



Frequent Questions about the 2020 Census from Gilchrist Center Students

Adapted by the Gilchrist Immigrant Resource Center, February 2020, from US Census Bureau sources. For more information, contact Shawn Ellis, 2020 Census Manager at Shawn.Ellis@montgomerycountymd.gov.

1. What information will they ask for?

- Please see the Sample Census Form

2. Will I need to share my social security number?

- No. You will not be asked for your social security number, bank information, etc.

3. What will happen if I refuse to answer the census?

- It is required by law, and you could be fined. However, no one has been fined since the 1970 Census.

4. Will they ask if I am a citizen?

- No, there is no citizenship question on the census.

5. Should I complete the census if I am not a citizen?

- Yes! The Constitution states that all residents should complete the Census. That means anyone living in the United States.

6. How do I know it's safe to complete the census?

- The Census Bureau is required by law to protect any personal information they collect and keep it confidential.
- Census workers take an oath to protect your personal information for life and would go to jail for up to 5 years and pay a fine of up to \$250,000 if they misuse data.

7. Can the Census Bureau share my information with another government agency?

- No, your census responses cannot be shared with any government agency or court.
- Data is only shared in aggregate, not individually (for example, they could share that 10 out of the 20 people in this classroom have children).

8. Can the Census Bureau share my information with the police?

- No, by law your census responses cannot be used for law enforcement purposes.

9. Will Census Enumerators (Workers) come to my house?

- A Census Enumerator (Worker) will come to your house to ask you to complete the Census if you have not completed it before mid-April.
- The Census Worker will show you their identification.

10. How can I complete it? What if I don't have a computer?

- You can complete it on your smartphone, by telephone, or on paper. Also, the Gilchrist Center and other locations will provide access to computers.

11. Can I complete the Census in my own language?

- You can complete it online or by phone in English, plus:
Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, Russian, Arabic, Tagalog, Polish, French, Haitian Creole, Portuguese, and Japanese.
- You can answer it on a paper form in English or Spanish.
- Language guides, language glossaries, and language identification cards to help you complete the Census will be available in the following languages:

Spanish	Haitian Creole	Bengali	Romanian	Tamil	Tigrinya	Igbo
Chinese	Portuguese	Greek	Telugu	Navajo	Ilocano	Marathi
Vietnamese	Japanese	Amharic	Burmese	Hungarian	Dutch	Sinhala
Korean	Italian	Somali	Punjabi	Hebrew	Croatian	Slovak
Russian	Farsi	Thai	Lao	Malayalam	Bulgarian	American Sign Language
Arabic	German	Gujarati	Hmong	Swahili	Twi	
Tagalog	Armenian	Khmer	Albanian	Yiddish	Lithuanian	
Polish	Hindi	Nepali	Turkish	Indonesia	Yoruba	
French	Ukrainian	Urdu	Bosnian	Serbian	Czech	

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

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

12. Many people live in my house. Will I get in trouble if I count everyone?

- No, you won't get in trouble. The information will not be shared with any local authorities or your building manager. Please count everyone!

13. My cousin is visiting but lives overseas. Should I count her?

- No, temporary visitors should not be counted.

14. My kids are just babies. Should I count them?

- Yes, it's very important for all babies to be counted so that we have enough schools and other services for them!

15. I'm really busy. How long does it take to complete the Census form?

- It only takes 10 minutes!