

2020 Post-Census Group Quarters Review (PCGQR)

2020 PCGQR provides governments the opportunity to ask the U.S. Census Bureau to review 2020 Census group quarters population counts.

The 2020 Post-Census Group Quarters Review (PCGQR) provides a mechanism for governmental units in the United States and Puerto Rico, or their designated representatives, to request that the U.S. Census Bureau review their population counts of group quarters they believe were not counted correctly as of April 1, 2020.

If the review process finds discrepancies in these population counts supported by sufficient documentation, approved revisions to the group quarters population will be provided to the Population Estimates Program. These updates will be incorporated into the next population base that the production schedule allows. The population estimates developed from the updated population base will also be used by the American Community Survey and the Puerto Rico Community Survey as survey controls so that the population totals from the survey conform to the updated population estimates.

Please note that the 2020 PCGQR does not constitute a recount for the 2020 Census. For example, 2020 Census data products and counts delivered to the President for apportionment, or the 2020 Census Public Law 94-171 Redistricting Data Files and Geographic Products will not be updated as a result of the 2020 PCGQR.

A group quarters (GQ) is a place where people live or stay in a group living arrangement that is 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.

Group quarters include such places as college/university student housing, residential treatment centers, nursing/skilled-nursing facilities, group homes, correctional facilities, and workers' group living quarters and job corps centers.

The Census Bureau will respond to all 2020 PCGQR requests and notify the affected government of any updates.

The Census Bureau will respond to all cases, even if the case is considered ineligible for 2020 PCGQR, and will notify the affected governmental unit of any updates resulting from a 2020 PCGQR decision in the form of an official determination letter.



2020 PCGQR participants will not see the actual population counts of a specific census block because they are subject to privacy protections.

2020 Census data, including population counts associated with individual census blocks, are subject to disclosure avoidance methods.

More information on Census Bureau disclosure avoidance methods and efforts to ensure individuals' privacy can be found at www.census.gov/prograys/decennial-census/decade/2020/planning-management/process/disclosure-avoidance.html.

These measures are taken to protect the privacy of the individuals who live in housing units and group quarters. Therefore, 2020 PCGQR participants will not see precise counts of people below the state level in published data or in updated data.

If updates are warranted regarding the group quarters population counts, the Census Bureau will send a letter with the decision to the highest elected official of the governmental unit.

2020 PCGQR Case Type

Group quarters population cases – request a Census Bureau review of population counts for valid group quarters by block to address discrepancies. The 2020 PCGQR can only review group quarters that existed and were available for occupancy on April 1, 2020. Corrections submitted should be consistent with the 2020 Census Residence Criteria and Residence Situations <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/program-management/memo-series/2020-memo-2018_04-appendix.pdf> and additional guidance provided by the Census Bureau due to the COVID-19 pandemic found at <<https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2020/modifying-2020-operations-for-counting-college-students.html>>.

Submitting a 2020 PCGQR Case

Governmental units must submit their cases electronically using the Census Bureau’s Secure Web Incoming Module (SWIM). The template for data to support your case, participant guide, and other supporting materials are available free for download from <<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/decade/2020/planning-management/evaluate/pcgqr.html>>.

The Census Bureau will only accept cases that initiate from the highest elected or appointed official of tribal, state, and local governmental units, or their designated representative.

Example Scenario and Outcomes of a 2020 PCGQR Investigation

A town representative reviews the population counts of group quarters for individual census blocks and believes the population count for one census block is low because of the large student housing facility located in the block. The town’s designated 2020 PCGQR representative can provide evidence of the population as of April 1, 2020.

Possible outcomes include:

- The town representative submitted evidence provided by the student housing administrator that supports that the student housing was undercounted in the 2020 Census. Census Bureau staff provide updated group quarters population counts for the affected blocks to the Population Estimates Program for incorporation into the base population for upcoming vintages of estimates. Updated data will be included in the next population base according to the production schedule. The population estimates developed from the updated population base will also be used by the American Community Survey and the Puerto Rico Community Survey as survey controls so that the population totals from the survey conform to the updated population estimates.
- Evidence provided by the town representative indicates a group quarters in the census block is new and did not exist on April 1, 2020. This should not be included in an updated group quarters population base for use by the Population Estimates Program. The PCGQR case would be denied and appropriate feedback will be issued to the town representative.

Eligible Participants

The following active, functioning governmental units are eligible to participate:

- Tribal areas, including federally recognized American Indian tribes with reservation and/or off-reservation trust lands, Alaska Native Regional Corporations, and Alaska Native villages.
- States and equivalent entities (District of Columbia, Puerto Rico).
- Counties and equivalent entities.
- Minor civil divisions (e.g., townships).
- Consolidated cities.
- Incorporated places (e.g., villages, towns, cities).



Schedule

2020 PCGQR occurs between June X, 2022, and September 30, 2023.

After the Census Bureau notifies the public in May 2022, it will accept cases from the highest elected or appointed official in each tribal, state, and local government for 2020 Post-Census Group Quarters Review (PCGQR) between June X, 2022 and June 30, 2023.

Revised group quarters population counts will be provided to the Population Estimates Program for incorporation into the next population base that the production schedule allows.

The review for all cases concludes on September 30, 2023. More information about the 2020 PCGQR can be found at <<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/decade/2020/planning-management/evaluate/pcgqr.html>>.

For additional assistance, please contact the Census Bureau by email at: <dcmd.2020.pcgqr.submissions@census.gov> or by telephone at 1 (844)-242-1765.

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