

Why We Ask

The 2020 Census is quick, easy, and safe.

Counting everyone in Montana is critical because it determines the state's resources and representation.

When you fill out the census, you help:



Determine how many seats Montana gets in Congress and accurately define legislative districts and school zones.



For every Montana resident counted, a Census study estimates the state will receive \$2,000 each year for 10 years. These federal dollars fund over 300 programs.



Provide accurate data which assists in the decision making process for creating jobs, providing housing, preparing for emergencies, and building schools, roads and hospitals.

The 2020 Census will ask for the following information:

Number of people at address

This question is asked to collect an accurate count of the number of people at each address on Census Day, April 1, 2020. Each decade, the census provides a snapshot of communities across the country. If you spend a majority of your time in Montana you should be counted here.

Any additional people living or staying there

The goal is to count people once, only once, and in the right place according to where they live on Census Day. Keeping this goal in mind, we ask this question to ensure that everyone living at an address is counted.

Owner/Renter

The question about whether a home is owned or rented to create statistics about homeownership and renters. Homeownership rates serve as an indicator of the nation's economy and help in administering housing programs and informing planning decisions.

Phone number

A phone number is requested in case we need to contact you. The U.S. Census Bureau will never share your number and will only contact you if needed for official Census business.

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Name

Names are asked for to ensure everyone in the household is counted only once. Names, along with other information in the questionnaire, helps census workers remove extra records if a person appears more than once in the count.

Sex

Sex of each person is asked for to create statistics about males and females. Census data about sex is used in planning and funding government programs, and in evaluating other government programs and policies to ensure they fairly and equitably serve the needs of males and females.

Age and date of birth

Age and date of birth are asked to understand the size and characteristics of different age groups and to present other data by age. Local, state, tribal, and federal agencies use age data to plan and fund government programs that provide assistance or services for specific age groups, such as children, working-age adults, women of childbearing age, or the older population.

Whether a person lives or stays somewhere else

This question is asked to ensure individuals are not included at multiple addresses



For more information, visit:

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Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin

The question of whether a person is of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin is used to create statistics about this ethnic group. The data collected in this question is needed by federal agencies to monitor compliance with anti-discrimination provisions, such as the Voting Rights Act and the Civil Rights Act.

Race

A person's race is asked to create statistics about race and to present other statistics by race groups. Race data are used in planning and funding government programs that provide funds or services for specific groups. These data are also used to evaluate government programs and policies to ensure that they are fairly and equitably serve the needs of all racial groups and to monitor compliance with anti-discrimination laws, regulations, and policies.

Relationship

The question of relationship of each person in a household to one central person is asked to create estimates about families, households, and other groups to present data at a household level. Local, state, tribal, and federal agencies use relationship data to plan and fund government programs that provide funds or services for families, people living or raising children alone, grandparents living with grandchildren, or other households that qualify for additional assistance.

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