

It's time. Make yourself count.

Census 2010



How to Count Kids 0-5 in the Census

Being counted in the 2010 census is important to the future of every baby and preschooler.

Information gathered in the census is used to help distribute more than \$400 billion every year in federal funding, and much of that money goes to programs that help children and their families. Every child who is counted helps deliver more than \$14,000 in federal funding on average to the community on average over 10 years. State and local governments also use census figures to make decisions about where to build schools, child care centers, and health clinics.

Children, who must depend on adults who fill out the census forms, historically have been undercounted. And that hurts. A newborn baby who is missed in the 2010 census will be at a disadvantage until he or she is in fifth grade, and so will his or her classmates.

Which children should I include on my census form?

Make sure that all children normally living with you are included on the census questionnaire that is filled out for your household – including newborns. This is true whether they are your children, your grandchildren, or even unrelated to you.

Even children who are only living in your household temporarily – such as foster children -- should be included on your census form if that's where they are regularly sleeping as of April 1, 2010.

How should babies be reported on the census form?

Any baby living in your household should be counted. Use "0" to report the age of any child under one year old.

If you're pregnant when you receive your questionnaire in March, and you expect your baby to be born on or before April 1, include your baby on your household's form. If you aren't sure that your baby will be born by April 1, you can wait until that day to fill out and mail back your form.

What if I have shared custody of my children or they spend some time living with relatives?

Some children live in more than one place due to shared custody or other arrangements. Count any child who stays at your address more than they do anywhere else. If children divide their time equally among more than one home, they should be included on the form completed at the home where they are staying on April 1, 2010.

A child who isn't related to us sometimes stays with us. Should we count him or her?

Every child living in a household should be included on the census form, whether or not they are related to anyone in the household. *This includes foster children.* You should include on your household census form any child who meets **any one** of these conditions:

- Lives or stays at the household most of the time; OR
- Stayed at the household on April 1, 2010, and had no other permanent place to live; OR
- Stays at the household more time than any other place they might live or stay.

Do not include a child who is just visiting on vacation.

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What if my household has more children than spaces on the questionnaire?

The 2010 census questionnaire asks several questions for up to six people in each household (eight people on bilingual English-Spanish questionnaires). But it also includes space to list the names and ages for six additional people. Be sure to list every person, including every child, regularly living in the household.