



## Census Response Rates – The Time to Act is Now

### New York is in Danger of Being Undercounted

The 2020 Census counts the current population in the United States, and New Yorkers are responding more slowly than residents in other states, ranking 38th in the country. Between March and July 12, only 57.6 percent of New York households have responded to the Census, compared to the 62 percent response rate nationwide.

### The Stakes Are High

The Census influences federal funding to New York for essential programs in education, transportation, community development and other areas. New York pays more in taxes to Washington than it receives back in federal funding, and a complete count can help ensure that the State receives the full measure of resources that should be available.

The Census also determines each state's representation in Congress and the Electoral College. That means a complete count is essential to make sure New Yorkers' views are fully reflected in the enactment of federal laws and policies, and in determining our national leadership.

Additionally, the Census affects intrastate funding decisions, including the distribution of local sales tax collections. In 2018, counties shared a total of \$1.9 billion, or over 22 percent, of all county sales tax revenue with cities, towns, villages and some school districts within their borders, usually based, at least in part, on population.

New and existing formulas for program funding often use the most recent Census figures. This data will be the standard measure of population used by policy makers, researchers and planners for budgetary choices and other important decisions. A significant undercount could potentially result in inequities in funding allocations for years to come.

### State and Local Officials and Residents Can Help

Some local governments have been attempting to boost response rates, highlighting the importance of the Census on their websites and with signs in front of public schools and firehouses. But more effort is needed by State and local government officials, community groups and individuals to turn this around. We should use every appropriate opportunity to promote Census response in the next several weeks.

**New Yorkers have until September 30 to respond to the Census, and self-responding online is the simplest way to be counted.** Census responses are confidential, and no questions about social security numbers, bank accounts or citizenship are asked. For the benefit of all New Yorkers, the time to respond is NOW!

[View](#) your county's and local jurisdiction's current response rate, updated daily.

[File](#) your Census response here.

Find out how to [encourage greater participation](#) in your community.

