

## Frequently Asked Questions about the Census

- **What is the 2020 Census?**

The census counts every person living in the United States. The U.S. Constitution requires that the U.S. government count the population and housing every 10 years. The first census was in 1790.

- **Why should I fill out the Census?**

This Census data will be used to provide funding to Brighton, Adams County and the state of Colorado to fund road construction, school lunches, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Medicaid, and provide grants that can be used to create programs that support services for seniors, abused and neglected children, domestic violence victims, as well as home repair programs, job training programs, construction projects for sidewalks, nonprofit health facilities, affordable housing, and parks and fire stations in low-income neighborhoods. Every person who completes the Census represents approximately \$23,000 in funding for their community. Also, it is used to reapportion Congressional seats.

- **Requirements of the 2020 Census.**

Everyone is required by law to respond to the 2020 Census (Title 13, U.S. Code, Sections 141 and 193). The U.S. government is required to conduct the 2020 Census under Title 13, U.S. Code, Sections 141, 193 and 221. The collection of information has been approved by the Office of Management and Budget (approval number is 0607-1006).

- **How long will the 2020 Census questionnaire take?**

10 minutes or less – according to people in the community who have taken it.

- **Do I complete the 2020 Census questionnaire for everyone who lives in my house?**

Yes. You will be asked to provide information for each person who is/was living in your house on April 1st of this year (2020).

- **What if I have family that live at college or somewhere else during part of the year?**

Please count these family members on your survey. There is a question that will ask if anyone lives part of the year somewhere else. You can answer that question as well.

- **Who should complete the 2020 Census questionnaire?**  
The person who owns or rents the home, apartment or living quarters should complete the survey or any other person who is at least 15 years of age with knowledge of the people in the household.
  - **How do I change my answers?**  
You can only change your answers before you submit the questionnaire. For questions where you choose a single response from a list, clicking another response will change your answer to that response. If it is a “select all that apply” question, you may click on a selected check box to unselect the box and remove it as one of your answers. Once you submit the Census questionnaire, you cannot change any answers.
  - **Is it safe to complete the 2020 Census questionnaire online?**  
Yes. All web data submissions are encrypted in order to protect your privacy, even in the remote chance that your responses are intercepted. Your information is protected from cybersecurity risks through screening of the systems that transmit your data. More information on this topic can be found on the Data Protection and Privacy Policy webpage:  
[www.census.gov/privacy/](http://www.census.gov/privacy/).
  - **Your answers are confidential and private!**  
The Census Bureau is required by law to protect your information (Title 13 of the U.S. Code). Only authorized individuals have access to the stored data, and the information you provide to the Census Bureau may only be used by a restricted number of authorized individuals who are sworn for life to protect the confidentiality of your individual responses. Violating the confidentiality of a respondent is a federal crime with serious penalties, including a federal prison sentence of up to five years, a fine of up to \$250,000, or both. Your answers cannot be used against you by any government agency or court.
- For information about how the U.S. government protects your information, visit [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov) and click on "Data Protection and Privacy Policy" at the bottom of the page. The page will include information about the collection, storage, and use of the records. Click on "System of Records Notices" and look for Privacy Act System of Records Notice COMMERCE/CENSUS-5, Decennial Census Program.
- **How will the Census Bureau use the information I provide?**  
By law, the Census Bureau can only use your responses to produce statistics.

- **Will the results be published?**

Only the overall statistics for an area will be published. Your name and the names of your family members will stay private. The Census Bureau is not permitted to publicly release your responses in a way that could identify you or your household. The Census Bureau plans to make the statistics, such as the number of people who are between the ages of 20 and 29 in a certain city, available to the general public. Results will be presented in aggregate form only. No personally identifiable information will be published.