

THE CENSUS:

To Build a Healthier Nation, We Must Have a Fair Count.

What is the Census?

Every decade, the Census Bureau fulfills a constitutionally-mandated count of every person living in the United States. It is the largest peacetime mobilization undertaken by the federal government, culminating in data vital to U.S. social, political, and economic systems, with a particularly sweeping impact on the administration of, and advocacy for, healthcare. Every year, the Census Bureau also conducts the American Community Survey which samples the nation's population with more extensive questions to understand the education, health, housing, transportation, and other needs of communities.

Data derived from the Decennial Census and the ongoing American Community Survey form the statistical backbone for public health, hospitals, insurance, and dozens of federal and other government programs. This data is also an important tool for funder decision-making. For funders focused on health equity, quality data is needed to provide a better understanding of health disparities and the advancement of health equity goals.

Federal Funding Follows the Numbers...

Federal dollars are allocated to safety net programs, health equity efforts, program evaluation, and evidence-based policy making. When people are accurately counted, government funding is more effectively distributed and it is clear when more funding is needed for services. When communities are undercounted, the funds are diverted elsewhere.

PROGRAMS RELIANT ON CENSUS DATA INCLUDE:

- SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)
- CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM (CHIP)
- TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)
- TITLE X FAMILY PLANNING GRANTS
- TITLE V MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH BLOCK GRANTS
- SOCIAL SERVICE BLOCK GRANTS
- RURAL HEALTH PROGRAMS
- MEDICAID
- MEDICARE PART B
- INDEX OF MEDICAL UNDERSERVICE
- AND SO MANY MORE.

To learn more about the 338 federal programs using census data to direct more than \$2.1 trillion dollars, and to see the allocation broken down by state, click [HERE](#).

SPOTLIGHT: Kids Count

More than 1 million children ages 0-4 were not counted in the 2020 Census. Such a discrepancy means that vital programs designed to help our kids are reliant on inconclusive and inaccurate data.

Federal programs that target social determinants of health demand an accurate count. From Head Start to CHIP, TANF to SNAP, kids deserve a fair shot at accessing the programs designed to help them the most. That's why the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) commits resources to have a more fair and accurate census count.

See how your state fared in counting young children [HERE](#).



A HEALTH EQUITY CRISIS

We have one shot every ten years to get it right.

Historically marginalized communities, including rural communities, the elderly, people with disabilities, people living in poverty, children under 6, and particularly communities of color, are persistently and disproportionately undercounted in the census.

In addition to healthcare funding priorities, the census numbers are used to designate funding for roads and infrastructure improvements, free and reduced lunch programs, mitigating climate threats and environmental disasters, and early education opportunities like Head Start. Policy makers and businesses use census data to plan where to build critical community resources such as hospitals, parks, schools, senior centers, grocery stores, and more. Undercounted communities miss out on holistic wrap-around services and resources needed to achieve health equity.

Accurate data is needed to address racial equity and understand the civic health of the communities we serve. An improved count means improved access, improved resources, and is an imperative step towards achieving real health equity.

Together, We Can Achieve a More Accurate Count.

Philanthropy can't solve health inequities alone. A more accurate count will go a long way to leveling the playing field, ensuring a greater number of our most vulnerable communities are receiving their fair share of resources and funding they need most from government programs.

To achieve a fair count, we must support programs that promote a healthy, active civic life, and encourage census participation. The [CDC](#) features Civic Engagement as part of the Healthy People 2030 Plan. And leading organizations like [Grantmakers In Health](#) have made investing in the decennial census a Policy Priority.

To learn more about the ways your foundation and giving can support a more accurate census count, contact: info@censusequity.org.

FAIR MAPS START WITH A FAIR COUNT:

Non-Partisan Redistricting Advances Community Health Priorities.

Redistricting is the redrawing of electoral district maps every ten years to account for population shifts and growth during the previous decade, as defined by the Decennial Census. Redistricting provides an opportunity for communities to reduce gerrymandering that splits up communities with shared needs and interests, create maps that ensure their voices are heard, and level the playing field.

To learn more about Health Equity and Redistricting, contact info@fairredistricting.org.

