

How Can Libraries Help Count All Kids *in the* 2020 Census?



LIBRARIES ARE VITAL PARTNERS in promoting a complete count of young children in the 2020 Census. Children under age 5 were the most undercounted age group in the 2010 Census, with more than 2 million estimated to have been missed.

When young kids are missed in the Census, their communities lose needed funding for schools, libraries, children's health insurance, and other critical programs. Public and school libraries can play important roles to help achieve an accurate and inclusive count of young kids.

WHY ARE YOUNG CHILDREN MISSED IN THE CENSUS?

The Census counts *every person* living in the United States, including newborns and babies. People are counted at the address where they live and stay most of the time, or if they don't have a permanent residence, at the address where they are staying on April 1, 2020.

However, sometimes people don't return the Census questionnaire or don't realize that the young kids staying in their household should be included.

Children are more likely to be missed in the Census if:

- They live in **large and complex households** (such as blended families, multi-family or multi-generational households).
- They live with **single parents or young parents** between the ages of 18-29.
- They are **not the biological or adopted child** of the householder.
- They **live with their grandparents**, aunts or uncles, or other family members.
- They live with adults who **do not speak English well** or their family includes immigrants.
- They live in **low-income** families.
- Their families **rent rather than own** their home.



Posters and outreach materials are available at 2020census.gov/partners.

Some communities are at greater risk of being undercounted. In the 2010 Census, black and Hispanic young children were missed twice as often as non-Hispanic white young children.

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FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES ABOUT LIBRARIES AND THE 2020 CENSUS, VISIT ala.org/census

Share your library's Census story with the hashtag [#CountOnLibraries](https://twitter.com/CountOnLibraries)

HOW WOULD AN INACCURATE CENSUS AFFECT YOUNG KIDS?

The 2020 Census results will determine how more than **\$800 billion** in federal funding is allocated each year to states and communities for programs like Head Start, WIC, and school lunch.

Schools, childcare, and other programs also need accurate Census data to **plan for future needs**.

The effects of the 2020 Census will last for a decade—for young children, nearly their entire childhood.



HOW CAN MY LIBRARY CONTRIBUTE TO A COMPLETE COUNT OF YOUNG CHILDREN?

Public and school libraries can inform the parents, guardians, and caregivers of young kids about the importance of counting everyone, including babies and young children, in the 2020 Census.

To raise awareness of the 2020 Census, libraries can:

Talk about the Census at storytime and other programs for young children and their parents, guardians, and caregivers (such as grandparents and older siblings).

Deliver programming such as the Census Bureau's **Statistics in Schools** curriculum, which offers lessons for pre-K through adult learners.

Partner with other local agencies and organizations, like parent groups and early childhood educators. For ideas, see [CountAllKids.org](https://www.countallkids.org).

Display posters or exhibits. The Census Bureau offers free downloadable **outreach materials**.

Use social media and newsletters to share information with library users or the school community.

Send flyers or bookmarks home with students and families.

Reach out to the communities at greatest risk of being undercounted. For instance, offer information in non-English languages when possible.

Provide computers and internet access for adults to complete their Census questionnaire online.

THE PHOENIX (AZ) PUBLIC LIBRARY

hosted “**My First Census / Mi Primer Censo**,” an outreach event and picture day for families with children ages 10 and under.



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