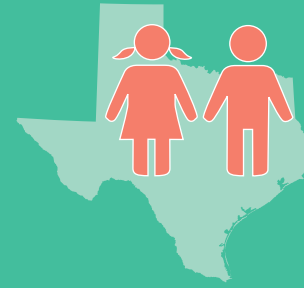


2020 CENSUS

COUNTING YOUNG TEXAS CHILDREN

A fair and accurate count is critical for Texas



August 2019

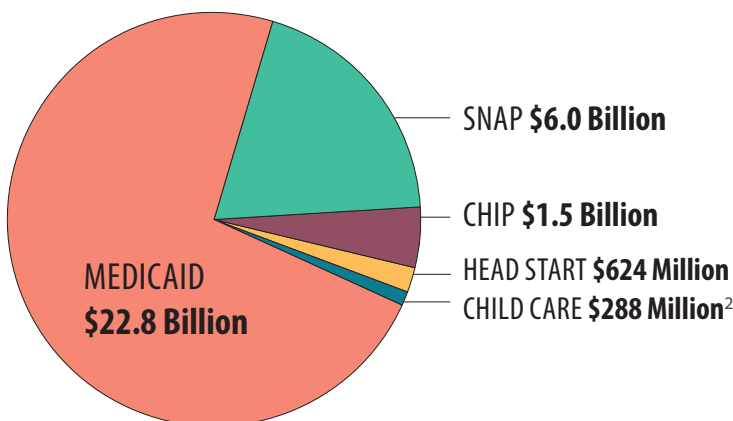
What is the Census?

Every 10 years, the United States Census Bureau carries out a constitutionally mandated count, or Census, of the nation's residents. Data from the 2020 Census will be used to determine things like the number of representatives Texans have in Congress, and to distribute billions of dollars in federal funds annually for public services like education, child care, housing, transportation, and health care.

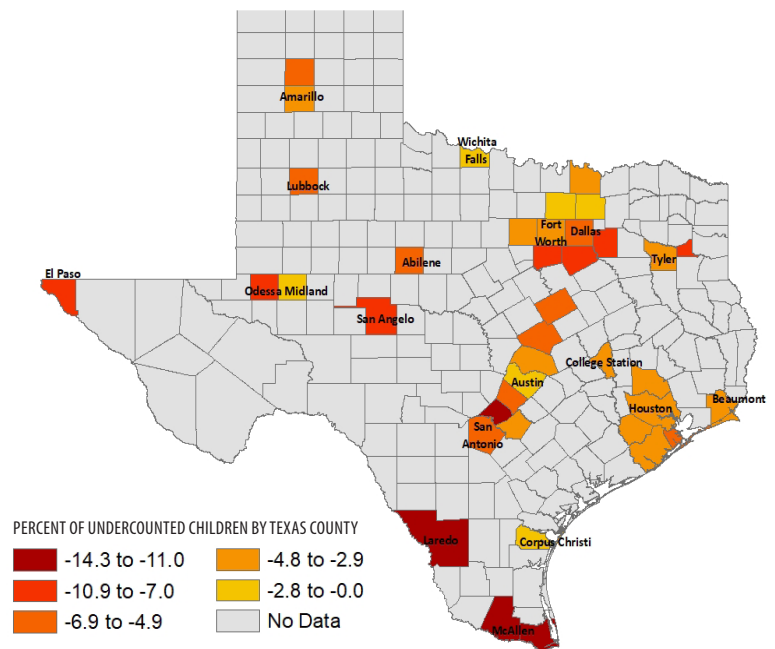
Why is it Important to Count Young Children?

Every resident of Texas—including every child—has the right to be counted in the 2020 Census and represented in our democracy. Young children have been historically undercounted in past censuses due, in part, to confusion around whether they should be included on the form. Young children with certain demographic characteristics—such as living in large metro areas, in linguistically isolated households, in grandparents' or non-relatives' households, or in group quarters, and other challenges highlighted below—are at risk of being missed in the 2020 Census. When we miss kids, it harms children for a decade because our state loses billions of federal dollars for programs that give kids a healthy start in life: Head Start, Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly "food stamps"), the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Title I, child care subsidies, Early Childhood Intervention, and school lunches.

In Fiscal Year 2018, Texas received the following Census-derived federal funds:¹



The 2010 Undercount of Young Children in Large Counties



In the 2010 Census, young children in Texas were undercounted by five percent (102,406 children under five). Due to this undercount, Texas has lost almost \$119 million dollars every year for federally-funded health, safety, and well-being supports for children and families (Medicaid, CHIP, foster care, adoption, and child care).³

Challenges to Counting Young Children

Hard-to-count communities are groups that have traditionally been undercounted during the decennial Census. Children under five are one of the hardest-to-count populations. An estimated 30 percent of young children in Texas (about 582,000 children) live in hard-to-count neighborhoods—where past self-response rates have been relatively low—making them at high risk of being missed in the 2020 Census.⁴

2020 Census: Counting Young Texas Children

Research shows that young children are more likely to be undercounted if they live:⁵

- in larger counties or metropolitan areas,
- in families of color,
- with non-relatives or in group quarters,
- in non-English or limited-English speaking households, and/or
- with a grandparent.

For more situations in which young children aren't counted, see the Census Bureau's *Counting Young Children in the 2020 Census*.⁶

Counting Young Texas Children in 2020

Every time there is a Census, it can be logistically challenging to count everyone, especially young children. We must develop a plan to ensure young Texas children are counted in every region and local community. The 2020 Census faces unique challenges to a fair and accurate count, especially with budget constraints that have reduced the amount of preparation and testing the Census Bureau usually carries out leading up to Census Day. Other challenges include: first-time online response collection, fear in the immigrant community as a result of a failed attempt to add a controversial and untested citizenship status question, and the fact that Texas has more hard-to-count populations. **Fortunately, there are several ways you can help increase the count of young children in Texas.**



Create or Participate in a Local Complete Count Committee⁷

Complete Count Committees are volunteer committees formed by community leaders, organizations, and/or tribal, state, or local governments to motivate residents to respond to the 2020 Census. Once established, the committee advocates for focused outreach and messaging, including promoting the count of very young children.



Secure Funding for Outreach

Communities need resources to perform a robust Census outreach effort for young children and their families. Connect with local chambers of commerce, businesses, philanthropic leaders, and foundations in your area for help funding your community's 2020 Census plan.



Get Out the Count

Reach families and young children through childcare centers, health care providers, schools, churches, libraries, and other child-focused areas. Design and implement a Census awareness campaign to let caregivers of young children know why filling out the Census accurately is important. Visit Count All Kids for resources (<https://countallkids.org/>).



Get Connected

Texans Care for Children: txchildren.org

@putkids1st TexansCare

CPPP: bit.ly/CPPP2020CENSUS

@cppptx_davis bettertexas

1 Legislative Budget Board (2019). Top 100 Federal Funding Sources in the Texas State Budget: Legislative Primer. http://www.lbb.state.tx.us/Documents/Publications/Primer/5075_Top_100_Federal_Funding_Sources_2018.pdf

2 "Child Care" represents funds received for the Child Care and Development Block Grant. Texas received an additional \$222 million in Child Care Mandatory and Matching Funds.

3 Stein, D. (2019). Count All Kids Census 2020. How Much Money Did Your State Lose from the Young Child Undercount in the 2010 Census? <https://countallkids.org/money-lost-from-young-child-undercount/>

4 Annie E. Casey Foundation. 2018 Kids Count Data Book. <https://www.aecf.org/m/resourcedoc/aecf-2018kidscountdatabook-2018.pdf>

5 O'Hare, W. et. (2019) What Factors Are Most Closely Associated With the Net Undercount of Young Children in the U.S. Census? <https://bit.ly/2uG6Wu>

6 <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/newsroom/press-kits/2018/counting-young-children-in-2020-census.pdf>

7 Find out if your community has a Complete Count Committee: bit.ly/2GULg6D

Authored by Cassie Davis, Katie Mitten, & Cindy Ji | For more information, contact Cassie Davis at davis@cppp.org or 512.823.2876.

The **Center for Public Policy Priorities** is an independent public policy organization that uses research, analysis and advocacy to promote solutions that enable Texans of all backgrounds to reach their full potential. Learn more at CPPP.org.

Texans Care for Children is a statewide, non-profit, non-partisan, multi-issue children's policy organization that develops policy solutions, produces research, and advocates to improve the well-being of Texas children and families. Learn more at txchildren.org.

Special thanks to the New Venture Fund, the Annie E. Casey Foundation, and the Meadows Foundation for supporting our work to ensure all young children are counted in Texas.

CENTER for PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES

