



The Elections & Redistricting Program

Census News

Hello,

As the U.S. and world continue to grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic, this month's newsletter resumes with the latest information on the coronavirus and its effect on the 2020 census. This month, the Census Bureau released significant extensions and delay requests regarding the 2020 census operations. Here are the key items:

- The bureau will be extending its suspension of field operations until June 1.
- There is a request for Congress to delay, by 120 days, the release of apportionment data until April 30, 2021, and for state data until July 31, 2021.

If you want more information on the 2020 census, visit NCSL's [census](#) webpage. Also, please feel free to contact me with any questions or feedback.

Thanks,

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News from the Census Bureau

- ❖ The Census Bureau's press releases on COVID-19 and census operations:
 - [U.S. Department of Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and U.S. Census Bureau Director Steven Dillingham Statement on 2020 Census Operational Adjustments Due to COVID-19](#) (April 13, 2020)—The Census Bureau will be extending its suspension of field operations until June 1. Also, the bureau is requesting Congress to delay the release of apportionment data until April 30, 2021, and for state data until July 31, 2021.
 - [U.S. Census Bureau Adapts Operations to Increase Call Center Capacity for 2020 Census](#) (April 10, 2020)—The Census Bureau is reinstating the callback option. As a result of the social distancing measures and staffing adjustments, the bureau's call centers are experiencing increased call wait times. The callback option will enable callers to leave a message when all call center agents are busy assisting others, and then receive a timely call back.
- ❖ The Census Bureau's 2020 Census Operational Adjustments have been revised and updated due to COVID-19. The current status of operations may be viewed [here](#).
- ❖ The national self-response rate, so far, is 54.6%. The bureau's [self-response map](#) allows users to track their state or county's progress in responding to the 2020 Census.
- ❖ The bureau has posted a 24 minute [video](#) on differential privacy and the 2020 Census. The video discusses the new methodology and its goal to protect data privacy and confidentiality.
- ❖ The Census Bureau released its [plan for the 2020 Census post-enumeration survey](#) (PES). The PES judges how well the bureau did in a decennial headcount and evaluates how to improve future censuses.

- ❖ In response to COVID-19, the U.S. Census Bureau is [launching](#) two new [experimental](#) surveys to measure temporal social and economic trends in the nation's small businesses and households over the next three months.

NCSL's activities

- ❖ On April 21, NCSL hosted its "All About the Census" webinar. This webinar is the third in a series of redistricting webinars spread across April and May. [Click here](#) to learn more about and register for the entire series, or each webinar individually.
- ❖ Here is our [blog post](#) on the recent census delays and the bureau's request of Congress to delay its 2020 Census data releases.
- ❖ A delay in the release of 2020 census data matters to states with 2021 elections and redistricting deadlines. NCSL's [State Redistricting Deadlines](#) webpage lists those states with specific deadlines.
- ❖ Check out our other census [blogs](#).

Census in the news

- ❖ The Congressional Hispanic Caucus urged the Census Bureau to share updates on the bureau's efforts to ensure a full and accurate count in response to COVID-19. To view the letter, click [here](#).
- ❖ The City University of New York (CUNY)'s [Center for Urban Research](#) is providing a weekly analysis of the nation's self-response rate trends. Each of the weekly reports has information that may be of interest to the states, such as key areas of concern. Also, see CUNY's interactive [Hard to Count map](#).
- ❖ U.S. Representative Kendra Horn from Oklahoma introduced [HR 872](#) recognizing the importance of an accurate count of American Indians and Alaska Natives. Historically, Native Americans are undercounted in the decennial censuses.
- ❖ The COVID-19 pandemic is a global crisis and the U.S. 2020 census is not the only one to incur delays. Brazil has decided to [postpone its 2020 census](#) to 2021. The \$458.99 million that was earmarked for the Brazilian census will now be reallocated to fight the coronavirus outbreak.

News from the states

- ❖ Montana's Census Complete Count Committee recently launched a new [2020 Census](#) website. The new website includes 2020 census information and resources specific to Montana such as maps, flyers and social media graphics.
- ❖ Nevada's 2020 census committee issued a [warning](#) to Silver State residents about a [text messaging scam](#). Many residents reported receiving text messages urging the user to visit a fake census website and prompting them to sign up to receive a stimulus check from the U.S. government.
- ❖ With the passage of COVID-19 relief by Congress, the town of Essex, Conn., [warned](#) its residents to be wary of scammers impersonating census workers by knocking on doors, sending mail, emails, or text messages. The Census Bureau [will never ask](#) for a person's social security number, bank account or credit card numbers, or money.
- ❖ The Michigan 2020 Census launched its [Seven Days of Action](#), which urged all Michiganders to help ensure that their friends, family members and neighbors are counted in the 2020 census. Michigan is among the top five states in total percent rate of census responses so far.