



## Reaching the Hard-to-Reach

### Hard-to-Count Populations Mean Harder-to-Reach

Hard-to-Count populations (HTCs) are groups that have historically been less likely to respond to the census right away. HTCs are both rural and urban [and include](#):

- Young children;
- Racial and ethnic minorities;
- Persons who do not speak fluent English;
- The poor;
- The homeless;
- Undocumented immigrants;
- Mobile individuals such as college students, military and seasonal workers;
- LGBTQ persons; and
- Individuals who are angry at or distrustful of the government.



[Children under age 5](#) comprise the most undercounted age category.

[Reaching HTCs](#) is difficult. Each one can require a unique approach, whether it includes languages other than English, an understanding of cultural practices, or addressing suspicions of government motives. State legislators, trusted messengers, and other community leaders can help make sure everyone is counted, in the right place.

The [Census Bureau has presented research](#) on the recent increase of respondents expressing concerns to researchers and field staff about confidentiality and data access.

Missing HTCs leads to a misrepresentational republic because it skews both apportionment and redistricting. It is likely also to mean lost dollars for a state. You can locate HTCs [using two interactive maps](#).

Source: <https://www.census.gov>