

This update reflects changes to the 2020 Census Operational Plan and the peak census operations timeline in light of COVID-19. The information is current as of June 15, 2020. Operations and activities of significant interest are in **BOLD**. Operations that have changed are in **RED**. Further modifications to operations are possible depending on the course of the health crisis.

2018

- Launch 2020 Census Partnership Program; help states and localities form Complete Count Committees; begin education of national “partner” organizations (*ongoing*)
- **Online application portal opens for census jobs**, with ongoing recruitment, hiring, training of Area Census Office staff, address listers, and then enumerators through peak operations in 2020 (*Sept. 2018 onward*)

2019

- **Open and staff 248 Area Census Offices** (*39 Early ACOs open Jan. - March; remainder open June - Sept.*)
- Begin “education” phase of Communications Campaign (*Winter*)
- **Recruit and hire temporary address listers for targeted Address Canvassing operation and staff for remaining ACOs** (*Spring - Summer*)
- **One-year out Census Bureau press conference**; announcement of 2020 Census tag line (*April 1*)
- **Conduct In-Field Address Canvassing**, covering ~38% of addresses, in areas identified as having significant growth, change, or absence of reliable administrative data/aerial imagery; average percentage will vary greatly community to community (*Aug. - Oct.*)
- LUCA Feedback Operation: Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) participants receive files showing how Census Bureau dispensed with proposed adds or changes (*June - Aug.*)
- LUCA Appeals Process: LUCA program participants can appeal Census Bureau decisions on additions or corrections to their address lists within 45 days of receiving Feedback materials (*Summer 2019 - Jan. 2020*)
- **New Construction Program**: Voluntary program for states/localities to add new living quarters (*April 2019 - Jan. 2020*)
- Print paper census questionnaires and other materials; finalize electronic versions (e.g. invitation letters, reminder postcards, language assistance guides) (*starting July*)
- **2019 Census Test** to evaluate effects of citizenship question on self-response rates. July 1, 2019 “Census Day; national sample of 480,000 addresses (*June - Aug.*)
- **Begin recruitment and hiring** for temporary census field workforce of ~500,000 (*Sept. onward*)
- Incorporate all revisions to question content and wording (except race/ethnicity questions, which will start with the 2020 sample) into 2019 American Community Survey (the ongoing part of the decennial census) (*Jan. onward*)

2020

- **Launch national advertising campaign** (*Awareness: Jan. - Feb.; Motivate: March - July; Reminder: Aug. - Oct.; Thank You: Late Fall*)
- **Enumeration (door-to-door interviewing) starts in Remote Alaska** (*Jan. 21 - August*)
- Hiring and training of temporary staff for peak field operations (*Winter - Summer*)
- **Census Questionnaire Assistance**: Telephone assistance (*March 1 - Oct. 31*); response option (*March 9 - Oct. 31*)^[1]
- **Self-response option**: Internet, phone, and mail (*staggered mailing strategy in 4 waves: 3/12, 3/13, 3/19, 3/20; up to 5 reminder mailings through early May; 6th mailing to nonresponding households July 22 - July 28*) (*March 12 - Oct. 31*)



- **April 1st is Census Day!** (reference date only)
- **Service-Based Enumeration** of people experiencing homelessness, including emergency living quarters, soup kitchens, mobile food vans, *plus targeted non-sheltered outdoor/indoor locations (TNSOL)* (Sept. 22 - Sept. 24)
- **Enumeration of Transitory Locations (ETL)**, including campgrounds, marinas, RV parks, hotels, motels, carnivals. Advance Contact (Feb. 24 - March 21; *recontact starting in June*); ETL (Sept. 3 - Sept. 28)
- **Enumeration of Group Quarters (GQ)**, including military barracks, college dorms, skilled nursing homes, and prisons. Advance Contact (Feb. 3 - March 6; *recontact starting in June*); *E-response and paper data transfer (April 2 - Sept. 3)*; in-person enumeration (July 1 - Sept. 3)^[2]
- **Update/Leave (U/L) operation** ~5% of households covering ~6.8 million housing units in areas without city-style addresses or reliable or direct mail delivery, on most American Indian reservations, and Puerto Rico (*phased resumption starting May 6; Puerto Rico starting May 22*)
- **Update/Enumerate (E/U) operation** >1% of households covering ~35,000 housing units -- including southeastern Alaska and remote Maine -- and some American Indian reservations upon request (June 14 - July 29)
- **Mobile Questionnaire Assistance** at sites and events, per health guidance (June - TBD)
- **Hiring and training for peak Nonresponse Follow-Up (NRFU) field staff** (*started Feb. - March, then suspended; now May - Aug.*)
- **Primary NRFU operation** encompassing ~63 million occupied housing units that didn't self-respond. "Soft launch" in small number of areas (*starting mid-July*); primary NRFU (Aug. 11 - Oct. 31)
- **Post Enumeration Survey (PES)**, an independent sample of the census universe to measure accuracy and produce undercount/overcount estimates (Fall 2020 - Winter 2021, tentatively)
- Coverage follow-up, editing procedures; data processing, tabulation (Fall 2020 - Winter 2021)

- Area Census Offices close (*by early 2021, tentatively*)
- **Census Bureau transmits State population totals and congressional apportionment to the President** (*the administration has asked Congress to delay the statutory reporting deadline from Dec. 31, 2020 to April 30, 2021*)^[3]
- **Census Bureau transmits redistricting files to States:** The "P.L. 94-171 files" contain block-level data, by race/ethnicity, voting age (18+), and gender, as well as housing unit counts. For the first time, the redistricting files will include Group Quarters data by type of facility, e.g. prisons, college dorms, military barracks, etc. (*the administration has asked Congress to delay the statutory reporting deadline from April 1, 2021 to July 31, 2021*)
- Census Bureau releases Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP) file with block level data for all states, using administrative records in accordance with the president's 7/11/19 Executive Order. Bureau still considering which datasets it will use and whether other characteristics, such as race and Hispanic origin, will be included (*likely after release of all redistricting files*)
- **Census Bureau begins releasing basic data sets** for all states and smaller levels of geography (*Late 2021, tentatively*)
- Regional Census Centers close (TBD)
- Census Bureau releases detailed data sets for all geographic levels, with cross-tabulations by race/ethnicity and other characteristics (*ongoing through 2022*)

[1] CQA (outbound calling) also will be used for coverage improvement activities, e.g. follow-up with large households.

[2] Some of GQ is conducted using administrative data that facilities provide, on paper or electronically. For other GQs, modified questionnaires (Individual Census Questionnaires) are dropped off and collected by census field staff.

[3] There will be two sets of state population totals, one reflecting the results of the enumeration itself, the other including members of the armed forces, federal civilian employees, and dependents living with them stationed outside the US during the census; they are only included, at their "home of record," in the state population totals used for congressional apportionment.