



VIRGINIA'S HARD TO COUNT COMMUNITIES

BLACK AND AFRICAN AMERICAN

BLACK AND AFRICAN AMERICAN POPULATION IN VIRGINIA



19.9%

of Virginians are African American



1.7

million people ⁽¹⁾

RISK OF UNDERCOUNT IN AFRICAN AMERICAN HOUSEHOLDS

- A.** African-American men have been historically **undercounted in greater numbers** than men of other racial or ethnic groups. ⁽²⁾
- B.** Approximately **7 percent of young African-American children** were overlooked by the 2010 Census, roughly twice the rate for young non-Hispanic White children. ⁽²⁾
- C.** Today, more than **one in three** African Americans live in hard-to-count census tracts. ⁽²⁾

CURRENT FACTORS IN THE UNDERCOUNT OF AFRICAN AMERICANS



ONE IN FOUR

or 25% African Americans in the U.S. live in poverty, exceeding the **national poverty rate of 13%**. ⁽²⁾



The **majority (58 percent)** of African-American households in the U.S. rent their homes. Due to rising rental costs and stagnant wages, many renters experience housing instability, making them even more likely to be missed in the census. ⁽²⁾

TIMELINE OF HISTORIC UNDERCOUNT (CENSUS YEAR)



2010 | 1.5 Million People of Color Were Missed

This included 2.6% of African Americans, 1.5% of Hispanics, and 5% of Native Americans, while over-counting white Americans. ⁽³⁾



1970

7.7% of all African Americans were missed in the Census. ⁽³⁾



1940

The Census missed **13% of Black males**. ⁽³⁾



1790 | First Census Administered

In 1790, in order to obtain more political power in the House of Representatives, rural southerners demanded enslaved Africans be counted in the survey, while urban northerners feared their political position would be significantly reduced and diluted. As a flawed compromise and in complete disregard of their humanity, for more than 75 years, enslaved Africans were counted as **only three-fifths of a human** being for the purposes of Congressional representation and taxation. ⁽³⁾

Sources

1. U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: Virginia. www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/VA/RHI725217#RHI725217.
2. Will You Count? African Americans in the 2020 Census <http://civilrightsdocs.info/pdf/census/2020/Fact-Sheet-African-Americans-HTC.pdf>
3. A History of Undercounting People of Color: Why the 2020 Census May Make It Worse <https://www.commoncause.org/democracy-wire/a-history-of-undercounting-people-of-color-why-the-2020-census-may-make-it-worse/#>

