2020 Census: Counting the Central Valley

November 15, 2019

Joseph Hayes

Supported with funding from the California Community Foundation, the California Endowment, California Health Care Foundation, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, and Sunlight Giving.
Census Day is approaching. Where are we now?

- **February:** Group Quarters Operation begins
- **March:** Internet Self-Response begins
- **April 1:** Census Day
- **May:** Nonresponse Followup begins
- **December 31:** Deliver apportionment counts to the President

**Operation and Implementation Phase**

- **August:** Conduct in-field Address Canvassing
- **March 31:** Complete delivering Redistricting Summary Files to all states (P.L. 94-171)
The 2020 Census is critical to California

- Political representation and federal fund distribution—among other things—depend on an accurate count
- The 2020 Census faces new threats to accuracy
  - New enumeration methods
  - Climate of distrust
- Matters for the state overall, but particularly for key subgroups
  - Children
  - Some racial/ethnic groups
What’s at stake for California: Federal funding

- Education, $4.0 billion
- Health, $53.0 billion
- Nutrition, $10.2 billion
- Infrastructure, $3.2 billion
- Human Services, $1.8 billion
- Housing, $4.5 billion
- Human Services, $1.8 billion
- Infrastructure, $3.2 billion
What’s at stake for California: Political Representation
2020 Census Maps: California’s Hard-to-Count Communities

For census tracts, the maps show the share of households that are unlikely to respond to census forms and may need follow-up in order to be counted accurately, according to Census Bureau estimates. For counties and districts, the maps show the share of tracts where more than about 30% of households are unlikely to respond.

Sources: 2012-16 American Community Survey, 2018 Census Bureau Planning Database, Federal Communications Commission.


California faces numerous challenges to an accurate count in 2020

- Population: More than 75% belong to a hard-to-count group
  - Young children, young men, renters, and African American, Latino, or Native American residents

- Housing: Residents of nonstandard units
  - Exacerbated by state housing crisis

- Country of origin: Largest number and share of immigrants in US
  - Including unauthorized immigrants
  - And citizens (and citizen children) in mixed-status households
African Americans, Latinos, and Native Americans are typically undercounted in the decennial census. This metric shows the share of the population that belongs to one or more of these racial/ethnic groups. If trends continue, places with a greater share of residents in these groups may be less likely to be counted accurately.

Sources: 2012-16 American Community Survey, 2018 Census Bureau Planning Database, Federal Communications Commission.
Young children are typically undercounted in the decennial census. This metric shows the share of the population that is under five years old. If trends continue, places with a greater share of young children may be less likely to be counted accurately.

Sources: 2012-16 American Community Survey, 2018 Census Bureau Planning Database, Federal Communications Commission.
Renters are typically undercounted in the decennial census. Also, residents in overcrowded or "low visibility" housing—such as garages, trailers, or basements—are often missed. Areas with scores of 4 or 5 may face more challenges counting residents due to their housing conditions. The score is based on the area’s shares of rental units, overcrowded rental units, and mobile homes, relative to other parts of the state.

California is strongly supporting an accurate count

- $100 million in 2018-19; $50.4 million proposed for 2019-20
- Complete Count Committees at the state and county levels
- Community-based organizations also deeply involved
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Notes on the use of these slides

These slides were created to accompany a presentation. They do not include full documentation of sources, data samples, methods, and interpretations. To avoid misinterpretations, please contact:

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Thank you for your interest in this work.