Facts about the 2020 Census

The goal of the 2020 Census is to count everyone, only once, and in the right place. The Census Bureau will continue to improve its use of mobile technology, geospatial innovations and internet self-response.

What is the census?
• The census is a count of all persons living in the United States that is conducted every 10 years by the federal government and is required by the U.S. Constitution.
• It is used to determine the number of seats each state has in the House of Representatives, how federal and state legislative districts are redrawn and the appropriation of federally-funded programs.

When will Census 2020 be conducted?
• Census Day is April 1, 2020. Data collection will begin in the second half of March and continue through August 2020.
• Households will receive a postcard with instructions for completing the census beginning in March 2020.

Who should respond to the census?
• Everyone! Census postcards are sent to all households in the United States to collect information about each person living in the household.
• The Census Bureau is conducting special counts for populations living in group quarters or who are unsheltered, including homeless, university students, prisoners and others living in institutional settings.

How can people complete the census?
• Online, using the internet or a cell phone
• Over the telephone, by calling the census call center listed on the census card
• Filling out a paper form
• Responding to a census taker

Census forms are available in 13 languages!

Getting Involved
• The administration of the decennial census is managed by the U.S. Census Bureau. Local organizations can follow the preparations for the 2020 Census. They can support the effort by communicating the importance of the census to their residents, students and clients.
What questions will be asked?
• The census will include 10 questions and take about 10 minutes to complete.
• Name; relationship to householder; phone number; number of persons in the household; age; sex; race; does the person usually stay or live somewhere else?; Hispanic origin.

Are census responses confidential?
• All data is protected under Title 13 of the U.S. Code. Records are confidential for 72 years by law. All Census Bureau employees swear a lifetime oath to protect respondent information. The penalty for wrongful disclosure is up to 5 years imprisonment and/or a fine of $250,000.
• The U.S. Census Bureau will never share a respondent’s personal information with other government agencies.
• Data is only released in summary tables, no individual records are released.

Learn More About Census 2020

Did you know ...
Census counts are used in distributing over $1.8 billion in federal funds per year in North Dakota. This translates to $1,900 per person per year. Those dollars help fund:
• Title 1 grants to educational agencies
• Head Start programs
• Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program
• Transportation (public transit, road rehabilitation and construction)
• Emergency food and shelter
• Health and Human Services programs
For more, go to: http://bit.ly/countingfordollars

Do people have to answer all census questions?
• While the law requires persons to answer all census questions accurately, an incomplete census form will still be included in the head count.