



United States[®] Census 2020

7 ways to avoid scammers during 2020's Census

1

Check ID: Verify census takers by checking their photo ID badge, which includes an expiration date and a Department of Commerce watermark.

2

Know the questions: The census asks how many people live at the residence and whether it is owned, rented or otherwise occupied. It also asks for a telephone number. For each resident, it will ask for their name, age, birthdate, gender, race, whether they are of Hispanic or Latino origin, and the relationship to the first person on the form.

3

Avoid red-flag questions: You won't be asked for Social Security numbers, citizenship bank or credit account information, your mother's maiden name, money or donations.

4

Avoid emails claiming to be from the Census Bureau: Information from the agency will almost always come by mail, and requests for participation won't be made via email. If you receive suspicious emails, forward them to ois.fraud.reporting@census.gov.

5

Check the address: Make sure any mail sent from the census has a return address of Jeffersonville, Ind., the site of the bureau's National Processing Center.

6

If they threaten you with arrest, it's a scam: Although participating in the census is required, you can't be arrested for refusing to comply. You can, however, be fined.

7

Call when in doubt: If you're worried about a phone survey, a piece of mail or a website, call (800) 923-8282 to speak with a local representative.