

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 American Indian reservations 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.

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 forms 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.

For more information about the 2018 Census Test, visit census.gov/2018censustest.

2018 Census Test

Group Quarters Enumeration



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ABOUT GROUP QUARTERS ENUMERATION

The goal of Group Quarters Enumeration is to count people in the 2018 Census Test who live in group quarters. Group quarters are places where people live or stay in a group living arrangement. These places are owned or run by an organization that provides housing and/or services for the residents. This is not a typical household-type living arrangement.

EXAMPLES OF GROUP QUARTERS FOR THE 2018 CENSUS TEST

- Group homes
- Nursing facilities/skilled nursing facilities (nursing homes)
- Residential treatment facilities
- College/university or seminary student housing (residence halls or dormitories), 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 Census Bureau will collect respondent data (name, sex, date of birth, age, race, ethnicity, and an alternate address) as of April 1, 2018, using one of the following enumeration methods for Group Quarters (GQ):

- **Electronic Transfer**—The GQ administrator will electronically send the Census Bureau a listing of census response data through a secure system using the online census template.
- **In-Person Interview**—A census 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**—A census 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 worker will meet with the administrator of this facility to obtain a paper listing of census response data.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- ✓ Provide electronic response 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 enumerators to work.

ABOUT 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 once-a-decade headcount 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.

PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY

The Census Bureau is required by law to protect your information. The Census Bureau is not permitted to publicly release your responses in a way that could identify anyone at your institution. 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). By law, the Census Bureau can only use your responses to produce statistics. Per the Federal Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015, your data are protected from cybersecurity risks through screening of the systems that transmit your data. For more information about how we protect your information, please visit our Web site at census.gov, and click on "Data Protection and Privacy Policy" at the bottom of the page.