

How the 2020 Census Counts People Experiencing Homelessness



People experiencing homelessness live in a variety of situations, such as temporarily staying with family or friends, living outside or living at a shelter. The 2020 Census has procedures to count people living in all of these situations. For example, people without a usual place to live who are temporarily staying with family or friends should be included in that household's response.

The 2020 Census has procedures that count people outdoors, where they receive services, and at other locations where they are known to sleep.

The 2020 Census counts people outdoors and at other locations where they are known to sleep.

The Census Bureau works with local groups to identify outdoor and other locations where people are known to sleep. Census takers will count people in person at these previously identified locations on April 1, 2020 (Census Day).



Outdoor and Other Locations

Potential outdoor locations including parks, wooded areas, designated beach areas, tent cities, alleys, under highway systems, subway stations, shopping center parking lots, gas stations, truck stops, and rest stops. Potential indoor locations including all-night businesses such as movie theaters, 24-hour laundromats, and casinos.

The 2020 Census counts people at service locations.

Between March 30 and April 1, 2020, the census will count people at the following locations:



Emergency and Transitional Shelters

Shelters with sleeping facilities for people to stay overnight, missions, hotels and motels used as shelters, and places for children neglected, experiencing homelessness or who have run away from home.



Soup Kitchens

Facilities that serve meals (using service lines or bag lunches).



Regularly Scheduled Mobile Food Vans

Stops where such vans distribute meals.

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The Census Bureau works with service providers to get a complete and accurate count at their locations.



The service providers can decide how people at the location should be counted:

- **In-person interview:** Using a paper questionnaire, a census taker interviews each person served a meal or staying at the facility.
- **Facility records:** Emergency and transitional shelters may opt to provide census workers with a paper listing of census response data for each person served or staying at the facility.



Census workers will begin contacting administrators in February 2020 to:

1. Verify or confirm the address and contact information of the facility or food van stop.
2. Discuss the expected population at the time of enumeration.
3. Determine the best date and time (between March 30 and April 1, 2020) for conducting the enumeration.
4. Discuss legal and security constraints or issues, and explain confidentiality procedures.
5. Determine preferred enumeration method.

