

# EQUALLY INFORMED PHILLY

# COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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ARTWORK BY BARBARA, 3RD GRADE | HEALTHY NEWSWORKS REPORTER

## HAVE YOU PARTICIPATED IN THE 2020 CENSUS? IF NOT, HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW!

By Sara, 6th grade |  
Healthy NewsWorks  
Reporter

Have you filled out your 2020 census form yet? If not, there are many reasons you should complete it, according to Gabriela Raczka, an engagement manager for Philly Counts.

"The census determines resources, representation, and research for the next 10 years," said Ms. Raczka. Her job is to educate people about the importance of participating in the census.

The census is a survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau every 10 years to count the entire population of the United States. It's been going on since 1970.

The information collected during each census is used to inform public policy, to determine the number of members to send to the U.S. House of Representatives, and to decide how federal money is distributed.

"People in my community and many others want improvement," said Ruth Birchett, a "Census Champion," who helps get out the word about the census in her North Philadelphia community. To make that happen, "it is important that we have a complete count of the area. ... The census is one of the things that can make these places better."

(Continued on Page 3)

# EDUCATION, VACCINE, KEY TO STOPPING COVID-19

BY TYLER, 8TH GRADE | HEALTHY  
NEWSWORKS REPORTER

I recently interviewed Dr. Risa Lavizzo-Mourey who is a professor at the University of Pennsylvania and former chief executive officer of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. She said that our lives cannot return to normal until an effective vaccine or treatment is created. If there is no vaccine, what is going to stop the coronavirus from coming back just as strong as before?

Dr. Lavizzo-Mourey thinks that kids' lives are going to be affected in different ways. If students go back to school without a vaccine, she said schools will likely operate differently. For instance, schools might operate in shifts—some students might go to school in the morning and others go later in the day. That way there would be less interaction between people.

To stop this deadly virus, Dr. Lavizzo-Mourey said everyone should be educated about the virus. If people better understand the virus, they can "advocate for changes that will make a difference." She said the global community didn't have the experience with such a large-scale pandemic. "When you think about why it got so bad so quickly, it was in part because we didn't have the people trained to combat it," she said.

Dr. Lavizzo-Mourey said there needs to be a bigger investment in public health to prepare for future outbreaks. "We will, hopefully, shift the amount of resources, the amount of money that we spend on things like public health," she said.

In conclusion, in order to return to our normal lives, we must create a vaccine, educate people about the virus, and invest more money in public health.

EACH PHILADELPHIAN COUNTED IN THE CENSUS GENERATES \$21,000 OF FEDERAL FUNDING FOR THE NEXT TEN YEARS. YOUR RESPONSE COULD HELP GENERATE UP TO

**\$3 BILLION  
EVERY YEAR FOR  
THE NEXT  
DECADE**

SOURCE: Philly Counts



← THE DEADLINE TO  
SEND YOUR CENSUS  
RESPONSE TO  
**2020census.gov**

**IF YOU LIVE IN PHILADELPHIA,  
YOU COUNT, REGARDLESS OF  
CITIZENSHIP OR IMMIGRATION  
STATUS.**

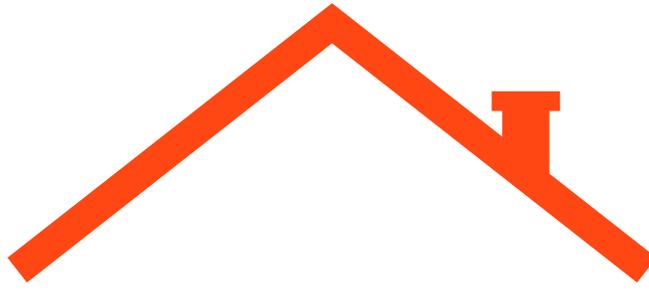
SOURCE: United States Census Bureau

**28 PERCENT  
OF ADULT PHILADELPHIANS ARE ENROLLED IN  
MEDICAID**

**MEDICAID FUNDING IS ALLOCATED BASED ON  
REGIONAL INCOME DATA.**

**Your census response counts to  
increase Medicaid funding and  
access to healthcare in your  
community.**

SOURCE: Philadelphia Department of Public Health, "Health of the City 2019"; United States Census Bureau, "Uses of Census Bureau Data in Federal Funds Distribution" 2017



## WHAT'S ONE THING YOU LOVE ABOUT YOUR BLOCK OR NEIGHBORHOOD?

TEXT [MYBLOCK TO 73224](https://www.myblock.org), TO SHARE AND BE CONNECTED TO OUR COMMUNITY INFOLINE!

# HAVE YOU PARTICIPATED IN THE 2020 CENSUS?

**BY SARA, 6TH GRADE | CONTINUED**

Ms. Raczka said many services are affected by the census such as the school lunch program, libraries, parks, and swimming pools. She said each person who is counted equals \$21,000 over 10 years in government money to help the person's state or community. It's important to count everyone, including children 5 and under.

There are three ways you can fill out the form—online, by mail, and by phone. The Census Bureau mailed information earlier this year that included a code to use when filling out the form online. But Ms. Raczka said “you don't actually need the code.” You can go on the census website and look up your address.

If you have an identity such as gender that doesn't appear as an option, Ms. Raczka said you should still complete the form. She said people are working toward making a more inclusive form by 2030.

COVID-19 has made gathering census information challenging. It's made it harder to get out and talk to people and hold in-person events, said Ruth Birchett. She is one of 8,000 Census Champions that Philly Counts trained to encourage people to fill out their census form. Other challenges, she said, are that some people don't know what the census is or they may not realize the information they provide is confidential.

As a Census Champion, she said, she can educate others about why the census is so important to their community. It is beneficial that everyone in your community take the time to fill out the census. You could be a part of changing your neighborhood for the better.

# SEEKING FREE AND AFFORDABLE MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES?

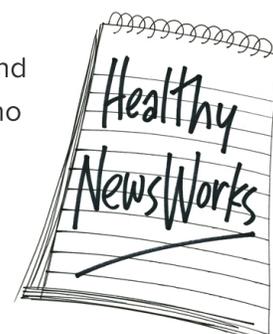
TO FIND A LIST OF RESOURCES SOURCED BY WHYY, SCAN  
THE QR CODE, OR SEARCH AT:  
[HTTPS://BIT.LY/WHYYMENTALHEALTH](https://bit.ly/whyymentalhealth)



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