

## Misinformation Management: Educating the Public about the 2020 Census

As we approach the official 2020 Census launch date of April 1, there is false information being spread through word of mouth and social media on how census data will be used. These rumors can chill participation and may result in an undercount for your county, especially within hard-to-count communities. To dispel these rumors the following information has been assembled to help educate the public.

1. The 2020 Census **does not** include a citizenship question. While the draft version of the 2020 Census included a question on citizenship, it was later removed after being temporarily blocked by a U.S. Supreme Court decision. To view the questions that will be included, click [here](#).
2. The privacy of an individual's census data is well protected by [federal law](#). It cannot be shared with any other federal, state, or local agency. In fact, anyone who unlawfully discloses a person's census data is subject to a \$250,000 fine and up to 5 years in prison.
3. The [Census Bureau](#) cannot release personally identifiable information about an individual until 72 years after it was collected for the census. Therefore, if you participate in the 2020 Census your individual census records will not be made available until the year 2092.
4. Both U.S. citizens and non-citizens should be counted as part of the 2020 Census. The purpose of the census is to count everyone living in the United States regardless of their legal status. Everyone should participate.
5. The 2020 Census can be taken online, by mail, or over the phone. Any of these [options](#) can be used regardless of where you live or how you are contacted about taking the census.
6. There are no questions on the 2020 Census that asks for your social security number, driver's license number, bank account information, credit card number, insurance number, or similar information.
7. The Census Bureau will contact you five times by mail before they send someone to your home to take the census. If you take the census by phone, mail, or online no one will come to your house to ask you take the census.
8. All [Census takers](#) will carry an ID badge which should include their photograph, an expiration date, and the U.S. Department of Commerce watermark. They will not ask for your identification. Confirmation about their identity can be further verified through the Census Bureau at 800-923-8282.
9. There is [language assistance](#) available for limited and non-English speakers to take the 2020 Census. The Census Bureau has provided translated web pages and guides in 59 non-English languages, including American Sign Language, and braille.
10. It is safe to take the 2020 Census online. There are numerous safeguards that have been implemented by the Census Bureau to protect your information.

The Census Bureau has created a [Trust and Safety Team](#) to protect census information and ensure the information being disseminated to the public is correct. The Trust and Safety Team has also created a Fighting 2020 Census Rumors [website](#) where information will be addressed and the public can report disinformation at [rumors@census.gov](mailto:rumors@census.gov).