

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](https://www.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.

Group Quarters Enumeration

2018 Census Test



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ABOUT GROUP QUARTERS ENUMERATION

The goal of Group Quarters Enumeration is to count people who live in group quarters. Group quarters are places where people live or stay in a group living arrangement. These places are owned or managed by an entity or organization providing housing and/or services for the residents. These services may include custodial or medical care as well as other types of assistance, and residency is commonly restricted to those receiving these services. This is not a typical household-type living arrangement. People living in group quarters are usually not related to each other.

EXAMPLES OF GROUP QUARTERS

- Group homes
- Nursing facilities/skilled-nursing facilities (nursing homes)
- Residential treatment facilities
- College/university or seminary student housing (residence halls or buildings), fraternity or sorority houses
- Religious group living quarters (e.g. convents, monasteries, and abbeys)
- Correctional facilities
- In-patient hospice facilities
- Hospitals
- Workers' group living quarters
- Job Corps centers or vocational training facilities

HOW THIS OPERATION WORKS

The U.S. Census Bureau will collect respondent data (name, sex, date of birth, age on Census Day, Hispanic origin, race, and an alternate address) as of April 1, 2018, using one of the following enumeration methods for group quarters (GQ):

- **Electronic Response Data Transfer (eResponse):** The GQ administrator will electronically send the Census Bureau a listing of census response data through a secure system using the Census Bureau template.
- **In-Person Interview:** A Census Bureau worker will conduct a face-to-face interview using the Individual Census Questionnaire for each person living, staying, or receiving services at the facility.
- **Drop Off / Pick Up Questionnaire:** A Census Bureau worker will leave census questionnaires to be completed by/for each person served at the GQ, and then pick up the completed questionnaires at an agreed upon time.
- **Paper Response Data Collection:** A Census Bureau worker will meet with the administrator of the facility to obtain a paper listing of census response data.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- ✓ Provide Electronic Response Data Transfer (eResponse) or a paper list of residents who were living, staying, or receiving services at the facility on April 1, 2018.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ 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 for more information about the 2018 Census Test.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT PRIVACY

Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) The major goal of this privacy rule is to ensure that individuals' health information is properly protected, while allowing the flow of health information needed to provide and promote high quality health care and to protect the public's health and well-being. The census questionnaires do not have questions related to health or health issues and therefore do not conflict with this act.

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) The U.S. Census Bureau data collection is compliant with this act in terms of disclosing information. Colleges and universities can disclose directory information from student records without prior consent from the student or his or her parents to the Census Bureau. Directory information includes a student's name, date of birth, address, and dates of attendance.