



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs) for CENSUS OF POPULATION AND HOUSING (CPH)



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**TOPIC: 2020 Census of Population and Housing (2020 CPH)**

**QUESTION:**

**What is the legal basis of PSA for conducting the 2020 CPH?**

**ANSWER:**

The authority and mandate of the PSA to conduct the 2020 CPH emanate from Republic Act (RA) No. 10625 and Batas Pambansa Bilang 72 (BP 72).

RA No. 10625 or the *Philippine Statistical Act of 2013*, which was approved on 12 September 2013 mandates the PSA to prepare and conduct periodic censuses on population, housing, and other sectors of the economy.

On the other hand, BP 72, which was passed into law on 11 June 1980, accords the former National Statistics Office, now part of the PSA, the authority to conduct population censuses every ten (10) years beginning in 1980.

**QUESTION:**

**What is the 2020 Census of Population and Housing?**

**ANSWER:**

The CPH refers to the entire process of collecting, compiling, evaluating, analyzing, publishing, and disseminating data about the population and housing units in the country. It entails primarily the listing and recording of the characteristics of each individual and each living quarter as of a specified time and within a specified territory. It is designed to take an inventory of the total population and housing units in the Philippines and to collect information about their characteristics.

The 2020 CPH is a nationwide undertaking of the PSA. It will be the 15th census of population and the 7th census of housing in the country since the first census was undertaken in 1903.

**QUESTION:**

**What are the objectives of the 2020 CPH?**

**ANSWER:**

The 2020 CPH will be conducted to provide government planners, policy makers, and administrators with population and housing data on which to base their social and economic development plans, policies, and programs.

Specifically, the 2020 CPH seeks to gather data on:

1. demographic characteristics, such as the size, composition (sex, age and marital status), and geographic distribution of the population;
2. socio-economic characteristics of the population, such as birth registration, religious affiliation, citizenship, ethnicity, functional difficulty, residence of mother at the time of the child's birth, residence five (5) years ago, literacy, highest grade/year completed, school attendance, place of school, overseas worker, usual activity/occupation, kind of business or industry, class of worker, place of work, and selected fertility indicators;
3. household-level characteristics, such as language/dialect generally spoken at home, residence five (5) years from now, presence of household conveniences/information and communication technology (ICT) devices/vehicles;
4. housing characteristics, such as the number of housing units in the country, their geographic location, structural characteristics, and selected facilities; and
5. barangay characteristics, such as the presence of selected facilities and establishments; presence of informal settlers and relocation areas; and occurrence of significant movement of population (in-movers and out-movers) in/out of the barangay due to various reasons such as natural and man-made disaster/calamities, demolition or relocation, commercialization and others.

Moreover, the 2020 CPH listing of households will serve as sampling frame for use in household-based surveys.

QUESTION:

**What are the basic uses of the statistics that will be derived from the 2020 CPH?**

ANSWER:

Among the important uses of the data from the census are the following:

In government:

- allocation of resources and revenues;
- formulation of policies and plans concerning various segments of the population (infants, children, youth, elderly women of reproductive age, and working age);
- development of policies and programs relative to the delivery of basic services, such as on health, education, employment, housing, infrastructure, and other socio-economic concerns;
- creation/conversion of political and administrative units (barangay, city, municipality or province); and
- redistricting and apportionment of congressional seats.

In business and industry:

- identification of sites for establishing businesses;
- identification of consumer demands for various goods and services; and
- improvement of supply of labor for the production of goods and services.

In research and academic institutions:

- conduct of researches on population, housing, and other related disciplines; and
- study of population growth and geographic distribution as bases in preparing projections at the national and subnational levels.

QUESTION:

**When is the Census Reference Date?**

ANSWER:

May 1, 2020 is the reference date for the 2020 CPH, on which the enumeration of the population and the collection of all pertinent data on housing in the Philippines shall refer.

For the purpose of this census, all information to be collected about the population and living quarters will generally be counted as of 12:01 a.m., May 1, 2020 (Friday).

QUESTION:

**Who will act as Census Enumerators?**

ANSWER:

Pursuant to BP 72, public school teachers shall be utilized for the 2020 CPH. To augment the manpower requirements of the census, the PSA shall also hire Enumerators (ENs) from the locality. All personnel that will be involved in 2020 CPH shall be provided with proper identification cards duly signed by the PSA National Statistician or his authorized representative.

QUESTION:

**How will the enumeration be conducted?**

ANSWER:

Census ENs will gather the data through house-to-house visit and personal interview of the household head or any responsible member of the household. Similarly, institutional population living in institutional living quarters (ILQs) such as dormitories, hospitals, sanitarium, penitentiary, military camps, convents, seminaries, and others shall also be visited by the ENs.

The census enumeration will be administered through the usual Paper and Pencil Interviewing (PAPI) technique.

In areas where personal interview is not practical or not feasible, such as in exclusive subdivisions and high-rise condominiums, the respondent may be asked to accomplish a Self-Administered Questionnaire (SAQ) using an instruction guide.

**QUESTION:**

**What is the assurance of the public that the information given to the census enumerator will not be used for other purposes?**

**ANSWER:**

Data obtained from censuses are published in summary form or totals, with no reference to any individual or respondent.

Confidentiality of individual level-data is ensured under:

- Section 26 of RA 10625, which stipulates that “individual data furnished by a respondent to statistical inquiries, surveys and censuses conducted by the PSA shall be considered privileged communication and as such shall be inadmissible as evidence in any proceeding.” This means that the information given by the respondents are considered confidential, hence, cannot be used as evidence in any proceeding before a court of law, tribunal or administrative body. This section also specifies that “the PSA releases data gathered from censuses only in the form of summaries or statistical tables, in which no reference to an individual, corporation, association, partnership, institution or business enterprise shall appear.”
- Likewise, Paragraph 3 of Section 27 of RA 10625 states that “a person, including parties within the PSA Board and the PSA, who breach the confidentiality of information, whether by carelessness, improper behavior with malicious intent, and use of confidential information for profit shall be liable to a fine of five thousand pesos (P5,000.00) to not more than ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00) and/or imprisonment of three (3) months but not to exceed one (1) year, subject to the degree of breach of information.”

Moreover, Section 20(e) of RA No. 10173 (*Data Privacy Act of 2012*) stipulates that “the employees, agents or representatives of a personal information controller who are involved in the processing of personal information shall operate and hold personal information under strict confidentiality if the personal information are not intended for public disclosure. This obligation shall continue even after leaving the public service, transfer to another position or upon termination of employment or contractual relations”.

Section 26 to 29 of RA No. 10173 also assert that the breach in the confidentiality of information, whether by negligence, improper disposal, behavior with malicious intent, unauthorized access or intentional breach, and unauthorized disclosure, shall be penalized by imprisonment ranging from six (6) months to seven (7) years and a fine of not less than one hundred thousand pesos (PHP100,000.00) but not more than seven (7) million pesos (Php7,000,000.00), depending on the acts defined in these Sections.

Section 4(e) states that this act does not apply to “information necessary in order to carry out the functions of public authority, which includes the processing of personal data for the performance by the independent, regulatory agencies of their constitutionally and statutorily mandated functions”.

Section 12(e) states that the processing of personal information shall be permitted only if not otherwise prohibited by law and when the processing is necessary in order to fulfill functions of public authority, which necessarily includes the processing of personal data for fulfillment of its mandate.

Section 19 provides for the non-applicability of the rights of the data subject if the processed personal information are used only for the needs of scientific and statistical research and on the basis of such, no activities are carried out and no decision are taken regarding the data.

**QUESTION:**

**When will the 2020 CPH data be made available to the public?**

**ANSWER:**

The population count by region, province, city, municipality, and barangay is targeted to be released before the end of the census year, which is 31 December 2020. The final count shall be considered official for all purposes upon proclamation by the President of the Philippines. Census data will be made available in print and electronic copies.

Detailed characteristics of the population and housing will be made available on staggered basis starting 2021.

**QUESTION:**

**What are the activities in 2019 that will be undertaken in preparation for the conduct of 2020 CPH?**

**ANSWER:**

As a large-scale government operation, preparations for the 2020 CPH start two years before the actual census in May 1, 2020.

Scheduled in 2019 are the following activities:

1. design/finalization of the census questionnaires and manuals;
2. exploration and development of the different methods of data collection: Paper and Pencil Interview (PAPI) and Computer-Aided Personal Interview (CAPI), combination of PAPI and CAPI, and Self-Administered Questionnaire (SAQ);
3. tagging of structures (geo-tagging of buildings); and
4. conduct of the Pilot Census.

The development of using CAPI to collect data and geo-tagging of buildings will utilize a new technology that would address the demand for shorter period of processing, hence, hasten the release of census results.

**QUESTION:**

**Who are to be counted/enumerated in the 2020 CPH enumeration?**

**ANSWER:**

To be enumerated in the census is any person who is alive as of 12:01 a.m. of May 1, 2020 and who is a:

- Filipino national permanently residing in the Philippines;
- Filipino national who, as of May 1, 2020, is temporarily at Philippine sea, or is temporarily on vacation, business/pleasure trip or studying/training abroad and is expected to be back within a year from the date of departure;
- Filipino overseas worker, including one who is on-board an oceangoing vessel, who is away as of May 1, 2020 but is expected to be back within five years from the date of his/her last departure;
- Philippine government official, military or civilian, including a Philippine diplomatic personnel and his/her family, assigned abroad; and
- Civilian citizen of a foreign country who has/her usual residence in the Philippines, or a foreign visitor who has stayed or is expected to stay for at least a year from the date of his/her arrival in the country.

**QUESTION:**

**Will the homeless people/street dwellers or informal settlers be counted in the census?**

**ANSWER:**

YES. People living in unconventional or improvised housing units such as trailers, culverts, abandoned trucks, caves, container vans, tents, railroad cars, and carts and those living in cemeteries will be enumerated in the census. A sticker will be posted on a conspicuous part of such housing units.

Those who are living without housing units such as homeless people or street dwellers will also be enumerated but no sticker will be posted in the place where they will be found.

**QUESTION:**

**Will the indigenous people be counted/enumerated in the census?**

**ANSWER:**

YES. All persons will be counted in the census, including the indigenous peoples.

QUESTION:

**How will people be counted if they are displaced or relocated due to calamities, disasters, or armed conflict?**

ANSWER:

*De jure* concept, which entails the enumeration of a person in his/her usual place of residence as of May 1, 2020 (Census Reference Date), will be adopted in the census. This concept will ensure that each person will be counted only once during the census enumeration.

1. **Calamity-Affected Areas** – For calamity-affected areas, the Chief Statistical Specialist (CSS) of the Provincial Statistical Office (PSO), in consultation with the Regional Director (RD) of the Regional Statistical Service Office (RSSO) may decide to delay the enumeration. The PSO-CSS shall coordinate with officials of the Philippine National Red Cross, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council or other local civic organizations to solicit suggestions on the best method to enumerate these areas. The PSO-CSS will immediately report the case to the RD, who in turn shall report the matter to the Central Office (CO).
2. **Temporary Evacuation Centers/Areas** – Temporary evacuation centers existing at the time of the census will be listed using a separate CPH Form 1 (Listing Booklet) for PAPI areas. The EN will assign a Building Serial Number (BSN) and a Housing Unit Serial Number (HUSN) of 5555 for each household listed in temporary evacuation centers. However, a unique and sequential four-digit regular Household Serial Number (HSN), following the last HSN used outside the temporary evacuation center will be assigned to each household. Information on the households found in temporary evacuation centers, will also be gathered using CPH Form 2 (Common Household Questionnaire). However, the housing characteristics of these households will no longer be collected.

The TS shall discuss with the EN the best way to enumerate the households in temporary evacuation centers. They shall coordinate with the concerned local government officials and gather the following information on such households:

- ✓ Expected duration or length of stay in the temporary relocation center
- ✓ Address where they came from
- ✓ Number of families/households affected

If evacuees are encountered in private households, the EN shall use CPH Form 2 (Common Household Questionnaire) and stick to the definition of household and rules on household membership.

QUESTION:

**How will the census be conducted in areas affected by armed conflict?**

ANSWER:

Census enumeration in areas affected by armed conflict will be conducted in coordination with Local Government Units and the Department of National Defense.

**Peace and Order** – some barangay/enumeration areas (EAs) may not be penetrated because of volatile peace and order situation at the time of the enumeration. Such situation shall be promptly reported to the RD and the National Statistician (NS) through the Assistant National Statistician (ANS) of the National Censuses Service (NCS) (Attention: Population and Housing Census Division or PHCD).

The estimated number of households in the area affected will be included in the report. One suggested strategy is to gather information on the actual situation in the area and tap a local resident to act as the EN, if possible. Classified under this category are the following: “*redo*”, which is common in some Muslim areas, tribal war, ongoing military operation, and presence of rebel camp. The PSO-CSS shall coordinate with the Provincial Director of the Philippine National Police (PNP), request for a list of critical areas in the province, and ask for assistance on the best strategy to undertake in enumerating these areas.

QUESTION:

**How will complete coverage be ensured in census-taking?**

ANSWER:

In a census, there are two types of coverage error: under coverage (omission) and over coverage (duplication or multiple counting) errors. The PSA adopts procedures to eliminate coverage errors in the census. Before the census field operation, extensive trainings of census ENs and supervisors will be conducted to ensure uniformity of concepts and procedures used in the enumeration.

During the operation, the PSA will deploy census supervisors to closely oversee the ENs. The ENs will be instructed to strictly adhere to the guidelines on whom to enumerate (inclusion) and whom not to enumerate (exclusion) to avoid omission and counting persons more than once. They will also use enumeration area maps to ensure full coverage of the area. Progress Monitoring System (PMS) will be utilized to track the progress of census field operations.

At the census headquarters and PSOs, the completeness and consistency of entries will be checked. Saturation drive, which is a standard procedure in any census undertaking, will be carried out at the end of enumeration. The objective of this is also to ensure full coverage.

QUESTION:

**How many data collectors will be deployed to undertake the 2020 CPH?**

ANSWER:

About 86 thousand ENs, 17 thousand Team Supervisors (TSs), 17 thousand Team Field Editors (TFEs), 3 thousand Assistant Census Area Supervisors (ACASs), and 3 thousand Census Area Supervisors (CASs) will be trained and deployed to augment and support the PSA permanent personnel during the census enumeration. The non-PSA census personnel will be composed of public school teachers from the Department of Education (DepEd) and other hired non-DepEd teachers.