Making Sure Kids Count in the Big Count: Census 2020

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  - And our briefing Cosponsors!
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Disclaimer: The opinions I express today are my own and do not necessarily reflect the views of these organizations
Presentation Objectives:

- Document the undercount of young children in the 2010 U.S. Census and look at historic trends
- Reasons why young children are missed in the Census
- What can be done in the 2020 Census to reduce the undercount of young children?
2010 Census Missed a Large Number of Young Children

Source: U.S. Census Bureau
Young Children Are Undercounted, but Older Children are Over-counted

Source: U.S. Census Bureau
Black and Hispanic Children are More Likely to be Missed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>4.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Alone or in Combination</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic*</td>
<td>6.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proxy for Non-Hispanic White</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* This is an update from the 2010 estimate

Source: O’Hare 2015, Table 3.2
Net Undercounts and Omissions

Net Undercount and Omission Population Numbers for Age 0 to 4

- Net Undercount: 970,000
- Omissions: 2,200,000

Net Undercount and Omission Rates for Age 0 to 4

- Net Undercount: 4.6%
- Omissions: 10.3%

Source: Hogan and Griffin 2016
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County (Major city)</th>
<th>Net Undercount Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles (Los Angeles)</td>
<td>-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cook (Chicago)</td>
<td>-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harris (Houston)</td>
<td>-8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maricopa (Phoenix)</td>
<td>-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Diego (San Diego)</td>
<td>-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange (Anaheim)</td>
<td>-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kings (New York)</td>
<td>-11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miami-Dade (Miami)</td>
<td>-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dallas (Dallas)</td>
<td>-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queens (New York)</td>
<td>-13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Mean for the ten counties</strong></td>
<td><strong>-11</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: O'Hare 2015, Table 5.9
U.S. Census Coverage Rates for Adults and Young Children: 1950 to 2010

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau. Chart: O’Hare 2015, Figure 4.1
What are the reasons for a high net undercount of young children?

Explanation must address not only why young children are missed in the Census, but why young children are missed MORE than older children or adults.
Young Children are more Concentrated in Families and Households that are Hard-to-Count

- Lived at a different address 1 year ago
  - Age 0 to 4: 20%
  - age 10 to 17: 12%

- Household income below poverty level
  - Age 0 to 4: 25%
  - age 10 to 17: 19%

- Householder is grandparent of child
  - Age 0 to 4: 12%
  - age 10 to 17: 5%

- Young Householder (age 18-29)
  - Age 0 to 4: 29%
  - age 10 to 17: 3%

- Living in a renter-occupied household
  - Age 0 to 4: 44%
  - age 10 to 17: 32%
What Can Be Done to Reduce the Net Undercount of Young Children in the 2020 Census?
2020 Census Outreach: Partner with Organizations Already Working with Children

Children’s Leadership Council (CLC)
  • Child Care Aware
  • Zero to Three
  • Head Start Association

The Annie E. Casey Foundation KIDS COUNT program
  • Grantee organizations in every state focused on data and children
  • Foundation has been big supporter of the Census over past 20 years
Work with government programs already reaching households with young children

• Medicaid
• State Child Health Insurance Program (SCHIP)
• Head Start
• Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)
• Temporary Assistance to Need Families (TANF)
• Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP)
• Child Welfare/Foster care programs
Summary

1. Young children have higher net undercount rate than any other age group in 2010.

2. Since 1980, the net undercount rate for young children has increased while that of adults has decreased.

3. There is a limited understanding of why young children are missed in the census.

4. In the 2020 Census outreach program the undercount of young children needs to be given more attention than it was in the 2010 Census.
THANKS

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