

Top 15 Facts Your County Needs to Know about the 2020 Census

Want to make sure your county is well informed about the upcoming 2020 Census? Check out the top 15 can't miss facts below to keep your county on track to having an accurate and complete count.

1. The 2020 Census is the first census to be conducted largely online, however online submissions aren't the only option. It can still be submitted by hard copy and by phone.
2. The homeless will be counted on a designated day by enumerators (census counters) hired by the Census Bureau. Counties can help with this process by ensuring their local complete count committees include organizations that work with the homeless so they can help spread awareness and encourage the homeless to participate.
3. Group quarters such as nursing homes, military bases, prisons, and colleges will be counted by their institutions. However, college students living off campus will not be part of this count and will need to complete their own census forms.
4. Members of the military will be counted from where they are deployed instead of where they were living prior as they have been counted in previous censuses.
5. Children under the age of five are one of the most undercounted groups. Failure to count kids leads to lack of funds for their healthcare and education.
6. Census data isn't just used for congressional reapportionment (how many representatives in Congress each state receives). It is also used for all levels of redistricting within the state-congressional, state, and local, including county commission and school board districts.
7. 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.
8. Counting hard-to-count communities should be an important part of your county's outreach strategy. Hard-to-count means hard to interview, locate, contact, or persuade. The Census Bureau estimates that 22% (2.2 million) Georgians live in hard-to-count areas. In that one person is worth \$2300 in federal dollars, this could mean a potential loss for Georgia of over \$5 billion per year for the 10 year census period if those hard-to-count communities are not counted. To view hard-to-count areas in your county, see <http://www.accg.org/census/>.
9. According to the [Center for Urban Research](#), almost 99% of hard-to-count communities live within 5 miles of a library, and almost three-quarters are within 1 mile of a library. In that there are many communities within Georgia that either have limited or no internet connectivity or have limited public computer access, it is very important to include libraries in your census outreach plans and as part of your local complete count committees.
10. There are 55 federal agencies that use census data in allocating funding for their programs. In FY 16, Georgia received \$23.8 billion from these programs.
11. There will not be a citizenship question on the 2020 Census. To view the questions that will be included, click [here](#).
12. Addresses for residential living quarters that were newly constructed on or after March 1, 2018, should be added for the 2020 Census through the [Census Bureau's New Construction Program](#).

13. Counties have the opportunity to give feedback on the addresses submitted and reviewed by the Census Bureau through the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA). If your county disagrees with any of the information provided, there is an appeals process that can be used. Details on LUCA feedback and the appeals process can be found [here](#).
14. Outreach materials are available that can be used by your county to promote the 2020 Census. The State Complete Count Committee is creating media toolkits and messaging that can be used and further customized. Radio spots and commercials will also be produced that will be promoted statewide. The VSU Center for South Georgia Regional Impact will be providing free posters to the 41 counties in their region and the U.S. Census Bureau is producing new content on a regular basis that is free to download [here](#).
15. The best way to ensure a strong count in your county is to create a local complete count committee that is inclusive of all the different communities within your county. Details on how to form a committee, who to include, what to do, and how to get started can be found at http://www.accg.org/local_complete_count.php.