

United States® Census 2020

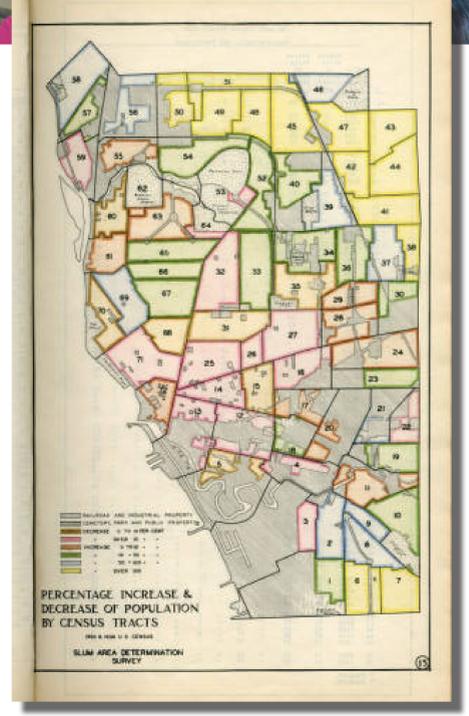


Making Sense of the Census in New York



What does the Census data impact?

The U.S. Census is the only “complete count” of the entire population of our country. “Representative democracy” is the cornerstone on which this nation was founded, and the Census is the tool used by the federal government for over 230 years to ensure every one of us is fairly represented at all levels of government.



Map of the change in population 1920-1930, Buffalo Municipal Housing Authority Report Maps. Courtesy, Buffalo History Museum through the Western New York Library Resources Council in New York Heritage, <https://cdm16694.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/VTP005/id/658/rec/27>



The Census, 1890 (Cartoon showing man taking census from old woman, who thinks he wants to take her senses). Courtesy, Library of Congress, Illus. in: Harper's weekly, 1890 June 14, p. 470, <http://loc.gov/pictures/resource/cph.3c00311/>

Census Bureau questionnaire, 1960. Courtesy, Smithsonian National Museum of American History, https://www.si.edu/object/nmah_1671496

Census numbers drive the allocation of more than \$675 billion federal dollars impacting hundreds of state and local level programs that fall under 16 large federal programs. Here is a small sample of types of federal funding derived from Census data:

Education

- Funding for pre-k – 12 school districts and Adult Education programming

Healthcare

- Funding for Medicare and other programs for seniors to programs for children and families like the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants & Children (WIC)

Local Government

- Programs serving both urban and rural communities, such as Rural Economic Development Loans and Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

Transportation

- From projects for mass transit to funding for creation and maintenance of municipal roads and highways

Representation of the people was, as it still is, the foremost concern. In the First Session of Congress on February 2, 1790, James Madison summed up this feeling by stating to a colleague, “I take it sir, that in order to accommodate our laws to the real situation of our constituents, we ought to be acquainted with that situation.” The U.S. Census has been intended from the beginning to count ALL people in the country so that Congress can make informed decisions in its crafting of laws and policies.

www.census.gov

Census challenge:
How many seats in the U.S. House of Representatives were assigned to New York State in the first census in 1790? How many in the last census of 2010?

Find out more about the history of the U.S. Census by visiting our online exhibit at:
<https://bit.ly/2nVeTK7>

