

**House Committee on Oversight and Reform Hearing with Census Bureau Director
Dr. Steven Dillingham
Additional Questions for the Record
Congressman Glenn Grothman (WI-06)**

1. If a foreign diplomat that does not live in the consulate has been in the United States for 5 months and is expected to leave shortly, how is this person counted?

For the tabulation of the population delivered to the President, the census counts people at their usual residence, which is where they were living and sleeping most of the time as of April 1, 2020. If a foreign citizen's usual residence was in the United States as of April 1, 2020, then the foreign citizen should be counted in the census. If a foreign citizen's usual residence was outside the United States as of April 1, 2020, and the foreign citizen was only temporarily staying in the United States, the foreign citizen should not be counted in the census.

For more details about the 2020 Census Residence Criteria and Residence Situations, see the following link. Below we have listed the guidance for the residence situations most relevant to this question.

<https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/programs-surveys/decennial/2020-census/2020-Census-Residence-Criteria.pdf>.

Citizens of foreign countries living in the United States who are members of the diplomatic community - Counted at the embassy, consulate, United Nations' facility, or other residences where diplomats live.

Citizens of foreign countries visiting the United States, such as on a vacation or business trip - Not counted in the census.

2. If a foreign individual in the United States on a temporary work visa that is expected to leave in a few weeks, how is this person counted?

For the tabulation of the population delivered to the President, the census counts people at their usual residence, which is where they were living and sleeping most of the time as of April 1, 2020. If a foreign citizen's usual residence was in the United States as of April 1, 2020, then the foreign citizen should be counted in the census. If a foreign citizen's usual residence was outside the United States as of April 1, 2020, and the foreign citizen was only temporarily staying in the United States, the foreign citizen should not be counted in the census.

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Citizens of foreign countries living in the United States - Counted at the U.S. residence where they live and sleep most of the time.

Citizens of foreign countries visiting the United States, such as on a vacation or business trip - Not counted in the census.

- 3. If a foreign individual entered the United States on a travel visa, overstayed that visa and is residing in the United States, but indicates that they intend to leave in the next few weeks, how is this person counted?**

For the tabulation of the population delivered to the President, the census counts people at their usual residence, which is where they were living and sleeping most of the time as of April 1, 2020. If a foreign citizen's usual residence was in the United States as of April 1, 2020, then the foreign citizen should be counted in the census. If a foreign citizen's usual residence was outside the United States as of April 1, 2020, and the foreign citizen was only temporarily staying in the United States, the foreign citizen should not be counted in the census.

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Citizens of foreign countries living in the United States - Counted at the U.S. residence where they live and sleep most of the time.

Citizens of foreign countries visiting the United States, such as on a vacation or business trip - Not counted in the census.

- 4. If a U.S. student is studying abroad in Paris, but has a permanent address in Virginia, will this person be counted?**

The census counts students where they were living and sleeping most of the time as of April 1, 2020. If a student was living outside the United States while studying abroad, the student should not be counted in the census, even if the student was temporarily staying in the United States on April 1, 2020. However, if the student moved back to the United States by April 1, 2020, the student should be counted where the student was living and sleeping most of the time in the United States.

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College students who are U.S. citizens living outside the United States while attending college outside the United States - Not counted in the stateside census.

- 5. College students are to be counted at their college, not their parents' home. However, it is unlikely that parents realize this and are more than likely including the child away at college in the total count for their household. This can result in widespread double counting. Beyond an instruction page, what efforts has the Census Bureau taken to educate parents of college students to not count their child away at college?**

We have been communicating with colleges, universities, students and recent graduates, and their parents to reinforce that students should be counted at their usual residence, which is typically where they lived and slept prior to the pandemic. We modified our “Who to Count” web page to include the statement “if someone such as a college student is just living with you temporarily due to the COVID-19 situation, they should be counted where they ordinarily would be living on April 1, 2020”. We sent reminders to college administrators with important information and to ask them to communicate with their students about the census. We also distributed a helpful [video](#) at to explain how students should be counted during the COVID-19 outbreak.

On May 13, in celebration of students graduating from colleges and universities across the country, the Census Bureau released a [reminder](#) about how college students and recent graduates, even those living with their families while universities are closed, should be counted. The Census Bureau also created and promoted a webpage at <https://2020census.gov/en/what-is-2020-census/focus/grads.html> focusing on recent graduates. This page speaks to recent graduates about the importance of census data for guiding business decisions and government investments in transportation, education, and other areas of special relevance to young adults. It is intended to motivate them to respond to the 2020 Census. We have also directed communication resources towards graduating and continuing students, including a weekend push on iHeart Radio with a digital commencement ceremony, and both digital and paid social media advertising with messaging on where to be counted. These resources help make it clear that college students should be counted at their usual residence, which again is typically where they lived and slept prior to the pandemic. The Census Bureau is also working closely with our national partners in higher education, including the American Council on Education, the American Association of State Colleges and Universities, the Association of American Universities, the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, and more to get the message to students.

a. In previous years, how often have you caught this kind of double counting?

The Census Bureau has operations aimed at coverage improvement in the decennial censuses. In these operations, we review responses with households that have completed the census questionnaire in order to ensure we have a complete and accurate count. The goal is to ensure no one was missed or counted in more than one place. In the 2010 Census, we conducted a Coverage Followup operation designed to call certain households who indicated that someone in the household sometimes lived elsewhere, such as for college. Using this method, we found that more than half-a-million college students were counted at their family's household when they should have been counted at college. The students were then removed from the family's household count. In the 2020 Census, we have a similar operation called Coverage Improvement. After the outbreak, we decided to prioritize the 1.5 million responses in which it was reported that college students were included in the household count to ensure accurate reporting of college students.

In addition to increasing the messaging and conducting coverage improvement operations as described above, the Census Bureau announced on June 18 that we sent a request to selected colleges and universities requesting their direct assistance in ensuring an accurate count of students. The [request](#) indicates that “the Census Bureau asked presidents for assistance in counting students who may not have responded on their own by sharing basic demographic information already provided to the university for off-campus students... By having access to this information, the Census Bureau can ensure college students are counted in the right place, including removing duplicate responses to the census or to count the student (if there is no other record of the same individual in another location).”

6. There are obvious benefits, like access to Federal dollars, to having a larger population in a county or state. These benefits may lead to some individuals providing false information on the census, including the total number of people in a home. For example, a parent who has two children may elect to lie on the census and claim he or she has four children residing in the home. These children can all be under the age of 10 and therefore not counted in the previous census. How is the Census Bureau able to catch these false claims?

We have very little evidence of attempted falsification by respondents in prior censuses. For the current census, we implemented multiple safeguards that prevent any falsification attempts, particularly with the internet as the primary mode of response. The details of the safeguards are sensitive and cannot be revealed to the public or even to other Census Bureau employees who do not have an operational need to know.

- 7. The Census Bureau relies on self-identification when responding to the race question on the census form. Race data collected by the census is then used for research and planning and funding government programs that provide funds or services for specific groups. Respondents can provide false information about their race, which could alter the data used for these purposes. We know this can happen, as Elizabeth Warren has identified publicly as Native American, even though DNA tests show an ancestor six to ten generations back. Does the Census Bureau employ any efforts to ensure that information on race provided by respondents is accurate?**

The Census Bureau collects racial data in accordance with the 1997 Revisions to the Standards for the Classification of Federal Data on Race and Ethnicity, provided by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-1997-10-30/pdf/97-28653.pdf). These data are based on self-identification. The Census Bureau does not employ measures to confirm how respondents have self-identified their race.

For additional details about the 2020 Census race question, please see our website at <https://2020census.gov/en/about-questions/2020-census-questions-race.html>.

- 8. What kind of ramifications does a person face for providing false information on the census?**

Someone convicted of providing false information on the census would face a fine of up to \$5,000.

- 9. Does any of the Census Bureau's outreach efforts inform people of (1) the importance of providing accurate information and (2) potential ramifications of providing false information on the census?**

Overall, our research shows that respondents are most motivated to respond when they understand the importance of the [questions we ask](#) and how the information benefits their community. Accordingly, during the 2020 Census nonresponse follow up operation, both our communications campaign and the enumerators will remind respondents that census results affect their voice in government, how much funding their community receives, and how their community plans for the future. For example, census data guide how hundreds of billions in federal funding is distributed to states and communities each year. Census data also help your community create jobs, provide housing, prepare for emergencies, and build schools, roads and hospitals.

We have emphasized that responses to every question on the 2020 Census matter. Each question is used to paint a statistical portrait of the nation and responses are required by law.

We highly encourage people to fill out the census as completely and accurately as possible. We inform respondents in our messaging that leaving responses to questions blank may lead to a phone call or in-person visit from a census taker. Even with this messaging, we may still get incomplete responses. We have methods for addressing this, which can include following up with households as well as the application of statistical methodology or administrative records, that allow us to produce the aggregate statistical products required of us.