

# CENSUS ADVISORY FOR SENIORS

## Why is the census important for older Americans?

Older Americans have been more likely than other age groups to return their U.S. census forms and more sure they are counted. "Participating in the census means getting counted to determine how much federal funding comes into your community and how congressional representation is determined," says AARP National Volunteer President.

## How will the census work?

Between March 12 and 20, the majority of households will receive a postcard invitation to respond online to the 2020 census. Those who don't answer will then receive the traditional paper form in the mail. If a household still does not respond, the bureau will send a census taker to knock on that door to collect the household's data.

### DO'S

- Do verify that a census taker who comes to your home is legitimate. They should have a Census Bureau photo ID badge (with a Department of Commerce watermark and an expiration date) and a copy of the letter the bureau sent you. You can also search for an agent's name in the Census Bureau's online staff directory.
- Do confirm that a questionnaire you've received is on the Census Bureau's official list of household or business surveys.
- Do contact the bureau's National Processing Center or the regional office for your state to verify that an American Community Survey or other census communication is genuine.
- Do check that a census mailing has a return address of Jeffersonville, Ind., the site of the National Processing Center. If it's from somewhere else, it's not from the Census Bureau.
- Do check the URL of any supposed Census website. Make sure it has a census.gov domain and is encrypted — look for https:// or a lock symbol in the browser window.

### DON'TS

- Don't give your Social Security number, mother's maiden name, or bank or credit card numbers to someone claiming to be from the Census Bureau. Genuine Census representatives will not ask for this information.
- Don't reply, click links or open attachments in a suspicious census email. Forward the message to [ois.fraud.reporting@census.gov](mailto:ois.fraud.reporting@census.gov).
- Don't trust caller ID — scammers can use "spoofing" tools to make it appear they're calling from a real Census Bureau number. Call the National Processing Center at 800-523-3205, 800-642-0469 or 800-877-8339 (TDD/TTY) to verify that a phone survey is legitimate.