

Maritime and Military Vessel Enumeration

The goal of Maritime and Military Vessel Enumeration is to count people in the 2020 Census who live or stay aboard maritime or military vessels and who do not have a usual home elsewhere.

Maritime and Military Vessel Enumeration for the 2020 Census will be conducted across the United States, including Puerto Rico. It will be conducted from April 1, 2020, through June 20, 2020. Examples of maritime and military vessels for this operation include but are not limited to:

- Cargo vessels
- Commercial fishing vessels
- Military Sealift Command vessels
- U.S. Navy ships
- U.S. Coast Guard ships

How Does Data Collection Work?

- Mailing lists for the Maritime and Military Vessel Enumeration are obtained from the major maritime agencies, the Military Sealift Command, the U.S. Navy, and the U.S. Coast Guard.
- Kits with procedures, training, and census questionnaires are distributed by mail to operators of U.S. flag vessels and U.S. military vessels.
- Operators who oversee multiple vessels will be instructed to forward the additional kits they receive to the other vessels under their domain.
- A designated person aboard each vessel will conduct the maritime enumeration for their vessel following the instructions provided in the kit.
- Each person staying or living aboard the vessel will be asked to complete a paper census form, which should take approximately ten minutes. They should return their completed form to the designated person for their vessel.
- Question 3 on the questionnaire asks for a person's usual home elsewhere. Respondents who provide an address in response to that question will be counted at that address. Respondents who do not have a usual home elsewhere will be counted on the vessel.

People aboard a maritime or military vessel fill out two questionnaires: a vessel questionnaire and a 2020 Census questionnaire at their usual residence. This is because the Census Bureau does not want to miss counting any maritime or military vessel personnel, such as those who do not have a usual residence other than the vessel, those that usually stay in barracks when not on a vessel but will be on a vessel on April 1, 2020, or those that have a usual residence but will be on a vessel on April 1, 2020.