

Group Quarters Advance Contact

The Group Quarters Advance Contact operation helps prepare for a successful population count during the Group Quarters Enumeration and Service-Based Enumeration operations.

For the 2020 Census, the Group Quarters Advance Contact operation will be conducted across the United States, including Puerto Rico from February 3, 2020 to March 6, 2020.

In advance of the 2020 Census data collection, the Census Bureau will contact all group quarters facilities to explain the enumeration process and collect certain information about their group quarters.

The Group Quarters Advance Contact operation is conducted from area census offices, which are part of the six regional census centers located in New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Atlanta, Dallas, and Los Angeles.

For the 2020 Census, the Group Quarters Advance Contact operation will be conducted in several phases:

- Phase 1: The Census Bureau will mail a letter to most group quarters facilities informing them of the 2020 Census, explaining the steps in the group quarters enumeration process, and notifying them that Census Bureau representatives will be calling or visiting their facility.
- Phase 2: Census Bureau representatives from area census offices will call each group quarters facility to explain the enumeration process and collect certain identifying information about the facility. This phase will take place from February 3, 2020, through March 6, 2020 (and from January 13, 2020, through February 25, 2020, for remote areas of Alaska).
- Phase 3: Census Bureau representatives will conduct personal visits to group quarters facilities across the United States and Puerto Rico that could not be contacted by phone or were unable to complete the phone interview. The personal visit phase of the operation will be conducted from February 21, 2020, through March 6, 2020.

What To Expect

During the 2020 Group Quarters Advance Contact operation, Census Bureau representatives from area census offices will call or visit each group quarters facility to:

- Verify the group quarter's name, address, contact name, phone number, maximum population, and group quarters type code.
- Collect an expected Census Day population count.
- For the 2020 Census, certain group quarters facilities will be able to select the Electronic Response Data Collection (eResponse) enumeration method.
- Inform the group quarters staff about the various methods of enumeration available to them.
- Ascertain their preferred enumeration method and set an appointment date and time to conduct the enumeration.

- Address concerns related to privacy, confidentiality, and security access to the facility. Each interview will take approximately fifteen minutes.