

KEY 2020 CENSUS MILESTONES

NOTE: This February 2019 update reflects the Census Bureau's 2020 Census Operational Plan version 4.0, representing largely final information on the operational schedule and plans. This factsheet will be updated if the Census Bureau modifies that plan significantly. Operations and activities of significant interest are in **BOLD**.

2018

- Launch 2020 Census Partnership Program; help states and localities form Complete Count Committees; begin education of national “partner” organizations (*ongoing*)
- **Online application portal opens for census jobs**, with ongoing recruitment/hiring of Area Census Office staff, address listers, and then enumerators through peak operations in 2020 (*Sept. 2018 onward*)

2019

- **Open and staff 248 Area Census Offices** (*39 Early ACOs open Jan. - March; remainder open June - Sept.*)
- Begin “education” phase of Communications Campaign (*Winter*)
- **Recruit/hire ~76,000 temporary address listers for targeted Address Canvassing operation and staff for remaining ACOs** (*Spring/Summer*)
- **One-year out Census Bureau press conference**; announcement of 2020 Census tag line (*April 1*)
- **Conduct In-Field Address Canvassing**, covering ~35% of addresses, in areas identified as having significant growth, change, or absence of reliable administrative data/aerial imagery; average percentage will vary greatly community to community (*Aug. - Oct.*)
- LUCA Feedback Operation: Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) participants receive files showing how Census Bureau dispensed with proposed adds or changes (*June - Aug.*)
- LUCA Appeals Process: LUCA program participants can appeal Census Bureau decisions on additions or corrections to their address lists within 45 days of receiving Feedback materials (*Summer 2019 - Jan. 2020*)
- **New Construction Program for states/localities to add new living quarters** (voluntary program) (*April 2019 - Jan. 2020*)
- Print paper census questionnaires and other materials; finalize electronic versions (e.g. invitation letters, reminder postcards, language assistance guides) (*June/July*)
- **NEW: 2019 Census Test** to evaluate effects of citizenship question on self-response rates. July 1, 2019 is “Census Day” for the test, which is a national sample of 480,000 addresses. No field follow-up phase (*June - Aug.; preliminary results expected Oct.*)
- **Begin dedicated recruitment/hiring** for temporary census field workforce of ~500,000 (*Sept. onward*) ^[1]
- Incorporate all revisions to question content and wording (except race/ethnicity questions, which will start with the 2020 sample) into 2019 American Community Survey (the ongoing part of the decennial census) (*Jan. onward*)

2020

- **Launch national advertising campaign** (*Awareness: Jan. - Feb.; Motivate: March - April; Reminder: May - July; Thank You: Fall 2020*)
- **Enumeration (door-to-door interviewing) starts in Remote Alaska villages** (*Jan. 21 - April*)
- Hiring/training of temporary staff for major census field operations (*Winter/Spring*)
- Census Questionnaire Assistance (telephone assistance and response options) (*mid-Jan. - July*)
- **Self-response phase of census**: Internet, mail, phone; staggered mailing strategy, in 4 waves: 3/12, 3/13, 3/19, 3/20 (*March 12 - April 30*) ^[3]



2021
+
2022

- **April 1st is Census Day!** (reference date only)
- **Service-Based Enumeration** of emergency living quarters and targeted non-shelter outdoor locations (*March 30 - April 1*)
- **Enumeration of Transitory Locations**, such as campgrounds, marinas, RV parks, hotels/motels (*March - April*)
- **Enumeration of Group Quarters (GQ)**, such as military barracks, college dorms, skilled nursing homes, prisons; some of this operation is conducted using administrative data that facilities provide; for other GQs, questionnaires dropped off and collected by census field staff (*GQ Advance Contact in Feb.; GQ enumeration in April*)
- **Update/Leave** (~5% of households) and **Update/Enumerate** (>1% of households) operations covering ~12 million homes total in rural and remote areas without reliable or direct mail delivery + all of Puerto Rico (U/L) (*March 16 - April; Remote Alaska in late Jan.*)
- Training for peak Nonresponse Follow-Up (NRFU) field staff: supervisors and enumerators (*April*)
- **Early NRFU** for areas with significant off-campus college student population (*starts April 9*)
- **Primary NRFU operation** encompassing ~55 million occupied housing units that didn't self-respond (*May 13 - July*)
- Post Enumeration Survey, an independent sample of census universe to measure accuracy and produce undercount/overcount estimates (*in-person visits June - Sept.*)
- Coverage follow-up and editing procedures; data processing and tabulation (*Spring - Fall*)
- **Census Bureau transmits State population totals and congressional apportionment to the President** (*by Dec. 31, as required by law*)
- Area Census Offices close (*by Dec.*)

- **Census Bureau transmits redistricting files to States.** The "P.L. 94-171 files" contain block-level data, by race/ethnicity, voting age (18+), and gender, as well as housing unit counts. For the first time, the redistricting files will include Group Quarters data by type of facility (e.g. prisons, college dorms, military barracks, etc.). TBD: whether/how citizenship data, if collected, will be included in the files. (*Flow basis Feb. 2021 - legal deadline of March 31, 2021*)
- **Census Bureau begins releasing basic data sets** for all states and smaller levels of geography (*Spring 2021*)
- Regional Census Centers close (*by June 2021*)
- Census Bureau releases detailed data sets for all geographic levels, with cross-tabulations by race/ethnicity and other characteristics (*ongoing through 2022*)

[1] The estimated number of census takers for peak operations in 2020 has increased, but continues to be in flux. We will update this number as we get more information from the Census Bureau.

[2] CQA also will be used for quality control activities throughout peak operations (outbound calling), ending in early Sept.

[3] Households may continue to self-respond through July 31, even as the door-knocking phase takes place.

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