2020 U.S. Census Fact Sheet

Every ten years, the government counts everyone living in the United States. Mandated in the Constitution, Census results help the government in a variety of ways.

The government uses Census results to:

- Determine how more than $675 billion in federal funding is distributed to states and communities for education, health care, housing, transportation and other federal programs
- Provide services for senior citizens
- Redraw state legislative districts
- Determine how many seats each state gets in the U.S. Congress

Why is it important to respond?

The Census helps the government evaluate your community’s needs. After the 2010 Census showed a decline in population in Missouri, the state lost billions of dollars in federal funding and a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. Missouri could lose more money and representation in 2020 if residents do not complete the Census. Missouri loses an estimated $1,270 in federal funds for every person not counted. The count needs to be accurate for your community to receive enough support for important programs.

What can I expect?

In March 2020, you will receive an invitation in the mail to participate in the Census. You’ll be encouraged to use the Internet, but can also respond by phone or by mail. Those without a computer can visit a local library to fill out the Census online. You will be asked about your age, sex, race, relationship status, homeownership status, and other facts. The Census Bureau has a plan for hard-to-count areas and will send reminder letters and reach out to people who do not respond online. Individual information will be kept confidential with data used in aggregate.

For more information, go to https://2020census.gov.