

PRB

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ADVANCE

# 2020 Census Undercount Risk

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POPULATION REFERENCE BUREAU | [www.prb.org](http://www.prb.org)



**Stacey Abrams** ✓

@staceyabrams

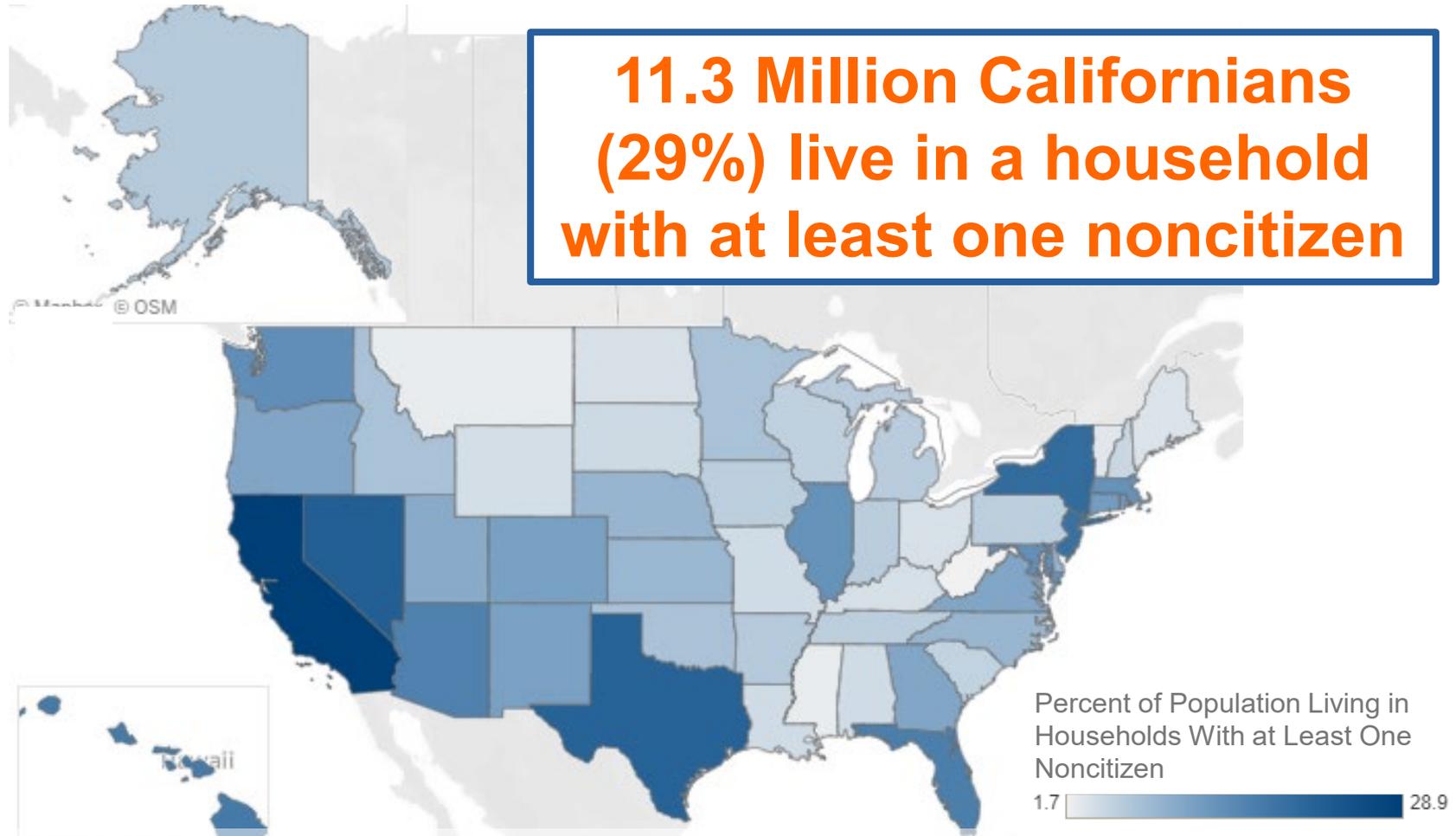


Today is a good day to be counted! Share this with folks who have demonstrated for justice.

Not being included in the [#2020Census](#) is where disinvestment starts. Voting without the \$\$ for programs or the power to pick our leaders. If we ignore it, well..

# Citizenship question controversy raised undercount risk.

**11.3 Million Californians (29%) live in a household with at least one noncitizen**



Source: PRB, "Citizenship Question Risks a 2020 Census Undercount in Every State, Especially Among Children."  
<https://www.prb.org/citizenship-question-risks-a-2020-census-undercount-in-every-state-especially-among-children/>

SLAVES.												FREE COLORED PERSONS.												TOTAL.	WHITE PERSONS included in the foregoing.				SLAVES AND COLORED PERSONS, included in foregoing.											
MALES.						FEMALES.						MALES.						FEMALES.						TOTAL.	WHITE PERSONS included in the foregoing.				SLAVES AND COLORED PERSONS, included in foregoing.											
Under ten years of age.	Of ten and under twenty-four.	Of twenty-four and under thirty-six.	Of thirty-six and under fifty-five.	Of fifty-five and under one hundred.	Of one hundred and upwards.	Under ten years of age.	Of ten and under twenty-four.	Of twenty-four and under thirty-six.	Of thirty-six and under fifty-five.	Of fifty-five and under one hundred.	Of one hundred and upwards.	Under ten years of age.	Of ten and under twenty-four.	Of twenty-four and under thirty-six.	Of thirty-six and under fifty-five.	Of fifty-five and under one hundred.	Of one hundred and upwards.	Under ten years of age.	Of ten and under twenty-four.	Of twenty-four and under thirty-six.	Of thirty-six and under fifty-five.	Of fifty-five and under one hundred.	Of one hundred and upwards.		Who are blind.	Who are deaf and dumb.	Who are idiot and insane.	Who are blind and deaf, or blind and insane, or deaf and insane.	Who are blind and dumb, under fifteen years of age.	Who are deaf and dumb, under fifteen years of age.	Who are blind and dumb, under fifteen years of age.	Who are deaf and dumb, under fifteen years of age.								
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# 1830 Census records

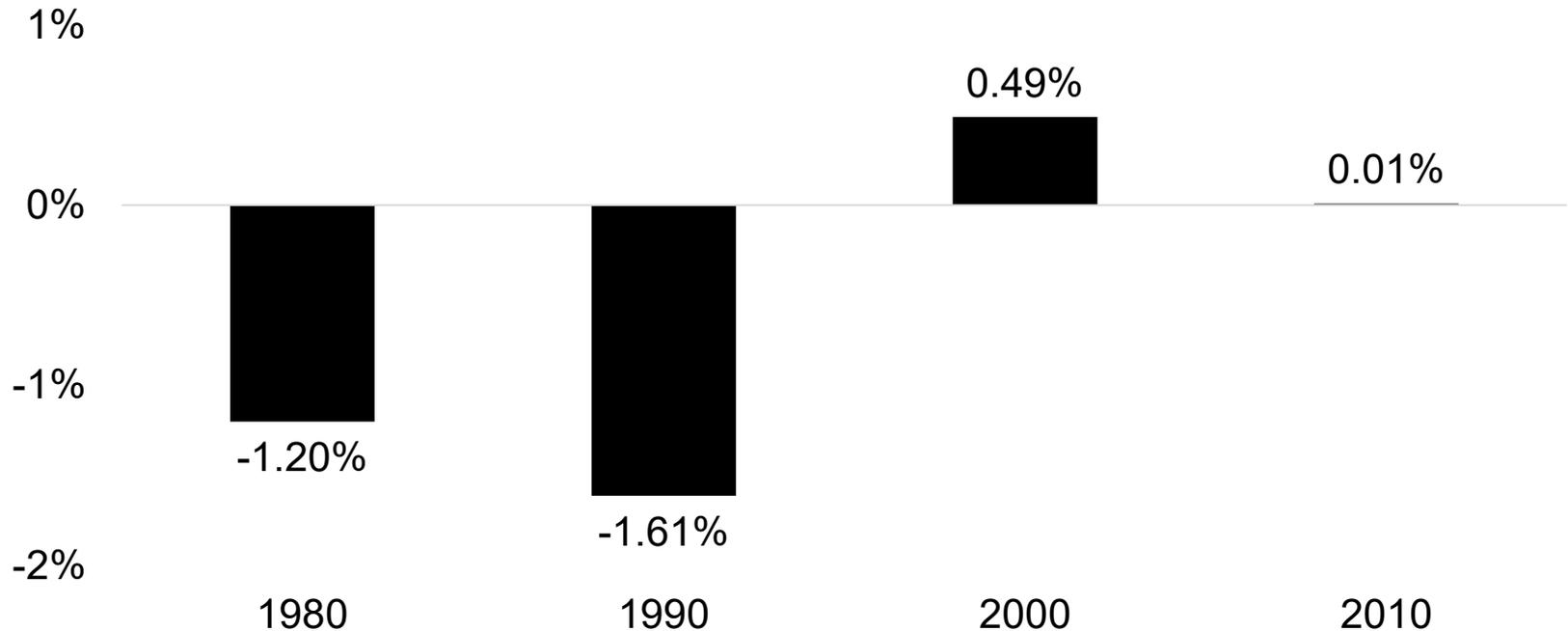
Image: [https://www.census.gov/history/www/through\\_the\\_decades/questionnaires/1830\\_2.html](https://www.census.gov/history/www/through_the_decades/questionnaires/1830_2.html)

# Where are we today?

## Goal is complete count.

### Overall accuracy has improved.

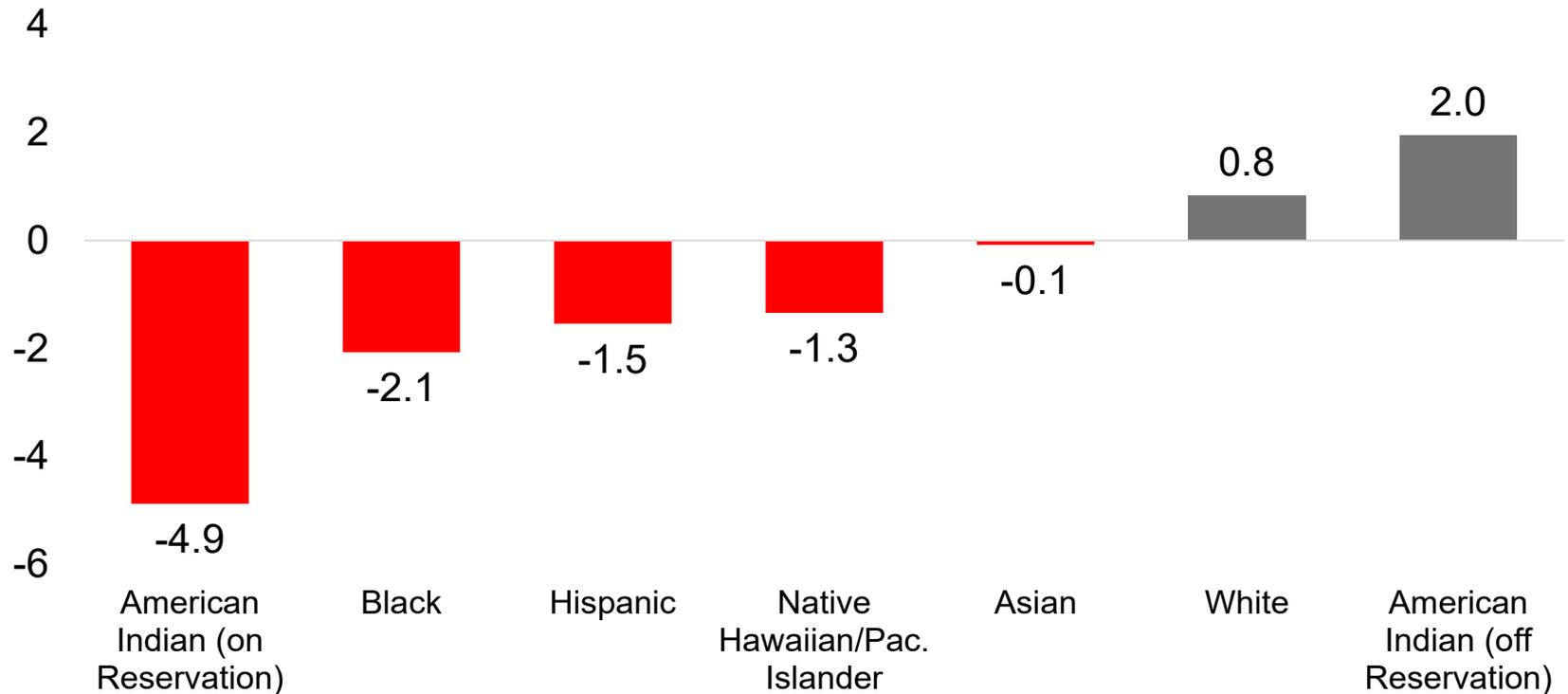
Decennial Census Overcount/Undercount (%)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. Census Bureau Releases Estimates of Undercount and Overcount in the 2010 Census: [https://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/2010\\_census/cb12-95.html](https://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/2010_census/cb12-95.html)

# Despite systems to ensure complete count, communities of color are disproportionately undercounted.

2010 Census Net Undercount Rate, Nationwide



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. "Census Coverage Measurement Estimation Report"  
[https://www.census.gov/coverage\\_measurement/pdfs/g01.pdf](https://www.census.gov/coverage_measurement/pdfs/g01.pdf)

# A disproportionate share of young Black and Latinx children (ages 0-4) live in census tracts with very-high-risk of undercount

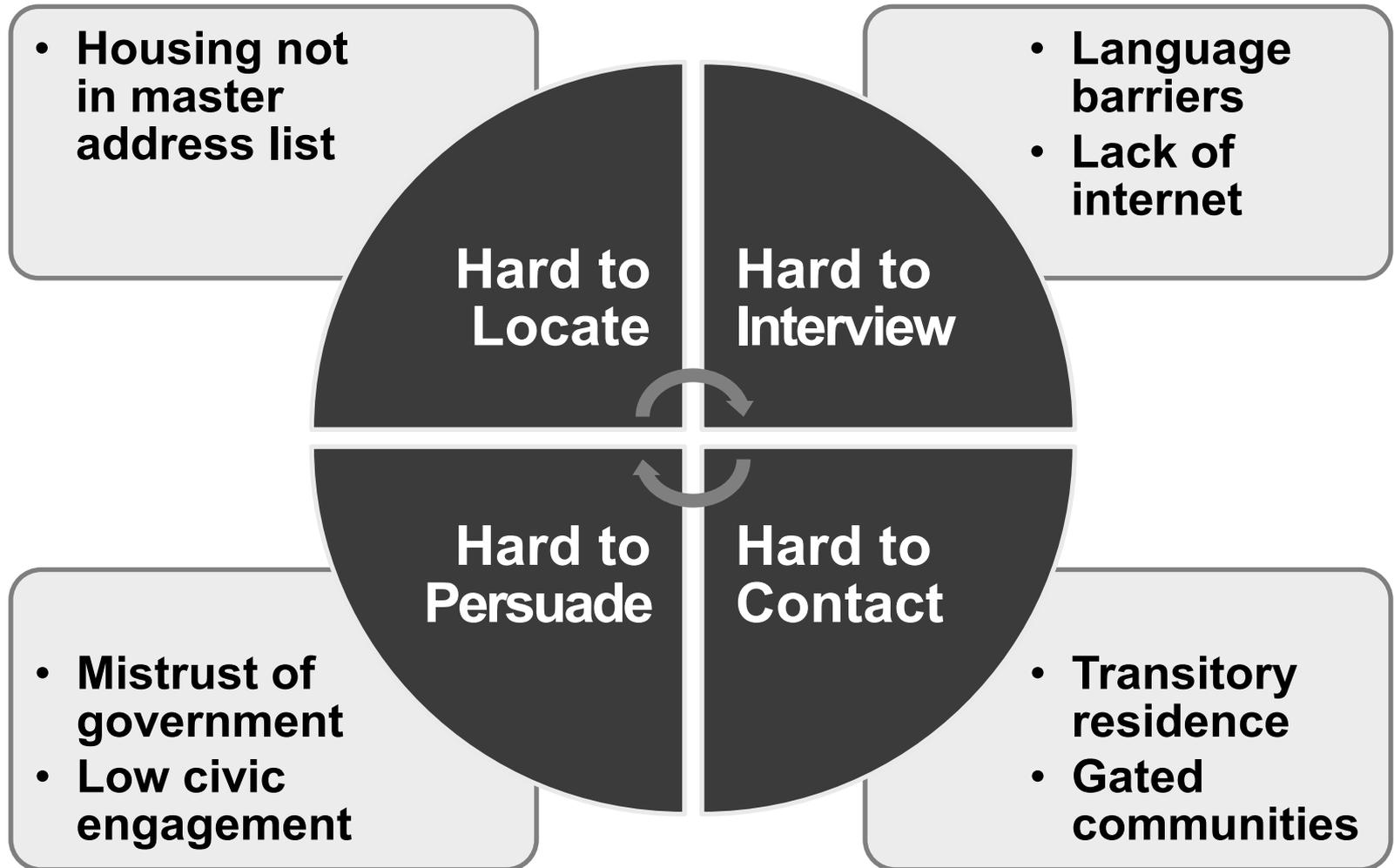
	Percent in census tracts with a very high risk of undercounting young children
All children	25
Hispanic/Latino	38
Black alone	48
Asian alone	28
American Indian/Alaska Native alone	31
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	31
Non-Hispanic White alone	9
Two or more races	22

**Notes:** The percentage shown includes all children living in counties with at least 5,000 children under age 5 in the 2010 Census and in tracts within those counties with at least 25 children under age 5 in the 2013-2017 American Community Survey. Regarding "Hispanic/Latino," Hispanics can be of any race, so they are also included in the other racial categories with the exception of White alone.

**Sources:** PRB analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau; Revised 2018 Experimental Demographic Analysis Estimates; and 2013-2017 and 2014-2018 American Community Surveys.

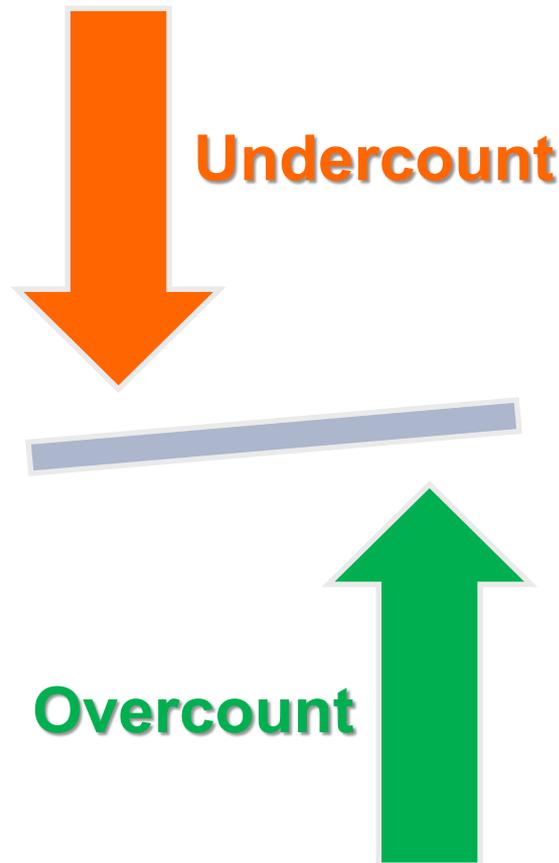
More info: <https://www.prb.org/why-are-so-many-young-children-undercounted-in-the-u-s-census/>

# What may increase undercount risk?

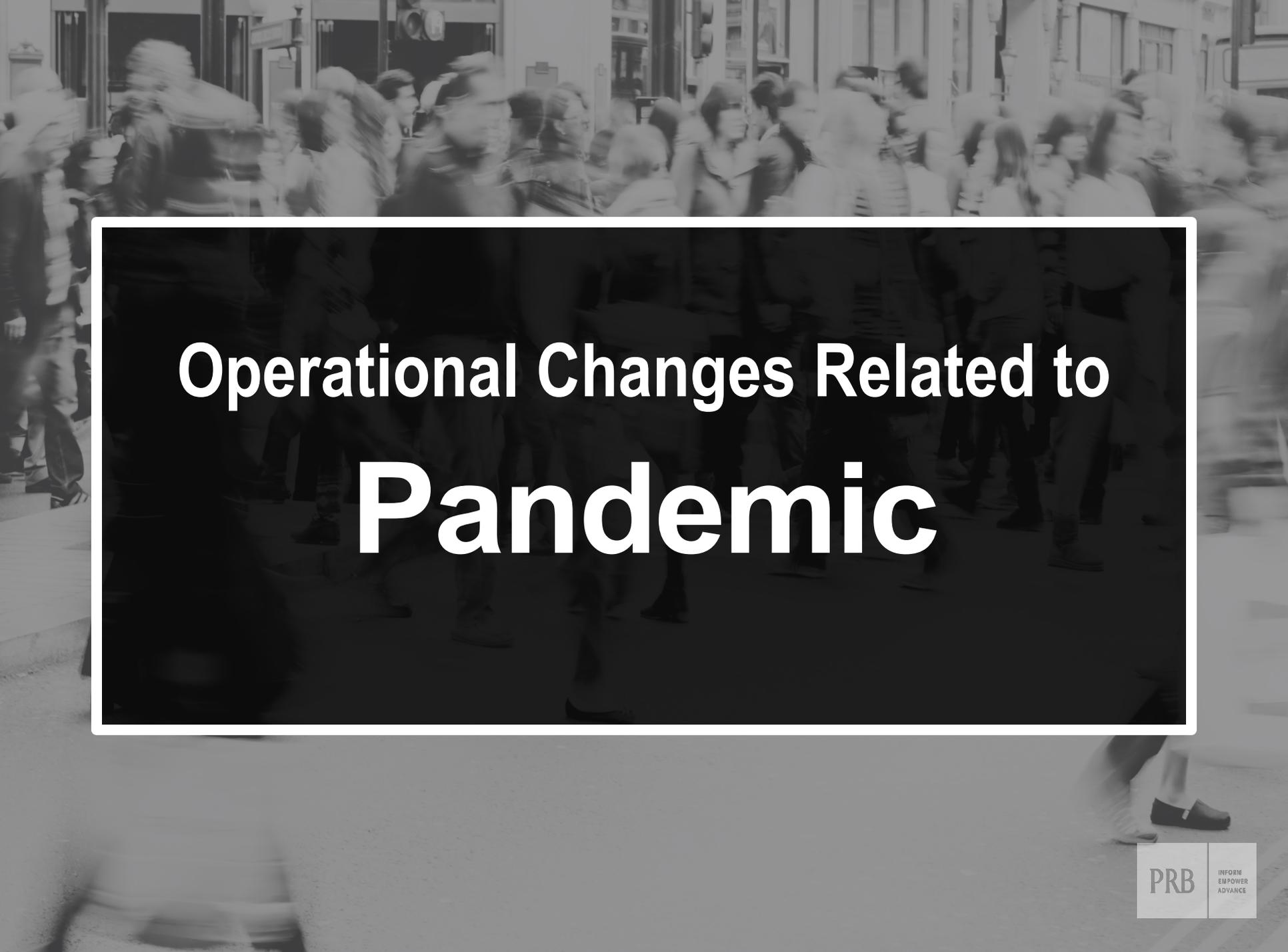


# (A few) Ways to reduce undercount and overcount:

- Clear instructions
- Deduplication



- Complete Count Committees
- Community partnerships
- Advertising
- Language assistance
- Enumerating at known unsheltered locations

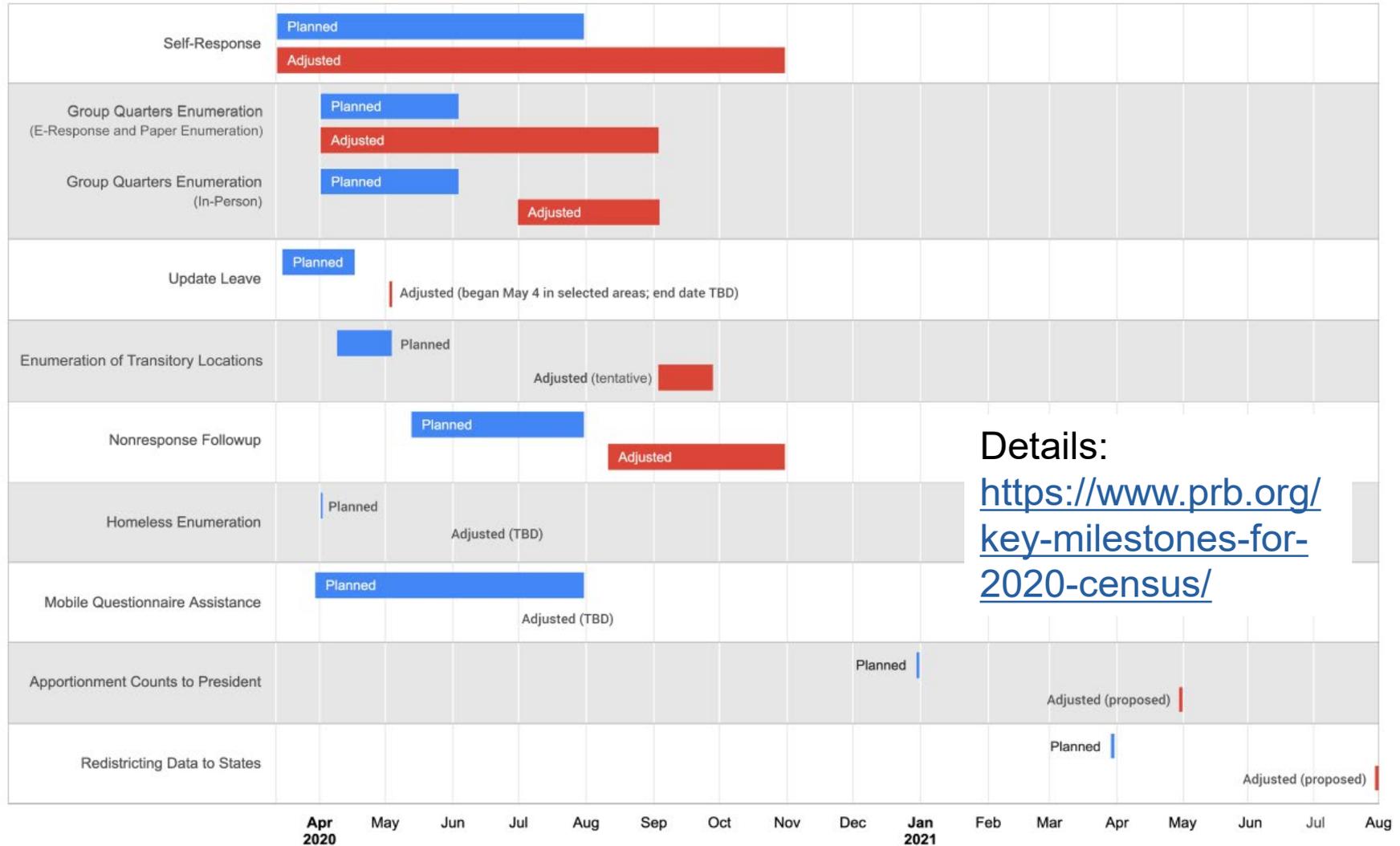


# Operational Changes Related to Pandemic

# 2020 Census operations have changed

## Schedule Adjustments for 2020 Census

PRB

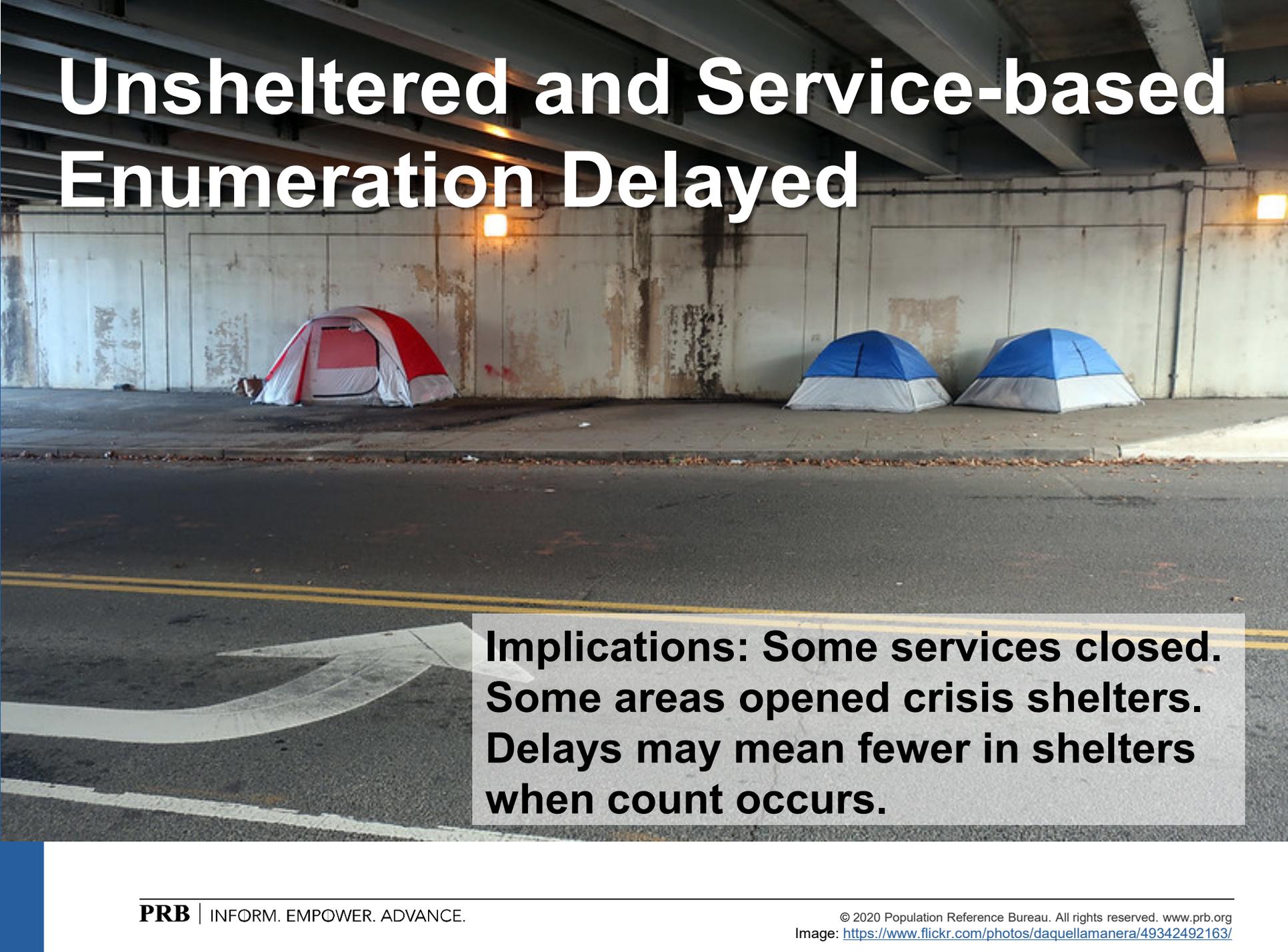


Details:  
<https://www.prb.org/key-milestones-for-2020-census/>



# Implications for Coverage and Data Quality

# Unsheltered and Service-based Enumeration Delayed

The image shows three tents pitched under a concrete bridge structure. On the left is a red and white tent. On the right are two blue and white tents. The ground is asphalt with a white arrow pointing right. The bridge structure is made of concrete and has some rust or staining on the walls. There are some lights visible on the bridge structure.

**Implications: Some services closed. Some areas opened crisis shelters. Delays may mean fewer in shelters when count occurs.**



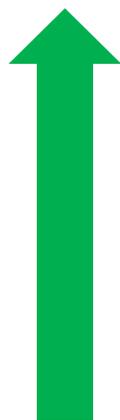
# College students missed? Double-counted? Counted in wrong place? Decreased funding?

# Complete count efforts have been affected.

- In-person events postponed or cancelled
- Less contact with trusted voices
- More targeted marketing via social media (and maybe(?) more eyes on that marketing)



# How will household self-response be affected?



- Will more households self-respond online, over the phone, or by mail because they are under “stay at home” orders?
  - Could reduce nonresponse followup workload
  - Could improve data quality

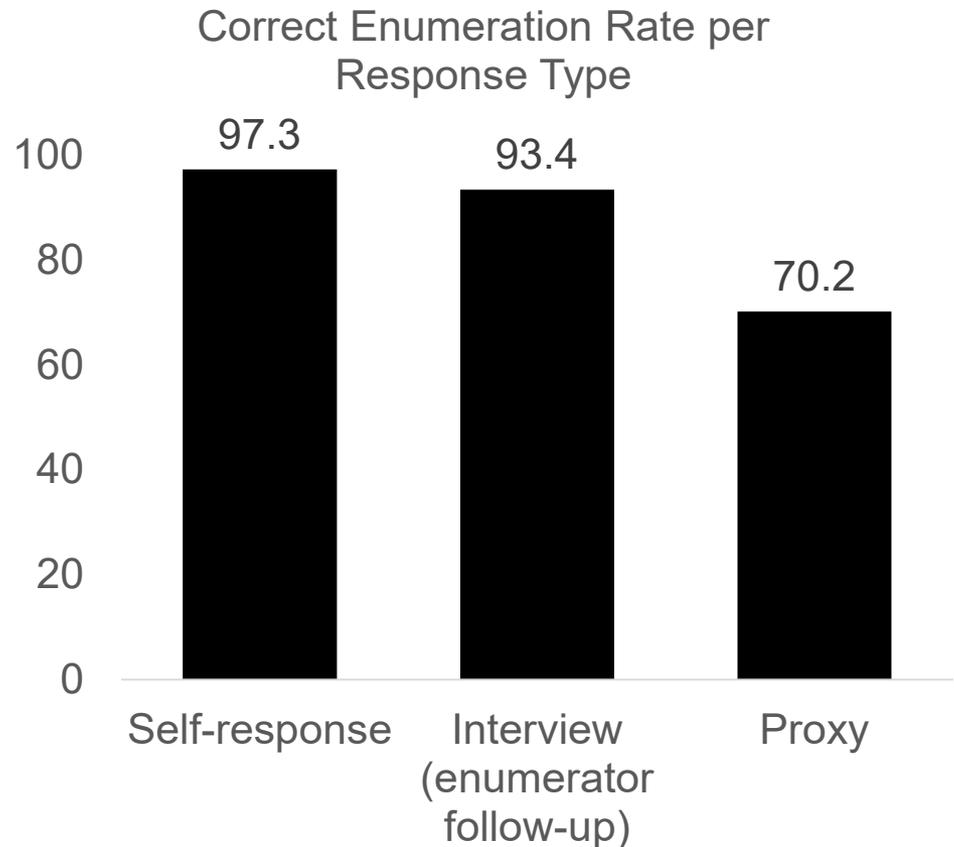


- Or will fewer self-respond?
  - Could result in less coverage, higher undercount rates, and lower data quality

# Quality declines if household does not self-respond.

If household does not self-respond:

- Enumerator attempts interview
- Enumerator tries to collect proxy response (from neighbor)
- Impute characteristics for whole household



Source: J.Brown M.Heggeness S.Dorinski L.Warren M.Yi. 2019. "Predicting the Effect of Adding a Citizenship Question to the 2020 Census." <https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/newsroom/press-kits/2019/paa/20190405%20journal%20paper%20presentation.pdf>

# Nonresponse Followup (NRFU) has been delayed.



- High unemployment may increase potential pool of workers



- Will people be afraid to work as enumerators?
- Will people open their doors to enumerators even with masks and other protective measures?

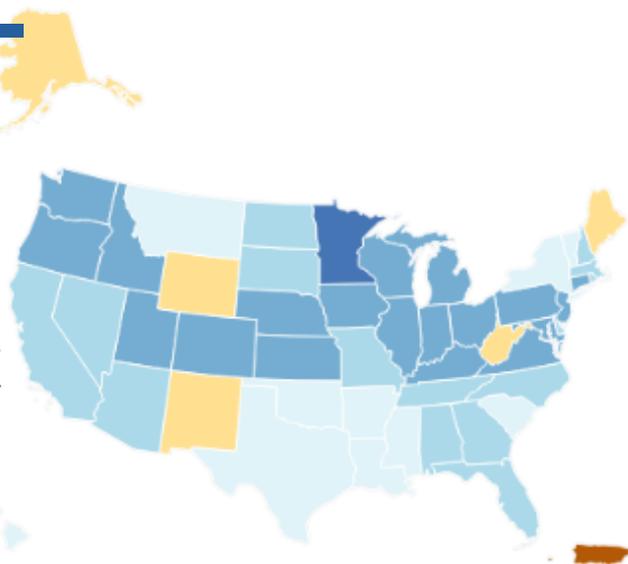
# Census Bureau's Online Self-Response Tracker

<https://2020census.gov/en/response-rates.html>

This map features self-response rates from households that responded to the 2020 Census online, by mail, or by phone. Rates can be viewed in [rankings here](#).

National Self-Response  
**60.8%**

California Self-Response  
**62.0%**



Select Date

6/8/2020

Select Mode

Total

Select State

California

Geographies

State

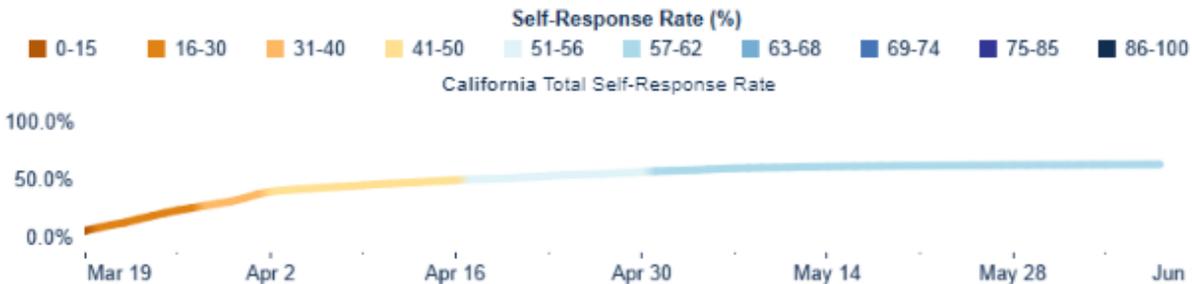
County

City

Congressional District

Town and Township

Tribal Area



Operational Updates

email us at [responseratemap@census.gov](mailto:responseratemap@census.gov)  
 responses received as of 6/8/2020.  
[Click here for technical details](#)

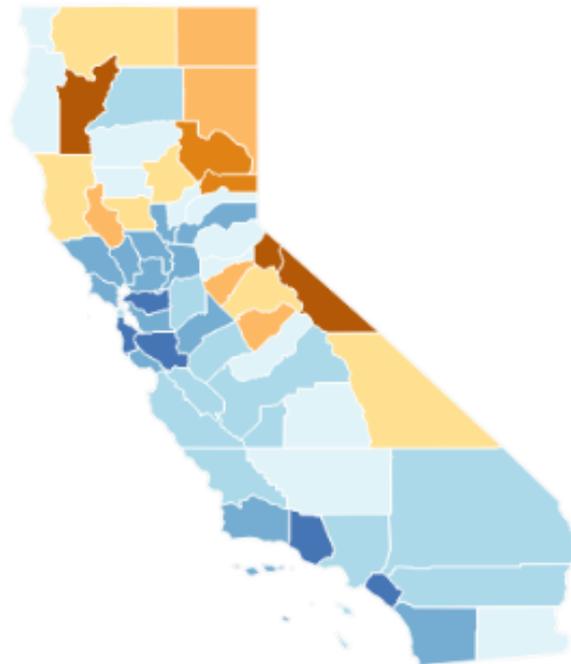
# Self-Response by County

Click icon to open or close the share menu

This map features self-response rates from households that responded to the 2020 Census online, by mail, or by phone. Rates can be viewed in [rankings here](#).

California  
Self-Response  
**62.0%**

Los Angeles  
Self-Response  
**57.3%**



Alameda, California Self-Response Rate



Select Mode

Total

Select State

California

Select County

(All)

Geographies

Return to State

County

Census Tract

City

Congressional District

Town and Township

Tribal Area



Operational

# Self-Response by Census Tract

Click icon to open or close the share menu

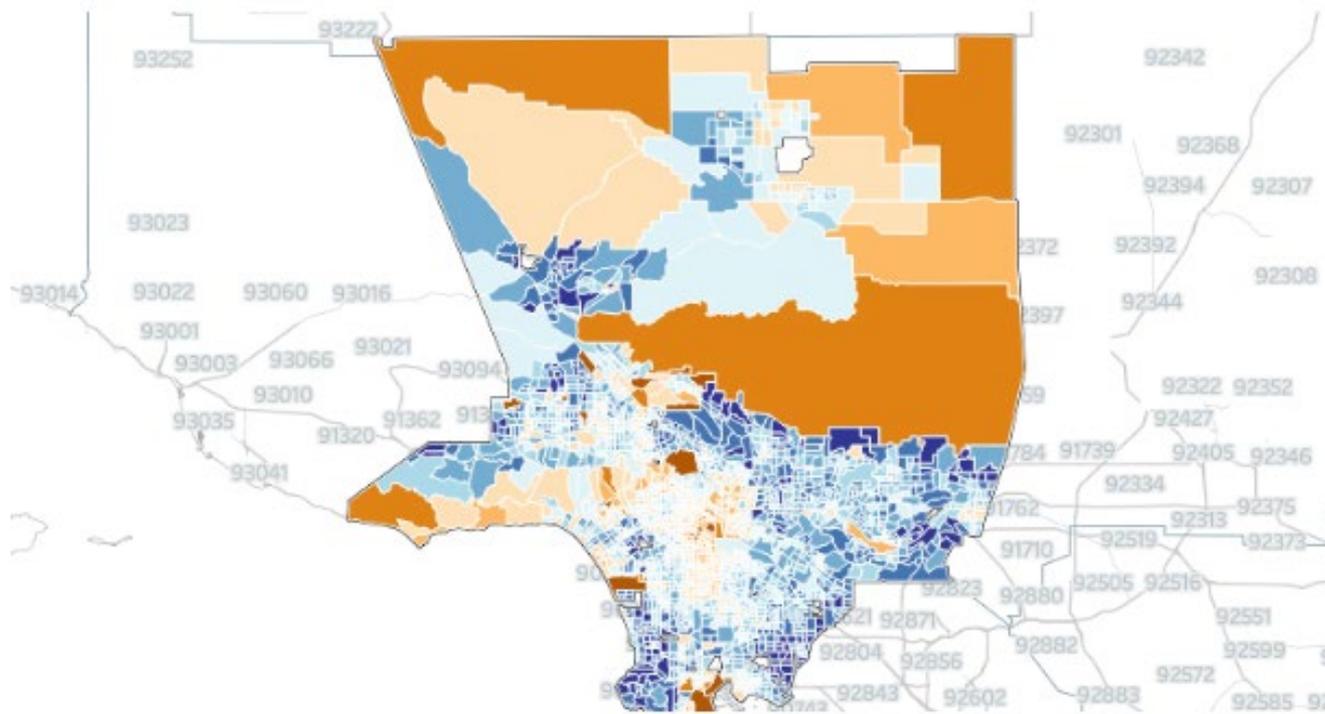
This map features self-response rates from households that responded to the 2020 Census online, by mail, or by phone. Rates can be viewed in [rankings here](#).

Los Angeles, California  
Self-Response

57.3%

Tract 1011.10  
Self-Response

56.3%



Select Mode  
Total

Select State  
California

Select County  
Los Angeles

Geographies

Return to State

County

Census Tract

City

Congressional District

Town and Township

Tribal Area



Tract 1011.10, Los Angeles Self-Response Rate



# California response rate:

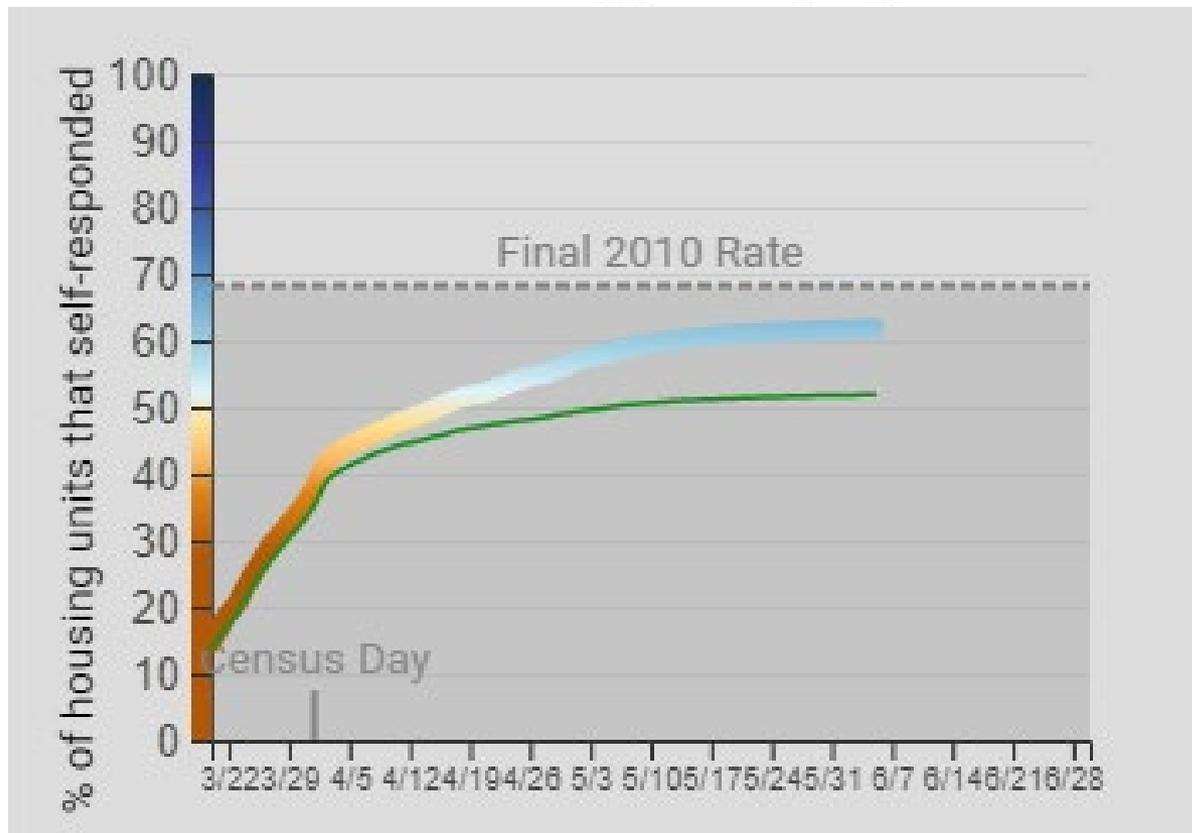
**61.8%**

(as of 6/5/2020)

**68.2%**

(2010 final self-response)

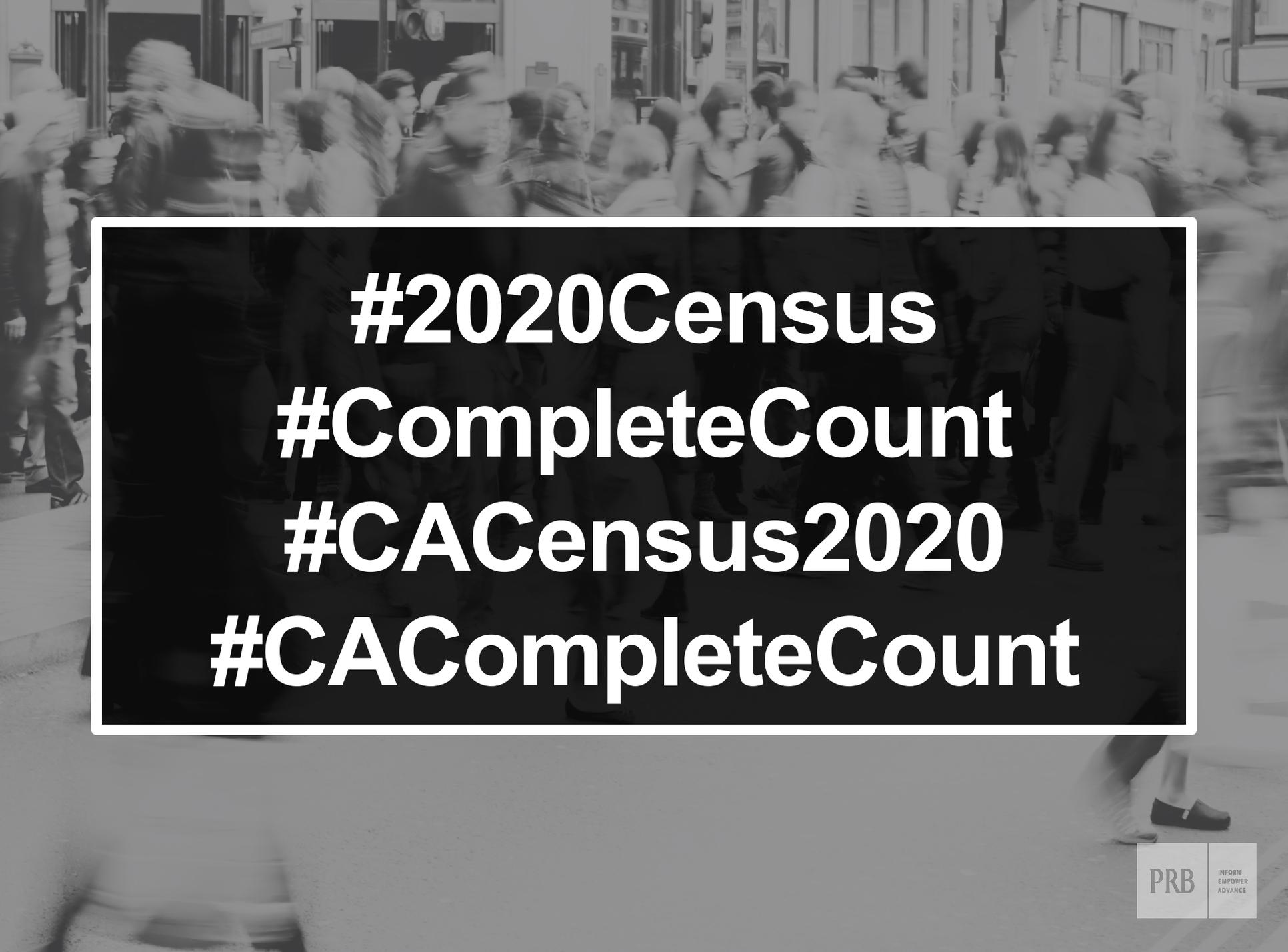
## 2020 Self-Response by Day



Data on real-time response rates, historical response rates, and undercount risk (incl PRB's child undercount risk assessment).

Source: CUNY Mapping Service at the Center for Urban Research, CUNY Graduate Center

<https://www.censushardto countmaps2020.us/>



**#2020Census**  
**#CompleteCount**  
**#CACensus2020**  
**#CACompleteCount**



**Bonus Content:**  
**Counting People In The Right Place**  
**Where and How**

# Where People Are Counted



**“Usual residence” = place where a person lives and sleeps most of the time as of April 1, 2020**

# What about people who have more than one address? Or no address?

People who are...

- Military
- In correctional institutions
- Students
- Temporarily away from home on April 1
- Children/youth in joint custody arrangements
- Owners of vacation/second homes
- Homeless or unsheltered

# General rule of thumb...

Where do you live and  
sleep *most of the time*?

## General rule of thumb...

Where do you live and  
sleep *most of the time*?

If there is no “most,” where  
are you on April 1, 2020?

# ALL the details...

## 2020 Census Residence Rules

<https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/programs-surveys/decennial/2020-census/2020-Census-Residence-Criteria.pdf>

## Brief explainer

<https://www.prb.org/how-does-the-u-s-census-bureau-count-people-who-have-more-than-one-address/>

## Residence Rules:

# Correctional Facilities

Prisoners and Juveniles in correctional Residential Placement (still) counted at place of incarceration

Group quarters data will be distributed for redistricting



Image: <https://flic.kr/p/daGQCN>

## Residence Rules:

# Colleges and Boarding Schools

Even if on break on April 1, 2020, students...

- In university-run housing = count at their dorm/housing
- Living in off-campus residence = count at that off campus residence
- Living with parent/guardian = count at that address
- Studying abroad = overseas, not counted

Boarding school students count at parental home.

# Residence Rules: More Than One Address

- Adult Residential Treatment Centers
- Multiple-residence populations
  - Children/youth in joint custody
  - Vacation homes and seasonal residences
  - Etc...

## General rule of thumb...

Where do you live and  
sleep *most of the time*?

If there is no “most,” where  
are you on April 1, 2020?

# How People Are Counted

- Housing Units Self Response
  - Invitation letter or letter plus census form
  - Online, over the phone, by mail
  - At mobile locations **with or without** Census ID
- Housing Units Nonresponse Followup (NRFU)
  - In-person visit from enumerator
  - Filling in based on info from neighbors

# “Nudges” to Help Count Everyone

How many people were living or staying in this house, apartment, or mobile home on April 1, 2020?

Number of people =

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

# How People Are Counted

- Housing Units
- Group Quarters
  - University-run housing
    - Electronic response
    - Paper list delivered to enumerator
    - Individual Census Questionnaires to students
  - Nursing Homes, etc.
    - Electronic Response Data Transfer (eResponse)
    - Paper Response Data
    - Facility Self-Enumeration
    - Drop-Off/Pickup of Questionnaire
    - In-Person Interview

# How People Are Counted

- Housing Units
- Group Quarters
- Homeless/unsheltered

# How People Are Counted

- Homeless/unsheltered
  - Service-based enumeration
  - Outdoor locations (under bridges, parks, etc.)
  - Transitory locations (campgrounds, hotels, etc.)



Image: <https://flic.kr/p/DHqxfL>