Why is the census important for healthcare providers?

Clinics, health insurance companies, local governments, and universities rely on census data to make informed decisions about policies, community needs assessments, and more.

According to 2018 census population estimates, 17.2% of Los Angeles’ residents under age 65 are uninsured. Information from census data helps fund crucial programs like Medicaid, Medicare Part B, the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), health centers, and more. In California, (according to 2010 census data, “Counting for Dollars 2020”), over $55 billion was allocated for Medicaid alone.

How are patients in hospitals or nursing homes counted?

Everyone must be counted where they are living or sleeping most of the time on or before April 1, 2020 (Census Day). Hospitals and nursing homes are considered group quarters. Early 2020, U.S. Census Bureau representatives will reach out to your management to see whether your facility plans to submit data directly to the Census Bureau or whether designated staff will gather paper census questionnaires from patients.

Will the questionnaire be available to patients who don’t speak English?

Yes. Online, the questionnaire will be available in these 12 languages: Spanish, Chinese (Simplified), Vietnamese, Korean, Russian, Arabic, Tagalog, Polish, French, Haitian Creole, Portuguese, and Japanese. The census hotline will also provide assistance in these languages and a telecommunications device for the deaf. Paper questionnaires will be available in English and Spanish.

Language glossaries and video and print guides will be available 59 non-English languages, including American Sign Language, Braille, and large print.

The City of Los Angeles will provide reasonable accommodation(s) to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and facilities for people with disabilities. To make a request contact the Department on Disability at DOD.Contact@lacity.org or (213) 202-5668 five or more working days in advance.