

Counting People at Transitory Locations

The 2020 Census Enumeration at Transitory Locations operation counts people in occupied units at transitory locations who do not have another place where they usually live or stay.

What Is a Transitory Location?

A transitory location is a place people are unlikely to live year-round. Transitory locations include campgrounds, RV parks, marinas, hotels, motels, racetracks, circuses, and carnivals. Each transitory location has multiple transitory units, which can be rooms in a lodging facility or spaces where a tent, boat, RV, or other structure may be parked or located.

An occupied transitory unit is considered a housing unit if there is at least one person who usually resides there. If no one is staying at a transitory unit, that transitory unit is considered unoccupied and is not marked as a living quarters. Similarly, a transitory unit is not tabulated as a housing unit if all people staying there report a usual home elsewhere. Anyone who reports a usual home elsewhere should be counted at that home.

Types of Transitory Locations

Campground

An area set aside primarily for people to camp (e.g., in a tent, cabin, or camping trailer). Campgrounds often charge a fee and sometimes provide modest amenities. This category includes both public campgrounds (e.g., in national, state, or local parks or recreation areas) and private campgrounds (e.g., KOA campgrounds, religious campgrounds, hunting camps, and self-improvement camps).

Recreational Vehicle (RV) Park

An area set aside primarily for people temporarily parking and occupying RVs (also referred to as travel trailers or camping trailers). RV parks rent out spaces (with or without hook-ups for basic utilities) to people parking RVs, typically on a short-term (daily, weekly, or monthly) basis. RVs are often on wheels while people live or stay in them; they are not permanent structures, as they could easily be driven or towed away. This category includes both public and private RV parks.

Marina

A dock or basin where small commercial or private vessels, such as boats or yachts, can be securely moored or parked; some people may make these vessels their primary residence. Marinas may offer supplies, repairs, and other services and amenities. A marina may stand alone or be part of a resort, and it may be owned and operated by a public entity (e.g., municipal facility) or a private company or club (e.g., yacht club).

Hotel or Motel

A lodging facility that some people may use as long-term or permanent housing. In addition to hotels and motels, this category includes hostels, single-room occupancy units, inns, resorts, lodges, and bed-and-breakfast establishments. Units within these lodging facilities may be

single rooms, suites, cabins, cabanas, cottages, or bungalows. In addition, organizations such as the YMCA and YWCA may offer lodging, along with other services, at their facilities.

Racetrack

A facility used for racing automobiles, motorcycles, horses, or dogs where traveling workers may reside in temporary quarters, such as tents, buses, or RVs. This category includes both commercial and private racetracks.

Circus or Carnival

A traveling show or amusement enterprise such as a circus, carnival, fair where the performers and workers of which may reside on-site in temporary quarters, such as tents, buses, or RVs.

How Are People in Transitory Locations Counted?

The Enumeration at Transitory Locations operation consists of two phases: Transitory Locations Advance Contact and Enumeration at Transitory Locations.

During the Transitory Locations Advance Contact phase, Census Bureau workers prepare for enumeration. Between February 24 and March 21, 2020, area census office staff members will call an administrator at each transitory location to indicate that census takers will visit, explain the enumeration process, and collect information about the location. If the area census office staff member is unable to make contact by phone, a staff member will visit the location and speak to the managers or representatives to set up an appointment. The Transitory Locations Advance Contact operation sets the stage for a successful count of transitory locations with minimal disruption to occupants.

During the Transitory Locations Advance Contact operation, area census office staff members call or visit each transitory location to:

- Verify the location name, type, address, phone number, and point of contact.
- Record the number of units at the location.
- Record the expected number of occupied units.
- Set up a date and time to visit and conduct the count.
- Address concerns related to facility privacy, confidentiality, and security.

The Enumeration at Transitory Locations operation will occur after Transitory Locations Advance Contact, from April 9 to May 4, 2020. Census takers will visit each transitory location at the scheduled time to interview people in the occupied transitory units. Filling out a paper questionnaire, the census response data that we ask for each person include: sex, their date of birth, their age on Census Day (April 1, 2020), Hispanic origin, race, relationship to the primary respondent, home ownership status, and an alternate address where they live or stay when not at the transitory location. Each interview will take approximately 10 minutes.