

## 2020 Census Overview

The decennial Census is a count of every resident in the United States, regardless of citizenship, by the nonpartisan U.S. Census Bureau. It is mandated by Article 1, Section 2, of the Constitution and takes place every 10 years.

Besides providing a wealth of demographic information, the decennial Census is used for **apportionment** and **dispensing federal funds**.

Participation is critical to obtain an accurate count. The Census Bureau estimated that 16.7% of people in Iowa did not self-respond to the 2010 Census.



### Key Dates:

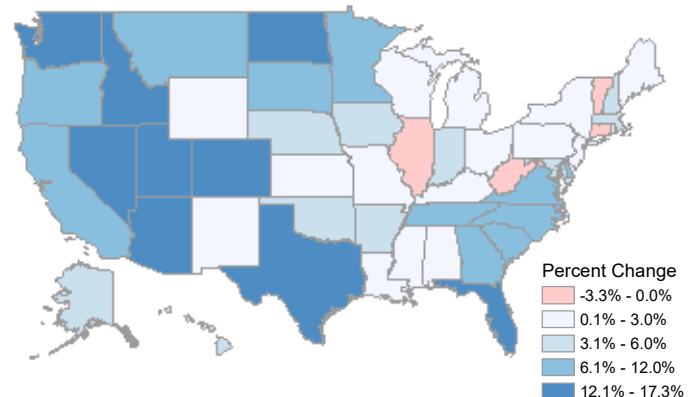
- March 12-20** Households will begin receiving official Census Bureau mail with detailed information on how to respond to the 2020 Census online, by phone, or by mail.
- March 30-April 1** The Bureau makes a focused effort to count people who are experiencing homelessness.
- April 1** Census Day is observed nationwide. By this date, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. Residence is determined by where individuals live as of April 1, 2020.
- April-July** Census takers visit group living arrangements such as students living on campus, individuals in nursing or correctional facilities, etc. Beginning in May, Census takers visit homes that have not responded to the 2020 Census.
- December** The Census Bureau will deliver apportionment counts to the President and Congress as required by law.
- Early 2021** The Census Bureau will begin releasing the Public Law 94-171 Redistricting Data to the states, which includes small-area Census data necessary for legislative redistricting. This law requires the data to be delivered no later than one year from Census Day.

### Apportionment

The data collected by the decennial census is used for apportionment, the determination of the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives based on population. Iowa lost a congressional seat in 2010 due to reapportionment but is projected to retain four seats in 2020, regardless of the recent possibility of Puerto Rico gaining statehood.

For more projections, see Esri's story map on apportionment: [arcg.is/1WC19X](http://arcg.is/1WC19X)

Change in Population 2010 to 2019



### Funding

Every year it is estimated that over a trillion dollars in federal funding go to hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads, and other resources based on Census data, through 316 federal spending programs. Medicaid and Medicare, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), highway construction, and Title I Grants to schools are among the largest programs.

**\$1.504 trillion**

Estimated federal funding in FY 2017 dispersed to all states based on population

**316**

Federal spending programs rely on Census data to distribute funds

**\$13.710 billion**

Estimated federal funds dispersed to Iowa based on population

**\$4,358**

Per Iowa resident in FY 2017

For more information on the distribution of federal funds:

[gwipp.gwu.edu/counting-dollars-2020-role-decennial-census-geographic-distribution-federal-funds](http://gwipp.gwu.edu/counting-dollars-2020-role-decennial-census-geographic-distribution-federal-funds)

### Complete Count Committees (CCC)

Complete Count Committees (CCC) are formed by state, local, and tribal governments and work together to encourage response to the 2020 Census in their communities. Governor Kim Reynolds formed the Iowa Complete Count Committee in October 2019 to increase awareness among Iowans. Local Complete Count Committees exist in 165 Iowa cities. View contact information here: [census.gov/2020ccc](http://census.gov/2020ccc)

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau; State Data Center; George Washington University, Counting for Dollars 2020:

The Role of the Decennial Census in the Geographic Distribution of Federal Funds

LSA Staff Contact: Michael Guanci (515.725.1286) [michael.guanci@legis.iowa.gov](mailto:michael.guanci@legis.iowa.gov)