



July 2019 Census Test: FAQ

What is the 2019 Census Test?

The Census Bureau sent a test census form to some households in July of 2019. The Bureau wants to see how many people respond to the test, to predict response rates to the actual Census when it comes out in March of 2020. The Bureau also wants to see if people will respond to a census question about citizenship, so half of the test census forms have a question about citizenship. The test was designed before the citizenship question was struck from the official 2020 Census by the Supreme Court, making this part of the test somewhat irrelevant. The official 2020 Census will not ask about citizenship.

Why did I receive this?

The 2019 test census form was sent to a sample of 480,000 households in the United States. The households were chosen randomly. If you received the test but your neighbor did not, you are not being singled out.

What does the test census form ask?

The test census form asks for the number of people who live at your address, and for basic information about each person, like their name, gender, and age--these are the same questions that will appear on the 2020 Census. Half of the 2019 test census forms *also* ask a question about whether each person is a citizen of the United States--this question will not appear on the 2020 Census.

Do I have to respond to the 2019 Census Test?

Answer the 2019 test census form truthfully and to the best of your ability. The law requires that you respond to the test census form. You can respond online or by calling the phone number provided by the Census Bureau. If you skip a question, your test form will still be accepted.

Is my response confidential?

Yes. There are extremely strong confidentiality protections for census data--including your response to the 2019 Census Test--under federal law. Your information cannot be shared with anyone outside the Census Bureau. This means immigration enforcement and other government agencies cannot see or use your census response or your test census response.

If I fill out this form, do I have to respond to the 2020 Census?

Yes. This is not the census. This is just a test. You will still get an official 2020 Census form in March 2020.

Starting in March of 2020 you should respond to the 2020 Census. Responding to the 2020 Census helps get funding, resources, and political representation for your community!