

# **BOSTON COUNTS 2020**

## **About Boston Counts 2020**

Boston Counts 2020 is the City's effort to support an equitable and complete count in the next U.S. Census. We will work to ensure every resident in Boston is counted, because every resident in Boston counts.

## **What is the Census & why is It important**

The Census is a constitutionally required nationwide survey conducted every 10 years by the U.S. Census Bureau to count the population of the United States. The data collected by the Census:

- **Determines the number of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives** and influence in the Electoral College
- **Informs redistricting**, defining congressional districts, state legislative districts, and local city council districts for the next ten years
- **Directs more than \$675 billion in federal funding** to states and cities

## **What's at stake**

Much of the funding that comes from the Census count helps the most vulnerable among us. It provides, for instance, health care, education, food and nutrition programs, housing, and child care for low-income families.

- In Fiscal Year 2015 Massachusetts received \$16 billion for programs such as Medicaid, Medicare, SNAP, Section 8 Vouchers, Title 1 Education Grants, and Head Start
- For every resident who is not counted in MA, \$2,372 in funding is missed

The Census significantly impacts the services Boston and its neighborhoods receive. This is why an equitable and complete count is absolutely necessary.

## **Common Questions**

### **Who is counted?**

Everyone should be counted. Regardless of immigration status, housing security, age, race, or ability, **you count equally in our democracy, and we need to make sure you get counted.**

### **Where should I be counted?**

The place where you live and sleep most of the time, on or around Census Day, which is April 1, 2020.

### **How do I respond?**

In March of 2020, you will receive an invitation postcard from the Census Bureau with instructions on how to fill out your form. For the first time, you can respond to the Census online or by phone. You can do so in 12 different languages.



Mayor Martin J. Walsh

For more information visit  
boston.gov/2020-census or contact:  
Sebastian.Zapata@boston.gov, 617-635-4478

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## **Will my information be shared?**

No. All Census data is protected by federal law and your personal information cannot be used against you by any government agency or court.

## **What happens if I don't complete the Census?**

An incomplete Census form may result in a visit to your home by a Census worker. All Census workers will clearly identify themselves with an official Census Bureau badge and they will never ask for your social security number, bank account, or credit card information.

## **What is a "Hard to Count" Tract?**

Hard to Count Populations are defined as Tracts with 2010 mail return rates of 73% or less (in the bottom 20 percent of return rates nationwide). Boston has the largest total number of people in Massachusetts living in Hard to Count Tracts (nearly 415,000 or 63% people in 2014).

Particularly hard to count populations include:

- Individuals living in "group quarters": college dorms, residential treatment centers, nursing homes, etc.
- Renters or those who move frequently
- Recent immigrants
- Populations that speak little or no English
- Children under age 5
- Individuals with lower incomes or lower educational attainment

## **How can I help?**

Join a Complete Count Subcommittee. These subcommittees utilize neighborhood knowledge, influence, and resources to educate communities and promote the Census through locally based, targeted outreach efforts.

Our population is ever-changing and especially hard to count. This is why **Boston depends on everyone to participate and be counted so that the Census accurately reflects the diverse populations that call our city home.**



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For more information visit  
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