

# GROUP QUARTERS OPERATION

## 2020 CENSUS FACT SHEET



CENTER ON POVERTY and INEQUALITY  
GEORGETOWN LAW



ECONOMIC SECURITY and  
OPPORTUNITY INITIATIVE



## COUNTING PEOPLE IN HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

- People living in health care facilities will be counted in the 2020 Census as part of the Group Quarters Operations (GQ)—a special process to count people in group living situations.
- Residents of group quarters are counted using several methods. Facility administrators and 2020 Census enumerators will decide jointly which method to use for each facility.

### COUNTING PEOPLE LIVING IN HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

In February 2020, the Census Bureau will contact health care facility administrators during an operation called [Group Quarters Advance Contact](#) (GQAC) to confirm the location of facilities to be enumerated (counted in the census), explain the enumeration process, request an expected Census Day population count (for each facility), and determine a preferred date, time, and method for enumeration. Health care facilities [include](#) nursing facilities, residential treatment facilities, psychiatric facilities and units, hospice facilities, and hospitals.

The [Group Quarters](#) (GQ) enumeration operation will take place in April 2020. Health care facilities are counted using one of the following [enumeration methods](#):

- **Facility Self-Enumeration:** A facility administrator will be sworn in under Title 13, U.S.C. and trained to distribute paper Individual Census Questionnaires (ICQs) to people living in their health care facility and help with completing the forms, if necessary. The census enumerator assigned to the GQ will pick up

the paper forms from the administrator when all are completed.

- **Drop Off/Pick Up of Questionnaires:** A census enumerator will drop off ICQs with the health care facility administrator. After all residents complete their questionnaires, the enumerator will return to pick up the forms.
- **Electronic Data Transfer:** Facility administrators will directly transfer census data about the people residing at the facility to the Census Bureau through the Electronic Response Data Transfer ([eResponse](#)) system. This method can be used only if the facility's data are sufficiently complete and high quality [according to Census Bureau guidelines](#).
- **Paper Response Data Collection:** An administrator will fill out a paper listing (a roster of residents and their demographic data, such as name, age, date of birth, and sex) on behalf of the people residing at the facility and an enumerator will pick it up. The Paper Response Data Files are reviewed by Area Census Office staff and then mailed to the Census Bureau's National Processing Center (NPC).

- **In-Person Interviews:** In some cases, an official 2020 Census enumerator will conduct in-person interviews of the people who reside at the facility.

## WHAT DO STAKEHOLDERS NEED TO KNOW?

- **Where are patients who are temporarily staying at health care facilities counted?** Short-term health care facility residents, such as patients being treated at general or VA hospitals, are counted at their usual residence instead of at the facility. However, if patients report that they do not have a usual home elsewhere, they will be counted at the facility. On the other hand, people living in long-term health care facilities, such as skilled nursing homes, are counted at the facility where they live and sleep most of the time. Patients in psychiatric hospitals and psychiatric units at general or VA hospitals are counted at the facility, regardless of whether their stay is short- or long-term.
- **Where are newborns counted?** Newborns at hospitals on Census Day, including those in a NICU for an extended stay, are counted at what will be their usual home.

- **What if I am unsure about how I will be counted or have more questions?** Anyone can call the Census Bureau and give their responses over the phone if they are unsure if they have been counted. To give responses over the phone, or to ask questions, call Census Questionnaire Assistance (CQA) (available starting March 1, 2020) at 844-330-2020 for assistance in English. The numbers for assistance in other languages are available at [http://census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/2020-census/planning-management/memo-series/2020-memo-2019\\_18.html](http://census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/2020-census/planning-management/memo-series/2020-memo-2019_18.html). They can also visit the Census Bureau's [Frequently Asked Questions](#) page.

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Support a fair and accurate census by joining or supporting the work of a local [Complete Count Committee](#). More resources about the 2020 Census can be found on the [Georgetown Center on Poverty & Inequality website](#) and at [censuscounts.org](http://censuscounts.org).

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors Sophie Khan, Christopher Brown, and Cara Brumfield thank the following individuals for their input and feedback while producing this issue brief: Erika Hudson of the National Disability Rights Network; Eric Carlson of Justice in Aging; Mara Youdelman of the National Health Law Program; Terri Ann Lowenthal; and Corrine Yu and Beth Lynk of The Leadership Conference Education Fund. Please contact Cara Brumfield (cb1542@georgetown.edu) or Beth Lynk (lynk@civilrights.org) with any questions.

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