaways, neglected, or experiencing homelessness.)
- **Soup Kitchens:** Where people who may be experiencing homelessness are offered meals. These places may use service lines or serve bag or box lunches.
- **Regularly Scheduled Mobile Food Vans:** Where people experiencing homelessness receive meals from mobile food vans who make regularly scheduled stops.
- **Targeted Non-Sheltered Outdoor Locations:** Where people experiencing homelessness live without paying to stay.

HOW THIS OPERATION WORKS

A U.S. Census Bureau worker will count people and collect data from people at each site.

On a set date, a Census Bureau worker will:

- Visit the location or mobile food van stops.
- Meet with a staff person.
- Quickly count and collect data from the people at this location.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- ✓ Let your clients and staff know when Census Bureau workers will be coming.
- ✓ Assure residents and staff that all information collected will remain confidential.
- ✓ Explain the importance of the 2018 Census Test to members of the facility.
- ✓ Remind staff of the upcoming enumeration.
- ✓ Ensure that informed staff is on duty the date of the enumeration.
- ✓ Be sure there is a private area for the Census Bureau workers to work.

ABOUT THE 2018 CENSUS TEST

To prepare for the 2020 Census, the Census Bureau is conducting the 2018 Census Test. The Census Bureau is researching modern and cost-efficient methods for the population to exercise its civic obligation to be counted in the 2020 Census. The Census Bureau is committed to making the mandatory count quick, easy, safe, and confidential for all to participate.

The 2018 Census Test supports the goal of the 2020 Census, which is to count everyone once, only once, and in the right place. Throughout the decade, the Census Bureau has conducted extensive research and testing to inform the 2020 Census design. The 2018 Census Test is the culmination of that research, providing a rich environment to test all major components of the 2020 Census.

Please visit [census.gov/2018censustest/gq](https://www.census.gov/2018censustest/gq) for more information about the 2018 Census Test.