

2026 Census Collective Dwellings

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Census Subject Matter Secretariat



Overview

- Definitions
- Collective dwelling types
- Past enumeration methods
- Changes to enumeration in 2021
- 2021 Challenges and 2026 objectives
- 2026 Objectives: maximize data collected
- 2026 Objectives: improve data quality
- Current and future steps



Definitions

Private attached dwellings:

- A dwelling that shares the same address as a collective dwelling.
- These private dwellings are not affiliated with the collective and residents do not receive any services from the collective dwelling.

Usual residents:

- The census counts people in the dwelling in which they usually live to ensure that a person is enumerated once and only once. People are counted in their usual place of residence.

Collective dwelling:

- Refers to a dwelling of a commercial, institutional, or communal nature in which a person or group of persons resides or could reside.
- The collective dwelling must provide care or services or have common facilities shared by the occupants, such as a kitchen, dining room or bathroom.
- Examples include long-term care homes, residences for older adults, lodging or rooming houses, correctional facilities, group homes, hotels, motels, tourist establishments, hospitals, staff residences, military bases, and work camps.



Collective dwelling types

Institutional:

- Hospital
- Long-term care home or residence for older adults
- Residential care facility such as a group home for persons with disabilities or addictions
- Shelter
- Correctional or custodial facility
- Religious establishment (e.g. convent, monastery or seminary)

Non-institutional:

- Lodging or rooming house
- Hutterite colony
- Establishment with temporary accommodation services (e.g. hotel, campground, or hostel)
- Other establishment (e.g. school residence, military base, work camp)



Past enumeration methods

Prior to 2021: Institutional collective dwellings

- Enumerators would work with dwelling administrators who would provide responses on behalf of their residents.

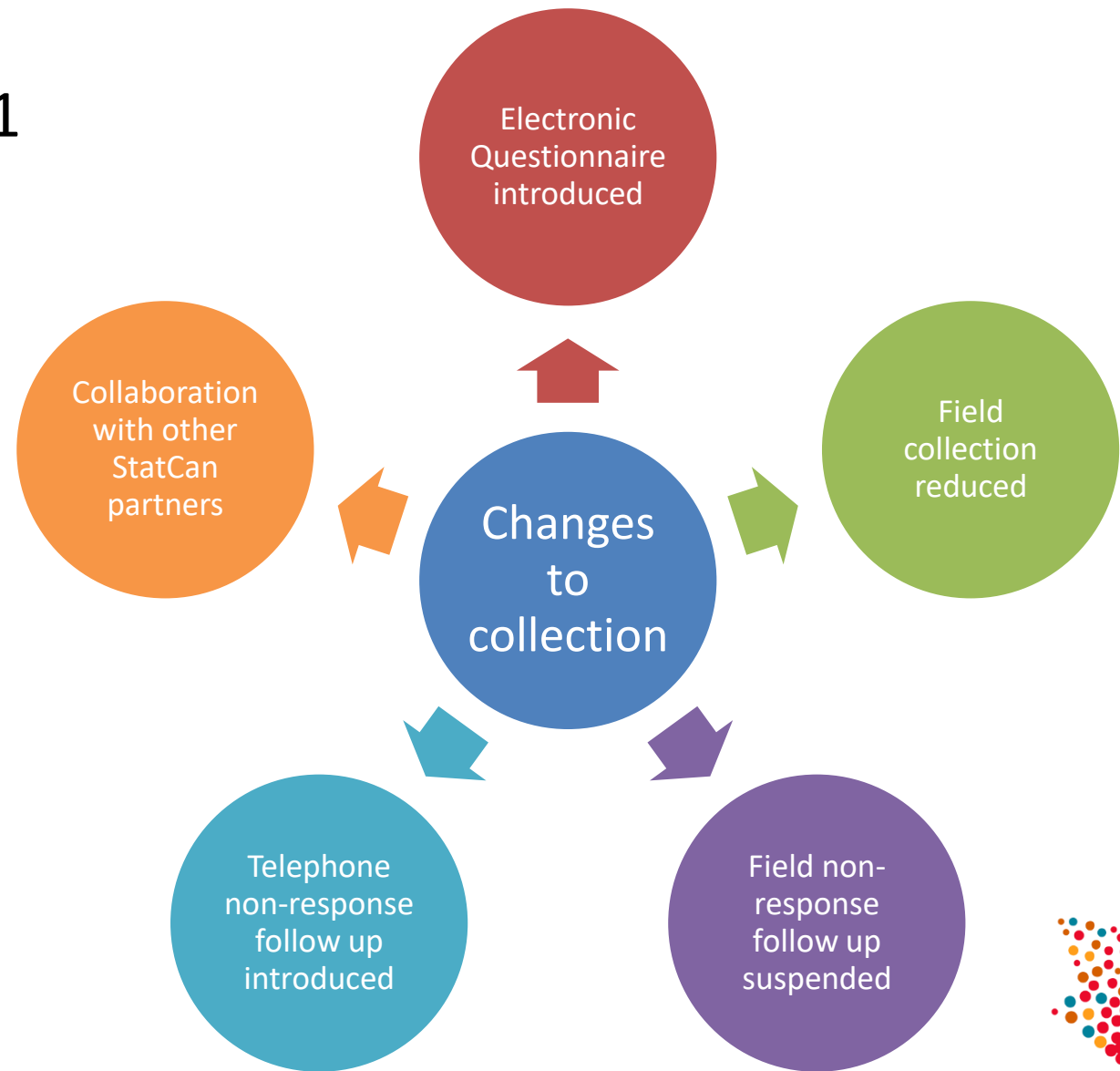
Prior to 2021: Non-institutional collective dwellings

- In lodging and rooming houses and in Hutterite communities, enumerators would drop off census forms for usual residents to complete and then return to collect the completed questionnaires.
- Only the usual resident count would be collected from hotels, campgrounds and other establishments with temporary accommodation.



Changes to enumeration in 2021

COVID-19 pandemic protocols in place during the 2021 Census collection period resulted in the elimination of in-person visits for institutional collective dwellings, including residences for older adults, long-term care facilities, hospitals and religious establishments.



2021 Challenges and 2026 Objectives

2021 Challenges:

- Determination of in-scope vs out-of-scope collective dwellings.
- High non-response rates for basic demographic information for residents from facility administrators, such as living arrangements and language variables.
- Large increase in the number of private dwellings attached to a collective.

Objectives for 2026:

- Maximize data collected from usual residents of collective dwellings
- Improve data quality



2026 Objectives: Maximize data collected

1. Collect demographic information from all usual residents of institutional and non-institutional collectives, except for people staying in hotels, motels, campgrounds and military bases.
 - Information is collected using an electronic questionnaire.
2. Allow self-enumeration for residents of collective dwellings.
 - The primary enumeration method for 2026 was the collection of data from facility administrators (where possible) on behalf of residents.
 - In 2026, Statistics Canada introduced a “No-SAC” portal that allowed anyone to complete a census questionnaire.



2026 Objectives: Improve data quality

1. Qualitative test (May – September 2023)

- Administrators from 60 collectives participated in testing which probed on their respective understanding of:
 - Collective type concepts and definitions
 - Questions and flows on the EQ
 - Roster functionality

2. Operational test (April – August 2024)

- Collective dwellings were included in the test of online collection procedures for the first time.
- The sample included 400 collective dwellings in 3 geographic areas.
- In addition to testing the online collection procedures, Statistics Canada also tested:
 - field collection and non-response follow up
 - Telephone follow-up on out-of-scope and blank/invalid attachments

3. Collective Dwellings Status & Classification Survey (May – June 2025)

4. Administrative data sources



Current and future steps

2026-27

- Data processing
- Release population and dwelling counts

2027-28

- Release type of dwellings
- Evaluate the 2026 Census cycle and recommend activities to prepare for the 2031 Census cycle

Questions?

