Why is the 2020 Census a priority for LGBTQ people?

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Reasons to Prioritize the Census

- Federal surveys like the decennial census determine how federal dollars get spent.
  - LGBTQ people face disparities
    - Income
    - Housing stability
    - Health outcomes
    - Policing, along with many other parts of our lives.
  - If LGBTQ people are not counted, it is easier for our federal government to ignore us and our most critical needs.
Reasons to Prioritize the Census

- Federal surveys help us understand better the needs of our community.
  - Groups like the Williams Institute use census-designated places to identify concentrations of LGBTQ people.
  - Data can be used to dispel myths such as “all LGBTQ people live in large, urban areas.”
  - Knowing how many people in a community are in need of housing, health, workplace, and criminal legal system intervention helps us best serve our community.
Reasons to Prioritize the Census

- The census gives us political traction.
  - The census is used to apportion seats in the House of Representatives.
  - Federal data is often cited as a reason to support or not support a piece of legislation.
- LGBTQ people matter and deserve to be counted.
Queer the Census was a 2010 national grassroots campaign by the National LGBTQ Task Force to raise awareness about why collecting data on LGBTQ people is important.

Nearly 150,000 people participated in this campaign by mailing their census envelopes with the large pink Queer the Census sticker on the back.

The 2010 count of same-sex households played a role in gaining marriage equality in states like Massachusetts.
Census as Empowerment

ATTN: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
IT'S TIME TO COUNT EVERYONE!

Are you (check all that apply):

☐ Lesbian
☐ Gay
☐ Bisexual
☐ Transgender
☐ A Straight Ally

Everyone deserves to be counted. It's time to QueertheCensus.org
What is Equality NC doing?

- In 2020, for the first time ever, the census will ask directly whether adults are involved in same- or opposite-sex married or unmarried partnerships.
What is Equality NC doing?

- The census determined “there is no federal data need” to ask questions about sexual orientation or gender identity.
- Experts estimate that the census will thereby overlook 80% of adults in the LGBTQ community.
- We will engage and mobilize LGBTQ people to get out the count for the census in April 2020.
- We hope to build capacity that will be directly transferable to getting out the vote for the November 2020 election.