



## **2020 CENSUS GLOSSARY**

### *Key Processes and Terms*

#### **Data Security**

Online responses are secured by multiple layers of encryption and isolated from online access as soon as you hit submit. And by working with the federal intelligence community and private industry, the Census Bureau can quickly identify and respond to any external threats to its databases.

#### **Enumerator**

A Census Bureau employee who collects Census information by visiting households during Census field operations.

#### **Hard-to-Hout (HTC)**

Refers to populations or areas in which fewer than 73% of households self-responded to the 2010 Census. These households were still counted by in-person enumerators, a process known as “non-response follow-up” that is difficult, time-consuming, and costly.

#### **National Census Day**

On April 1, 2020, the Census will be observed nationwide. By this date, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. Once the invitation arrives, heads of households should respond for their home in one of three ways: online, by phone, or by mail.

#### **Non-responding Households**

Occupied housing units that haven't responded and will receive in-person follow up from a Census worker.

#### **Nonresponse Follow-up (NRFU)**

Around May 9, 2020 the Census Bureau will begin NRFU to count households or determine the status of housing units that did not self-respond. This is the costliest Census operation, so the Census Bureau strives to obtain the highest self-response rate possible.

#### **Reminder Mailers**

The Federal Census Bureau will mail out four rounds of reminders to households. Every household nationwide will receive the first two reminder mailers, regardless of whether or not they already responded. A third wave of reminder mailers will be sent out to non-responding households. After three mailed requests to complete the Census online or by phone, unresponsive households will receive a paper questionnaire and return instructions in the fourth wave of reminder mailers.

**Respondent**

The person who answers the Census Bureau’s questions about his or her living quarters and its occupants. The respondent is usually the member of the household who owns or rents the living quarters (the “householder” or Person 1 for purposes of a Census form).

**Tract**

Small, relatively permanent statistical subdivisions of a county or equivalent entity that are updated by local participants prior to each decennial Census and serve as a stable set of geographic units for the presentation of statistical data.

**Title 13 (U.S. Code)**

The collection of laws under which the Census Bureau operates (also known as the Census Act). Under Title 13 of the U.S. Code, Census Bureau employees are sworn to uphold the confidentiality of your data for life. Your responses can only be used to produce statistical information, and your personal information cannot be seen or used by other government agencies or the courts. Title 13 imposes steep penalties for anyone who shares personally identifiable information.

**Vacant Housing Units**

The Census Bureau will use administrative data, primarily from the U.S. Postal Service, local governments, and third-party commercial vendors, to identify and remove vacant housing units from the NRFU universe. The Census Bureau will mail a final postcard to those addresses, inviting someone to respond or contact the Census Bureau if the home is, indeed, occupied.

**Sources**

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NALEO Educational Fund. (2019, October 22). *2020 Census*. Retrieved from [https://hagasecontar.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/NEF\\_2020\\_Census\\_101\\_EN\\_2.pdf](https://hagasecontar.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/NEF_2020_Census_101_EN_2.pdf)

National League of Cities. (2019, October 22). *Preparing for the 2020 Census*. Retrieved from <https://www.nlc.org/sites/default/files/2018-11/Census%202020%20MAG.pdf>