Overview

The U.S. Census Bureau has launched an interactive map to help community leaders, the media, and the public track self-response to the 2020 Census. The map, available on 2020census.gov/response-rates, currently displays 2010 Census self-response rates as a reference point for states, counties, cities, census tracts, and various other geographies around the country.

Beginning March 20, 2020, the Census Bureau will update the map daily to reflect current 2020 self-response rates for geographies including states, counties, census tracts, congressional districts, towns or townships, consolidated cities, incorporated places, tribal areas, and tribal census tracts. This map will show only self-response rates where census forms were completed online, by mail, or by phone. The remainder of households will be counted in person by census takers.

Updates and Data Availability

The 2020 Census Self-Response Rate Map and the data in the public API will be updated once daily at 3:00 pm Eastern seven days a week from March 20 to May 31. Starting on June 1, the map and data will be updated Monday through Friday with the final update on July 31. There will be no updates on Friday, July 3.

The data for the 2020 Census Self-Response Rate Map will be available in the Census Bureau’s public API. See the Developers webpage on census.gov for general API information and support.

Notes on Map Geography

The 2010 Census self-response rates displayed on the map are final self-response rates mapped to current census geographies. The final self-response rate includes all housing units who self-responded to the census at any time during the enumeration. State and county rates have been coded with the official 2010 Census self-response rates. Any sub-geography that has the same boundary as a state or county also has been coded to the official 2010 Census self-response rate of that state or county. Due to changes in geographic boundaries and the editing of addresses in the Census Bureau’s updated address file, other geography’s self-response rates may not match those previously released following the 2010 Census. Self-response rates released following the 2010 Census are considered the official 2010 Census self-response rates.

The geographies will remain the same on the 2020 Self-Response Rate map when it is first published on March 20, 2020.
Notes on 2020 Census Self-Response Rates

When 2020 Census self-response rates become available on March 20th, the map will show total self-response rates, internet self-response rates, and the final 2010 Census self-response rates mapped to 2020 Census geographies for most areas of the country. This map will only show self-response rates where census forms were completed online, by mail, or by phone. On the map, “Internet” rates will be calculated as the percent of all housing units who responded online. “Total” rates will be calculated as the percent of online, mail, and phone self-responses collectively.

The map includes households in areas that receive their census invitations in the mail – this is the “self-response” type of enumeration area (TEA) – as well as households in areas that receive their census invitation when a census taker drops it off – this is the “update leave” type of enumeration area. For more information on TEAs, visit the 2020 Census: Type of Enumeration Area (TEA) Viewer. Areas in other TEAs or with fewer than 20 housing units will not be shown on the map.

The self-response rate calculation will include all unduplicated online, mail, or phone responses from these areas. Nonresponse Followup (NRFU) responses are not included. This self-response rate calculation does not change to reflect vacant housing units or housing units with addresses determined to be undeliverable by the post office. Areas with high rates of vacancy and undeliverable mail may have lower rates of self-response.

The 2010 self-response rates currently displayed on the map are different than participation rates that were displayed on the public map during the 2010 Census. Participation rates removed addresses identified as undeliverable as addressed (UAA) from the denominator to estimate in real time the percentage of occupied housing units that self responded. The public map for the 2020 Census will display self-response rates (formerly known as mail response rates) to measure the percentage of housing units that self-responded (either online, by mail, or by phone) and did not require follow-up by a census taker.

The response rate map will not include other 2020 enumeration operations such as Group Quarters and Transitory Locations, or those conducted in remote areas.

For questions or comments, please contact responseratemap@census.gov.