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California Complete Count - Census 2020

Why is it Important to Have an Accurate Count of California's Population?

Only once each decade, the United States (U.S.) Census Bureau attempts to count every resident in the United States. The next enumeration will be April 1, 2020, and will be the first to rely heavily on online responses. In addition, the primary and perpetual problem facing the U.S. Census Bureau is the undercount of certain population groups. California Native American communities, foreign-born residents, undocumented residents, non-white residents, renters, and children under five years old, especially those younger than one year old, comprise the most undercounted populations. California has more residents in each of these categories than any other state. People living in rural, low-income, geographically isolated, and/or linguistically isolated households are also undercounted.

A complete and accurate count of California's population is essential to the State because the data collected by the decennial Census determines the number of seats each state has in the U.S. House of Representatives and is also used to distribute billions of dollars in federal funds to local communities. More than 70 federal programs that benefit California's Native American Communities use Census numbers as part of their funding formulas.

California's Governor issued an Executive Order (B-49-18) describing California's Census 2020 initiative. In support of the overall Census Outreach Strategy, the Governor created an advisory committee, the California Complete Count Committee. The California Complete Count Committee is a panel of community leaders from across the state working to implement strategies that will increase the count of all Californians, especially those that are hard to count.

Mission: Ensure that Californians get their fair share of federal resources and Congressional representation by encouraging the full participation of all Californians in Census 2020



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