



COUNTING BLACK CHILDREN IN THE 2020 CENSUS FACT SHEET



SHOULD ALL CHILDREN BE COUNTED?

Yes, all children should be counted for the 2020 Census. This includes newborns, babies, and young children.¹ Unfortunately, young children had the highest “undercount” rate (the rate at which people who should have been counted were not) of any age group in the 2010 Census,² making it vitally important to focus on counting this group in the 2020 Census.

WHY IS COUNTING EVERYONE — INCLUDING CHILDREN — SO IMPORTANT?

Counting everyone ensures that your community gets its fair share of funding for programs like schools, child care, health care, transportation, and housing. Nearly 1 million children (4.6% of children under the age of 5) were not counted in the 2010 Census.³ When children — or anyone else — aren’t counted in the Census, it means that communities, and the children who live in those communities, lose out on vital funding for these important programs.⁴

WHY IS IT PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO HAVE AN ACCURATE COUNT OF BLACK CHILDREN IN THE CENSUS?

Unfortunately, the “undercount” rate was twice as high for black children than for non-black children in the 2010 Census.⁵ This means that black children, and their communities, were more likely than non-black children to lose out on funding for programs connected to the 2010 Census. It is imperative to ensure that this does not happen again in 2020.

WHERE SHOULD CHILDREN IN ALTERNATIVE HOUSEHOLD TYPES BE COUNTED?

As a general rule, all children should be counted where they live and sleep most of the time. This rule applies to foster children, grandchildren, stepchildren, and children who otherwise split time between households.⁶ For more information on specific living arrangements, use [this resource](#).

HOW CAN I COMPLETE THE CENSUS?

The 2020 Census can be completed online, by phone, or by mail.⁷

- **Online:** Visit my2020census.gov to complete the Census online
- **By Phone:** Call (844)-330-2020 to complete the Census by phone
- **By Mail:** Some households will receive a paper (mail) Census questionnaire between March 12-20. Others will receive the questionnaire later, only if they do not complete the Census online or over the phone. For more information, use [this link](#).

QUESTIONS OR PROBLEMS IN COMPLETING THE CENSUS?

Call the Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law’s Census Protection Hotline at 888-COUNT20 (888-268-6820) or email 888COUNT20@lawyerscommittee.org.

¹ *Counting Children in the 2020 Census: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)*, CENSUS COUNTS, 1 (2020), <https://censuscounts.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Count-All-Kids-ENGLISH-FAQs.pdf>.

² *Factsheet: Will Your Kids Count? Young Children and Their Families in the 2020 Census*, THE LEADERSHIP CONF. EDUC. FUND, GEO. L. CTR. ON POVERTY & INEQ.: ECON. SEC. & OPPORTUNITIES INITIATIVE, 1 (2018), <http://civilrightsdocs.info/pdf/census/Fact-Sheet-Undercount-of-Young-Children.pdf>.

³ *The Undercount of Young Children*, U.S. CENSUS BUREAU (Feb. 2014), <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/working-papers/2014/demo/2014-undercount-children.pdf>

⁴ *Counting Children*, *supra* note 1, at 1.

⁵ *Factsheet: Will Your Kids Count?*, *supra* note 2, at 1.

⁶ *Counting Children*, *supra* note 1, at 2–3.

⁷ RESPONDING TO THE CENSUS, <https://2020census.gov/en/ways-to-respond.html> (last visited Mar. 19, 2020).