

**US CENSUS BUREAU NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
UNDERCOUNT OF YOUNG CHILDREN WORKING GROUP
Approved on November 28, 2016**

Undercount of Young Children Working Group

Overview

U.S. Census Bureau analysis shows that the undercount of children under age five in the decennial census and in demographic surveys is longstanding and growing. The 2010 Census, for example, undercounted about 4.6 percent of children aged 0 to 4 (Hogan et al. 2013). When we look at the differences between Census and demographic analysis counts for adults and young children since 1980, we see noteworthy reductions in differences for the adult population but steady growths in differences for the youngest children (O’Hare 2015).

As we prepare for the 2020 Census, we will continue to look at ways to produce a more accurate and cost-effective count of the nation and research how to best reach and include historically hard-to-count populations, such as young children. Through our recent research, we have begun to develop a profile of the types of young children that are more at risk for census omission (Konicki 2016). As we prepare for 2020, improving this count is one focus of our research.

Working Group Focus

To support the U.S. Census Bureau’s efforts to address the issues outlined above, the Census Bureau is establishing an Undercount of Children Working Group. The Undercount of Young Children Working Group will assist with two main tasks:

1. Synthesizing literature, current practices, and best practices
 - a. Synthesize current understanding of the undercount of young children in Census Bureau data collections. Including the relationship of the undercount of young children to any other undercounting by race, language, socio-economic status, and geographic location.
 - b. Understand current decennial and demographic survey methods in an effort to provide recommendations on methods that reduce this undercount.
 - c. Synthesize best practices for obtaining accurate counts in an effort to provide recommendations on methods and communication strategies to reduce this undercount.
2. Providing subject matter expert recommendations
 - a. Providing recommendations on methods the U.S. Census Bureau should pursue to improve coverage of this population group in future censuses and surveys.

- b. Providing recommendations on the most effective ways to communicate to groups with higher incidences of undercounted children such as young mothers and complex households and within neighborhoods where the undercount is likely to be greatest.

Working Group Meetings and Members

- The Undercount of Young Children Working Group will exist through November 2017.
- Working Group membership will consist of 5-10 National Advisory Committee (NAC) members to include one designated WG lead/convener. The convener will be selected by the Census Bureau Director in consultation with the NAC Chairperson.
- Working Group conference calls will occur once a month. Additional calls may occur to meet critical needs, as appropriate. The working group will send meeting notices and prepare minutes for each conference call.
- Census Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) will provide background information associated with specific work tasks/needs as it pertains to the Working Group's guidelines. SMEs also will participate in monthly Working Group conference calls as necessary.
- The Working Group Convener is responsible for leading conference calls with Working Group members and facilitating the development of two Working Group presentations for NAC meetings.
- The Working Group may provide a list of additional experts to assist the working group as consultants.

Working Group Deliverables

The Working Group will develop and present two detailed presentations to NAC and the Census Bureau.

1. After a review of literature pertaining to the undercount of young children and an understanding of current decennial and demographic data collection practices, the Working Group will present a list of challenges related to counting young children to the NAC and Census Bureau and the implications to meeting or not meeting these challenges.
2. After a review of best practices for obtaining accurate counts of children, the Working Group will present a list of recommendations related to data collection methods and effective ways to communicate to groups with a higher incidence of undercounted children in an effort to overcome the challenges related to counting young children. The working group will indicate whether these recommendations pertain to the 2020 Census, the American Community Survey, data collections in other Census Bureau

surveys, or some combination. For the 2020 Census, the timing of any required planning, testing, and implementation should be considered.

References and Related Census Bureau Publications

- Bruner, C. et. al. (2007). Village Building and School Readiness. State Early Childhood Policy Technical Assistance Network. Des Moines, IA.
- Griffin, D. and Konicki, S. (2016a). Investigating the 2010 Undercount of Young Children – A Comparison of Demographic, Housing, and Household Characteristics. U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census Program Memorandum Series.
- Griffin, D. and Konicki, S. (2016b). Investigating the 2010 Undercount of Young Children – Examining Data Collected during Coverage Followup. U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census Program Memorandum Series.
- Hogan, H., Cantwell, P., Devine, J., Mule, V., and Velkoff, V. (2013). Quality and the 2010 Census. *Population Research and Policy Review*, 32(5), 637-662.
- Konicki, S. (2016). The Undercount of Young Children in the Decennial Census. Presentation before the 2020 Census Program Management Review, April 12, 2016. Retrieved from http://www2.census.gov/census_2020/pmr_materials/2016-04-12/PrePMR_The_Undercount_of_Young_Children.pdf
- Konicki, S. and Griffin, D. (2016). Investigating the 2010 Undercount of Young Children – Analysis of Census Coverage Measurement Results. U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census Program Memorandum Series.
- O’Hare, W. (2015). *The Undercount of Young Children in the U.S. Decennial Census*. Ellicott City, MD: Springer Briefs in Population Studies.
- Learning Collaborative on Health Equity and Young Children (2015). 50 State Chartbook. Des Moines, IA.
- U.S. Census Bureau. (2016). Investigating the 2010 Undercount of Young Children – A New Look at 2010 Census Omissions by Age. U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Statistical Studies Division. Available at <https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/program-management/memo-series/2020-report-2010-undercount-children-omissions.pdf>
- U.S. Census Bureau. (2014). Final Task Force Report on the Undercount of Young Children. Available at <http://www.census.gov/library/working-papers/2014/demo/2014-undercount-children.html>
- West, K. and J Robinson, J. (1999). What Do We Know About The Undercount of Children? U. S. Census Bureau, Population Division Working Paper No. 39. Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/population/www/documentation/twps0039/twps0039.html>
- Born In The U.S., Raised In China: 'Satellite Babies' Have A Hard Time Coming Home <http://www.npr.org/sections/ed/2016/10/13/492860463/born-in-the-u-s-raised-in-china-satellite-babies-have-a-hard-time-coming-home>
- *The Invisible Ones: How Latino Children Are Left Out of Our Nation’s Census Count*. Report from Child Trends Hispanic Institute and the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (2016)

Working Group Members

- Convener: Jerlean Daniel
- Members:
 1. Arturo Vargas
 2. Barry Steinhardt
 3. Carol Gore
 4. Charles Bruner
 5. Don Cravins
 6. Hazeen Ashby
 7. Julie Dowling
 8. Lily Ann Welty Tamai
 9. Randal Akee
 10. Yolande Marlow

Census Bureau Staffing/Subject Matter Experts

- Gina K. Walejko, Survey Statistician
- Scott Konicki, Decennial Statistical Studies
- Tara Dunlop, Advisory Committee Branch
- NOTE: Additional names may be added

External Subject Matter Expert

- William P. O'Hare, The Annie E. Casey Foundation
- NOTE: Additional names may be added