



Why we ask the race question.

Every 10 years since 1790, the U.S. Census Bureau has counted everyone who lives in the country, as required by the U.S. Constitution. The census collects basic information, including age, sex, Hispanic origin, and race, for every person in every household. Starting in mid-March 2020, everyone will be asked to complete the 2020 Census online, by phone, or by mail.

The race and ethnicity questions provide important statistics.

Responses to census questions provide a snapshot of the nation. We ask about a person's race to create statistics about race and to present other statistics by race groups. In 2010, for example, the statistics illustrated the nation's changing racial diversity, as well as the size, growth, and geographic distribution of various racial population groups. In addition, the data collected in these questions is needed by federal agencies to monitor compliance with the anti-discrimination provisions of laws such as the Voting Rights Act and the Civil Rights Act.

Responding to the race question is easy.

The 2020 Census follows the most recent race and ethnicity standards for the federal government set by the Office of Management and Budget in 1997. When you complete your census form, select one or more boxes for the race(s) you identify with. You can also print your origins in the write-in space, if you choose.

For more information, visit:

2020CENSUS.GOV

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