

2020 Census Self-Response Rate Map FAQs

How are the data available for download?

The data are available in a comma-delimited file (.csv) <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/data/2020map/2020/>.

Data are also available in the public API: (<https://www.census.gov/data/developers/data-sets/decennial-response-rates.html>).

Historical data are available in data.world: (<https://data.world/uscensusbureau/2020-census-response-rate-data>).

Will the volume of non-ID responses be published?

The volume and percentage of non-ID responses was not and will not be made public.

What is included in the denominator?

Housing units in Self Response enumeration areas (formerly known as Mailout/Mailback) that had mailable addresses and all housing units in Update Leave enumeration areas. The final map update posted on February 3, 2021 also includes any housing units added through non-ID responses or during Update Leave.

Throughout data collection, the denominator did not change as housing units were added.

Are rates published for both Self Response and Update Leave enumeration areas?

The calculated self-response rates include housing units and responses from both [Self Response and Update Leave](#). Self-response rates for Self Response only and for Update Leave only will be released as part of an assessment report currently scheduled to be released late 2021.

Are these rates participation or self-response rates?

The map and data in the API have overall and internet self-response rates (formerly known as mail response rates).

Can we get time of day for internet responses?

We will not release time of day for internet responses.

When and how often was the map updated?

The map was updated once a day at 3:00 pm EDT seven days a week from March 20 to May 31 and then five days a week after that through October 14th. There were no updates to the data and map on Friday, July 3, 2020 and Monday, September 7, 2020 due to federal holidays. A final map posting will occur on February 3, 2021.

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How are self-response rates calculated?

Self-response rates are calculated by dividing the number of self-responses collected online, by phone, and by mail by the number of mailable housing units in Self Response enumeration areas and the number of housing units in Update Leave enumeration areas and multiplying by 100. Only one response per housing unit is used to determine this rate.

How did the U.S. Census Bureau use self-response rate data?

Self-response rate data helped Census Bureau officials identify places of low- and no-response in order to adjust outreach strategies and modify operations.

Were there different self-response rates for various 2020 Census operations? How were different types of counting processes like Update Leave and Update Enumerate factored into the rates online?

Self-response rates reflect two [Type of Enumeration Areas \(TEAs\): TEA1: Self-response and TEA 6: Update Leave](#).

Self-response reflects households that completed their 2020 Census questionnaire either online, by phone, or by mail. Update Leave occurred when a Census Bureau employee dropped off a 2020 Census questionnaire to a household that did not receive mail or where the address was not verified.

These two TEAs account for about 99% of all U.S. households. More information on those TEAs could be found [here](#), and a map illustrating which parts of the country are enumerated in which way could be found [here](#).

The self-response rate does not include population counts from Group Quarters, Update Enumerate, Remote Alaska, or Nonresponse Followup (NRFU). These four types of enumeration are not based on an individual's self-response. Responses gathered by the [Group Quarters Operation](#) were provided by facilities like nursing homes, college dormitories, military barracks, and shelters. Update Enumerate, Remote Alaska, and NRFU enumeration occurred when a census taker visited a household in person and collected responses to the 2020 Census.

Where can I find self-response rates for censuses prior to 2010?

Self-response rates for the [2000 Census](#) and the [1990 Census](#) are online.

If you have more questions or need more information, contact us by email at

responseratemap@census.gov. *Please note that this mailbox will be retired after March 1, 2021.*

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