

2020 Census Count Question Resolution Operation (CQR)

CQR affords governments the opportunity to ask the U.S. Census Bureau to review the 2020 Census housing counts.

CQR allows tribal, state, and local governmental units (GUs) in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, to request the Census Bureau review their 2020 Census counts of housing and correct certain errors discovered in the census results. CQR cases are focused on the housing inventory (e.g., housing units and group quarters) for specific census blocks, not the overall population count for the GU or census blocks.



Governments may use revised counts for future programs requiring official census data.

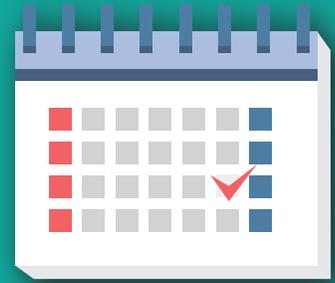
If the Census Bureau makes corrections, it will issue new, official 2020 Census counts to the highest elected or appointed officials of all affected GUs and will post the new counts on the CQR Web site. GUs may use the revised counts for future programs that require official 2020 Census data. The Census Bureau will not incorporate revised counts into any 2020 Census data products.

CQR participants will not see precise population counts associated with individual census blocks because they are subject to disclosure avoidance to protect individual privacy.

2020 Census data, including population counts associated with individual census blocks, are subject to disclosure avoidance methods. For more information on Census Bureau disclosure avoidance methods and efforts to ensure individuals' privacy, visit www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/decade/2020/planning-management/process/disclosure-avoidance.html. These measures are taken to protect the privacy of the individuals who live in housing units and group quarters. Therefore, CQR participants will not see precise counts of people below the state level in published data. If corrections are warranted regarding missing or improperly located housing, the Census Bureau will publish the corrections, including updated housing and population counts for the GU.

The Census Bureau will respond to all CQR requests and notify all affected governments of any corrections to official counts.

The Census Bureau will respond to all cases, even if the case is considered out of scope for CQR, and will notify all affected GUs of any corrections to their official counts resulting from a CQR decision. This notification, in the form of a determination letter, may span beyond the CQR participant to adjacent or overlapping GUs.



Schedule

2020 Census CQR occurs between **January 3, 2022, and June 30, 2023.**

December 2021: The Census Bureau distributes the introduction letter and flyer to the highest elected or appointed official in each tribal, state, and local GU, including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

January 3, 2022–June 30, 2023: The Census Bureau receives CQR cases.

January 3, 2022–September 30, 2023: The Census Bureau conducts research to determine if cases are in scope for CQR and determine the validity of cases. As a result, revised housing and population counts, and boundary maps (if applicable), may be produced and provided to affected GUs.

For more information about 2020 Census CQR, please visit www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/decade/2020/planning-management/evaluate/cqr.html.

For additional assistance, please contact the Census Bureau by e-mail at dcmd.2020.cqr.submissions@census.gov or by telephone at 1-888-369-3617.

CQR Case Types

Boundary cases request a Census Bureau review of legal GU boundaries in effect as of January 1, 2020, and the associated housing affected by the boundaries.

Housing Count cases request a Census Bureau review of the geographic location or placement of housing within specified 2020 census tabulation blocks and of the census records to determine whether a census processing error excluded valid housing (i.e., housing that existed and was available for occupancy on April 1, 2020).

Submitting a CQR Case

GUs are encouraged to submit their cases electronically. Those unable to participate electronically may contact the Census Bureau for additional options.

Cases can be prepared electronically using Geographic Update Partnership Software (GUPS), local geographic information system (GIS) software, or a combination of electronic, non-GIS materials. GUPS is a self-contained, customized GIS software tool that uses spatial files and templates for providing CQR case data to the Census Bureau and is available free for download from the CQR Web site. It may be useful for participants that lack a GIS or have limited geographic training and knowledge of census spatial data.

Boundary cases require maps (e.g., digital or hard copy) and a list of associated individual residential addresses, while housing count cases only require updated housing counts by block for the blocks in question. For details and specific instructions on how to submit a case, please refer to the participant guides located on the CQR Web site.

Example Scenario and Outcomes of a CQR Investigation

A town representative reviews the counts of housing units and group quarters for individual census blocks within their boundary and suspects the Census Bureau may have missed a relatively new housing development. The designated representative could identify the specific blocks where they believe the houses were missed and provide evidence of their existence, such as local building records and certificates of occupancy indicating they existed as of April 1, 2020. Possible outcomes include:

- The houses were included in the census, but in a different block in the town. Given sufficient evidence, the Census Bureau staff would move the houses to the correct block and issue updated housing counts for the affected blocks.
- The legal boundary for the town was incorrect in the census geographic records, and therefore the houses were erroneously considered outside of the town. Given sufficient evidence, the Census Bureau staff would correct the legal boundary and issue revised housing counts and population for the affected GUs. Please note that additional supporting documentation is required to make a boundary correction, and that the Census Bureau would work with the town to acquire that additional documentation.



Eligible Participants

The following active, functioning GUs are eligible to participate:

- Tribal areas, including federally recognized American Indian tribes with reservation and/or off-reservation trust lands, Alaska Native Regional Corporations, and Alaska Native villages.
- States and equivalent entities.
- Counties and equivalent entities.
- Minor civil divisions (e.g., townships).
- Consolidated cities.
- Incorporated places (e.g., villages, towns, cities).

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