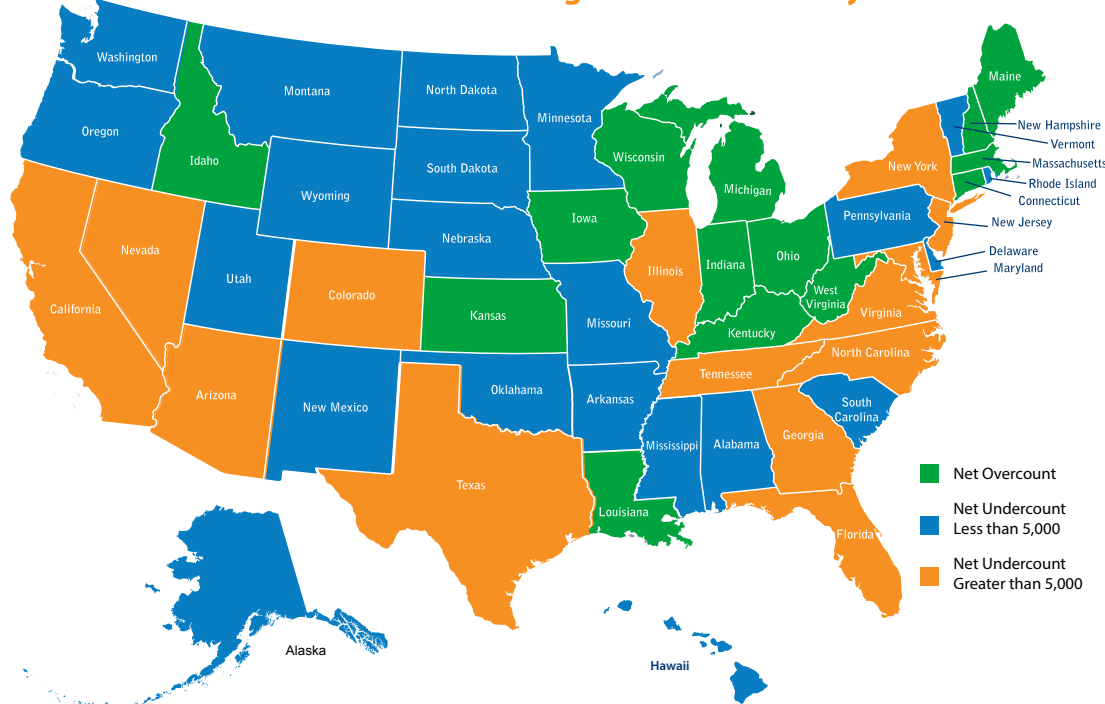


# The Invisible Ones: How Latino Children Are Left Out of Our Nation's Census Count

## Report findings

- Approximately 400,000 young Latino children ages 0 to 4 were left uncaptured by the 2010 Census.
- The net undercount rate for young Latino children was 7.1 percent, compared to 4.3 percent for non-Latinos.
- Five states—California, Texas, Florida, Arizona, and New York—accounted for 72 percent of the national net undercount of young Latinos.

### Net Undercount of Young Latino Children by State



### Counties with highest net undercount of Latino children

- Los Angeles (CA) – 47,000
- Maricopa (AZ) – 27,000
- Miami-Dade (FL) – 18,000
- Dallas (TX) – 17,000
- Orange (CA) – 15,000
- San Diego (CA) – 12,000
- Cook (IL) – 11,000
- Harris (TX) – 9,000
- Kings & New York (NY) – 6,000
- Riverside (CA) – 6,000
- Clark (NV) – 6,000
- Broward (FL) – 6,000

## Why does this happen?

- Latinos are more likely than non-Latinos to live in hard-to-count places: for example, areas with multi-unit buildings and a high proportion of renters.
- Latinos are more likely than non-Latinos to live in hard-to-count families and households, such as multigenerational and highly mobile families, and households with complex relationships.
- Latino adults are more likely than non-Latino adults to believe that young children do not need to be reported on the census form.

## Implications

- The undercount of Latino children reduces potential federal funding for state programs serving low-income families.
- Four federal assistance programs—Head Start; the Special Supplemental Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); the Child Care and Development Block Grant; and the Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant—distribute \$20 billion annually to states and localities based, at least in part, on census counts of the population under age 5.
- Yet 62 percent of young Latino children—more than 11 million boys and girls—currently live in or near poverty.



## Recommendations for the 2020 Census

- **Education.** Alert stakeholders to the potential implications of a high undercount among young Latino children. All relevant stakeholders—including Latino families and communities, and state and local policymakers—should understand the negative consequences of this undercount.
- **Engagement.** Improve targeted outreach to those areas with the largest number of undercounted children.
- **Partnerships.** Develop more relationships with vested stakeholders, such as civic organizations and early childhood education organizations that will be able to reach households with young children.
- **Research.** Examine who the undercounted young children are and what neighborhoods they live in. Test language used in Census instructions with low-income Latino parents to gauge clarity.

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## Reference

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**Child Trends** is a nonpartisan research organization focused on improving the lives and prospects of children, youth, and their families. The Child Trends Hispanic Institute examines the needs and issues of low-income Latino children and families. [childtrends.org](http://childtrends.org)

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