

Factsheet: Will Your Kids Count? Young children and their families in the 2020 Census

The young child undercount is getting worse

While the census accuracy for adults has been improving over time, the undercount for children under age five has been getting progressively worse. The net undercount rate for young children is more than three times what it was in 1980, increasing from 1.4 percent to 4.6 percent in 2010, representing hundreds of thousands more families.^{vii} Localities with disproportionately high numbers of young children may be at a higher risk of being undercounted than ever before.

The Leadership Conference Education Fund builds public will for federal policies that promote and protect the civil and human rights of all persons in the United States. The Education Fund's campaigns empower and mobilize advocates around the country to push for progressive change in the United States. For more information on The Education Fund, visit <http://leadershipconferenceeducationfund.org/>.

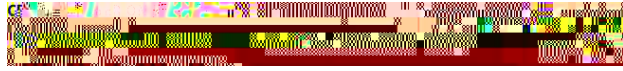
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seniors, and people with disabilities. More than two-fifths of Medicaid enrollees are children.^{xvii}

You can help – right now.

There are many ways in which stakeholders, including advocates, funders, and civic leaders, can improve the count of young children in the 2020 Census. There are opportunities to join or

for the 2020 Census. Here are some ideas:

Help your members of Congress understand why it's important to support adequate resources for the Census Bureau to conduct the 2020 Census in a way that will count all young children. The Census Bureau needs a major annual funding ramp up several years before a decennial census, to perform critical tests and build out a massive infrastructure. Already due to funding constraints important activities needed for a fair and accurate 2020 Census have been postponed or canceled, putting young children at risk of being severely undercounted. Without sufficient increase in the Census in jeopardy, and census costs could increase by billions of dollars.

Stay informed about key census policy and operational developments. The Census Project (<https://thecensusproject.org/>) provides regular updates on census-related activities in Congress and the administration.

Educate state and local leaders about the undercount of young children in the census. As the 2020 Census approaches, advocates can join Complete Count Committees that will be established in many states and localities. It is important that Complete Count Committees include voices for children to remind leaders and local census staff of this critical constituency. These committees work with the Census Bureau and local communities to help ensure a complete census. As a reference, the 2010 Complete Count Committee guide can be found at <https://www.census.gov/2010census/partners/pdf/cccGuide.pdf>.

Become a Census Bureau partner. Partners get timely updates from the Census Bureau as well as promotional material.

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