

Counting the Homeless

It's important. It's easy. It's safe.

People experiencing homelessness will be counted by the Census Bureau between March 28 and April 1, 2020. The Census Bureau will count persons experiencing homelessness at shelters, soup kitchens, meal drop-off locations and identified outdoor locations.

Where people are counted

The Census Bureau counts people experiencing homelessness at multiple locations, including:

- Emergency and transitional shelters where people stay overnight
- Soup kitchens
- Regularly scheduled mobile food vans that visit certain locations to provide food to people experiencing homelessness
- Targeted non-sheltered outdoor locations where people live without paying to stay

How information is collected

The primary method of data collection for people experiencing homelessness will be through an in-person interview. A census enumerator will conduct interviews with people receiving services on a given day.

For people living in an emergency or transitional shelter, a Census Bureau worker will meet with the facility contact person to obtain a paper listing of census response data for each person who was served or was staying at this facility on Census Day.

Responding to 2020 Census is safe

People contacted through the service-based enumeration operation will be asked for the following information:

- First and last name
- Sex
- Date of birth
- Age on census day
- Hispanic origin
- Race
- An alternate address where they live or stay when not at a facility through the Group Quarters enumeration.

Completing the Census

Census Bureau enumerators will visit the designated locations between March 28 and April 1, 2020 to conduct as complete an enumeration of a location's clientele as possible. This approach follows the "point in time count" method for counting homeless populations across nation.





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