Census 2020: Counting the Homeless

People experiencing homelessness will be counted by the Census Bureau between March 30 and April 1, 2020. The Census Bureau will count persons experiencing homelessness at shelters, soup kitchens, meal drop-off locations and identified outdoor locations.

Where People are Counted

- The Census Bureau counts people experiencing homelessness at multiple locations, including:
  - Emergency and transitional shelters where people stay overnight
  - Soup kitchens
  - Regularly scheduled mobile food vans that visit certain locations to provide food to people experiencing homelessness
  - Targeted non-sheltered outdoor locations where people live without paying to stay

Completing the Census

- Census Bureau enumerators will visit the designated locations between March 30 and April 1, 2020 to complete as complete enumeration of a location’s clientele as possible\(^2\). This approach follows the “point in time count” method for counting homeless populations across nation\(^3\).

How Information is Collected

- The primary method of data collection for people experiencing homelessness will be through an in-person interview. A census enumerator will conduct interviews with people receiving services on a given day.
- For people living in an emergency or transitional shelter, a Census Bureau worker will meet with the facility contact person to obtain a paper listing of census response data for each person who was served or was staying at this facility on Census Day.

Information Collected

- People contacted through the Service-Based Enumeration\(^1\) operation will be asked:
  - First and last name,
  - Sex,
  - Date of birth,
  - Age on census day
  - Hispanic origin,
  - Race, and
  - An alternate address where they live or stay when not at a facility through the Group Quarters Enumeration

Resources


Additional fact sheets available for download at: [demography.dola.colorado.gov/census_2020/](http://demography.dola.colorado.gov/census_2020/)
For questions, please contact the State Demography Office, Department of Local Affairs: 303.864.7753 3/1/2019