



## Are my Census responses safe and confidential?

# YES

The Census Bureau is required by law to protect any personal information collected and keep it strictly confidential. Nobody can uncover the information that you provide. Not even the President of the United States has access to an individual's responses.

Title 13 of the U.S. Code states that the information you provide can only be used for statistical purposes. It cannot be used against you in any way. Your answers cannot be used for law enforcement purposes or to determine your personal eligibility for government benefits.

In fact, every Census Bureau employee takes an oath to protect your personal information for life.

In 1982, the Supreme Court ruled that Census responses, including home addresses, cannot be unveiled through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). In 2010, the Justice Department determined that the Patriot Act also does not override the confidentiality of Census responses.

NO court of law can subpoena Census responses, and NO agency can access them—not the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), not the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), not the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), not U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

This is the first Census where you can respond online, and the Census Bureau is taking strong precautions to keep online responses secure. All data submitted online are encrypted

to protect personal privacy, and the bureau's cybersecurity program meets the highest and most recent standards for protecting personal information. Once data are received, they are no longer stored online.

### Did you know?

- There will not be a question asking about citizenship on the 2020 Census.
- Responding to the Census helps communities get the funding they need and helps businesses make data-driven decisions that grow the economy. Census data impact our daily lives, informing important decisions about services and infrastructure in your community, including health care, senior centers, jobs, political representation, roads, schools, and businesses.
- Illinois will lose an estimated \$1,400 per year for every person that does not fill out the Census.
- You can text 987-987 in English or Spanish to reach an Illinois help desk for more information about the Census and how to respond, Census jobs, and to pledge your commitment.

### BE COUNTED.

Your responses are safe and confidential.

## Recommendations

- Fill out the Census form completely as soon as you receive it.
- Tell your colleagues at work, your family members, and your friends how important it is to the community's well-being to fill out the Census. Let them know that each one who doesn't participate is responsible for a loss of services for the rest of us.
- Build external partnerships with community anchors (such as schools, churches, and community centers) and ask those in charge there to have informational events about the importance of participating.
- Make a list of events from now to Census Day, April 1, that can be used to educate target populations. Share this material at these events.
- Host your own Census outreach party, such as a Bingo/Lotería night.
- Post this information to your Facebook page and/or the Facebook pages of your community groups.
- Check your local libraries to see if they have people on staff who are trained to help fill out the online form.
- Ask your children's teachers if they could plan a poster contest or school activity about the importance of the Census.
- Make copies of this material and ask your neighborhood stores to post one in a prominent place.
- Create warm, inviting, and safe environments for which to discuss the importance of the Census.

## Strength In Numbers

This is #1 in a series of seven informational fact sheets encouraging Latino participation in the 2020 Census. Its purpose is to ensure that all people residing in Illinois are counted so that quality programs and services remain available to them.

Information provided in these reports is curated from the U.S. Census Bureau, NALEO Education Fund, Child Trends, Kids Count, the Illinois Complete Count Commission, and the American Library Association.

*This publication was made possible through funding provided by Forefront, Nielsen, and the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) through subgrants from ICIRR and the Metropolitan Mayors Caucus. The contents are solely the responsibility of the Latino Policy Forum, Executive Director Sylvia Puente.*

Designed by Juan Mora  
Edited by Steven Arroyo  
and Barbara Buell

For further information, visit  
[www.latinopolicyforum.org](http://www.latinopolicyforum.org)  
[www.ilcountmein2020.org](http://www.ilcountmein2020.org)  
[www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov)

