

Updated 2/1/2021

2020 Census Self-Response Rate Map Data and Technical Documentation

Overview

The U.S. Census Bureau launched an interactive map to help community leaders, the media, and the public track self-response to the 2020 Census. The map, available on <https://2020census.gov/en/response-rates/self-response.html>, displayed 2020 Census self-response rates as a reference point for national, states, counties, cities, census tracts, and various geographies around the country.

The Census Bureau updated the map daily with self-response rates for geographies including national, states, counties, census tracts, congressional districts, towns or townships, consolidated cities, incorporated places, tribal areas, and tribal census tracts. This map shows only self-response rates where census forms were completed online, by mail, or by phone. The remainder of households were counted in person by census takers.

Updates and Data Availability

The 2020 Census Self-Response Rate Map and the data in the public API was updated once daily at 3:00 pm Eastern seven days a week from March 20 to May 31 and five days a week until October 14. There were no updates on Friday, July 3 and Monday, September 7. A final map posting will occur on February 3, 2021.

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/>.

Historical data are available in data.world: <https://data.world/uscensusbureau/2020-census-response-rate-data>.

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

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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 were calculated as the percent of all housing units who responded online. “Total” rates were calculated as the percent of online, mail, and phone self-responses combined.

The map included households in areas that received their census invitations in the mail – this was the “self-response” type of enumeration area (TEA) – as well as households in areas that received their census invitation when a census taker dropped it off – this was 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 were not be shown on the map.

The self-response rate calculation included all unduplicated online, mail, or phone responses from these areas. Nonresponse Followup (NRFU) responses were not included. This self-response rate calculation did 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 had 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 did not require follow-up by a census taker.

The 2020 Self-Response Rate Map does 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 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 were coded with the official 2010 Census self-response rates. Any sub-geography that had the same boundary as a state or county was 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 have matched those previously released following the 2010 Census. Self-response rates released following the 2010 Census are considered the official 2010 Census self-response rates.

If you have more questions or need more information, contact us by email at responseratemap@census.gov. Please note that this mailbox will be retired after March 1, 2021

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