

# new york minute

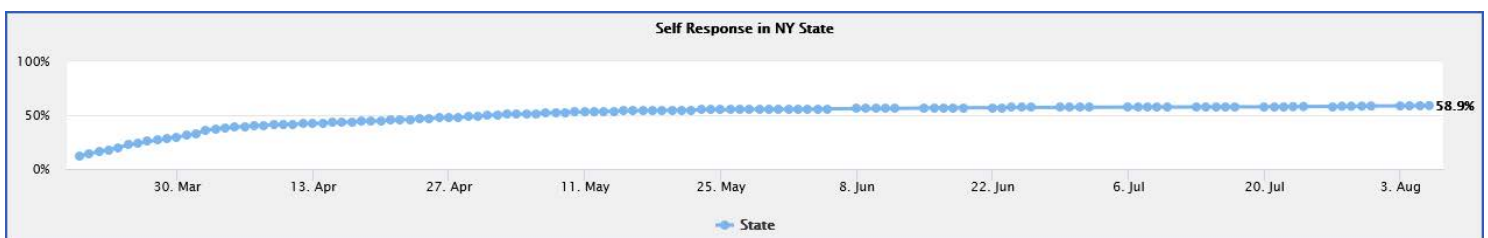
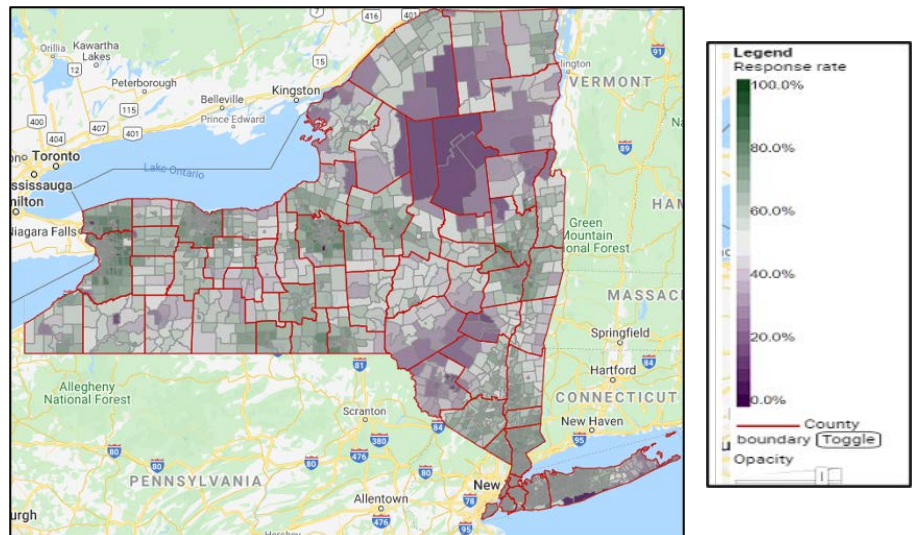
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## Census 2020 Response Rates Across New York State

by Adriana Hernandez, Jan Vink and Robin Blakely Armitage, Cornell University

As of early August, the national response rate to the 2020 Census was 63.1%, compared to 58.9% for New York State. With less than two months to conclude the enumeration, communities across the country are being encouraged to help increase response rates. Not only is conducting an accurate count of the nation's population in a decennial census mandated by the U.S. Constitution (Article 1, Section 2), but population numbers are used to determine congressional apportionment and for distributing hundreds of billions of federal dollars to communities across the country. In late July, the U.S. Census Bureau sent the final mailing of reminder postcards to over 34 million households, with other follow-up efforts to include household visits by census takers.

To obtain a clearer picture of 2020 Census response rates across New York State (NYS), the Program on Applied Demographics at Cornell University has developed an [online application](#) that provides response rate data with demographic information, at the census tract level. Significant variation in response rates exists across NYS. While the downstate region, New York City, and Long Island have response rates primarily in the mid 60's to upper 70's percentage, many areas of upstate have had only one-third or less of households respond at this date. The public is encouraged to respond online at [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov), by [phone](#) in English and 12 additional languages, or with the use of [guides](#) which are available in 59 non-English languages.



### Additional Resources (click on title for link)

[National and State-level response rates](#)

[Census Bureau operational plan updates](#)

[At the Census Bureau, a Technical Memo Raises Alarms Over Politics](#)

[Presidential Memorandum, revising how census counts are used for congressional apportionment, July 21, 2020](#)



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