

Alameda County

Fact Sheet



What is the Census?

- ▶ The U.S. Constitution requires an accurate count of every person living in the United States every 10 years. The next census is in 2020 and asks questions that provide a snapshot of the nation and will determine how more than \$675 billion in federal funding is distributed to states and communities each year. Census results affect your voice in government, how much funding your community receives, and how your community plans for the future.
- ▶ The following communities are the hardest-to-count (HTC) by the census:
 - Latinos, African Americans, Native Americans and Tribal Communities, Asian American and Pacific Islanders (AAPI), Middle-Eastern North Africans (MENA), immigrants and refugees, farm-workers, people with disabilities, LGBTQ, senior/older adults, homeless individuals and families, children under 5 years, veterans, areas with low broadband subscription rates and limited or no access, households with limited English proficiency.¹

Why is my community undercounted?

- ▶ Alameda County will be one of the hardest-to-count (HTC) communities in 2020, which means that households in this county are some of the least likely to respond to census forms. More than 26% of the county is considered very hard-to-count.
- ▶ Noncitizens may be less likely to respond in 2020 due to the planned addition of a citizenship question. Approximately 16.2% of Alameda County residents are noncitizens, and are especially vulnerable to being undercounted.²

¹ <https://census.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2019/01/K-HTC-Demographic-Populations.pdf>

² <https://datausa.io/profile/geo/alameda-county-ca>



- Immigrant communities are often wary of the government and fear that census information could be used against them, which discourages participation.
- ▶ Language access can contribute to an undercount. According to data from the U.S. Census Bureau, 44.6% of the population in Alameda County speaks a language other than English at home.
- ▶ The high proportion of young children in Alameda County is difficult to count and has been historically undercounted in the past. In some areas, children under 5 make up about six percent of the population, which is some of the highest in the state.
- ▶ Alameda County contains some of the highest share of renters and frequent movers in the country and is one of the most expensive places to live in California. Housing conditions – such as rentals and multiple family homes – may make an accurate count difficult.
- ▶ Internet connectivity is yet another barrier:
 - While the 2020 Census will be the first in history to be completed largely online, Alameda County communities and residents still face barriers to connectivity, particularly the 14.3% of Alameda County residents with no broadband internet subscription.³ This can pose a challenge to rural areas with low internet connectivity and people with lower incomes who are less likely to have a smart phone or internet service at home.

What does an undercount mean for my community?

- ▶ When you fill out the census, you help:
 - Determine how many seats your state gets in Congress.
 - Guide how federal funding is distributed to states and communities each year.

³ <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/alamedacountycalifornia/PST045218>



- Create jobs, provide housing, prepare for emergencies, and build schools, roads and hospitals.
- ▶ If Alameda County undercounts by just 3%, the county would lose \$1 billion over the course of 10 years.⁴
- ▶ Alameda County receives 60% of its revenue from federal and state sources.⁵
- ▶ Alameda County receives federal funding for community services such as in home support services, workforce development, and public assistance programs.⁶
- This funding could be reduced with an incomplete count.
- ▶ Since 2020 Census data will be used to redraw legislative district lines, it can affect political representation. For example, in Assembly District 18 (Bonta), which covers most of Alameda County, 28.2% of households are predicted to not respond initially to the census.⁷
- ▶ In 2018, Alameda County received over \$115.8 million of federal funding for Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers, which assists residents in securing affordable housing in their communities.⁸
- The Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program uses census data to determine who the program serves, where they live, how federal funds are disbursed to California, and how the state distributes funds amongst its counties.⁹
- ▶ Alameda County receives census related federal funding for medical services, including clinics and children’s health insurance.
- ▶ In the 2017-2018 school year, Alameda County received \$26 million from the \$15.4 billion dollar federal budget for Title I Every Child Succeeds Act, which provides financial assistance to local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools with high numbers or high percentages of children from low-income families.¹⁰

⁴ <https://www.acgov.org/census2020/docs/census2020-AlamedaCounty7.pdf>

⁵ <https://www.acgov.org/census2020/docs/census2020-AlamedaCounty7.pdf>

⁶ <http://budget.acgov.org/#!/year/default>

⁷ <https://www.ppic.org/map/2020-census-maps-californias-hard-to-count-communities/>

⁸ <https://www.cbpp.org/research/housing/national-and-state-housing-fact-sheets-data>

⁹ <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/program-management/working-papers/Uses-of-Census-Bureau-Data-in-Federal-Funds-Distribution.pdf>

¹⁰ <http://www.ed-data.org/county/Alameda>



- If your community is undercounted, low-income areas would lose federal funding for textbooks, school supplies and food for students, which aid children in meeting academic standards.
- ▶ An undercount could reshape the legislative landscape of Alameda County. When residents are undercounted, political representation goes toward areas with higher population.

How Can I Help?

- ▶ There are 3 easy ways you can help make sure your community completes the census and receives funding for important services.
 - (1) Fill out the census form online or on paper.
 - (2) Ensure your family, friends, and coworkers fill out the census.
 - (3) Educate your community about the census and why it is important to complete the census.