



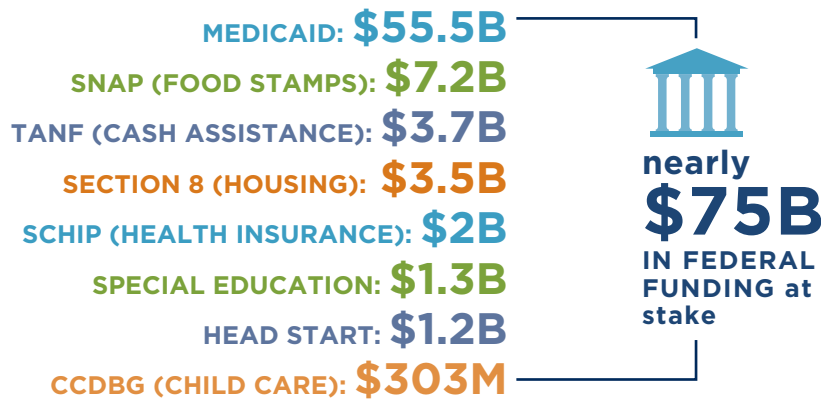
Census 2020: Making Sure Young Children are Counted

Census 2020 is ramping up, and we need to make sure everyone in our community is counted — especially young children. In the last census (2010), about five percent of children under age five weren't counted — approximately one million kids nationwide. California had the highest rate of undercount for young children in the entire country.

Children of color had higher rates of undercount than white children. Experts estimate that about 6.5 percent of young African-American and Latino children were overlooked by the 2010 Census, which is roughly twice the rate of young non-Latino white children.

The census count determines how much federal funding each state receives. **An undercount in 2020 could cost California more than \$3 billion in federally funded federal programs**, including those affecting young children, such as Medicaid, Head Start, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (food stamps).

Amount of federal funding the state receives annually for programs that affect kids



SOURCE: COUNTING FOR DOLLARS 2020: CALIFORNIA

An undercount in our county and state could mean fewer seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and electoral college, which are based on population.

What causes undercounting?

Some of the more common reasons that young children are undercounted include:

- Lack of parents' participation due to fear of data being shared — especially in immigrant communities
- Confusion over whether certain kids should be counted (e.g., kids who have split custody, newborns, kids living in a household who aren't related to the parents)
- Lack of participation in the census due to a belief it will take too long, and won't benefit the person taking it

Certain changes for the 2020 census could make the undercount worse, including:

- Collection will be mostly digital, and some low-income communities lack access to the Internet
- The possible addition of a question about citizenship status may increase fears of data being reported to immigration authorities
- Fewer resources for outreach than in 2010