

2020 CENSUS FACTSHEET

Group Quarters Enumeration

What is a Group Quarter?

A Group Quarter (GQ) is a place where people who are not related live or stay in a group living arrangement that is owned or managed by an entity or organization providing housing and/or services for the residents.

Types of Group Quarters include:

- College Residence Halls
- Group Homes
- Prisons
- Nursing Homes
- Residential Treatment Centers

Key Points

- ◆ Service Based Enumeration is a subset of Group Quarters.
- ◆ The 2020 Census endeavors to count individuals experiencing homelessness.
- ◆ Data collected includes name, sex, date of birth, age on Census Day (April 1, 2020), Hispanic origin, race, and an alternate address.
- ◆ Community Partners play an important role in ensuring an accurate count.

What is Service-Based Enumeration?

The Service-Based Enumeration (SBE) is a subset of GQ, where individuals who are experiencing homelessness are receive services. We target places where people who maybe experiencing homeless are receiving services so we can provide them opportunities to be counted.

These locations include:

- **Mobile Food Vans** — a van that delivers food on a set schedule to predetermined locations.
- **Soup Kitchens** — a place that serves meals to clients.
- **Transitional and Emergency Shelters** (with Sleeping Facilities) — for people experiencing homelessness.
- **Targeted Non-Sheltered Outdoor Locations (TNSOLs)** — places where people experiencing homelessness live without paying to stay.

Potential TNSOLs include: Parks, Wooded Areas, Parkway Benches, Alleys, Parking Ramps, Beneath Highway Systems, Transportation Depots, Subway/Metro Stations, Shopping Center Parking Lots, Gas Stations, Truck Stops, Rest Stops, Pull Outs/ Pull Overs, Open Asphalt areas, Restaurants, and all night businesses such as movie theaters, 24-hour Laundromats, Walmart, Casinos, etc.

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The Census Bureau Operation:

There are two components of SBE, namely the Group Quarters Advance Contact (GQAC) and Enumeration. GQAC is preliminary work done in the field and takes place from February 3, 2020 to March 6, 2020. Enumeration is the actual population count, beginning on April 1, 2020.

Enumeration Methods for GQs:

There are several methods of enumeration. There is Drop off/Pick up, In-Person Interview, Paper Response Data Collection, Facility Self- Enumeration and eResponse. The one you will use depends on:

- The method allowed at the GQ because not all methods are conducive for all GQs.
- The method the GQ contact person chose during an earlier operation called Advance Contact, if they had multiple options.

Types of Enumeration Methods:

The enumeration method allows for the collection of census data as of Census Day (April 1, 2020). The census response data ask for each person's name, sex, date of birth, age on Census Day (April 1, 2020), Hispanic origin, race, and an alternate address where they live or stay when not at this facility. The enumeration methods are detailed below:

In-Person Interview

- Enumerator conducts a face to face, in-person interview with each person who was served or was staying at this facility on Census Day (April 1, 2020).
- This method is best for locations with a small number of residents.
- Not ideal for GQs whose residents have varied schedules

Drop Off/Pick Up of Questionnaires

- Enumerators drop off interview packets for each resident at the facility on Census Day (April 1, 2020) and pick up the completed questionnaires from the contact person on another agreed-upon time.
- May require the assistance of the GQ contact person in providing a list of current residents/ clients

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Type of Enumeration Methods (cont.):

and possibly passing out as well as collecting the ICQs.

Paper Response Data Collection

- Enumerators will meet with your staff at the GQ facility to obtain a paper listing of census response data for each person who was served or was staying at this facility on Census Day (April 1, 2020).
- Minimizes the time Enumerators spend at the facility.
- Ideal for very large GQs.

Electronic Response Data Transfer (eResponse)

- Is a secure website for the GQ administrator to submit census response data to a secure portal for each person who will be staying at this facility on Census Day (April 1, 2020).
- GQ Administrators/contact person is provided a unique user ID.
- All GQs that chose this method, but have not responded by May 1, will be sent to the field for follow up

Facility Self-Enumeration

- A Census Bureau worker will swear in and train the GQ Administrator/ contact person and your staff on how to conduct the enumeration of their own facility for each person who was staying at their facility on Census Day (April 1, 2020).
- The Census worker provides all the materials needed to conduct enumeration. The GQ Administrator/ contact person will prepare forms for enumeration, distribute and collect forms, review completed materials and follow up on any missing data.
- A Census worker will return to pick up the completed materials at an agreed upon time.
- GQ staff conducting the enumerations at their facilities will not be compensated by the Census Bureau.
- Ideal for large GQs.

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Enumerators:

Enumerators serve as our data collectors, they are the ‘boots on the ground’. They collect data using an Individual Census Questionnaire (ICQ). The ICQ asks the respondents for information such as name, sex, date of birth, age on Census Day (April 1, 2020), Hispanic origin, race, and an alternate address where they live or stay when not at the GQ.

The Role of Community Partners:

Obtaining an accurate count of individuals experiencing homelessness is impeded by a number of factors. These factors include fear and distrust of government officials, mental health concerns, finding and accessing locations frequented by individuals experiencing homelessness, and a number of other confounders. Community partners who actively work with individuals experiencing homelessness can assist the Census workers to gain access to the target population in order to accurately count them, by doing the following:

1. Participate in the ongoing conversation and Census related activities about the 2020 Census.
2. Respond to Census workers when they reach out for assistance and partnership building.
3. Share resources about the 2020 Census with your network of providers.
4. Preset the population experiencing homelessness by letting them know that Census workers will be conducting enumerations beginning on April 1, 2020.
5. Encourage their participation in the 2020 Census. Frame your conversation in terms of the benefits of participating in the Census.
6. Help Census workers to identify new GQs in your community.
7. Be an active champion for the work being done by the Census Bureau.

Benefits for the Community:

Participation in the 2020 Census has far reaching impact. The Census Data collected helps to determine how more than \$675 billion of federal funding is allocated. Additionally, it helps to decide where to locate new housing, businesses, public facilities, plan transportation systems and highways, and fund programs that benefit the community.