



**CENSUS EDITION** 

# INTRODUCTION

This year marks the beginning of a new decade, and already changes are evident. The 2020 Census will be conducted April 1 of this year, and it will determine the level of support families receive over the next decade as they strive to raise the happiest, healthiest children they can. Because the amount of dollars Mississippi will receive for federal programs serving so many children and families in the state are based on census counts, we have devoted the 2020 MS KIDS COUNT Factbook entirely to the census. In doing so, we explore the demographic make-up of our child population, why young children are at risk of being undercounted, what's at stake for our state if we do not count all our children, and what we as residents of Mississippi can do to ensure all children and their families are counted. We also look at the current status of children's health, education, family and community life, and economic well-being in the state and how each of these areas could be impacted by census counts.

We want to extend our sincere thanks to Dr. John Green, Director of the Center for Population Studies and Professor of Sociology at the University of Mississippi, for writing our foreword. The State Data Center, a liaison between the state of Mississippi and the Census Bureau, is housed at the Center for Population Studies, and Dr. Green has been at the forefront of a number of census efforts as we approach the 2020 Census.

Other changes are upon us, as well. At MS KIDS COUNT, we are pleased to announce that we have a new home. As of January 1, 2020, the Children's Foundation of Mississippi (childrensfoundationms.org) became the new home of Mississippi KIDS COUNT. The Children's Foundation of Mississippi was established in August 2019 as an independent operating foundation focused on improving the policies and systems that affect the well-being of children in Mississippi. The Children's Foundation of Mississippi will continue to work closely with Mississippi State University's Social Science Research Center in producing the annual

Factbook, legislative calendar and special reports. This will combine the strengths of each entity to produce strategies that will improve outcomes on behalf of Mississippi's children.

The Children's Foundation of Mississippi will take on signature initiatives that have potential for major positive impact for Mississippi's children. One example is to create a blueprint for child well-being in Mississippi that articulates what Mississippi can do to address important children's issues. This will be based on input from a wide array of stakeholders across the state of Mississippi and research findings. Once established this will be used to determine short and longterm progress being made, similar to the ways that Mississippi KIDS COUNT monitors the well-being of Mississippi's children, and also include specific strategies (policies, programs that can be implemented on a local and state-level) to bolster positive outcomes. Another initiative is to work alongside existing efforts to facilitate a statewide system of early developmental screening, referral, linkage and follow-up to promote child well-being at an early age.

Our continued thanks to Mississippi State University's Social Science Research Center's Family and Children's Research Unit for being home to Mississippi KIDS COUNT since 2007, along with the support of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and the Phil Hardin Foundation for recognizing the need for the Children's Foundation of Mississippi and making this a reality.

Just as it is critically important that all children be counted for the census, we want to make sure that the work being done on behalf of children, families and communities also counts in a positive way!

H. Ran Linde V. Sithers

Heather L. Hanna, Ph.D. Linda H. Southward, Ph.D. Co-Directors, Mississippi KIDS COUNT

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# **FOREWORD**

#### BY John J. Green, Ph.D.

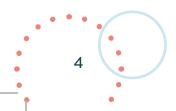
Over the course of my professional life I have been concerned with the intersection of applied population research and community development, especially how we can utilize data to inform how we provide for the livelihood needs of vulnerable groups. Children are of particular importance in this regard. Not only must they depend on the decisions made by adults, but their early experiences will have long lasting impacts on their lives, and as a result, their families and communities. Therefore, it is necessary for us to pay attention to children as a group, continuously asking questions about their characteristics, trends, and future prospects. Such data are critical to their wellbeing, and these indicators serve as important barometers for society more broadly. We need access to accurate, reliable, and authentic data to inform such efforts, and KIDS COUNT is one of the leading initiatives for bringing together publicly accessible, comparable, and reliable data from a variety of sources. The U.S. Census serves as the foundational source for many important statistics, and it informs other statistical sources, ranging from official population estimates to a variety of health, education, and economic rates.

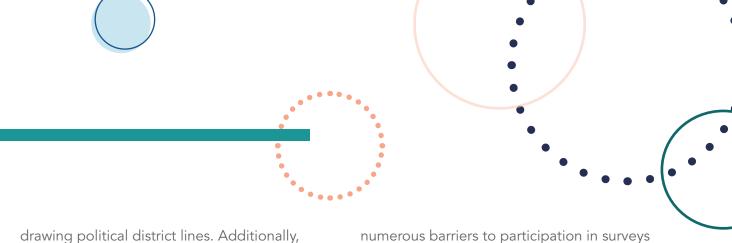
In reflecting on my experiences working with organizations that are trying to use data to inform decision-making, I have been impressed with people's level of inquisitiveness and desire to build knowledge to address needs in their communities. Still, I have often been dismayed by how data resources seem out of reach to them. A short story makes the point. I was working on a project with a group of adults and youth in making plans for school health councils.

Nearing the end of a participatory planning meeting, several of the students noted that while they have access to large amounts of information at the touch of a button on their smart phones, they were unclear about how to figure out the number of young people who lived in their town. Many of the adults did not have the answers either. As our discussion went on, it became clear that they were unaware that the data are publicly available and that the U.S. Census is of special importance.

Article 1, Section 2 of the U.S. Constitution requires a count of the population every ten years, and our country has been conducting a decennial census since 1790. The next census will take place in 2020 with the goal of counting every person in the right place by systematically using researchbased methods. This latter point should not be overlooked. Although we live in an increasingly data informed society, what some call the era of "big data," all data are not created equally. The U.S. Census, and other related efforts such as the American Community Survey and Current Population Survey, are designed using social science and statistical methods. Furthermore, it is our one attempt every ten years to make a complete count of the population. It provides the ability to look at the nation as a whole as well as focus in on states, counties, cities and towns, and even neighborhoods with comparable data.

Census data are used for many different efforts, with the primary purposes being apportionment of elected representatives for government leadership (the main reason for its inclusion in the Constitution) and





drawing political district lines. Additionally, and often overlooked, these data are used to determine the allocation and distribution of government funding. Analysts also use census data as the basis for many other population and economic statistics that inform public health programming, educational opportunities, and economic stimulus initiatives, just to name a few. Children and their families are influenced through all of these uses.

It would be difficult to overstate the importance of the decennial census and related data for resource allocation. For instance, analysis of the use of Census Bureau data (including the 2010 Census along with the American Community Survey, and other Bureau data products) to inform federal spending decisions in Fiscal Year 2015 was estimated at more than \$675 billion. While arguably all social, economic, and environmental programs and services can influence children's wellbeing, some are specifically intended for them. These include maternal-child health services, nutrition assistance programs, child welfare services, and education and special education initiatives.

There was wide variation in previous decennial census participation rates. This was demonstrated in the 2010 Census. Looking at mail self-response rates – an important indicator of active engagement with the census – there was variation in participation rates at the state and local levels.

Researchers have been trying to better understand why some populations are more difficult to count than others. There are numerous barriers to participation in surveys in general and censuses in particular. Some people have limited knowledge about the census, while others distrust the government and are concerned about the confidentiality of their information.

Furthermore, children are counted by adults, and numerous conditions influence the accuracy of their enumeration. The Census Bureau established the "Undercount of Young Children Research Team" to focus attention on challenges for counting children ages 0 to 4 in decennial censuses. Key findings from the group's 2019 report include that young children were at risk for coverage errors in the 2010 Census if they were from a minority racial group, were Hispanic, lived in a complex family arrangement, or lived in renter-occupied and/or multi-tenant housing.

The 2020 Census will be the first time that most people will have the opportunity to participate online, but there will also be options to complete a questionnaire over the phone or by mail. People who do not respond through those modes of communication will be contacted through in-person follow-ups. The goal is for as many people as possible to complete the questionnaire online, thereby making the process of data collection more efficient. Recognizing that some people are uncomfortable using a computer in this manner and that many communities and regions have limited access to broadband services, resources will be available to engage them in the process.

In all, the decennial census is of great importance to the wellbeing of children and families, and that is why we must be proactive in promoting, conducting outreach, and educating people about the 2020 Census. The State Data Centers, a network of organizations across the country working between their data users and the Census Bureau, are involved in this process. For example, our State Data Center of Mississippi and the broader Center for Population Studies in which it is housed has been working with the Southern Rural Development Center, Mississippi KIDS COUNT Program, and the U.S. Census Bureau to focus attention in areas where we think people are most likely to be undercounted in the 2020 Census. Using a combination of public presentations, discussions, and participatory workshops, we have been helping people to proactively engage with the issue of how to pursue accurate counts in their communities. Through KIDS COUNT, we constructed the "Mississippi YOU Count" initiative focused directly on the importance of accurately counting children in the 2020 Census.

There are numerous ways that people contribute to the 2020 Census. These include:

- Raising awareness by getting the word out about the census, including providing accurate information and hosting community-level events.
- Helping people to understand the 2020 Census through conversations in their extended families, houses of worship, civic organizations, and businesses.
- Participating in complete count committees to promote the 2020 Census and organizing events to help people overcome challenges that may keep them from participating.
- Completing the 2020 Census form.

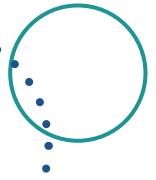
After the Census data are collected, lawmakers and a wide range of organizations will begin the process of calculating apportionments and drawing political district lines. Those are important processes, and the public should stay informed and engaged as

they are fundamental to the functioning of our democracy. Furthermore, as mentioned above, U.S. Census data will be used for much more, including decisions around allocation of resources. For those of us concerned with the wellbeing of children and families, it is imperative that we use the data to educate and inform how policies and programs are designed, implemented, and evaluated. If we are to achieve more children- and family-oriented development, we should keep in mind that U.S. Census Bureau data are provided for the public good, and the public can access them to inform the work of government at all levels along with nonprofit organizations and businesses. The KIDS COUNT Fact Book and the KIDS COUNT Data Center are useful resources. I hope you find this 2020 Mississippi KIDS COUNT Fact Book informative to your work.



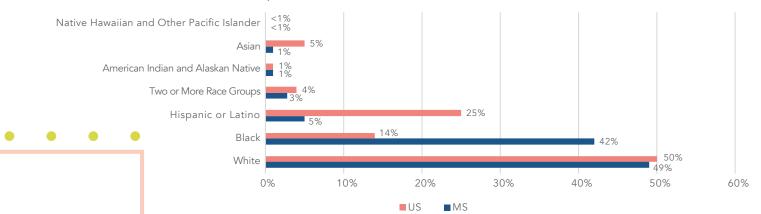
JOHN J. GREEN, PH.D

University of Mississippi Center for Population Studies & State Data Center of Mississippi



# CHILD DEMOGRAPHICS IN MISSISSIPPI

MISSISSIPPI'S CHILDREN, 20181

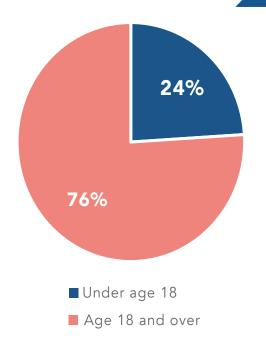


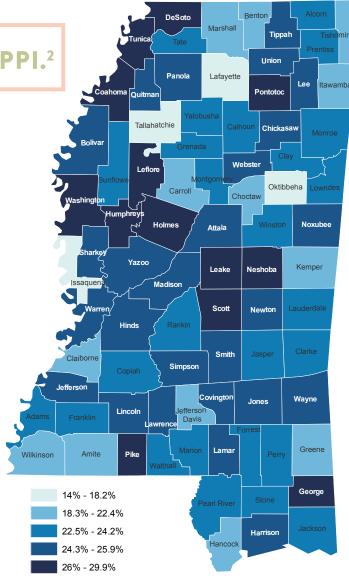
PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 BY COUNTY, 2013-2017<sup>2</sup>

706,141

CHILDREN LIVE IN MISSISSIPPI.2







# 16 KEY INDICATORS OF CHILD WELL-BEING BY DOMAIN<sup>3</sup>

The Annie E. Casey Foundation calculates an overall child well-being score for each state, using 16 measures across four domains: (1) economic well-being, (2) education, (3) health, and (4) family and community. The composite scores in each of these domains are then used to rank all 50 states relative to one another and to look at the well-being of children in the nation as a whole. Each state is given a rank for each domain as well as an overall rank. Differences in well-being occur from state to state, depending on access to specific resources. For example, when families have access to prenatal care, then birth outcomes improve. While Mississippi continues to be near last place in the nation for these indicators, our state's ranking has improved in education—from 48th in 2017 to 44th in both 2018 and 2019.<sup>4</sup>

MISSISSIPPI		NUMBER	PERCENT/RATE	RANK
ECONOMIC WELL-BEING				
Children in Poverty	2017	190,000	27%	
Children whose Parents Lack Secure Employment	2017	242,000	34%	47
Children Living in Households with a High Housing Cost Burden	2017	189,000	26%	
Teens Not in School and Not Working	2017	15,000	8%	
EDUCATION				
Young Children (Ages 3 and 4) Not in School	2015-17	36,000	47%	
Fourth-Graders Not Proficient in Reading	2017	N/A	<b>73</b> %	44
Eighth-Graders Not Proficient in Math	2017	N/A	<b>78</b> %	
High School Students Not Graduating on Time	2016-17	N/A	17%	
HEALTH				
Low Birth Weight Babies	2017	4,333	12%	
Children without Health Insurance	2017	37,000	5%	47
Child and Teen Deaths per 100,000	2017	303	40	
Teens who Abuse Alcohol or Drugs	2016-17	9,000	3%	
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY				
Children in Single-Parent Families	2017	305,000	46%	
Children in Families Where the Household Head Lacks a High School Dip	oloma <b>2017</b>	93,000	13%	49
Children Living in High Poverty Areas	2013-17	171,000	24%	
Teen Births per 1,000	2017	3,137	31	

### **OVERALL RANK AMONG STATES 48**

# MISSISSIPPI CAN IMPROVE THE WELL-BEING OF OUR STATE'S CHILDREN.

In order to provide high-quality, unbiased information that encourages action to improve child well-being, the Annie E. Casey Foundation has produced rankings of child well-being in each state for almost three decades. The rankings below rate ten southeastern states from 1st to 10th place on each indicator, with 1st being the best and 10th being the worst. Access to important health and well-being resources—such as child care, opportunities for higher education and employment, nutritious food, comfortable housing, health insurance and a trusted medical home—varies by where people live. If Mississippians' access to resources increased so that we could move to the number one ranking in the Southeast, our children would experience improved economic well-being, education, health, and family and community life.

#### **INDICATORS:**

III	COMPARED	THEN	NOW	CUDDENT	TO BE #1 IN
ECONOMIC WELL-BEING	COMPARED YEARS	THEN	NOW	CURRENT RANKING	SOUTHEAST
Percent of children in households that spend more than 30% of their income on housing	2010 & 2017	35%	26%	<b>4</b> <sup>TH</sup>	23%
Percent of children in poverty (income below \$24,339 for a family of two adults and two children in 2016)	2010 & 2017	33%	27%	9 <sup>™</sup>	20%
Percent of children living in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment	2010 & 2017	39%	33%	<b>7</b> <sup>TH</sup>	28%
Percent of teens ages 16 to 19 not attending school and not working	2010 & 2017	13%	10%	8 <sup>TH</sup>	7%
EDUCATION					
Percent of 4th graders who scored below proficient in reading	2009 & 2017	78%	73%	9 <sup>тн</sup>	59%
Percent of 8th graders who scored below proficient in math	2009 & 2017	85%	78%	8 <sup>TH</sup>	65%
Percent of young children not in school (including day cares and Head Starts)	(2010-2012) & (2015-2017)	48%	47%	1 <sup>ST</sup>	
Percent of high school students not graduating on time	(2010-2011) & (2016-2017)	31%	17%	6 <sup>™</sup>	10%
HEALTH					
Child and teen death rate (deaths per 100,000 children ages 1 to 19)	2010 & 2017	38	40	10 <sup>TH</sup>	27
Percent of low-birthweight babies	2010 & 2017	12.1%	11.6%	10 <sup>TH</sup>	8.8%
Percent of children without health insurance	2010 & 2017	9%	5%	6 <sup>™</sup>	3%
Percent of teens ages 12 to 17 who abused alcohol or drugs in the past year	(2010-2011) & (2016-2017)	6%	3%	1 <sup>ST</sup>	
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY					
Percent of children in families where the household head lacks a high school diploma	2010 & 2017	17%	13%	6 <sup>TH</sup>	11%
Percent of children in single-parent families	2010 & 2017	46%	46%	10 <sup>TH</sup>	35%
Percent of children living in high-poverty areas (census tracts with poverty rates $\geq$ 30%)	(2008-2012) & (2013-2017)	28%	24%	10 <sup>TH</sup>	11%
Teen birth rate (births per 1,000 females ages 15 to 19)	2010 & 2017	55	31	9 <sup>TH</sup>	18

# FUNDING FOR VITAL COMMUNITY PROGRAMS ARE BASED ON CENSUS COUNTS.



Roads, Highways, and Bridges



Police and Fire Departments



Hospitals and Health Insurance



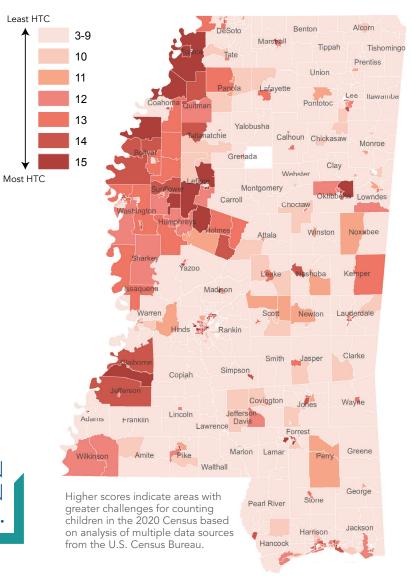
Education
(i.e. Head Start,
Schools)



Nutrition Programs (i.e. WIC)

- Every 10 years, the government counts all people living in the U.S.
- These counts are used to determine Mississippi's representation in Congress, as well as governmental policies and programs.
- The next census will occur April 1, 2020, and people can participate online or by telephone, mail, or an in-person enumerator.
- The questionnaire asks about 10 questions related to age, sex, race, ethnicity, relationship to householder, and housing.
- Under Title 13, U.S. Code, the U.S. Census Bureau is legally required to keep individual information confidential.
- No personal information provided in response to the census will be shared with other government agencies.
- Young children are one of the groups likely to be undercounted.

## AREAS WHERE CHILDREN ARE HARDEST TO COUNT (HTC) IN MISSISSIPPI<sup>1</sup>



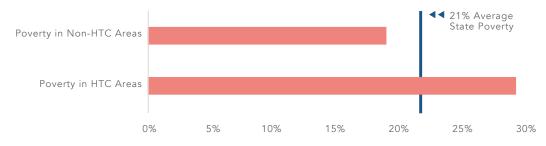
COUNTING EVERYONE IN OUR COMMUNITIES IS AN INVESTMENT IN OUR FUTURE.

Content on this page is from Center for Population Studies at University of Mississippi, drawing on information and data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

# WHO IS AT RISK OF BEING UNDERCOUNTED?

Accurate census results depend on each person in the United States being counted once, where they live April 1. In 2010, 73% of Mississippians participated in the census. Twenty seven percent of Mississippi's neighborhoods are in "hard to count" areas. A "hard to count" area is one in which 73% or fewer of households participated in the 2010 Census.

#### PEOPLE IN HARD TO COUNT (HTC) AREAS OF MISSISSIPPI HAVE HIGHER RATES OF POVERTY.<sup>4</sup>



Inequitable access to resources affects outcomes in Mississippi's communities. Mississippi's hardest to count communities are those with large minority populations, high poverty rates, high numbers of renters, rural areas, and areas with limited Internet access.<sup>5</sup>

831,129

CHILDREN AND ADULTS WHO LIVE IN HARD TO COUNT AREAS IN MS<sup>10</sup>

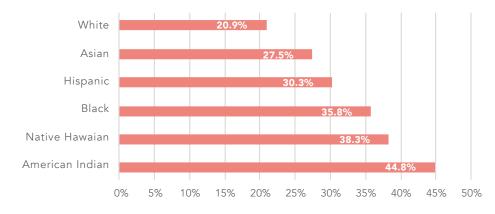
27.8%

53,488

CHILDREN UNDER AGE 5 WHO LIVE IN HARD TO COUNT AREAS IN MS<sup>10</sup>

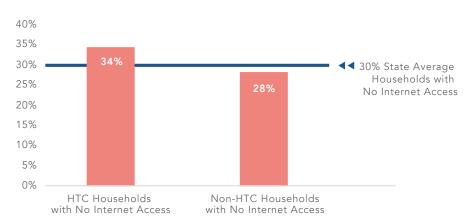
28.0%

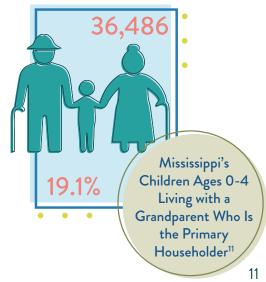
#### SOME RACIAL/ETHNIC GROUPS ARE MORE LIKELY TO RESIDE IN HTC AREAS.6



Young children ages 5 and under are typically undercounted in the census. Some reasons for this are that young children are more likely to live in families with single parents living in poverty, who move frequently, who live in rental homes, and with adults other than parents. It's important to count young children in every household so that high-quality early childhood services are fully funded, which can lead to better education and economic outcomes in Mississippi.

#### PEOPLE IN HARD TO COUNT AREAS OF MISSISSIPPI ARE LESS LIKELY TO HAVE INTERNET ACCESS.<sup>9</sup>





### WHAT'S AT STAKE FOR MISSISSIPPI?

CHILDREN 0-5

#### THE 2010 CENSUS<sup>1</sup>

should have counted 13,767 additional children under age 5.

> **OUR UNDERCOUNT** HAS COST US...



\$13,959,738

#### **EVERY YEAR**

in funding from just five of the many federally funded programs for children and families.\*

\*Medicaid, State Children's Health Insurance Program, Title IV-E Foster Care, Title IV-E Adoption Assistance, and Child Care & Development Fund

#### THESE TEN CHILD-FOCUSED (AGE 18 AND UNDER) PROGRAMS COULD LOSE OVER \$20 MILLION WITH A 1% CHILD UNDERCOUNT.2

Medical Assistance Program (Medicaid) (Children's Portion Only)

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (Children's Portion Only)

Title I Grants to Local Education Agencies

National School Lunch Program

Special Education Grants (IDEA)

State Children's Health Insurance Program (S-SCHIP)

Head Start/ Early Head Start

Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)

Foster Care (Title IV-E)

Child Care and Development Fund- Entitlement

**FUNDING RECEIVED IN 2015** \$23,402,000

\$601,661,097 \$403,185,656 \$189,402,568 \$169,323,740 \$118,407,033 \$226,177,000 \$199,449,831 \$82,965,010 \$22,160,000

POTENTIAL DOLLARS LOST TO 1% CHILD POPULATION UNDERCOUNT

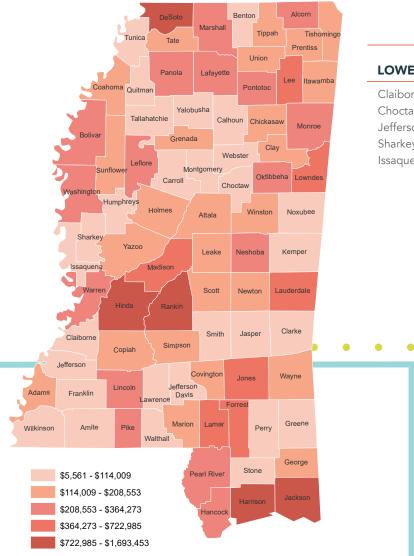
\$6,016,611 \$4,031,857 \$1,894,026 \$1,693,237 \$1,184,070 \$2,261,770 \$1,994,498 \$829,650 \$221,600 \$234,020

State Totals \$2,036,133,935 \$20,361,339

**MISSISSIPPI** 

### HOW MUCH FUNDING COULD EACH COUNTY LOSE IF 1% OF CHILDREN ARE NOT COUNTED IN THE 2020 CENSUS?

#### MISSISSIPPI STANDS TO LOSE AN AVERAGE OF \$2,780 PER CHILD.<sup>2</sup>



Data collected from the census is used to determine funding for programs both nationally and locally. Without accurate reporting, many of Mississippi's counties will lose vital funding for programs that families and children depend on. Even if only 1% of children in Mississippi are undercounted in the 2020 Census, each county could lose between \$5,561 to about \$1.7 million each year.<sup>2</sup> With an accurate count, these funds could provide more access to early education, services for children in foster care, access to medical care, and more.

HIGHEST	DOLLARS TO BE AFFECTED
Hinds County	\$1,693,453
Harrison County	\$1,343,083
DeSoto County	\$1,270,785
Rankin County	\$1,006,617
Jackson County	\$951,003

LOWEST	BE AFFECTED
Claiborne County	\$55,614
Choctaw, Benton, Franklin, and Quitman Counties	\$52,834
Jefferson County	\$50,053
Sharkey County	\$30,588
Issaquena County	\$5,561

66

undercounted group in the census. They are also the target group for many federal funds flowing into the state. Getting that number right is essential. Not only are federal funds tied to the count, but an accurate count is necessary to understanding current socioeconomic conditions. If we don't know where we are, we can't get where we want to be.

Dr. Darrin Webb, State Economist for Mississippi

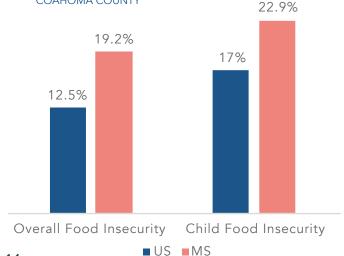
### **ECONOMIC WELL-BEING**

Of those living in poverty in Mississippi in 2017, children made up the highest percentage at 27.6%.¹ Funding for programs that support the well-being of children who live in poverty is essential for Mississippi to thrive. Making sure that young children in Mississippi are counted in the census is essential to securing funding for these vital community programs.

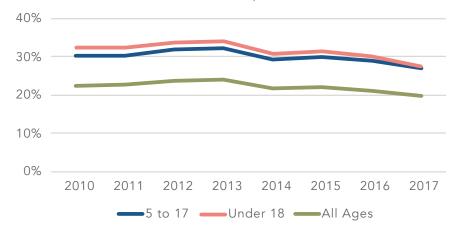
In 2008, 48% of Black children's parents did not have secure employment, while the same was true for 24% of White children's parents. In 2017, that number was the same for White children's parents, while 46% of Black children's parents were not securely employed. Funding for services that increase access to regular, full-time employment—such as public transportation and affordable child care—can reduce conditions of poverty.

OF THE TOP TEN FOOD INSECURE COUNTIES IN THE NATION, SEVEN ARE IN MISSISSIPPI.

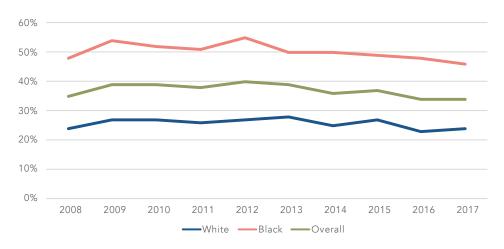
JEFFERSON COUNTY
HOLMES COUNTY
CLAIBORNE COUNTY
ISSAQUENA COUNTY
HUMPHREYS COUNTY
LEFLORE COUNTY
COAHOMA COUNTY



POVERTY BY AGE IN MS, 2010-20171



CHILDREN WHOSE PARENTS LACK SECURE EMPLOYMENT BY RACE IN MS, 2008-2017<sup>2</sup>

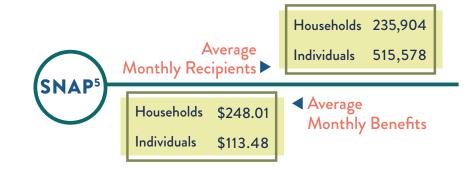


#### FOOD INSECURITY, 2017<sup>3</sup>

In 2017, 22.9% of Mississippi's children were food insecure, which means that they lack access to enough or nutritionally adequate food. Children who experience food insecurity have increased chances of developmental delays, low academic performance, poor physical and mental health, and low birthweight. A higher percentage of Mississippi's children experience food insecurity than in the nation as a whole (17%). Counting each of Mississippi's children in the census will help ensure that more children have access to nutritious food, which will improve their ability to focus and perform better in school.

# ECONOMIC-WELL BEING PROGRAMS AFFECTED BY CENSUS

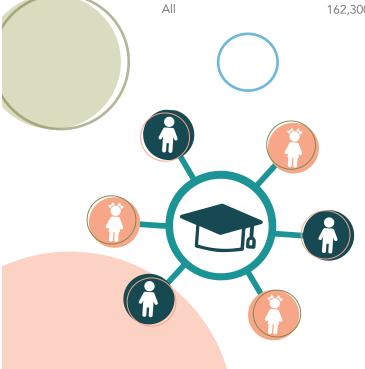
**SNAP** (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) helps Mississippians who experience food insecurity meet nutritional needs by providing monthly benefits to purchase food. According to the United States Census Bureau, SNAP decreased the child poverty rate in Mississippi by 3.4% from 2016 to 2018. This is the third highest impact of SNAP on a state's child poverty level nationwide.<sup>4</sup> On average 515,578 people in 235,904 households receive SNAP benefits each year in Mississippi.<sup>5</sup>



**WIC** (Women, Infants, and Children's Nutrition Program) provides a monthly package of nutritious foods, along with information on healthy eating, to income-eligible pregnant and breastfeeding mothers, infants, and children up to 5 years of age. In 2016, of Mississippi's 129,400 infants and children under age 5 who were income-eligible to receive healthy food from WIC, 63,600 were enrolled.<sup>6</sup>

#### WIC PROGRAM COVERAGE RATES IN MS, 2016<sup>6</sup>

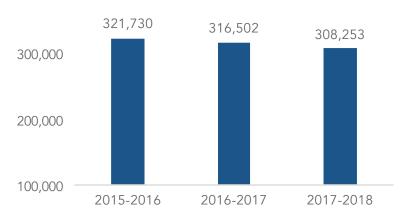
	ELIGIBLES	<b>PARTICIPANTS</b>	COVERAGE RATE
Infants	26,600	24,700	92.80%
Children	102,800	38,900	37.90%
Women	32,900	20,400	61.90%
All	162,300	84,000	51.70%



**NSLP** (National School Lunch Program) provides funding for lunch, breakfast, snacks, and summer meals that feature fresh fruits and vegetables for income-eligible students enrolled in Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) accredited schools and licensed child care centers. These meals are provided for students at no cost or a reduced cost, depending on their families' income eligibility. During the 2017-2018 school year, about 308,253 students (64.5%) at MDE-accredited schools received meals from this program, compared with 65.6% and 66.1% during the 2016-2017 and 2015-2016 school years, respectively.<sup>7</sup>

## STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN NSLP IN MS, 2015-2018<sup>7</sup>

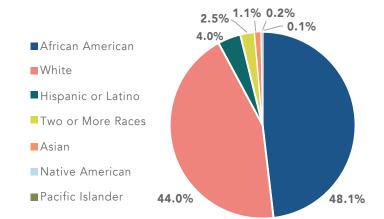
400,000



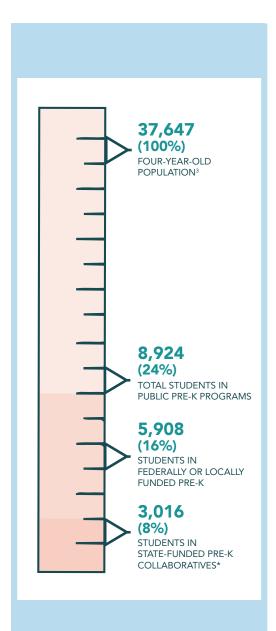
### **EDUCATION**

#### STUDENTS ENROLLED IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS BY RACE AND ETHNICITY IN MS, 2018-2019<sup>1</sup>

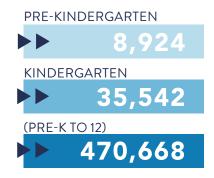
While most school-aged children in Mississippi are White, the chart on the right shows that that highest percentage of students enrolled in public school (Pre-K-12) are Black.



#### FOUR-YEAR-OLD STUDENTS ENROLLED IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN MS, 2019-2020<sup>2</sup>



According to the United States Census Bureau, there are approximately 37,647 4-year-old children in Mississippi. Of these 4 year olds, approximately 8,924, or 24%, are enrolled in public Pre-K programs. Of Pre-K students in Mississippi, 3,016, or 8% of 4 year olds in the state, are enrolled in state-funded Pre-K collaboratives. Mississippi's state-funded Early Learning Collaboratives, comprised of school districts, Head Starts, child care centers, and private non-profit preschools, have been recognized by the National Institute of Early Education Research (NIEER) for meeting the majority of early childhood education quality standards. At the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year, there were 18 Early Learning Collaboratives, comprising 177 classrooms, serving 19 of Mississippi's 82 counties.<sup>2</sup>

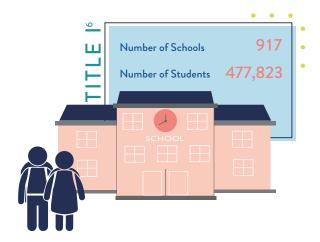


Kindergarten readiness not only means that children have the skills, knowledge, and attitudes necessary to succeed in school but that schools are prepared to meet children's various learning needs.<sup>4</sup> The skills that children develop in early education programs weave together like the strands of a rope to form strong bonds that they need to succeed in kindergarten and beyond. The lifelong benefits of high-quality early education can include reduced use of welfare support, increased levels of higher education and workforce attendance, and more benefits—both for individuals and for states.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>\*</sup>Based on the number of Early Learning Collaborative students taking the Fall 2019 Pre-K Readiness Assessment

## EDUCATION PROGRAMS AFFECTED BY CENSUS

**TITLE I** funds provide financial assistance for public schools, including preschools, with the highest percentages of children from low-income families to spend on schoolwide programs with the goal of improving student performance. Public schools with poverty rates of at least 40% may use Title I and other funds to start schoolwide programs that aim to improve student achievement and support parent and family engagement. During the 2017-2018 school year, about 477,823 students in Mississippi were enrolled in schools that received Title I grants.<sup>6</sup>



**THE MISSISSIPPI HEAD START ASSOCIATION** provides children and families with education and health services. Children from birth to age 5 who are income-eligible, homeless, in foster care, or receive public assistance are eligible to participate in Head Start and Early Head Start. In 2019, 87% of Mississippi's eligible children aged 3-5 years had access to Head Start, and 11% of eligible children under 3 years old had access to Early Head Start programs.<sup>8</sup>

21,103

Head Start (HS) Slots Were Funded



87% of eligible children ages 3-5 in MS had access to HS.

2,843

Early Head Start (EHS)
Slots Were Funded



11% of eligible children under 3 in MS had access to EHS.

69,432

STUDENTS RECEIVED SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES IN THE 2018-2019 SCHOOL YEAR?

special education services to children ages 3-21 or until they graduate high school. During the 2018-2019 school year, IDEA funding was used to provide special education services to 8,261 students aged 3-5 and 61,171 students aged in Individual special education services to children ages 3-21 or until they graduate high school. During the 2018-2019 school year, IDEA funding was used to provide special education services to 8,261 students aged 3-5 and 61,171 students aged 6-21 in Mississippi.9

"To ensure equity in education, every child in Mississippi deserves to be included in the 2020 census count. Behind every data point is a face, and those faces represent the needs of our children. From birth to adulthood, every child matters."

Carey M. Wright, Ed.D.
State Superintendent of Education

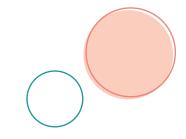
From
BIRTH to
adulthood,
EVERY child
matters

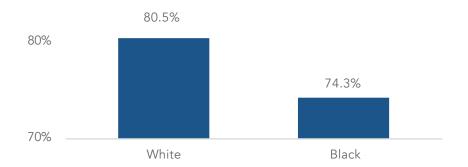
### **HEALTH**

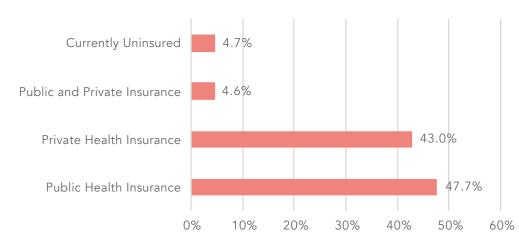
According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), preventive care includes health services that could help prevent, detect, and treat illnesses, disease, and other health issues in the earliest stages.<sup>2</sup> Developmental monitoring allows for early treatment for serious health and developmental issues through screenings, physical exams, vaccines, obesity and high blood pressure screenings. More preventive types of healthcare could be cost beneficial to both families and the state of Mississippi throughout the years. Preventive health services are covered by many insurance plans.<sup>3</sup>

# PREVENTIVE CARE VISITS BY RACE IN MS, 2016-2017<sup>1</sup>

90%







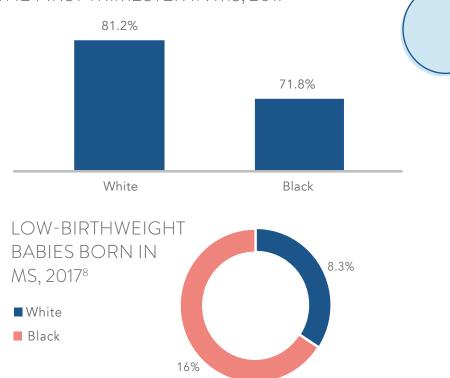
#### HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE IN MS, 2016-2017<sup>4</sup>

In 2017, about 5% of children from birth to age 18 were not covered by health insurance in Mississippi.<sup>5</sup> Of Mississippi's children who were covered by some type of insurance in 2017, the highest percentage were covered by public health insurance (about 48%).<sup>6</sup>

#### PRENATAL CARE ACCESS DURING THE FIRST TRIMESTER IN MS, 20177

More White mothers receive prenatal care during their first trimester in Mississippi than Black mothers. Prenatal care can have a significant impact on the health and wellness of both babies and mothers.<sup>9</sup>

Newborns typically weigh around 8 pounds. Babies weighing less than 5 pounds, 8 ounces are considered low birthweight. Although some low-birthweight babies are healthy, some experience health complications like breathing or digestive problems. Those with very low birth weights are at increased risk for developmental delays. The best way to prevent low-birthweight babies is to receive regular prenatal care. <sup>10</sup> In Mississippi, more Black babies are born with low birthweight than White babies, which can be linked to access to prenatal care.



## HEALTH PROGRAMS AFFECTED BY CENSUS

#### THE MISSISSIPPI DIVISION OF MEDICAID

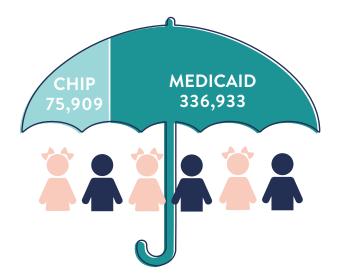
provides quality health coverage to qualifying Mississippians. Eligibility to receive Medicaid is based on family size and income. Children enrolled in Medicaid can access comprehensive and preventive health care services through Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT). This program provides opportunities for children to get regular checks on their health and ensures that concerns are assessed and identified early through the use of formal screenings, that further diagnostic tests are conducted when risks are identified, and that supports and services are implemented to address these risks. In 2017, about 69% of Mississippi's eligible children aged 5 years and under received at least one service from EPSDT.<sup>11</sup>

Mississippi children aged 0-5 eligible for EPSDT services in 2017<sup>11</sup>

**143,018** 

Mississippi children aged 0-5 who received at least one EPSDT service in 2017<sup>11</sup>

98,758 69%



ALL MISSISSIPPI CHILDREN ENROLLED, JULY 2019<sup>12</sup>

MISSISSIPPI'S CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM (CHIP) provides health coverage for uninsured children who are not covered by Medicaid. Eligibility to receive CHIP is based on family size and income and has a slightly higher income per child limit than Medicaid.<sup>12</sup>

Unfortunately, not just the general public, but also Mississippi health care professionals do not understand the critical importance of a complete and accurate 2020 Census count relative to vital funding of programs that support the health and well-being of Mississippi children. We must all get serious about the census count and its importance for our children.

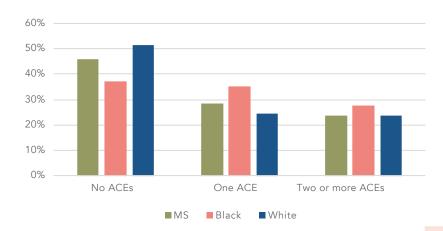
Dr. J. Edward Hill, MD Retired Family Physician and Former President of the American Medical Association

### **FAMILY & COMMUNITY**

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) include events like violence, abuse, neglect, and loss of a family member. Events like these that occur during childhood can be traumatic. ACEs have been linked to risky behaviors and chronic health conditions that can last into adulthood. In Mississippi and in the United States as a whole, Black children experience ACEs more often than White children. Disparity in experiencing ACEs can be attributed to many factors, such as access to resources like nutritious food, preventive health care, child care and more.<sup>2</sup>

Comprehensive early childhood programs, including services for pregnant mothers, high-quality early education, and wraparound family services can help reduce excessive or prolonged stress known as toxic stress and can benefit families, communities, and society. Ensuring that Mississippians have access to affordable child care can increase the number of families who are able to provide safe and supportive environments for their children.

ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES BY RACE IN MS, 2016-2017'



CHILDREN LIVING IN SINGLE-PARENT FAMILIES BY COUNTY IN MS, 2013-2017<sup>3</sup>

DeSoto

Tippah

Union

Pontotoo

Tishomingo

Itawamba

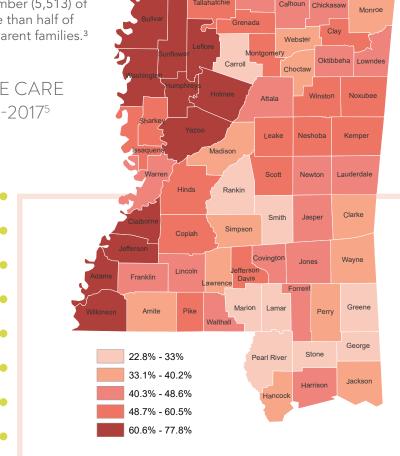
Prentiss

Children who live in family structures other than two-parent homes, like those who live in the care of grandparents, with a single parent, and/or with other relatives, are more likely to be missed from census reporting, as respondents may be unsure of which caregiver will include these young children as household residents.<sup>4</sup> In Mississippi, Hinds County has the highest number (5,513) of children living in the care of grandparents. More than half of children in Hinds County (58.5%) live in single-parent families.<sup>3</sup>

CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18 IN THE CARE OF GRANDPARENTS IN MS, 2013-2017<sup>5</sup>

HIGHEST	NUMBER
Hinds County	5,513
Harrison County	3,056
Jackson County	2,764
DeSoto County	2,285
Jones County	1,889

NUMBER
116
114
94
92
32



## FAMILY & COMMUNITY PROGRAMS AFFECTED BY CENSUS

As of May 2019, **FOSTER CARE TITLE IV-E**, which can be used for foster care, adoption, and supports for youth transitioning to adulthood, was the largest federal funding source for Mississippi.<sup>6</sup> In May 2019, 4,707 of Mississippi's children were in foster care, and there were 2,578 licensed foster homes in the state.<sup>7</sup>



**RELATIVE HOMES**<sup>7</sup>

▶ ▶ 917

**NON-RELATIVE HOMES**<sup>7</sup>

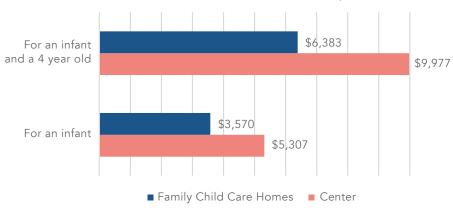
**1,661** 

CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE<sup>7</sup>:

**▶ ▶ 4,707** 

A portion of the **CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND** is used for Mississippi's Child Care Payment Program, which provides monetary assistance to income-eligible families for child care. States can choose what percentage of child care costs its base payment rates will cover. In June 2018, Mississippi raised its coverage to 75% of 2016 market rates. In February 2018, 16,103 Mississippi families were on the Child Care Payment Program waiting list. These families received child care assistance by October 2018. The cost of child care differs depending on whether children receive care from a center or from a family day care provider. While family child care homes are less expensive than child care centers, many family day cares' health and safety standards are not inspected or licensed by state regulators. 10

#### ANNUAL COST OF CHILD CARE IN MS, 2018<sup>11</sup>



Mississippi's single parents PAY 27.8% OF THEIR INCOME for one child in center-based care. 66

Ensuring that all of Mississippi's children are counted for the census is incredibly important. Not being counted limits the amount of much needed resources to communities to ensure that children have the building blocks to support a bright future. Making sure that Mississippi's children are counted for the census is a responsibility that we should all take on as a civic responsibility to build a Mississippi that values all of Mississippi's children.

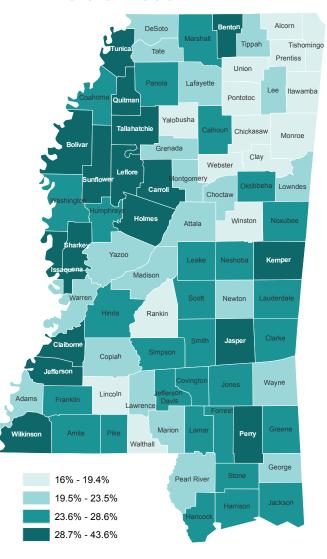
Dr. Corey Wiggins, Executive Director, MS State Conference NAACP

# WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PROMOTE AN ACCURATE COUNT?

**YOU** can help Mississippians count in the Census! Here's how:

- Talk with families and community members about how the census count affects funding for vital programs and services in local communities.
- Share information about the importance of counting young children in the census with community programs that serve families with infants and young children.
- Spread the word about Internet access in your community. Does your local library have computers for free use? Let people know where and how they can complete the census.
- Inform new and expecting parents that counting babies matters and that their child can be included in the census, even if they are still in the hospital on April 1.1
- Join a Community Complete Count Committee (CCC), a group of local government officials and leaders of education, healthcare, business, and other organizations who raise awareness about the importance of participating in the census through media and events in your area.<sup>2</sup>
- Work with local community outreach programs to encourage participation in the census in local gathering places, such as grocery stores, places of worship, laundromats, and restaurants.
- Let families know that the census is available in many languages and that federal law prohibits census responses from being shared with other government agencies outside the Census Bureau.<sup>3</sup>
- Share information in your community about local jobs with the Census Bureau. Visit www.census.gov/fieldjobs.
- Participate in the census. Make sure you count everyone in your household according to the census directions (www.census.gov) on April 1!

PERCENTAGES OF MISSISSIPPIANS BY COUNTY WHO DID NOT RETURN THE 2010 CENSUS BY MAIL<sup>4</sup>



#### TIMELINE OF THE 2020 CENSUS<sup>10</sup>

2019

Census
Partnership

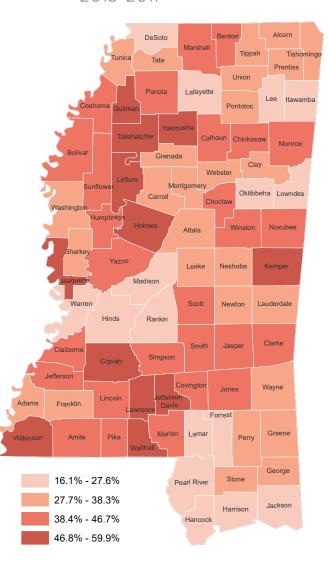
Complete Count Committees are established Census takers update address list in person Remaining 248 area census offices open Advertising begins in

### **YOUR** organization can help Mississippians count in the census! Here's how:

- Provide information about the census and Internet access to complete the census.
- Host workshops to promote awareness about the importance of the census.<sup>6</sup>
- Host town halls with legislators focusing on the undercount of young children in the census.
- Host speakers at schools and parent groups discussing the importance of counting children in the census.
- Incorporate environmental prompts on billboards, posters, signs, etc. providing information about the census and the importance of completing it.
- Create and promote news articles providing information about the census.<sup>7</sup>
- Promote information to reassure community members that the information that they provide on the census will be kept confidential and that they will not be asked about their citizenship.<sup>8</sup>
- Promote campaigns that provide information about the census in multiple languages. For example, ¡Hazme Contar! is a national campaign focusing on making sure young Latinx children are counted in the census. Find more information at hagasecontar.org.9

MISSISSIPPI AVERAGE 30.7%

# MISSISSIPPIANS WITHOUT BROADBAND ACCESS, 2013-2017<sup>5</sup>



March 12-20 invitation to espond online to

**CENSUS DAY** APRIL 1, 2020

Census takers visit households that haven't responded

counts for House of Representatives sent to U.S. president by

Redistricting counts sent to the states by March 31, 2021

# GET INVOLVED WITH 2020 CENSUS COMPLETE COUNT COMMITTEES IN MISSISSIPPI!<sup>11</sup>

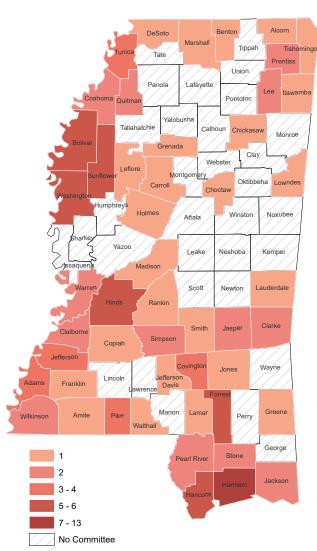
Mississippi has 123 local 2020 Census Complete Count Committees and one state 2020 Census Complete Count Committee. More committees are formed in Mississippi every day. Even if you don't see a committee on the map in your county, there may be one in your county by now!

You can also find information online; this website features an interactive map you can use to find contact info for each of Mississippi's state and local 2020 Census Complete Count Committees: https://www.census.gov/2020ccc

#### 2020 CENSUS COMPLETE COUNT COMMITTEES IN MS (JULY 11, 2019)<sup>11</sup>

#### Marshall Tippah Tishoming Tate Panola Lee Itawamb Pontotoc Tallahatchie Calhoun Bolivar 7 Clay Leflore Oktibbeha Lownde Holmes Winston Noxubee Leake Neshoba Scott Lauderdale Newton Clarke Jasper Smith Simpson Copiah Franklin Marion Walthall George No Committee

#### 2020 CENSUS COMPLETE COUNT COMMITTEES IN MS (NOVEMBER 3, 2019)<sup>11</sup>



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