

Your 2020 Census Guide for renters

What does the census mean for renters?

Renters are considered among the hardest-to-count population. In the City of Los Angeles alone, over half of the estimated 4 million residents (63%) live in renter-occupied housing units. It's critical that all renters in the City of L.A. are counted to ensure the city gets its fair share of federal funding for programs that benefit renters, including Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers and Assistance Payments Programs, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and local community health centers.

Is my landlord authorized to provide information about me to a census worker?

If a census worker is unable to obtain answers to the survey from you, he or she is required to contact the landlord or manager of your rental property for the necessary information. This could lead to an undercount, as landlords may not know the exact number of people or families living in their rental properties.

Who in my household needs to be counted?

It is important that everyone living or staying at your address (including inside your apartment or house, in the garage, or in a camper on your property) is counted on April 1, 2020. That includes babies, children, adults, and seniors, and people who are not related to you. The U.S. Census Bureau will only accept one survey per household, so it is very important that everyone is counted correctly the first time.

Will someone from the federal government be sent to my home?

Census takers will only come to your home if no one from your household responds to the survey by the end of April 2020. In that case, the census taker will ask you to complete the questionnaire in person. However, census takers traditionally have a difficult time accessing apartment buildings, which is why so many renters do not get counted. To avoid someone coming to your home, you should complete the census questionnaire as soon as you receive a notification in the mail.

The City of Los Angeles will provide reasonable accommodation(s) to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and facilities for people with disabilities. To make a request contact the Department on Disability at DOD.Contact@lacity.org or (213) 202-5668 five or more working days in advance.