

Group Quarters and Service-Based Enumeration

Information from the U.S. Census Bureau

What are Group Quarters (GQs)?

A group quarter is a place where people live or stay in a group living arrangement that is owned or managed by an entity or organization providing housing and/or services for the residents. These services may include custodial or medical care as well as other types of assistance and residency is commonly restricted to those receiving these services. This is not a typical household type living arrangement.

People living in group quarters are usually not related to each other. (Note: You may encounter whole families living together when you conduct SBE.) Group quarters include such places as college/university student housing, residential treatment centers, skilled-nursing facilities, group homes, military barracks, correctional facilities, and workers' dormitories.

Examples of GQs

Each building at a correctional facility where inmates stay is a GQ. There may also be barracks in which the guards live, that would be considered a separate GQ as well. A hospital may also contain multiple GQs. Hospitals generally have patients under specific types of care; therefore, a hospital may contain multiple GQs. GQs that typically occur within hospitals consist of in-patient hospice units, mental or psychiatric units, skilled-nursing units for long-term non-acute patients, and hospital patients with no disposition or exit plan. For the purpose of the census, patients with 'no disposition or exit plan' do not have a usual residence elsewhere and are counted where they are currently staying.

Goal of the Group Quarters Enumeration (GQE) Operation

During the 2020 Census GQE operation, the U.S. Census Bureau will attempt to count everyone in the designated locations as of Census Day, April 1, 2020. The goal of the Group Quarters Enumeration



operation is to count people who the Census Bureau might otherwise miss because of their living arrangements. They will count those at SBE locations on the day of enumeration.

The Group Quarters Enumeration (GQE) operation is conducted at facilities where people live or stay in a group living arrangement or receive services. This includes places such as college/university student housing, nursing facilities/skilled nursing facilities, in-patient hospice facilities, and group homes. The Service-Based Enumeration (SBE) operation is a subset of GQE. It is conducted at places where people experiencing homelessness stay overnight, such as emergency and transitional shelters. It also includes places where people may receive services such as soup kitchens and regularly scheduled mobile food vans. However, some people using soup kitchens and regularly scheduled mobile food vans may have a usual residence. The SBE operation also includes outdoor places where people experiencing homelessness live without paying to stay, such as encampments that are open to the elements. These places are called 'targeted nonsheltered outdoor locations' (TNSOLs).

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