



## The 2020 Census Is Coming: What You Need to Know

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### What is the 2020 Census?

The Census is a survey to count every person in the United States, which helps government officials make important decisions that affect our lives. The Constitution requires that every ten years, every person living in the United States must be counted: all ages, races, and ethnic groups including citizens and non-citizens.

### Why is participating in the Census important?

Census counts are used to decide where to send more than \$22 billion in federal funding for New Jersey's schools, hospitals, roads – and more. These numbers impact the next ten years, until the next census count in 2030. An undercount in 2020 means less funding for ten years in our communities.

Census population counts are also used to decide federal government representation for New Jersey. New Jersey lost a congressional seat and electoral vote after the 2010 Census count, due in part to its census count.

### When does the census happen? What do I need to do?

Most people will receive letters starting in March 2020 with instructions on how to respond – online, by phone or by mail. Responding to the census is easy. Most households will be done in ten minutes. If a household does not respond by late April 2020, a Census Bureau representative, known as an enumerator, will visit to ask the questions in person. This is to help prevent an incorrect count.

### What does the census ask?

The 2020 Census will ask for the name, age, sex, race/ethnicity and relationship to the head of household of each person living in the home, as well as whether they rent or own their home.

The census will never ask for financial information, social security numbers, credit card or bank information.

### Will my information be kept safe?

Yes. Census data with personal information must be kept confidential by federal law.

Livingston is a “2020 Census Complete Count” partner.