



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Economics and Statistics Administration
U.S. Census Bureau
Washington, DC 20233-0001

2020 CENSUS PROGRAM MEMORANDUM SERIES: 2018.04

Date: February 5, 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR: The Record

From: Albert E. Fontenot, Jr. **(signed February 5, 2018)**
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Subject: 2020 Census Residence Criteria and Residence Situations

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This memorandum documents the release of the "Final 2020 Census Residence Criteria and Residence Situations" in the Federal Register. The residence criteria and residence situations determine who should be counted and where they should be counted.

Overview

Every decade, the Census Bureau undertakes a review of the decennial residence criteria and residence situations to ensure that the concept of "usual residence" is applied in a way that is consistent with the Census Bureau's commitment to count every person once, only once, and in the correct place, and to fulfill the Constitutional requirement to apportion the seats in the U.S. House of Representatives among the states according to their respective numbers.

Discussion

From the very first census in 1790, Congress established the principle of counting people where they usually reside, which is defined as the place where a person lives and sleeps most of the time, in order to be fair and consistent. The census has followed that principle ever since. For most people, determining their usual residence is straightforward. For others, like members of the military, college students, and other people living in group quarters, knowing where to count them can be more complicated.

For the 2020 Census, the Census Bureau has updated where we count people in five specific residence situations:

1. *Overseas military and civilian employees of the U.S. government* — The 2020 Census will count military and civilian employees of the U.S. government who are temporarily *deployed* overseas on Census Day at their usual home address in the United States, as part of the resident

population, instead of their home state of record. Military and civilian employees of the U.S. government who are *stationed or assigned* overseas on Census Day, as well as their dependents living with them, will continue to be counted in their home state of record for apportionment purposes only.

2. *Overseas federal employees who are not U.S. citizens* — The 2020 Census will count any non-U.S. citizens who are military or civilian employees of the U.S. government who are deployed, stationed, or assigned overseas on Census Day in the same way as U.S. citizens who are included in the federally affiliated overseas count.
3. *Maritime/Merchant Vessel Crews* — The 2020 Census will count the crews of U.S. flag maritime or merchant vessels who are sailing between a U.S. port and a foreign port on Census Day at their usual home address, or at the U.S. port if they have no usual home address.
4. *Juveniles in Treatment Centers* — The 2020 Census will count juveniles staying in non-correctional residential treatment centers on Census Day at their usual home address, or at the facility if they have no usual home address.
5. *Religious Group Quarters Residents* — The 2020 Census will count people living in religious group quarters on Census Day at the facility.

The 2020 Census will not change where prisoners, college students, and people in other residence situations are counted.

The 2020 Census Memorandum Series

The 2020 Census Memorandum Series documents significant decisions, actions, and accomplishments of the 2020 Census Program for the purpose of informing stakeholders, coordinating interdivisional efforts, and documenting important historical changes.

A memorandum generally will be added to this series for any decision or documentation that meets the following criteria:

1. A major program-level decision that will affect the overall design or have significant effect on 2020 Census operations or systems.
2. A major policy decision or change that will affect the overall design or significantly impact 2020 Census operations or systems.
3. A report that documents the research and testing for 2020 Census operations or systems.

Visit 2020 Census on [Census.gov](https://www.census.gov) to access the Memorandum Series, the 2020 Census Operational Plan, and other information about preparations for the 2020 Census.