

NATIONAL URBAN LEAGUE'S STATE OF THE 2020 CENSUS: AN ACCURATE BLACK COUNT AT RISK

Executive Summary

Mandated by the U.S. Constitution, a national census is conducted every ten years to provide an understanding of the United States population. The census is far more than a simple head count. It is a snapshot of America that determines how congressional seats are apportioned, how state and federal dollars are distributed, where businesses choose to locate and build new stores, where hospitals are located and so much more. In addition, the census count is essential to the monitoring and enforcement of civil rights laws governing voting, fair housing, education and other protections. For this to happen properly, the census count must be accurate and consistent *across all populations*, with minimal differential variations across racial and ethnic make-up, socioeconomic or other demographic indicators.

A census undercount of *any* population in the U.S. would have far-reaching implications. For Black populations, the consequences would be devastating, particularly in the aftermath of COVID-19 which has exposed deep systemic and underlying economic, wealth and health disparities within African American communities. Similarly, as racially-motivated police brutality in the Black community continues with deadly effect, an accurate census count helps ensure fair political representation and federal funding to address these concerns.

The purpose of this *State of the 2020 Census* report is to “sound the alarm” about the current status of the Black census count. Over the past three months of 2020 Census operations (starting last March 12th for most of the United States), the National Urban League has observed low response rates across heavily populated Black localities – both urban and rural. As a contributing factor, COVID-19 has disrupted Census operations off and on, for the entire nation. A full, fair, and accurate 2020 Census count is imperative as we rebuild our communities in a post COVID-19 environment.

Marc Morial

Framing the Issue: The Black Count at Risk

Black America is facing an historic crossroad due to low participation in the 2020 Census throughout the United States. After three months of operation, the mammoth task of conducting the 2020 Census is well under way despite the U.S. Census Bureau's continued need to make respondent-impacted operational adjustments due to the pandemic. To the U.S. Census Bureau's credit, opportunities to self-respond to the 2020 Census via the Internet, phone and paper have remained available for the vast majority of U.S. households, in spite of Census COVID-19 operational adjustments. Even with the continued availability of self-response options, however, preliminary data show household response

rates in predominant and heavily populated Black communities trail the overall national response rate, state response rates, and even the response rates of other race and ethnic households.

As a gauge, last decade, 9% of Black people in the U.S. (approximately 3.7 million people), were missed in the 2010 Census – an “omission” rate higher than any other racial or ethnic group. Preliminary assessments of 2020 Census household response rates to date, portend the potential loss of billions of dollars in federal funding allocations, power and political representation for the Black population, if nothing is done to stop this trend.

National and State Assessment

An assessment of 2020 Census response rates (via the U.S. Census Bureau’s interactive 2020 Census response rate map <https://bit.ly/2USi9IS>, and the City University of New York’s 2020 Census mapping tool analysis), reveal troubling circumstances for the Black Count as follows:

The *nationwide* 2020 Census response rate as of June 9, 2020 is 60.6%. With this, the country has now surpassed the U.S. Census Bureau’s projected 2020 Census self-response rate of 60.5%. While this is an important milestone, it betrays the reality of Census participation at the local level, especially within majority or heavily populated black local jurisdictions

- Often, 2020 Census *state* response rates vary greatly across *local* communities within the same state. Table 1 below provides examples of significant variances between state and within state response rates, specifically in areas with predominant or large Black populations. Favorable state response rates that meet or surpass the national 2020 Census rate, provide little indication of how well or poorly predominantly or heavily populated Black communities are responding to the 2020 Census. Closer analysis is needed to ensure targeted outreach reaches low response rate Black communities.

Table 1: Comparative State/Local Response Rates (%of households completing the Census)

National 2020 Census Response Rate: 60.6

State	Response Rate	Locality	Response Rate
Alabama	58.7	Birmingham	50.6
California	61.8	Los Angeles	50.5.
Florida	58.1	Miami	47.0
Georgia	56.8	Savannah	50.2
Illinois	65.7	East St. Louis	41.2; Chicago:53.3
Maryland	65.0	Baltimore	51.1
Michigan	67.2	Detroit	46.8; Flint: 46.9.
Missouri	60.9	St. Louis	48.8
New Jersey	62.8	Trenton	41.5; Newark:42.8
New York	55.9	Mount Vernon	47.7; NYC: 51.3
Pennsylvania:	63.7	Harrisburg	42.9; Philadelphia: 49.4
Texas	55.4	Prairie View	14.4

Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2020 Census Response Rate Map (6/7/20)

Response Rate Trends: Comparative Race and Ethnic Response Rates by Population Size

The Center for Urban Research at the City University of New York’s Graduate Center (in collaboration with the **Census Counts 2020 coalition** and the **Funders Census Initiative**), has provided critical analyses and mapping of 2020 Census self-response rates and historically undercounted populations since week one of the 2020 Census. According to Center researchers, Table 2 below shows analyses of response rates for communities whose populations have substantial concentrations of racial/ethnic groups that have been historically undercounted or are at risk of being undercounted in 2020. As a precaution when viewing the data, we are reminded that the information *does not* indicate anything about the population *within* responding households (i.e., age, sex, etc.). Rather, the data only reflects the response rates for census tracts that have certain population characteristics i.e., race and ethnicity.

The main finding as presented in Table 2 is that response rates across census tracts and race and ethnic groups continue to be lowest in the largest cities across the country (populations over 1 million). *Strikingly, it shows the challenges (i.e. significantly lower response rates) predominantly Black communities are experiencing across metropolitan areas of all sizes, from small towns <50k to large Metro areas over 1 million.* Small growth in response rates in the nation’s largest cities is occurring, according to researchers, with predominantly Black areas increasing the most: “4.4 percentage points between May 7 and June 4.”

*Source: Analysis and Mapping: Center for Urban Research, City University of New York (Population data are based on estimates for the 2014-2018 period from the American Community Survey.

Table 2 Average Response Rates in Tracts: by Predominant Race/Hispanic Origin

Average response rates in tracts by predominant race/Hispanic origin, as of June 4, 2020

Omits tracts with 10% or more units covered by Update/Leave and tracts with any units in Update/Enumerate or Remote Alaska. Also omits tracts with fewer than 100 people in households (i.e., tracts with large group quarters populations are omitted).

Cities by population size	Average response rates across tracts with a plurality of each group (response rates as %s)													
	American Indian/Alaska Native		Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander		Asian		Black		Hispanic		White (non-Hispanic)		Overall	
	Avg. rate	Tracts	Avg. rate	Tracts	Avg. rate	Tracts	Avg. rate	Tracts	Avg. rate	Tracts	Avg. rate	Tracts	Avg. rate	Tracts
OUTSIDE METRO AREAS														
Small town (< 50k)	42.1	1					50.1	224	48.1	162	60.8	2,283	59.1	2,670
Not in an incorporated place	40.3	22	44.7	1	64.9	10	48.7	315	48.0	133	58.9	6,599	58.2	7,084
IN METROPOLITAN AREAS														
Small town (< 50k)	42.2	3			68.1	117	53.0	949	55.7	994	67.6	10,003	65.4	12,067
Not in an incorporated place	38.4	12	54.0	15	67.3	440	57.4	1,354	55.9	1,890	67.7	20,654	66.2	24,385
METRO AREA CITIES														
Medium city (50k to 300k)					67.6	517	50.1	1,952	55.3	3,205	66.5	10,750	62.4	16,429
Large (300k to 1 million)					60.9	168	48.9	1,789	53.9	1,418	64.3	4,177	58.6	7,555
Largest (over 1 million)					53.4	407	47.7	1,224	49.8	2,377	57.9	2,636	52.9	6,648
U.S. average	39.9	38	53.4	16	63.4	1,659	51.0	7,807	53.8	10,179	65.5	57,102	62.4	76,838

Source: Census 2020 Response Rate Analysis: Weeks 10 And 11; Center for Urban Research, CUNY

At a Glance: U.S. Census Atlanta Region

Approximately 41 million people residing in the United States identify as Black (alone not in combination), comprising 12.7 percent of the total U.S. population. According to a 2019 Brookings Institute report, “the highest concentration of Black Americans remains in the South, which, as a region, houses 58% of the nation’s black population.” The U.S. Census Bureau’s Atlanta Regional Census Center is responsible for conducting the census for a significant portion of the country’s black population, overseeing the Census effort in seven southern states: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina and Mississippi.

While outreach efforts conducted by Black organizations throughout the south (i.e., Urban League Affiliates, Fair Count (Georgia), North Carolina Counts and Southern Echo (Mississippi), have reached large segments of the Black south, an undercount in the Atlanta Census Region would impact the overall *national* Black count, and federal funding allocations for Black communities across the south.

Table 3 below provides a look at the number of counties in the Atlanta region that are below 50 percent response rates.

**Table 3: U.S. Census Atlanta Region
State Response Rates/ # Counties with Response Rates Below 50%**

2020 Census National Response Rate 60.6% (as of 6/7/20)					
State	State Population	Black(alone) Population	State Response Rate	Total # of State Counties	# Counties with Response Rates below 50%
Alabama	4,908,621	1,293,186	58.7	67	22
Florida	21,992,985	3,316,376	58.1	67	23
Georgia	10,736,059	3,239,300	56.6	159	83
Louisiana	4,645,184	1,502,916	54.9	64	34
Mississippi	2,989,260	1,125,834	55.9	82	31
North Carolina	10,611,862	2,179,622	57.0	100	38
South Carolina	5,210,095	1,339,360	55.5	46	22

Sources: U.S. Census State Population Estimates, U.S. Census 2018 American Community Survey-5-year survey (population by race); U.S. Census 2020 Census Response Rate Tracker; County Response Rates as of 5/29/20 (Atlanta Regional Office Newsletter)

Update Leave and Rural Populations

The 2020 Census *Update Leave (U/L)*, operation requires Census takers to hand-deliver paper questionnaires to households in rural locations that do not have traditional postal service mail delivery and/or “city style” addresses, (such as 123 Elm Street). The U.S. Census Bureau initially suspended this operation in March 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, amid growing social distancing public health guidance.

Operations were gradually restarted in phases, May through June. The U/L operation covers 5 million housing units stateside in 2020 (plus approximately 1.7 million units in Puerto Rico). Notably, about 95% of these households did not receive their Census packets before the Census Bureau suspended the effort soon after it began in mid-March due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Given social distancing policies are still in effect with the U/L operational restart, Census Bureau enumerators no longer knock on doors of households to “update”/verify addresses for nonresponse follow-up or other Census needs, before “leaving” a paper census questionnaire for completion by the resident (hence Update/Leave). Instead, due to COVID-19 health safety precautions, Census enumerators leave packets at the front door, without a knock, nor contact with the homeowner. Residents are not always aware Census materials are at the door immediately, especially due to shelter in place, “stay inside” instructions during the pandemic.

In addition, the temporary closure of some rural Post Offices or country stores that serve as post offices limits opportunities for residents in U/L areas to mail back a paper questionnaire without burden. The National Urban League is concerned that many of the 5 million households in Update Leave jurisdictions are black, particularly in locations such as: Columbus, Georgia, North Miami Florida, Rochester, New York, Albany New York, Shreveport, Louisiana and many other rural black communities. The growing prospect of a significant undercount in rural black communities puts the overall black count at significant risk. Clearly, more intense outreach by the U.S. Census Bureau is needed to address this present risk. With the lack of Internet in many rural locations, targeted ads and communication are needed in these communities.

Black Immigrants: Slow to Respond

Counting Black immigrants in the 2020 Census is essential to an accurate count of the overall Black population. Analyses of U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey data by Pew Research and New American Economy, both conclude the following: The Black immigrant population has grown exponentially since 1980. There were 4.3 million Black immigrants living in the U.S. in 2018, up from just 816,000 in 1980, according to a Pew Research Center analysis. Today, Black immigrants comprise more than 1.3 percent of the total U.S. population. Now, roughly one-in-ten blacks living in the U.S. are foreign born, according to 2016 American Community Survey data.

Finally, in assessing 2020 Census response rates of predominantly Black immigrant populated census tracts in New York City, (i.e., the Bronx, Brooklyn, and Queens), the City University of New York’s

Graduate Center’s 2020 Census response rate analysis found that in these predominantly foreign-born Black areas, the average response rate is trending very low: 39.7. An accurate count of the State of New York, New York City and Blacks in America overall, relies heavily on the Black immigrant count.

Table 4 reflects the Black immigrant growth rates in the top ten states between 2010 and 2018.

Table 4: Top 10 Black Immigrant Population by State and Growth Rate

State	2010	2018	Growth Rate
New York	839,277	863,901	2.9%
Florida	617,213	707,845	14.7%
Texas	161,506	292,160	80.9%
Maryland	173,395	247,630	42.8%
New Jersey	171,190	236,522	38.2%
Georgia	139,306	202,875	45.6%
Massachusetts	142,622	185,731	30.2%
California	137,925	178,403	29.3%
Pennsylvania	87,643	138,398	57.9%
Minnesota	72,283	136,313	88.6%
Virginia	95,322	121,755	27.7%

Source: New American Economy analysis of American Community Survey data from 2010 and 2018

Young Black and Brown Children Still Most at Risk

In 2010, seven out of 10 young Black and Brown children between the ages of 0-4 years old were completely missed in the census. Young Black children were undercounted at twice the rate as young nonblack children, impacting federal funding allocations for critical programs like Head Start, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, and the National School Lunch Program to Black communities and families in great need of these resources.

Undercounts of such proportion have direct consequences for *at least* the next decade, not only regarding health and nutritional needs, but infrastructure and political representation. An accurate count of children equally helps determine the allocation of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives as the adult count.

Research conducted by the Population Reference Bureau (PRB) this year confirms that the percent of children under age 5 living in census tracts with a very high risk of undercounting young children (i.e., renters, female headed households, poverty, immigrant, racial and ethnic populations, etc.), ranges from a high of 48% among African American children to a low of 9% among non-Hispanic white children (see Table 5 below).

According to recent studies, at least 4 million U.S. children under age 5 (disproportionately Black and Brown), live in neighborhoods with a very high risk of undercounting young children in the 2020 Census. Without immediate intervention and early self-response (via Internet, phone or paper) by respondents *before* the nonresponse follow-up period begins this fall (August 11-October 31), Black children are at risk of experiencing an historic undercount in the 2020 Census.

Table 5: Children Under Age 5 Living in Tracts with Very High Risk of Undercounting Young Children, by Race and Hispanic Origin, 2014-2018

Children Under Age Five	Percent in Census Tracts With a Very High Risk of Undercounting Young Children
All children	25
Hispanic/Latino	38
Black alone	48
Asian alone	28
American Indian/Alaska Native alone	31
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander alone	31
Non-Hispanic White alone	9
Two or more races	22

Notes: The percentage shown includes all children living in counties with at least 5,000 children under ages 5 in the 2010 Census and in tracts within those counties with at least 25 children under age 5 in the 2013-2017 American Community Survey. Regarding “Hispanic/Latino,” Hispanics can be of any race, so they are also included in the other racial categories with the exception of White alone. **Sources:** PRB analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau; Revised 2018 Experimental Demographic Analysis Estimates; and 2013-2017 and 2014-2018 American Community Surveys.

2020 Census Homeless Population: Still Uncounted

The 2020 Census count of persons experiencing homelessness was rescheduled indefinitely by the U.S. Census Bureau due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This 2020 Census operation includes an enumeration of shelters, soup kitchens, and outdoor locations--also known as Targeted Non-sheltered Outdoor Locations (TNSOLS).

Significantly, African Americans, despite comprising just 12% of the U.S. population, account for a staggeringly disproportionate slice of the nation’s homeless population, according to a 2020 Housing and Urban Development report on the nation’s homeless population. Specifically, in 2019, an estimated 568,000 Americans experienced homelessness, with African Americans making up about 40% of that total.

The disparity is starker when looking at the number of homeless people with children: African Americans accounted for about 52% of that population, with whites accounting for about 35%, the report said. African Americans have remained considerably overrepresented among the homeless population compared to the U.S. population, yet undercounted in every Census.

As jurisdictions and states are gradually “reopening” the 2020 Census count of the unhoused still has not occurred. The Census Bureau recently began consulting with service providers, local officials and stakeholders to identify the most optimal time to reschedule this activity later this year. The agency has finally announced a late summer date (September 22-24), for 2020 Census homeless enumeration, to include the nation’s soup kitchens, shelters and outdoor locations. Within this short 2-3 day timeframe, only one-day is devoted to enumerating the nation’s homeless population residing in outdoor, nonsheltered locations (i.e., park benches, wooded areas, street encampments, under bridges, etc.). Given increased unemployment rates caused by COVID-19, displacement due to gentrification and the lack of affordable housing in our nation’s urban centers, additional time might be needed to ensure an accurate count of this most vulnerable population.

Source: U.S. Housing and Urban Development report: Homeless Assessment Report to Congress (2020).

Reclaiming Our Count: Formerly Incarcerated Black Men and Women Must Stand Up

According to studies, federal and state prisons currently release *700,000+ people each year*, disproportionately Black and Brown, at a rate of more than 1,600 daily. The disproportionate mass incarceration of Black and Brown people has led to exponential rates of release of formerly incarcerated individuals back into their communities. There is an astounding opportunity to obtain an accurate count of the Black population by engaging and counting formerly incarcerated individuals.

For the 2020 Census, the U.S. Census Bureau will continue its practice of counting *incarcerated* individuals at the prisons where they are serving their sentences instead of counting them as residents of their home communities where they will likely return, once released. When formerly incarcerated men, women and juveniles return to their home residences, however, their prison districts continue to reap the benefits of their census count for the remainder of the entire decade. Formerly incarcerated individuals can *reclaim* their community AND impact federal funding decisions and political representation by being counted in the 2020 Census! A strong count of formerly incarcerated individuals can make a positive, long-term difference in the Black community.

Counting Black College and University Students

According to a 2019 report by the Department of Education’s National Center for Education Statistics, of the 16.8 million undergraduate students in fall 2017, **2.2 million were Black**. As 2020 Census enumerations began this March, colleges and universities nationwide closed campuses and moved classes online in response to coronavirus. This left college students and their parents, school administrators and local officials concerned and confused about where, when, and how college students would be counted in the 2020 Census.

As the pandemic continues its path across U.S. communities, some colleges and universities remain undecided on whether their institutions will reopen this fall with face-to-face instruction and dormitory/housing accommodations. The University of California, however, has already announced that all nine of its University of California undergraduate campuses, 23 California State University campuses, and 114 community colleges will continue to hold online classes throughout the fall, because of the spread of the coronavirus. This begs the question of how and where displaced Black university students will be counted in the 2020 Census.

An accurate count of Black college students living on and off campus premises but temporarily displaced due to the pandemic is critical for towns and cities that are home to large numbers of college students, and to the Black count, overall. The Census Bureau has a responsibility under the U.S. Constitution to get this right.

Congressional Black Caucus Legislative District Response Rates

Lawmakers use census data to draw congressional district boundaries within states, an often-controversial process that can help decide partisan control of the U.S. House of Representatives. Specifically, the results of the census will be used to determine how 435 seats in the House seats are apportioned for the next 10 years. This impacts a state's political power in Congress and importance in presidential elections, as Electoral College votes are determined by the size of a state's congressional delegation.

Due to the coronavirus and related delayed census operations, the U.S. Census Bureau has requested that the legislatively mandated date for it to deliver apportionment counts to the President be moved from December 3, 2020 to April 30, 2021, and that the deadline for delivering redistricting counts to states be moved from April 1, 2021 to July 31, 2021. An analysis of Census population estimates by the consulting group Election Data Services Inc, predicts 10 states will lose a congressional district following the 2020 Census:

- Alabama
- California
- Illinois
- Michigan
- Minnesota
- New York
- Ohio
- Pennsylvania
- Rhode Island
- West Virginia

Table 6 provides the 2020 Census response rates for each Congressional Black Caucus member’s legislative district (as of 6/6/20). The blue highlighted rows reflect those Districts with a Census response rate of 50 percent or lower.

Table 6. Congressional Black Caucus 2020 Census Response Rates

Senator	State	State Response Rate %	2020 Census National Response Rate %	
Cory Booker	NJ	62.7	60.6	
Kamala Harris	CA	61.8		
Congressional Black Caucus 2020 Census Response Rates				
CBC Representative	State	Legislative District	Response Rate (% as of 6/5/20)	
Terri Sewell	Alabama	7th	50.3	
Karen Bass	California	37th	53.0	
Barbara Lee	California	13th	65.8	
Maxine Waters	California	43 rd	56.8	
Joe Neguse	Colorado	2nd	59.3	
Jahana Hayes	Connecticut	5th	62.5	
Eleanor Holmes Norton	DC Delegate	At Large	56.9	
Lisa Blunt Rochester	Delaware	At Large	58.9	
Val Demings	Florida	10th	55.8	
Alcee Hastings	Florida	20th	55.0	
Al Lawson	Florida	5th	54.5	
Frederica “Freddie” Wilson	Florida	24th	52.4	
Sanford Bishop	Georgia	2nd	47.0	
Hank Johnson	Georgia	4th	59.3	
John Lewis	Georgia	5th	53.1	
Lucy McBath	Georgia	6th	65.1	
David Scott	Georgia	13th	59.0	
Danny Davis	Illinois	7th	50.8	
Robin Kelly	Illinois	2nd	58.7	
Bobby Rush	Illinois	1st	59.4	
Lauren Underwood	Illinois	14th	76.9	
Andre Carson	Indiana	7th	57.7	
Cedric Richmond	Louisiana	2nd	54.0	
Anthony Brown	Maryland	4th	63.7	
Kweisi Mfume	Maryland	7th	58.1	
Ayanna Pressley	Massachusetts	7th	52.9	
Brenda Lawrence	Michigan	14 th	59.5	

CBC Representative	State	Legislative District	Response Rate (% as of 6/5/20)
Ilhan Omar	Minnesota	5th	70.9
Bennie Thompson	Mississippi	2nd	52.7
William Lacy Clay, Jr.	Missouri	1st	54.9
Emanuel Cleaver	Missouri	5th	58.2
Steven Horsford	Nevada	4th	59.0
Donald Payne	New Jersey	10th	51.4
Bonnie Watson Coleman	New Jersey	12th	65.9
Yvette Clarke	New York	9th	51.1
Hakeem Jeffries	New York	8 th	47.3
Gregory Meeks	New York	5th	47.0
Antonio Delgado	New York	19th	45.6
Alma Adams	North Carolina	12th	58.0
G.K. Butterfield	North Carolina	1st	52.3
Joyce Beatty	Ohio	3rd	56.2
Marcia Fudge	Ohio	11th	52.9
Dwight Evans	Pennsylvania	2nd	52.4
Jim Clyburn	South Carolina	6th	46.6
Colin Allred	Texas	32nd	61.4
Al Green	Texas	9th	53.9
Eddie Bernice Johnson	Texas	30th	54.7
Sheila Jackson Lee	Texas	18th	51.3
Marc Veasey	Texas	33 rd	48.2
Donald McEachin	Virginia	4th	61.8
Bobby Scott	Virginia	3rd	61.9
Gwen Moore	Wisconsin	4th	59.3

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census Response Rate Map

Conclusion

Black America: Be Counted or Wait another Decade for Change

- This is the 24th census undertaken in the history of the nation, and for the first eight, most African Americans counted as only three-fifths of a person.
- Historically, African Americans have been undercounted each decade. Approximately 3.7 million African Americans were entirely missed (*omitted*) in the 2010 Census. The 2020 Census raises new risks and uncertainties that put an already vulnerable Black count at extreme risk.
- **Currently approximately 25% of households residing in predominantly Black areas are in the bottom 20% of response rates (below 50%), according to CUNY mapping tool.**

- In 2010, Black men were undercounted significantly in every age group (18-49) and continue to be at risk in the 2020 Census.
- Young Black Children are poised to experience historic undercounts in the 2020 Census. Almost 1.2 million young black children live in Very High Risk of Undercount Census tracts. Seven out of 10 black and brown children 0-5 years old were not counted in the 2010 Census.
- An accurate count of black America relies heavily on the Black immigrant count, which has been slow to respond to the 2020 Census. An inaccurate count of Black immigrant communities will result in an incomplete count of the Black population.
- Formerly incarcerated men, women and juveniles (disproportionately Black and Hispanic) are returning to communities across the country in great numbers (approximately 700,000 per year). Black formerly incarcerated individuals must **Reclaim their Count!** in the 2020 Census.
- There is significant *within state variation* with regard to 2020 Census response rates. Several large cities and jurisdictions with predominate or large Black populations trail their state response rates by 10 or more percentage points (i.e., St. Louis, MO, Los Angeles, CA, Miami, FL, Detroit, MI).
- The U.S. Census Bureau's enumeration of persons experiencing homelessness has not occurred. This operation needs additional time, particularly given the U.S. Census Bureau's planned one-day nationwide count of persons living outdoors. Predominantly Black metropolitan areas with substantial homeless populations could require more than a one-day enumeration of this most vulnerable population.
- The U.S. Census Bureau's difficulty in rescheduling the enumeration of college and university students and conducting outreach targeting these communities with clear and concise guidance, will impact local communities and the black count overall, if not corrected.
- An undercount of the Black population in southern states will impact the overall Black count in America. One U.S. Census Regional Census Center is responsible for enumerating seven states (FLA, GA, SC, NC, MS, AL, LA), with significant Black populations in the 2020 Census.

The U.S. Census Bureau and the current Administration must do all that it can to ensure an accurate count of the Black population by reallocating media resources and outreach to address these circumstances. Finally, the National Urban League stands in solidarity with its 2020 Census Black Roundtable and other institutions that are striving to achieve an accurate Black count, while addressing the needs of our community during a deadly pandemic and racially-motivated police violence in our community.

*The **National Urban League** is a historic civil rights organization dedicated to economic empowerment in order to elevate the standard of living in historically underserved urban communities. The National Urban League spearheads the efforts of its 90 local affiliates through the development of programs, public policy research and advocacy, providing direct services that impact and improve the lives of more than 2 million people annually nationwide. Visit www.nul.org and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram: @NatUrbanLeague.*