2020 Census Questionnaire Guidance for Latino Respondents

Here are instructions on how to fill out the online form: [What to expect with the ISR portal](#)

**Question 1:** How many people were living or staying in this house, apartment, or mobile home on April 1, 2020?

**Remember to:**

- Count EVERYONE living in the household, this includes babies, young children, long-term visitors, all family members as well as unrelated persons.
- NOT count anyone living on a college campus, deployed in the armed forces, or in a nursing home as they will be counted during group quarters operations.

**Question 2:** Is a reminder to count:

- Children, related or unrelated, such as newborn babies, grandchildren, or foster children.
- Relatives, such as adult children, cousins, or in-laws.
- Nonrelatives, such as roommates or live-in babysitters and people staying in your home temporarily.
- YOU SHOULD include persons in your household regardless of immigration or citizenship status. EVERYBODY COUNTS!

**Question 3:** Type of residence

- This question is intended to gather information on housing trends in the United States.
- Information on number of people or type of residence will NOT be shared with landlord or any regulating entity.

**Question 4:** Telephone Number

- The Census Bureau will only use your phone number to contact you if needed for official Census Bureau business.

**Who is “Person 1”?**

- If there is someone living here who pays the rent or owns this residence, start by listing him or her as Person 1.
- If the owner or the person who pays rent does not live here, start by listing any adult living here as Person 1.
• Person 1 answers general questions about the housing unit, including the number of persons living there and whether the dwelling is rented or owned.

Please provide information for each person living here. Including:

**Question 5:** First Name Last Name(s) Middle Initial

Names, along with other information in the questionnaire, helps census workers “de-duplicate” the data—which means to remove extra records if a person appears more than once in the count.

**Question 6:** Sex (Respondent can only mark ONE – Male or Female)

You can respond to this question in whatever way best aligns with your identity – your response is not checked against any other document, and the Bureau supports self-identification.

*If people leave this question blank, the Bureau will “impute” your gender. People should understand the consequences of a blank response.*

**Why is this information important?** These data are used to allocate federal funding for education under the Higher Education Act of 1965 and to enforce rules against gender-based discrimination.

**Question 7:** Age & Date of Birth

Each person’s age should be reported accurately, this helps ensure that each person is counted only once.

• For example, a parent might incorrectly write age 1 for an 11-month old child whose birthday is on April 15, 2020. The correct age on Census Day (April 1, 2020) is actually 0 (less than 1 year old).

Birth date information helps Census Bureau staff correct common rounding mistakes in how people’s ages are reported on the census form.

**Why is this information important?** Age data are used in planning government programs that provide funding or services for specific age groups. School facilities planning and Head Start funding both rely on Census age data. Age data are also used in programs that provide services and assistance to seniors, such as the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program. Age data are also used to enforce laws against age discrimination.
**Question 8 & 9: Hispanic Origin & Race:**

**How to Answer the (Confusing) Hispanic origin and Race Questions**

**Why this information is important:** The collection of Hispanic origin and race data is important for the well-being of Latinos in the United States. The information on the Hispanic origin of each person is aggregated in statistics that are used to show how many Latinos are in the country and where they live. These numbers are used to protect the civil rights of Latinos; for example, statistics on Latinos are used in drawing voting districts for Congress, state legislatures and other levels of government so that Latinos can elect candidates of their choice. Knowing the correct number of Latinos, African American, Asians, American Indians, and others, in the country helps us promote policies and programs that serve our communities.

**Isn’t Latino/Hispanic my race?** The short answer is NO. According to the Census Bureau, *Hispanic origin* and *race* are two different concepts, and everyone should answer both questions even though many Latinos consider their Hispanic background to be their “race.” The Census Bureau says being Latino is an ethnicity, not a race.

**Question 8: The Hispanic Origin Question**

The Census Bureau asks every person if he or she is Hispanic or Latino. *If the person is not Latino, the NO box should be marked and then proceed to the race question.*

*If the person is Latino, there are four check boxes to mark:*  
- Mexican/Mexican-American/Chicano;  
- Puerto Rican;  
- Cuban; or  
- OTHER Hispanic.

**What if my origin is not listed?** If the person is Hispanic other than the three named origins, write-in the origin for that person (for example, Salvadoran, Guatemalan, Dominican, Argentinian, etc.). If the OTHER box is checked and nothing is written, the person will just be included in the statistics as “OTHER Hispanic.”

**Can I mark more than one Hispanic Origin?** Yes. It is possible to mark more than one Hispanic origin box and write in more than one Hispanic background. However, keep in mind that the Bureau will only pick one Hispanic background per person when reporting the statistics.

**Question 9: The Race Question**

The federal government recognizes four official race categories and the Census Bureau understands that the way it asks for the *race* of each person is confusing.
If I responded to Hispanic Origin, do I have to respond to the question on race? **YES.** Remember that the Census Bureau says being Hispanic is an ethnicity, so once a person indicates he or she is Latino, the Census Bureau still wants to know what race that person belongs to; the official race categories are:

- White,
- Black,
- American Indian or Alaska Native,
- Asian or Pacific Islander.

**Can I check more than one race?** Yes. A person can choose one or more race categories. A person who checks more than one race box will be reported as *More Than One Race* in the statistics that are published.

**Can I be Latino and consider myself a particular race?** Absolutely. Each of the race categories has the option to write-in more detail, for example, a person could mark Mexican as his Hispanic Origin, and White as his race. Or someone could mark Dominican as her Hispanic Origin, and Black as her race.

**Can I identify with many races?** Yes. Some Latinos consider themselves of many races, or *mestizo*; they can check as many race categories with which they identify.

**Can I simply be "some other race"?** Yes. Some Latinos do not consider themselves as part of any of the official race categories. They can mark *Some Other Race* and write in more detail if they want. **It is important to know that the federal government does not consider Some Other Race to be an official category.**
Should I leave these questions blank? No. All Latinos should complete the Hispanic origin question so as to be included in the statistics about Latinos. All Latinos should answer the race question according to how they feel comfortable; it is a personal choice.

Will these confusing questions change in the future? NALEO Educational Fund is working with the Census Bureau to improve how Hispanic origin and race are asked about in the Census.

“Person 2, 3, 4, 5, 6,….”

Complete the questions for each additional person. Each additional person will be asked the two additional questions below:

Does this person usually live or stay somewhere else? This question is to ensure that the person is not already counted through other operations like Group Quarter counts.

Relationship to “Person 1”

The census seeks to identify husbands and wives, children and step-children, and siblings, along with other family and non-family relationships.

In 2020, people will be able to identify for the first time as a “same-sex husband/wife/spouse” or as a “same-sex unmarried partner.”

Why is this information important? By identifying relationships between people in a household, census data enable us to find important trends in our society, such as:

• The number of people living with nonrelatives.
• Whether young adults are living with their parents or moving in with roommates.
• The number of households that include extended family members, such as in-laws or adult siblings.
• The number of sex-same households.

This information is also used to determine funding for federal nutrition and education programs, housing programs, and other social services that provide benefits to many U.S. communities.
How many people can I list on my Census form?

- Paper forms have space for up to SIX people to provide all of their demographic information.

- Paper forms have room to list up to 10 people on the "roster."

- The online form (www.my2020census.gov) or the Census Questionnaire Assistance Line can accept as many as 99 people in a household.

- Households with more than six people that use the paper form should include their phone number so that the Census Bureau can do the follow-up to collect full demographic information for the remaining people on the roster by phone.

Still have questions? Contact the NALEO Educational Fund at 877-EL-CENSO or visit hagasecontar.org

To respond to the Census Questionnaire by phone
Call: 1-844-330-2020 (English) / 1-844-468-2020 (Spanish)