San Joaquin 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?

- Many San Joaquin County residents are part of a hardest-to-count (HTC) group, including Latino (4.8%), African American (7%), Native Americans (0.6%), and Asian (15.1%).[2]

- The high proportion of young children in San Joaquin County is part of the hardest-to-count (HTC) group. Young children, who are frequently undercounted by the census, make up 7.3% of San Joaquin County residents, which is among the highest concentration within the state.

[1] https://census.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2019/01/K-HTC-Demographic-Populations.pdf
[2] https://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/3n/ACS/17_5/YR/DP05/0500000US06077

CA CENSUS 2020

- Noncitizens may be less likely to respond in 2020 due to the planned addition of a citizenship question. Approximately 12.5% of San Joaquin County residents are noncitizens, and are especially vulnerable to being undercounted.[3]
  - Immigrant communities are often wary of the government and fear that census information could be used against them, thus discouraging participation.
- Housing conditions such as rentals, multiple family homes, and mobile homes make it difficult to get an accurate count.
  - More than 20% of households live in mobile homes in some northwestern parts of San Joaquin County, and 44.3% of San Joaquin County residents live in rentals.[4]
- Language access can contribute to an undercount. According to data from the U.S. Census Bureau, 41.2% of the population in San Joaquin County speaks a language other than English at home and 14.4% of the population speaks English less than "very well".
- Internet connectivity is yet another barrier:
  - While the 2020 Census will be the first in history to be completed largely online, San Joaquin communities and residents still face barriers to connectivity, particularly the 21.7% of San Joaquin County residents with no broadband internet subscription.[5] 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.

[3] https://www.ppic.org/map/2020-census-maps-californias-hard-to-count-communities/
[4] https://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/3n/ACS/17_5/YR/DP05/0500000US06077
[5] https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/montereycountycalifornia,ca/HSG01217

- Guide how federal funding is distributed to states and communities each year.
- Create jobs, provide housing, prepare for emergencies, and build schools, roads and hospitals.

- San Joaquin County receives federal funding for public assistance programs such as CalFresh, child support services and mental health services.[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 13 (Eggman), which covers most of San Joaquin County, 16.7% of households are predicted to not respond initially to the census.[7]
- In 2018, San Joaquin County received $35.2 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]
- San Joaquin County receives census related federal funding for medical services, including clinics and children's health insurance.
- In the 2017-2018 school year, San Joaquin County received over $42.4 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]
  - 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.

6 https://www.sjgov.org/uploadedfiles/sjc/departments/cao/final_budget/2018-2019/details%20of%20financing%20sources%20and%20financing%20uses.pdf
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/San-Joaquin

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.