POPULATION OF CHILDREN IN VIRGINIA

Out of the total population of children and adolescents living in the Commonwealth.

6% or 511,000

are children under 5 years of age. (1)

CHILDREN AT HIGHER RISK OF BEING MISSED

A. Latinx children and children of color. (3)
B. Children living in complex households, defined as all households other than nuclear families, and single-person households. (3)
C. Children living in rented housing or multi-unit structures. (3)
D. Children with families that move often or do not want to respond to the federal government. (3)

WHY ARE CHILDREN UNDERCOUNTED

Research shows that LOW-INCOME households are difficult to enumerate, and young children have a higher poverty rate than any age group. (2)

Some young children have COMPLICATED LIVING ARRANGEMENTS, moving among various relatives or caregivers. (2)

LANGUAGE BARRIERS also contribute to the undercount of young children in households where people speak a language other than English. (2)

CHILDREN IN THE CENSUS

In the 2010 Census, the net undercount rate for young children across the U.S. was

4.6% (2)

COST TO UNDERCOUNTING CHILDREN

Some of the programs designed to aid children that are heavily impacted in Virginia by undercounting include: (4)

- Medicaid
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Section 8 Housing Vouchers
- State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP)
- Special Education Grants

Sources