



Why the Census Matters for AANHPI Communities

Introduction

The Constitution requires that the government count every person living in the United States, every ten years. This count is called the census and it is managed by the Census Bureau, an agency of the federal government.

Certain communities are often missed in the final count produced by the census. Some of the groups that are “undercounted” in the census are Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders (AANHPIs), people with limited English proficiency, people with low incomes, and young children.

Why Is It Critical for AANHPIs to Participate in the Census?

When AANHPI communities participate in the census it helps get our fair share of resources for our families and communities.

- Data from the census are used to decide how the federal government divides up more than \$850 billion in federal funding to the states each year.
- Census data affect allocation of \$47 billion of educational funding, including for low-income students, bilingual language programs, career and technical education grants, and school lunch. By participating in the census, we ensure that our children get their fair share of resources to succeed in the future.
- When AANHPIs are undercounted and accurate data are not collected about AANHPI communities, federal funding for programs such as Medicaid, Medicare, Children’s Health Insurance Program, reproductive health programs and more are not adequately allocated to AANHPI communities, impacting the health and wellbeing of our families.

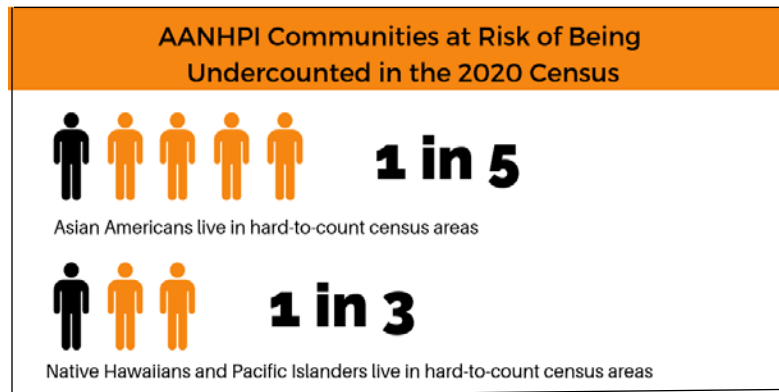
When AANHPI communities participate in the census it helps ensure fair political representation and our needs being addressed.

- Political boundaries are drawn based on census data. For example, seats for the U.S. House of Representatives are allocated throughout the country based on population size as collected in the census. When a community is undercounted, it is apportioned less political power than it should receive.
- Census data are important to civil rights. If there is an undercount of AANHPI communities, then federal agencies are not able to accurately monitor discrimination and implement civil rights law that protect voting rights and equal employment opportunity.
- If we do not have full and accurate data about AANHPI communities, the needs of our communities are not properly identified and not adequately addressed, and more.

AANHPI Communities are Undercounted

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that 16 million people were not counted or possibly incorrectly counted in the 2010 Census – many of these people were from marginalized communities. AANHPIs have been undercounted for decades, disadvantaging families, communities, and neighborhoods.

Certain AANHPI communities are especially at risk of being missed, such as those with greater challenges finding stable and affordable housing, higher incidences of poverty, unemployment, and lower educational attainment, and greater language barriers.



*Areas with many people from groups that are often undercounted are called “hard-to-count” areas.

When and How to Participate in the Census

- **Fill out your census form!**
 - From **Mid-March 2020 through early May 2020**, the Census Bureau will mail people Census questionnaires and/or information about where to fill out the form online.
 - You’re legally required to respond to the Census and to answer all the questions on the form. [The form will ask](#) about age, citizenship, Hispanic origin, race, relationship, sex, tenure (owner/renter), and operational questions such as how many people are living in the household. Historically, if you skip a question, you will still be counted in the Census.
 - There are strong confidentiality laws protecting your Census data. The Census Bureau cannot share individual responses to the Census with other government agencies or the public.
- **Call with questions.** Starting in **mid-Jan 2020 through July 2020**, you can call the Census Questionnaire Assistance to ask questions or to answer the census by phone.
- Check online for language resources if you speak a language other than English. The online form is available in Chinese (simplified), Japanese, Korean, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. Language guides and glossaries are available in additional languages.
- Work for the Census Bureau as an enumerator – the person who goes to peoples’ homes to count them if they do not respond to the census. Apply at the end of 2019. Hiring and training will be from Jan to Feb 2020. Enumerators will work through July 2020.
- Tell friends and family about the census and explain why it is important to participate.

More Information and Resources

Asian American Advancing Justice Census Website: CountUsIn2020.org