



2020 CENSUS: What is Disinformation?

Ever since the 2016 election, the idea of “fake news” or **false news** has been making headlines. But what is false news? And how can you spot it?

There are two types of false news: **disinformation** and **misinformation**¹.



Disinformation

- False information made with the **intent to harm and deceive**
- May be created as propaganda, as part of a scam, or simply to cause chaos and confusion



Misinformation

- False information made with **good intentions, but that refers to inaccurate sources**
- May be created by people who believed disinformation

The 2020 Census will affect the distribution of **over \$800 billion**² in federal funds and the distribution of seats in the House of Representatives for the next 10 years. This makes the Census a target for people looking to influence these outcomes.

Disinformation campaigns will likely try to make people afraid of responding to the Census by **providing misleading information** and **exploiting fears** of identity theft, criminal penalties, and failures of government websites. The truth is this³:

- ✓ You have until April 30th 2020 to fill out the Census. During non-response follow up the online form will still be available as an option but will close July 31st 2020.
- ✓ The Census form is its own document. You must fill it out on its own.
- ✓ Your Census responses cannot legally be shared with anyone.
- ✓ The Census Bureau will not ask for any payment information.
- ✓ The online response option at 2020Census.gov is reliable. You will be counted if you submit it online, by phone or by mail.

Anyone telling you anything other than what is used above is spreading disinformation. The Census Bureau is dedicated to collecting your responses and protecting your privacy, and these allegations are meant to deceive you and suppress the Census count.

You can help fight disinformation on social media and dispel these myths. There are many simple ways for you to help!

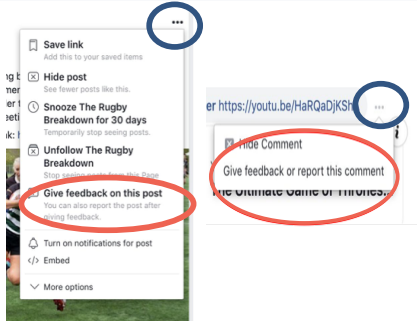
- ✓ Watch out for news stories that seem too good – or too bad – to be true.
- ✓ Learn how to report spam and disinformation.
- ✓ Share resources from reliable sources so people can learn accurate information.

1. [Technology-Enabled Disinformation: Summary, Lessons, and Recommendations.](#)
2. [About the 2020 Census: Why a Census?](#)
3. [Census Bureau's Rumor Control](#)

2020 CENSUS: Reporting Disinformation

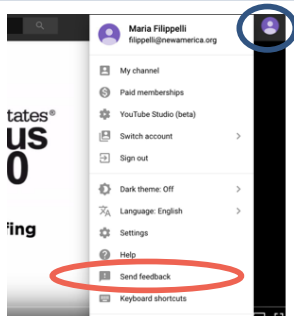


FACEBOOK



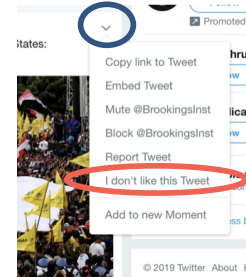
1. Click the three dots in the corner (circled in blue).
2. Select "Give Feedback on This Post" (circled in red).
3. Choose a reason for reporting the post and hit "Send".

YOUTUBE



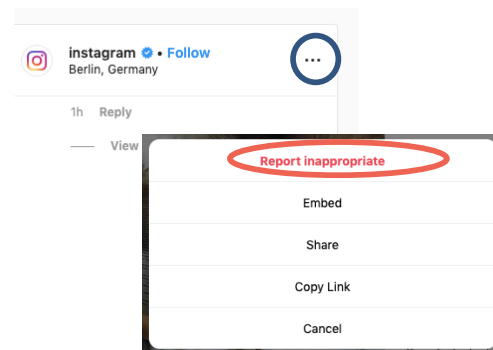
1. Click the corner menu (circled in blue).
2. Select "Send feedback" (circled in red).
3. Describe your issue and use YouTube's screenshot tool to highlight the problematic content.
4. Hit "Send" to submit.

TWITTER



1. Click the corner arrow (circled in blue).
2. Select "I don't like this Tweet" (in red).
3. Choose a reason for reporting the post and hit "Next".
4. Decide to unfollow, mute, or block the poster, then press "Done".

INSTAGRAM



1. Click the three dots in the corner (circled in blue).
2. Select "Report Inappropriate" from the list (circled in red).
3. Choose a reason for reporting the post and submit.

WHAT ELSE CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

- Pledge to join [Yalla Count Me In \(YCMI\)](#) and help get an accurate count for Arab Americans.
- Post [your pledge](#) and spread the word about [our resources](#) on social media.
- Share YCMI's posts on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) to help educate people about the Census.