



Count everyone once, only once, and in the right place.

The first census in 1790 established the principle of “usual residence”—counting people where they live and sleep most of the time. Most people can easily identify their usual residence. But for some, it’s not so easy. Knowing where to be counted in the census can be complicated if you don’t have a permanent home, if you live in group housing, or if you divide your time between two homes. The information below will help you know where you and everyone in your household should be counted in the 2020 Census.

Count these people on your household’s census form if they live with you most of the time:



Babies and children of all ages (even newborns and infants), including biological and adopted children, stepchildren, grandchildren, and children in joint custody arrangements.



Children under the age of 18 who are away at boarding school. (Note: Count these children even if they spend more time at school than at home.)



Children placed in your home through foster care, emergency placement, relative placement (children placed in a relative’s home), or guardianship, as well as youth experiencing homelessness who are staying with you temporarily.



Any other close or extended family members living in your home, including partners, siblings, grandparents, cousins, in-laws, etc.



People living in your home who are not related to you, such as roommates, boarders, friends, or live-in employees.

For more information, visit:

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Count these people on your household's census form if they are staying with you on April 1, 2020:



People who do not have a permanent place to live because they never stay in one place for very long.



People, including children, experiencing homelessness who are staying with you until they find another place to live or stay.



People who live in more than one place and cannot determine where they stay most often. Examples of this could be a person who lives in one place for work but returns home regularly or a person who rotates between multiple homes on a seasonal basis.



People who are staying with you temporarily because a natural disaster destroyed their home.

Do not count these people on your household's census form:



Children who have been placed in your home for respite care (foster care for **no longer than two weeks**). They should be counted in the home where they reside most of the time.



People who, on April 1, 2020, are in a nursing home, mental hospital, jail, prison, or detention center. This also includes people staying in a skilled-nursing or psychiatric unit for long-term care.



College students who live away from your residence for most of the year.



People visiting or temporarily staying with you on April 1, 2020, who usually live and sleep somewhere else.



Members of the military who live in military barracks, in a dormitory, or on a military vessel.

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