

# Fact Sheet



It is important that everyone be represented in Utah and the way to do that is by taking the census, however, there is a lot you may not know about it. Get to know the census and how it impacts you—you may be surprised.

## Census 101

- The U.S. Constitution requires a national census every 10 years. The goal is to count every resident of the United States where they are living on April 1 regardless of age, ethnic group, citizenship or residency status.
- For the first time, the 2020 Census will be offered online as well as by mail or phone.

## Representation

- The census determines political representation from congressional seats to city councils.
- Utah gained a congressional seat following the 2010 Census, and has continued to grow. In the 2000 Census, Utah missed out on a fourth seat by just 857 people—showing the importance of counting every Utahn.
- Census numbers guide district boundaries for Congress, the Legislature, county commissions, city councils and school boards.

## Funding

- Data collected from the census determines the distribution of more than \$675 billion nationally in federal funding for education programs, transportation projects and social programs, impacting the lives of all of us in Utah.

## Infrastructure

- Infrastructure decisions, from road repairs to transit developments, use census counts as a determining factor to ensure the highest possible impact of construction projects.

## Public Safety

- Public safety uses census numbers to guide decisions about service areas as well as fire stations, police precincts and hospitals.
- During and after a natural disaster, emergency managers use census numbers to plan rescue, recovery and rebuilding efforts.

## Privacy & Security

- By law, all information gathered by the census is confidential. Answers can only be used to produce statistics with no personal identifiers.
- Information gathered by the census cannot be used against individuals by a government agency or law enforcement.
- The 2020 Census will not include any questions about citizenship status.

For more information or to take the 2020 Census, visit [Census2020.Utah.gov](https://Census2020.Utah.gov)