

2020 Island Areas Censuses Frequently Asked Questions

What are the 2020 Island Areas Censuses?

The 2020 Island Areas Censuses collect socioeconomic and demographic characteristics of the population and housing for American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. It is required by the U.S. Constitution (Article I, Section 2), and occurs once every 10 years.

When are the 2020 Island Areas Censuses happening?

Census workers will walk neighborhoods to list all living quarters (e.g., housing units, group quarters, and transitory locations such as hotels) during February 2020 in American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

They will conduct 2020 Census in-person interviews at all living quarters between March and July 2020.

I live in American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, or the U.S. Virgin Islands. How do I respond to the 2020 Census?

If you live in American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam or the U.S. Virgin Islands, a census worker will contact you to complete the 2020 Census in person between March and July 2020.

You will not complete the 2020 Census online or over the phone.

Do I have to respond?

Yes, responding to the census is required by law (Title 13, U.S. Code, Sections 141 and 193). Your answers are kept completely confidential.

Is my response confidential?

The U.S. Census Bureau is required by law to protect your information (Title 13, U.S. Code, Section 9). The Census Bureau is not permitted to publicly release your responses in a way that could identify you or your household. By law, the Census Bureau can only use your responses to produce statistics.

How long will it take to complete the 2020 Island Areas Census?

On average, the 2020 Island Areas Censuses will take about 45 minutes to complete.

How will I know someone is an official 2020 Island Areas Census worker?

All census workers carry official government badges and a badge identifying them as a 2020 Census worker. You can also call your local census office for verification. You can find contact information for your local census office at <http://2020census.gov/conducting-the-count/island-areas>.

Census workers will never ask you for banking information, social security numbers, passwords, or to send money or pay a fee in connection with your 2020 Census response.

Will my information be disclosed to other agencies?

Your information is protected. Federal law protects your privacy and keeps your answers confidential (Title 13, U.S. Code, Section 9). By law, the U.S. Census Bureau can only use your responses to produce statistics.

Why are there more questions for the 2020 Census in American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands?

Census data are collected once each decade in American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Ongoing surveys are not fielded between censuses. The Census Bureau uses a long-form census to meet the Island Areas data needs for detailed social, housing, and economic information.

Why am I seeing advertisements to complete the 2020 Census online and in 10 minutes?

American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands may occasionally receive 2020 Census stateside advertising on national television, radio and social media. However, the 2020 Island Areas Censuses is 100% paper-based with census workers conducting in-person interviews.