



# The Invisible Ones:

How Latino Children Are Left Out of  
Our Nation's Census Count

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Webinar | May 18, 2016



# Presenters



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# Presenters



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# Presenters



**Rep. Lily Limón**  
City Representative  
El Paso, TX

# Young Children and the Census

Young children (ages 0 to 4) are **“missed”** by the decennial census more than any other age group.

**An estimated 400,000 young Latino children were uncounted by the U.S. Census Bureau in 2010—more than other children.**

# Objectives

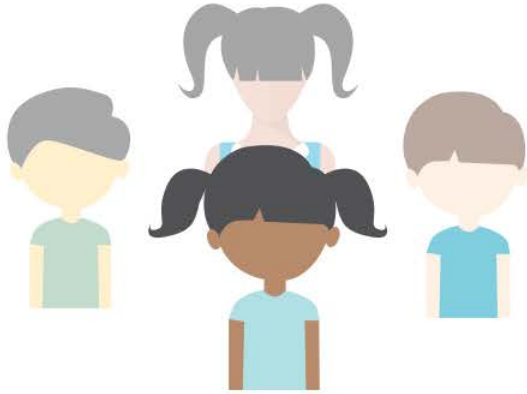
**Examine** the consequences for individuals and states if the undercount continues

## Identify:

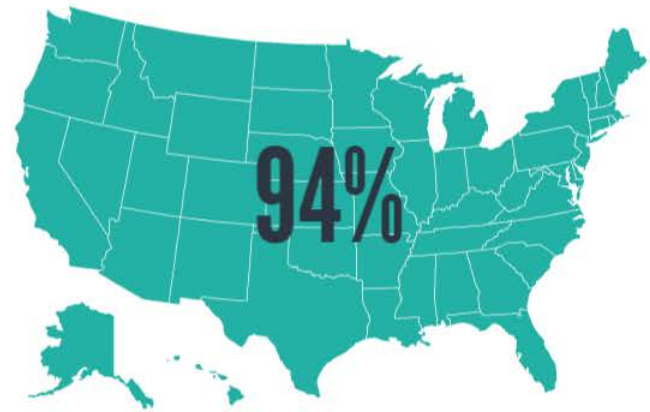
- The extent of the undercount of young Latino children
- The states and counties where the undercount occurs most often
- The causes of the undercount

**Explore** ways to improve the 2020 Census's accuracy

1 in 4 of all children  
are Hispanic



The vast majority are  
U.S.-born




The immigrant experience is a reality for many:

1 in 2 have a foreign-  
born parent



3 in 4 speak a language  
other than English





**62% of Hispanic  
children  
–11.1 million–  
live in or near poverty**



# The census is an important tool for determining federal funding of social programs



O'Hare, W. P. (2015). *The undercount of young children in the US Decennial Census*. Springer International Publishing.

# The undercount of young Latino children costs states money

# An accurate census is a fair census



# The Undercount of Young Latino Children

Young children had the **highest undercount** of any age group in the census.

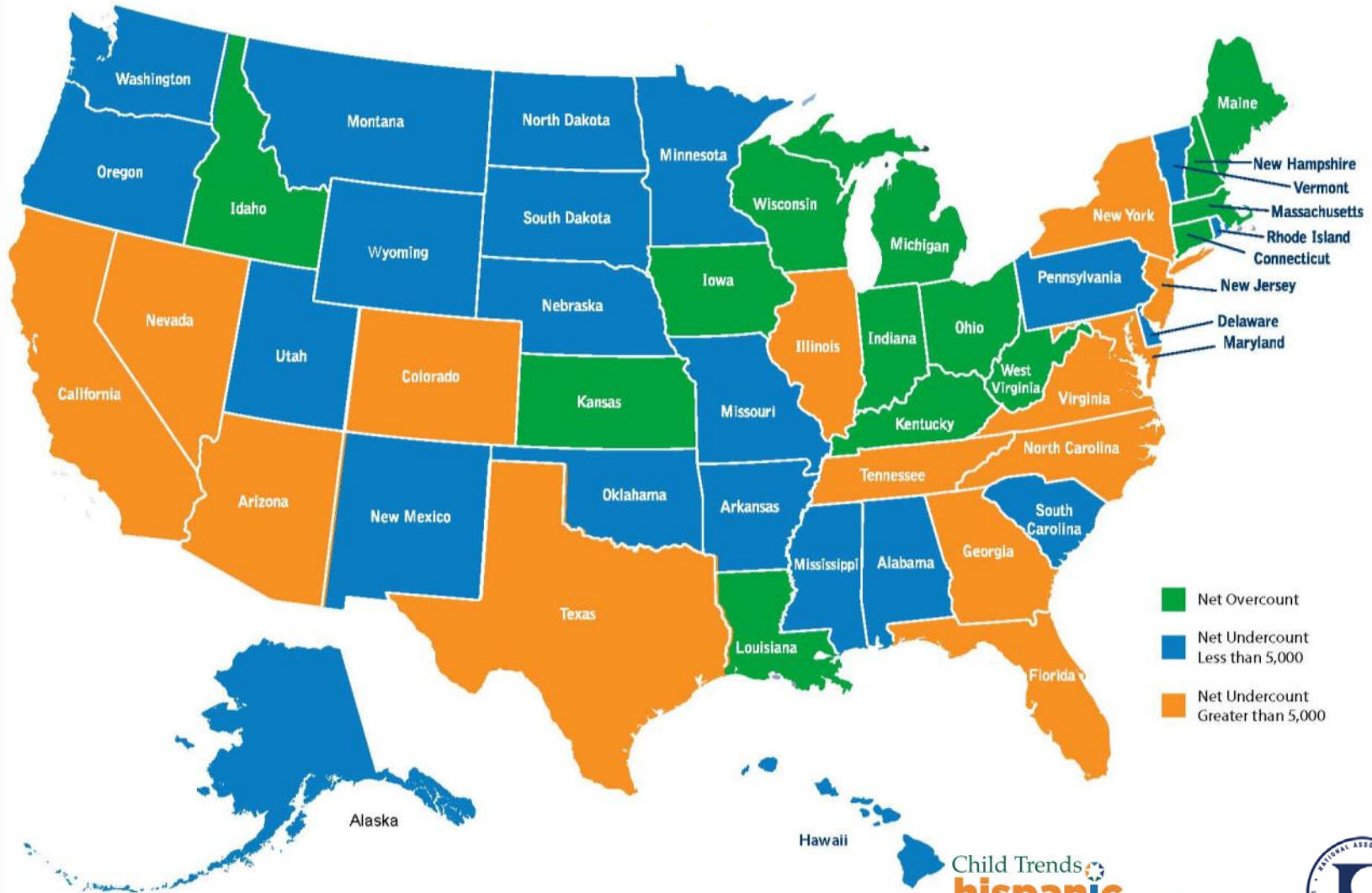
Net undercount of **400,000** young Latino children

This is a high undercount

- In 2010, the net undercount rate for young Latino was **7.1 percent**, compared to **4.3 percent** for non-Latinos.

O'Hare, W. P. (2015). *The undercount of young children in the US Decennial Census*. Springer International Publishing.

# The Undercount Varies Across States



# The Undercount is Concentrated in Just a Few States

72 percent  
of total

1. California (-113,000)
2. Texas (-75,000)
3. Florida (-44,000)
4. Arizona (-32,000)
5. New York (-21,000)
6. Georgia (-21,000)
7. Illinois (-12,000)
8. North Carolina (-9,000)
9. New Jersey (-9,000)
10. Colorado (-8,000)

88 percent  
of total

# Concentrated in few large counties

County (State)	Net Undercount
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

# The undercount is concentrated in a few large counties

- **92 percent** of the net undercount of Latinos ages 0 to 4 occurred in the **largest counties**
- The undercount rate in the **10 largest counties** was over 11 percent for young Latino children





# Why are Young Latino Children Undercounted?

- Young Latino children are more likely to live in “**hard-to-count**” areas.
- Young Latinos are more likely to live in **households and families with more complex living arrangements.**



# Why are Young Latino Children Undercounted?

- Some Latino respondents **may not realize** that children are meant to be included in the census.
- Some Latino respondents may be **fearful about responding** to the census.



## Summary

- There is a **high net undercount** of young children.
- Young Latino children have a **higher net undercount than other young children.**
- The undercount of young Latino children is **highly concentrated** in larger states and counties.
- We don't have a good understanding of **why** they are missed in the census.

# Next Steps



We need **more research**

- **Who** are the young Latino children not counted in the census, and **where** do they live?
- Do **Latino adults** think the Census Bureau does not want young children included in the census?

# We need to take action



## Begin research and outreach early.

- Many final decisions for Census 2020 must be made by 2018.
- Research can leverage and supplement work already underway at the Bureau.
- Bureau must identify potential partners and develop networks to reach target households.

# Action steps...



**Engage stakeholders** and ensure they understand consequences of the undercount.

- Relevant stakeholders include Census Bureau, Latino families, and policymakers.
- Make undercount issue a top priority for Bureau's communications plan contractors

# Action steps...



Use highly **targeted outreach**.

- Focus efforts on **nation's 25 largest counties**.
- Use ACS data to **update outreach targets**.
- **Identify all programs** which serve young Latino children (including preschools, health care providers).

# Action steps...



**Leverage** existing partnerships; **invest** in new ones.

- **Public assistance** programs.
- **Organizations** familiar with the needs of undercounted communities.
- Expand Bureau's reach in **schools**.
- **Bureau's Communications Campaign** must have specific messaging component to ensure Latino adults include young children in their responses.



# Accuracy Counts



- Latino children will be **one-third of the entire 0-4 population in the United States** within a few decades.
- An **accurate census count is a fair census count**, and a deposit on the future livelihood of our country.
- It is essential that we act to make the 2020 count an improvement over 2010.

# The Local View



**Rep. Lily Limón**  
City Representative  
El Paso, TX

**Questions?**  
**Thank you!**

[naleo.org](http://naleo.org)

[childtrends.org](http://childtrends.org)

