

# FAQ: Counting Young Texas Children in the 2020 Census

November 2019

## What is the Texas Counts Campaign?

The Center for Public Policy Priorities (CPPP) and the Communities Foundation of Texas (CFT) joined forces to create the Texas Counts Campaign to empower leaders across the state to lead census outreach efforts in hard-to-count communities. Because of the high risk of an undercount and the absence of a state-sponsored Complete Count Committee (CCC), there is a need for leaders from diverse organizations and communities to be engaged and support an accurate count in Texas.

The Texas Counts Campaign includes the following subcommittees: faith, health care, government, business, community-based organizations (CBO)/non-profits, philanthropy, and education. CPPP and Texans Care for Children are participating as members of the CBO/non-profit subcommittee. The subcommittees will work to educate their sector, share best practices, and determine what we can do to help Texans across the state understand the census and encourage them to participate. Participation is voluntary with the lead organizations leveraging philanthropic support to manage this effort in the absence of a state-sponsored CCC. Visit the Texas Counts website to learn more: [texascounts.org](http://texascounts.org). Please contact Katie Martin at [martin@cphp.org](mailto:martin@cphp.org) for more information.

## How much federal funding is Texas at risk of losing due to an undercount in 2020?

Dr. Andrew Reamer with George Washington University analyzed how a Texas undercount in 2020 would affect funding for five programs: Medicaid, CHIP, adoption assistance, child care, and foster care. He found that if Texas experiences an undercount in 2020 of 1 percent more than the undercount in 2010, Texas would lose an estimated \$300 million per year for those five programs during the next decade. This is a conservative estimate as it only takes into account these five federal programs, although there are other federal programs affected by the Census count. For more on the fiscal risk of an undercount in Texas please visit:

[gwipp.gwu.edu/counting-dollars-2020-initial-analysis](http://gwipp.gwu.edu/counting-dollars-2020-initial-analysis)

## Who counts as part of a home?

One person should fill out the census for every home that has its own physical address. They should include every person who lives and sleeps in the home most of the time. This should include:

- all people living in the home temporarily
- children, including babies, even if their parents do not live there
- children in foster care
- every person regardless of immigration or citizenship status
- any friends or relatives

[2020census.gov/en/who-to-count](http://2020census.gov/en/who-to-count)

## How are children counted?

The goal of the census is to count everyone once, only once, and in the right place. The census counts everyone where they live and sleep most of the time, even if the living arrangement is temporary or the parents of the child do not live there. If children truly spends equal amounts of time between two homes, or if it is not clear where they live or sleep most of the time, they should be counted where they stayed on Census Day, April 1. It is recommended that caregivers communicate with the other parent or caregiver, if possible, so the child is not counted at both homes. If a child is in group quarters, such as a residential treatment facility or group home, they will be counted in June. For more information on counting young children in the 2020 Census see:

[census.gov/content/dam/Census/newsroom/press-kits/2018/counting-young-children-in-2020-census.pdf](https://census.gov/content/dam/Census/newsroom/press-kits/2018/counting-young-children-in-2020-census.pdf)

## What is the Census Bureau doing to help people count young children?

The online form will include language that tells people specifically to include all children (see below). Also, if people complete the census online or by phone, there is no limit on how many family members they can include.

### 2. Were there any **additional** people staying here on April 1, 2020 that you **did not include** in Question 1?

Mark ☒ all that apply.

- ☐ Children, related or unrelated, such as newborn babies, grandchildren, or foster children
- ☐ Relatives, such as adult children, cousins, or in-laws
- ☐ Nonrelatives, such as roommates or live-in babysitters
- ☐ People staying here temporarily
- ☐ No additional people

Image from: [census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/technical-documentation/questionnaires/2020.html](https://census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/technical-documentation/questionnaires/2020.html)

## How are children in foster care counted?

**Children in foster care were five times as likely to be missed in the census.**<sup>1</sup> As mentioned above, the census counts everyone where they live and sleep most of the time, even if the living arrangement is temporary or the parents of the child do not live there. For children who have complicated living arrangements, such as children in foster care, they should be counted where they spend most of their time. For example, a 2 year-old-child who is in foster care and currently spends the weekends with her mother and the week with her foster family should be included by the foster family when they complete the census since she spends the majority of her time in their household. For more information see:

[civilrightsdocs.info/pdf/census/Fact-Sheet-Undercount-of-Young-Children.pdf](https://civilrightsdocs.info/pdf/census/Fact-Sheet-Undercount-of-Young-Children.pdf)

## What is the role of libraries in the 2020 census?

Libraries can serve as an excellent information resource about the census. Libraries may also provide online access so people can complete the census questionnaire. See more from the American Library Association at:

[ala.org/census](https://ala.org/census)

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<sup>1</sup> [countallkids.org/young-children-living-with-grandparents-at-higher-risk-of-being-missed-in-2020-census/](https://countallkids.org/young-children-living-with-grandparents-at-higher-risk-of-being-missed-in-2020-census/)

## How can people respond to the 2020 Census?

By April 1, 2020, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. There are three options for responding:

- Online.
- By phone.
- By mail.

The 2020 Census marks the first time there is an option to respond online, including on mobile devices.

[2020census.gov/en/ways-to-respond](https://2020census.gov/en/ways-to-respond)

## What languages will the census documents be available in?

For the 2020 Census, the Census Bureau plans to provide the Internet Self-Response Instrument and Census Questionnaire Assistance in 12 non-English languages; and language guides and glossaries in 59 non-English languages. For more information, visit:

[www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/program-management/memo-series/2020-memo-2018\\_06.pdf](https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/program-management/memo-series/2020-memo-2018_06.pdf)

## How can we address fears of completing forms due to the immigration status of family members in the home?

Census enumerators, also known as census takers, take a federal oath and are legally required to maintain the confidentiality of your data. Every person with access to your data is sworn for life to protect your information and understands that the penalties for violating this law are applicable for a lifetime. If Census Bureau staff violate the oath, they face a penalty of up to \$250,000 and/or up to five years in prison. The Census Bureau will encrypt the data it receives to remove the identification of individuals and families. It is illegal for the Census Bureau to share the information of individuals and families. Each individual will have to weigh their concerns with the potential benefits to their community based on a more accurate census.

For more information see:

[census.gov/privacy](https://census.gov/privacy)

[census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/factsheets/2019/comm/2020-confidentiality-factsheet.pdf](https://census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/factsheets/2019/comm/2020-confidentiality-factsheet.pdf)

[census.gov/history/www/reference/privacy\\_confidentiality/title\\_13\\_us\\_code.html](https://census.gov/history/www/reference/privacy_confidentiality/title_13_us_code.html)

## How can you verify that someone is a U.S. Census worker?

If someone visits your home to collect information for the 2020 Census, you can do the following to verify their identity:

- First, check to make sure that they have a valid ID badge with their photograph, the U.S. Department of Commerce watermark, and an expiration date.
- If you still have questions about their identity, you can contact your Regional Census Center to speak with a Census Bureau representative. Find your Regional Census Center here:

[2020census.gov/en/contact-us/rcc.html](https://2020census.gov/en/contact-us/rcc.html)

## Additional Resources

[txchildren.org/census](https://txchildren.org/census)

Resources to educate communities about the importance of the 2020 Census, with the ultimate goal of ensuring all young children in Texas are counted in the 2020 Census, from Texans Care for Children.

[bettertexasblog.org/2020-census-tx](https://bettertexasblog.org/2020-census-tx)

Texas-specific information and resources regarding the 2020 Census from the Center for Public Policy Priorities (CPPP).

[countallkids.org](https://countallkids.org)

The Count All Kids Committee is a group of national, state and local children's organizations and allies that have joined together to ensure our nation's children are counted in the 2020 Census.

[texascounts.org](https://texascounts.org)

Texas Counts is a statewide collaborative effort working to engage cross-sector leaders and organizations to leverage, amplify, and share resources to promote the 2020 Census.

[censushardtocountmaps2020.us](https://censushardtocountmaps2020.us) and [census.gov/roam](https://census.gov/roam)

See what communities were hardest to count in the 2010 Census to identify where we need to target our efforts to avoid an undercount in 2020.

[hagasecontar.org/hazmecontar](https://hagasecontar.org/hazmecontar)

From the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Education Fund this website includes information and resources to support the participation of Latino communities in the 2020 Census.

1-877- EL-CENSO

A toll-free national bilingual information and referral hotline that can answer census questions.