



PRESS RELEASE



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CENSUS DAY IS APRIL 1!

FULL COUNT OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY RESIDENTS SUPPORTS FUNDING FOR LOCAL SERVICES

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY – All Santa Cruz County residents are encouraged to fill out the 2020 Census and be counted. Everyone counts! Go online to my2020census.gov. It's safe, it's easy, and it's important.

The U.S. Constitution mandates a census of the population every 10 years, which helps determine billions in funding throughout the U.S. each year, including local funding in Santa Cruz County. Each county resident who is uncounted is a loss of thousands for local services, such as hospitals, emergency services, schools and roads. Census data also determines the number of seats each state holds in the U.S. House of Representatives and informs legislative district boundaries.

Community members are asked to respond to the [2020 Census online](https://2020census.gov) using a desktop computer, laptop, smartphone or tablet. You can respond online or by phone in English or 12 other [languages](#). There are also 59 non-English language guides and videos (plus American Sign Language) available on 2020census.gov.

Santa Cruz County's response rate through March 30 is 38.5 percent, above the national average of 36.2 percent. Response rates are updated seven days a week, so that the public can see how well their community is doing compared to the nation and other areas. Go to <https://2020census.gov/en/response-rates.html> to view a map that shows how your neighborhood is doing.

It has never been easier to respond on your own — all without having to meet a census taker. This is important during the COVID-19 pandemic. When you respond:

- Respond for where you live as of April 1 (Census Day).
- Include everyone who usually lives and sleeps in your home as of April 1, even if they are staying somewhere else temporarily. This includes relatives, friends, roommates and anyone else who lives and sleeps in your home most of the

time — even children under age five and babies born on or before April 1, even if they are still in the hospital.

- Count [college students](#) where they live while attending school. If they live on campus in university/college housing such as dorms or fraternity/sorority houses, they will be counted by school officials and do not need to respond. However, if they live off campus in private housing or apartments, they should respond to the census on their own using their off-campus address even if they are currently staying elsewhere.
- Find additional answers about “Who to Count” at 2020census.gov.

Those who have received a mailed invitation can use their Census ID (provided in the invitation), or simply provide your address when you respond. Make sure friends, family and social networks know about the importance of responding and encourage them to complete their census. Responding now will minimize the need for a census taker to follow up and visit your home later this year.

Households that have not responded online or by phone will receive a paper questionnaire April 8-16. Some households — in areas less likely to respond online — have already received a paper questionnaire along with their first invitation.

For those needing assistance or access to a computer, Questionnaire Assistance Kiosks are located throughout Santa Cruz County. For a map of locations and other information on local census efforts, go to <http://www.santacruzcountycounts.us>.

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak, the deadline for filling out the Census has been extended until August 14.