

Shape your children's future – include them in the census!



What is the census?

The census is a count of everyone living in the United States. The government conducts a census every 10 years. One person in every home is asked to complete a simple questionnaire that asks for basic information about all the people who live or sleep in the home. Children under the age of five, especially babies and toddlers, are often missed in the census.

How does it work?

In March, the government will send every household a letter in the mail. This letter has instructions on how to fill out the census form. When you fill out the form, you need to list everyone who is living at your address on April 1, 2020. Remember to include everyone -- babies, young children, other family members, and roommates. You can fill out the form on-line, by mail, or on the phone. Beginning in mid-March, you can complete your census questionnaire on www.2020census.gov or by phone [844-330-2020 – English] or [844-468-2020 – Spanish].

Why is the census important for children?

Knowing how many children there are and where they live is important. When you respond to the census, you help your community get its fair share of funding to help children.

The census count affects:

- Medicaid and children's health insurance
- Hospitals and clinics
- Early learning programs, such as Head Start
- Childcare grants
- School construction
- Nutrition programs such as WIC and school lunch programs
- Special education programs in schools
- Housing assistance for families
- Foster care programs

In the last census, nearly one million children were not counted.

If young children are not counted in the 2020 census, it means that for the next decade, your state could get less funding for programs that children in your community depend upon. This could impact your family, community, and your kids for the next ten years -- the majority of your kids' childhood.

Why is the census important for children with special health care needs?

It's important for all children with disabilities to be counted in the census. Information that the census collects is used for important decisions, such as how much money will be available for programs and services that children with disabilities depends on. If your child has special health care needs, they are likely impacted by many of the programs that get funding through census data. This makes replying to the census and including everyone in your household even more important.



How should young children be counted?

All children living in your home on April 1, 2020 should be counted on your census form. These include:

- Your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and the children of friends
- Children who live and sleep most of the time in your home, even if their parents don't live there
- Newborn babies, even those who are still in the hospital on April 1, 2020
- Children who don't have a permanent place to live, even if they are only staying with you temporarily
- Children who split their time between households, if they are living with you on April 1, 2020.

Will all the information I put on the census form be safe?

Your answers to the census are confidential. The government will not share your answers with anyone. Your answers are only used to count how many people there are in the country. The law does not allow your answers to be shared for any other reason. The census does not ask if you are a citizen of the United States.

Can I get help with the census form in another language?

Instructions are available in over 60 languages to help you, your friends, and family members complete the 2020 Census.

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/2020-census/planning-management/language-resources/language-guides.html>

**Invest in your children's future!
Let them be counted in the
census!**



AMCHP Contact Information

This fact sheet is part of a series of AMCHP documents and resources on the 2020 census and its impact on maternal and child health populations. All AMCHP staff can be reached via phone at (202) 775-0436.

