



VIRGINIA'S HARD TO COUNT COMMUNITIES

YOUNG CHILDREN, UNDER 5 YEARS OLD

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 IN THE CENSUS

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

 **4.6%** ⁽²⁾

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⁾



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**

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⁾

Sources

1. U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: Virginia. www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/VA/RHI725217#RHI725217.
2. "Young Children and Their Families In the 2020 Census." civilrights.org/resource/will-your-kids-count-young-children-and-their-families-in-the-2020-census/.
3. "Investigating the 2010 Undercount of Young Children." www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial/2020/program-management/final-analysis-reports/2020-report-2010-undercount-children-summary-recent-research.pdf.
4. "Counting for Dollars 2020: The Role of the Decennial Census in the Geographic Distribution of Federal Funds." gwipp.gwu.edu/counting-dollars-2020-role-decennial-census-geographic-distribution-federal-funds.

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