



# The 2020 Census: Why does it matter?

## REPRESENTATION

The census happens every ten years. It is used to determine the number of seats each state gets in Congress, which determines the number of electoral votes each state has in presidential elections. MN is at risk of losing one seat, and therefore one electoral vote. The census is also used to re-draw district lines in states and cities.

## FUNDING

Census data is also used to guide federal spending on programs important to our community:

### Food

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
- School Lunch, School Breakfast
- Emergency Food Assistance
- Child and Adult Care Food Program

### Healthcare

- Medicaid
- Medicare Part B
- Maternal and Child Health
- State Children's Health Insurance Program (S-CHIP)
- Urban Indian Health Services

### Education

- Head Start
- Title 1 funding
- Pell Grants
- Special Education grants

### Financial Assistance, Housing, etc.

- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- Section 8
- Community development block grants
- Safe and Drug-free Schools and Communities

## SOME PEOPLE ARE UNDERCOUNTED

Renters, Black and Hispanic/Latinx people, young children, low-income households, and immigrants/foreign-born persons are at high risk of being undercounted.

This can have a real impact on communities: An undercount of even a few thousand people can turn into a loss of political representation at the local, state, and national levels. This means less political power for our community. For a strong voice in government, we must all be counted.

**YOU COUNT!** Fill out your census form in 2020 so that you can be counted. All data is confidential. In March–April 2020, the U.S. Census Bureau will send information to every home on how to fill out the form online or on paper.

For more information, visit [www.ramseycounty.us/census](http://www.ramseycounty.us/census)

