



COUNTING BLACK MEN & YOUNG BLACK MALES IN THE 2020 CENSUS FACT SHEET



WHY IS COUNTING EVERYONE — INCLUDING YOUNG BLACK MEN — SO IMPORTANT?

Counting everyone ensures that your community gets its fair share of funding for programs like schools, childcare, health care, transportation, and housing. When young black men — or anyone else — aren't counted, communities and the people who live in those communities lose out on funding for these important programs.¹

WHY IS IT PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT TO HAVE AN ACCURATE COUNT OF BLACK MEN — AND PARTICULARLY YOUNG BLACK MEN — IN THE CENSUS?

In the 2010 Census, the “undercount” rate (the rate at which people who *should* have been counted *weren't*) was about twice as high for black residents than white residents.² This undercount was particularly acute for black men and young black males, who experience higher rates of incarceration and premature mortality rates as compared with other segments of the population.³ Accordingly, young black men were more likely than others to be “missed” in the 2010 Census, and were therefore more likely to lose out on Census-related program funding.

WHY HAVE BLACK MEN BEEN UNDERCOUNTED IN PAST CENSUSES?

While there are many reasons for the undercount, they include difficulty in reaching some black Americans, distrust of government programs, and other systemic factors.⁴ As mentioned, however, being counted in the Census is more important than ever for young black men.

IS DATA COLLECTED BY THE CENSUS BUREAU PROTECTED?

Yes. The data collected by the Census Bureau is protected by a law known as “Title 13.” This law explicitly states that no private information obtained by the Census Bureau may ever be published in an individualized format — that means no names, addresses, social security numbers, or telephone numbers may be published.⁵ If someone were to break that law, they would face up to five years in prison or a \$250,000 fine.⁶ Numerous civil rights organizations have also [pledged](#) to monitor the 2020 Census to ensure there is no illegal data release.

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 Charmaine Runes, *Following a Long History, the 2020 Census risks Undercounting the Black Population*, URB. INST.: URB. WIRE – RACE & ETHNICITY (Feb. 26, 2019), <https://www.urban.org/urban-wire/following-long-history-2020-census-risks-undercounting-black-population>.

³ *Id.*

⁴ Mona Chalabi, *How the US Census Misses People of Color – and Why It's So Harmful*, THE GUARDIAN (Feb. 27, 2020), <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/datablog/2020/feb/27/2020-us-census-black-people-mistakes-count>.

⁵ FEDERAL LAW, https://www.census.gov/about/policies/privacy/data_stewardship/federal_law.html (last visited Mar. 19, 2020).

⁶ *Id.*

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