

The Undercount of Young Children in the 2010 Census

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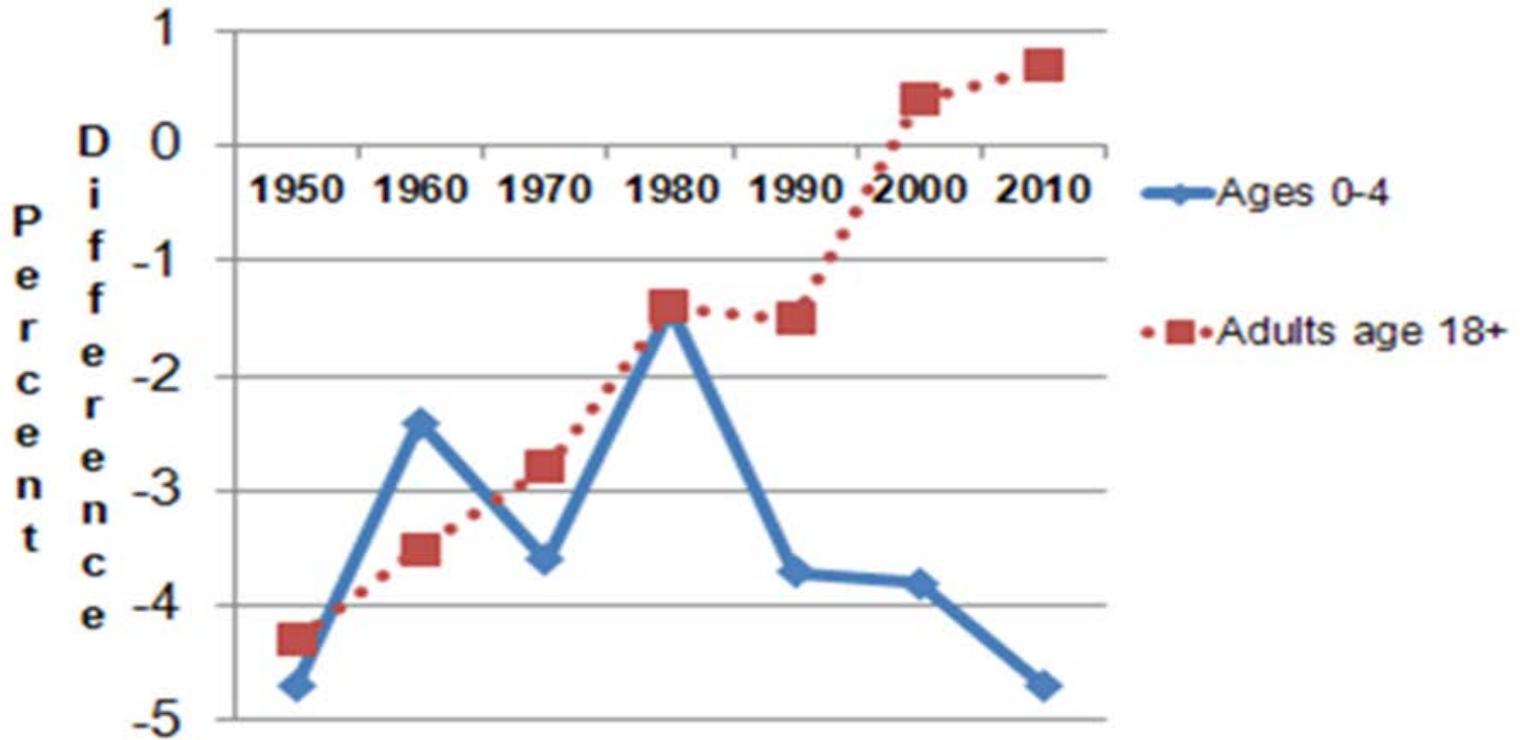
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Committee Meetings

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Background

- Demographic Analysis (DA) estimated a net overcount of 0.1 percent for the total population in 2010
- While adults were over counted, children under 18 had a 1.7 percent net undercount
- Children under the age of 5 were especially likely to be missed in the 2010 Census (4.6 percent net undercoverage)

Background



Source: O'Hare 2015

Background

- In 2013 a Census Bureau task force reviewed available information on this issue and produced a report with research recommendations
- A research team is currently conducting several research projects to try to answer key questions about why the census misses young children.

Research Questions

1. Is this problem largely due to rostering error or are there other explanations?
2. Is this a self-response error or is it clustered in the households that fail to respond and require follow up?
3. Are many of these missed children in households that never provided a response and required either a proxy or imputed response?

Research Questions (cont.)

4. What are the characteristics of the young children that we missed in 2010? What are the characteristics of their households and the housing units where they lived?
5. In what parts of the country and for which population groups did the 2010 Census have the greatest problem correctly counting young children? What characteristics do these areas share?
6. Where do most young children live?

Methods

- Summarizing characteristics of coverage measurement nonmatches, administrative record nonmatches, and coverage follow-up adds
- Using population estimates and vital statistics to assess potential coverage error at sub-national levels and for sub-populations
- Developing profiles of living situations that involve young children

Questions for the Committee

1. Do you have insights into specific social changes since 1980 that might explain the rise in undercoverage in the past 3 decades for this population?
2. Do you have any specific recommendations for research that we should pursue to try to better understand causes for this undercoverage?
3. What hypotheses would you offer for why the census continues to undercount these youngest children?