

2020 Census Self-Response Rate Map Data and Technical Documentation

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, displays 2020 Census self-response rates as a reference point for states, counties, cities, census tracts, and various other geographies around the country.

The Census Bureau will update the map daily with 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 are 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 are available in the Census Bureau's public API: <https://www.census.gov/data/developers/data-sets/decennial-response-rates.html>. See the [Developers webpage](#) on census.gov for API information and support.

The data are also available in a comma-delimited file (.csv): <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/data/2020map/2020/>.

Map Geography

The map displays self-response rates for states, counties, census tracts, congressional districts, towns and townships, consolidated cities, incorporated places, tribal areas, and tribal census tracts. The geographies displayed on the map represent the most current boundaries. Therefore, the census tracts represent 2020 planned boundaries rather than 2010-based boundaries.

2020 Census Self-Response Rates

The 2020 Census Self-Response Rate Map shows 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 shows self-response rates where census forms were completed online, by mail, or by phone. On the map, “Internet” rates are calculated as the percent of all housing units who responded online. “Total” rates are 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 includes 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 self-response rates displayed on the map are different than participation rates 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 2020 Census Self-Response Rate Map displays 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 do 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.

2010 Census Self-Response Rate

The map also displays the final 2010 Census self-response rates mapped to each geography. These final 2010 self-response rates include 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.

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

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