

2020 Census Self-Response Rate Map FAQs

Will the data be available to download as well through an API?

Data will be made available in the public API each day the map is updated by 3:00 pm Eastern Daylight Time (EDT)

Can we have API documentation (e.g. layout)?

Documentation will be made available on March 20, 2020, the first day the data is posted to the API.

What will the time lag be for non-ID responses? Will they go immediately into the response data or be vetted first?

There may be a short time lag to determine if a non-ID response matches to a record in our universe.

Will the volume of non-ID responses be published?

The volume and percentage of non-ID responses will not be made public.

What is included in the denominator?

Housing units in Self Response enumeration areas (formerly known as Mailout/Mailback) that have mailable addresses and all housing units in Update Leave enumeration areas.

Will the denominator change as new addresses are added that were not on the MAF?

The denominator will not change.

Will we publish rates for both Self Response and Update Leave enumeration areas?

The calculated self-response rates will include housing units and responses from [Self Response and Update Leave](#). Self-response rates for Self Response only and Update Leave only will be released as part of an assessment report after the 2020 Census.

Will this be participation or self-response rates?

The map and data in the API will be overall and internet self-response rates (formerly known as mail response rates).

Can we get time of day for internet responses?

We will not release time of day for internet responses.

When will the map and data be posted?

The first posting of 2020 Census self-response rates will be on March 20.

When and how often will the map be updated?

The map will be updated once a day at 3:00 pm EDT seven days a week from March 20 to May 31 and then five days a week after that. There will be not be any updates to the data and map on Friday, July 3, 2020 and Monday, September 7, 2020 due to federal holidays.

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How are self-response rates calculated?

Self-response rates are calculated by dividing the number of self-responses collected online, by phone, and by mail by the number of mailable housing units in Self Response enumeration areas and the number of housing units in Update Leave enumeration areas and multiplying by 100. Only one response per housing unit is used to determine this rate.

How does the U.S. Census Bureau use self-response rate data?

The Census Bureau is committed to a complete and accurate count and is encouraging everyone to respond to the 2020 Census as soon as they receive their invitation to respond. Self-response rate data will help Census Bureau officials identify places of low- and no-response in order to adjust outreach strategies and modify operations.

Are there different self-response rates for various 2020 Census operations? How are different types of counting processes like Update Leave and Update Enumerate factored into the rates online?

Self-response rates reflect two [Type of Enumeration Areas \(TEAs\): TEA1: Self-response and TEA 6: Update Leave](#).

Self-response reflects households that complete their 2020 Census questionnaire either online, by phone, or by mail. Update Leave occurs when a Census Bureau employee drops off a 2020 Census questionnaire to a household that does not receive mail or where the address could not be verified.

These two TEAs account for about 99% of all U.S. households. More information on those TEAs can be found [here](#), and a map illustrating which parts of the country are enumerated in which way can be found [here](#).

The self-response rate does not include population counts from Group Quarters, Update Enumerate, Remote Alaska, or Nonresponse Followup (NRFU). These four types of enumeration are not based on an individual's self-response. Responses gathered by the [Group Quarters Operation](#) are provided by facilities like nursing homes, college dormitories, military barracks, and shelters. Update Enumerate, Remote Alaska, and NRFU are when a census taker visits a household in person and collects responses to the 2020 Census.

Where can I find self-response rates for censuses prior to 2010?

Self-response rates for the [2000 Census](#) and the [1990 Census](#) are online.

Will the self-response rate affect the number of census takers knocking on doors?

Yes, the higher the self-response rate, the fewer households that census takers will need to contact during the Nonresponse Followup phase of the 2020 Census. This means fewer census takers knocking on doors.

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