

It's time. Make yourself count.

Census 2010



Getting an accurate census count is a once-in-a-decade opportunity for community-based organizations to make a huge impact on the quality of children's lives.

- Organizations concerned about the well-being of children should help make sure that all children are counted in the 2010 census.
- Children historically have been missed more than any other age group in the census count that takes place every 10 years, with minority children at greatest risk of being uncounted. One independent estimate suggests that about 750,000 children under the age of five were missed in the 2000 census. That's more than the population of Atlanta and 80 percent of the population of Detroit. And some experts think the challenges to getting young children counted are even higher in 2010.
- Every child that goes uncounted is likely to cost the community thousands of dollars in federal funds over the next decade for health care, education, nutrition assistance, and economic development.
- People and organizations that parents and children trust can be effective advocates for the census in helping overcome the obstacles to getting an accurate count, such as distrust of the government or lack of understanding of the importance of the census.

Making sure that children are counted in the census is a powerful way to contribute to their health, their education, and their future.

- Each person counted in the census can bring the community \$14,000 in federal funds over the next decade for schools, child care centers, health clinics, nutrition programs and more. In communities where the need is greatest, the impact on resources of each individual being counted can be much larger.
- It only takes a few minutes to fill out a census form for each household, and children will get the benefits of being counted for the next 10 years.
- Each child who goes uncounted will cost every child in the community important resources.
- A baby who goes uncounted will be at a disadvantage for 10 years – until he or she is in fifth grade.

Making sure that every child is counted in the census will benefit their parents, families, and communities for the next ten years.

- Children's well-being is strongly affected by the economic circumstances of their families. Billions of dollars in federal economic development and job training funds are based on census figures. And business decisions about where to create jobs by opening stores, factories, and restaurants are also based on census counts.
- Census numbers are used to determine representation in Congress, state legislatures, and local governments. Getting every child counted is a way to make sure their communities have a voice and get the political influence they deserve.

Undercounting harms children in many ways.

- Families and communities in areas with many uncounted children don't get the resources they deserve. Funding for social service programs can be poorly targeted.
- Accurate statistics about children and their families are important to policymakers, social service providers, and foundations in determining where resources are needed and evaluating the reach and effectiveness of current programs.

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Every parent, guardian, or head of household should be sure that every child is counted.

- Every child and baby who usually lives in your household or has no other regular home as of Census Day (April 1, 2010) should be included on the census questionnaire mailed or hand-delivered to your home.

Answers to questions about counting children:

- **What if the questionnaire doesn't have enough spaces for all of the children living in my household?**

The 2010 census questionnaire asks 10 questions for up to six people in each household. But it also includes space to list the names and ages for six additional people. (For households that receive a bilingual English-Spanish questionnaire, there will be space to provide full information for up to eight people and then to list an additional four people.) Be sure to list every person, including every child, regularly living in the household. Census workers will follow up by telephone to make sure that every child in big households is counted, so be sure to include a telephone number on your census form.

- **What if I have shared custody of my children or they spend some time living with relatives?**

Some children live in more than one place due to shared custody or other arrangements. You should include on your form any child who stays at your household more than they do anywhere else. If children divide their time equally, you should list them at the address where they are staying on April 1, 2010.

- **There's a child who isn't related to us but who sometimes stays with us. Should we count him or her?**

Every child living in a household should be included on the census form, whether or not they are related to the person completing the form. *This includes foster children.* You should include on your household census form any child who meets **any one** of these conditions

- Lives or stays at the household most of the time; OR
- Stayed at the household on April 1, 2010, and had no permanent place to live; OR
- Stays at the household more time than any other place they might live or stay.

Do not include someone who is just visiting on vacation.