

Undercount of Young Children in the Census

North Carolina Census Conference

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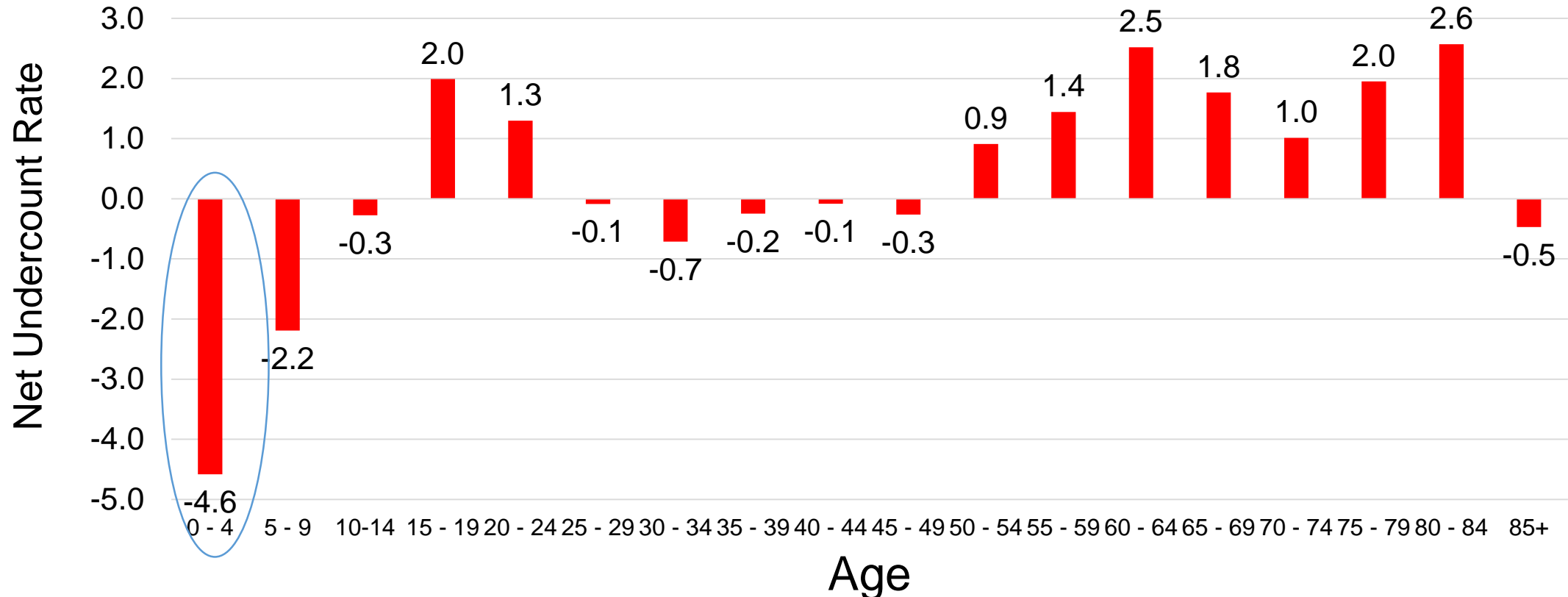


Goals of the Presentation

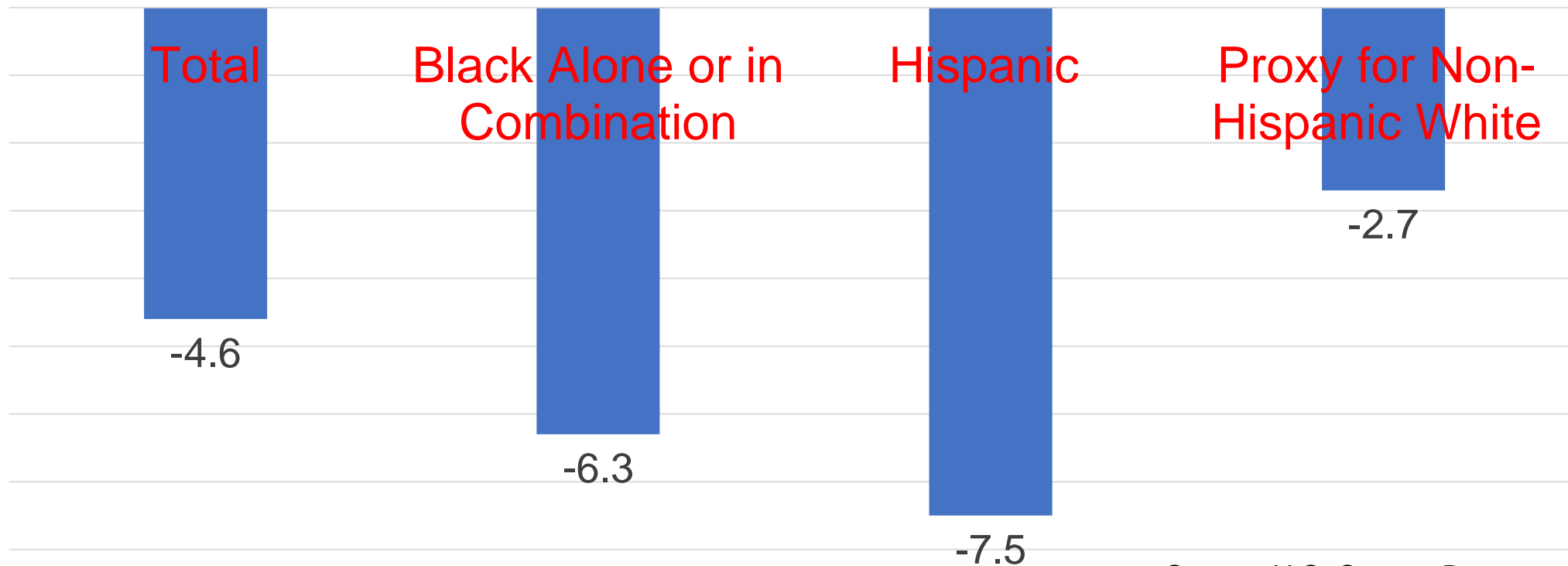
- Review key data on the undercount of young children in the Census
- Present ideas and data about why young children are missed so often in the Census
- Underscore why the net undercount of young children is important
- What can be done to reduce undercount of young kids in 2020 Census



Young Children Had a Higher Net Undercount (by far) Than Any Other Age Group in the 2010 Census

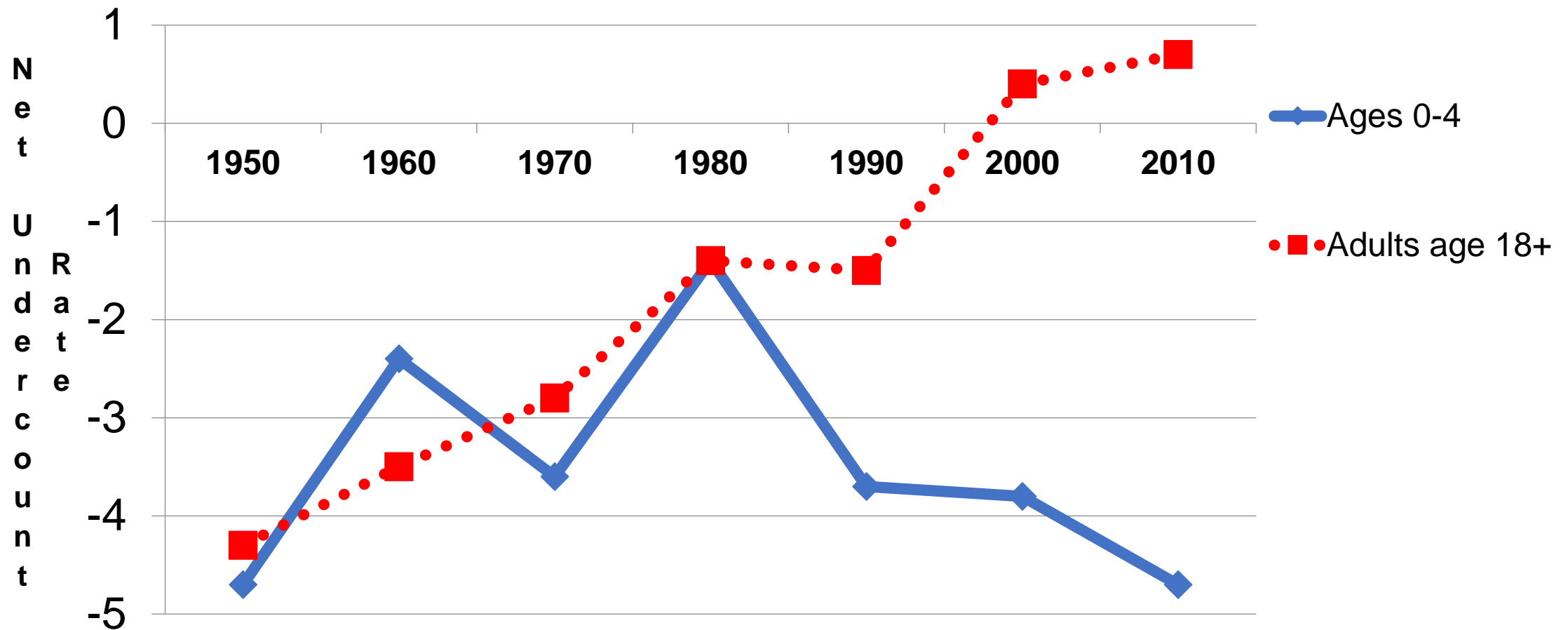


Blacks and Hispanic Young Children Have Higher Net Undercount



Source: U.S. Census Bureau,
May 2012 DA Release

Since 1980, the Net Undercount of Young Children in the Census Has Worsened While the Coverage of Adults Has Improved



Net Undercount Rate in North Carolina for Age 0 to 4

3.2 percent,
21,000 people

- 1,050 Kindergarten Classes

Large Counties in North Carolina Ranked by 2010 Census Net Undercount for Young Children

County name	Census 2010 Total Population	Net Undercount Rate for Children Age 0 to 4
Guilford County	206,086	-6.3
Johnston County	159,437	-6.3
Wayne County	900,993	-6.3
Davidson County	319,431	-6.2
Catawba County	178,011	-5.3
New Hanover County	919,628	-5.3
Brunswick County	151,131	-5.1
Craven County	154,358	-4.8
Pitt County	133,801	-4.7
Wake County	201,292	-4.1
Harnett County	488,406	-4.0
Rowan County	134,168	-4.0
Gaston County	350,670	-3.1
Cabarrus County	238,318	-1.7
Cumberland County	103,505	-1.7
Forsyth County	267,587	-1.7
Randolph County	168,148	-1.3
Robeson County	141,752	-0.8
Mecklenburg County	168,878	-0.6
Henderson County	114,678	-0.6
Iredell County	106,740	-0.4
Durham County	162,878	-0.3
Buncombe County	107,431	-0.2
Orange County	177,772	-0.2
Union County	138,428	1.0
Onslow County	202,667	2.3

Only counties with 100,000 or more total population included



**Why are young children
missed in the Census?**

3 Questions About Why Young Children are Missed

- 1) Why do young children have a much higher net undercount than older children and adults?
- 2) What characteristics of young children make them more likely to be undercounted in the Census?
- 3) Which characteristics are the most powerful predictors?

Young Children Are More Concentrated in Hard-to-Count Situations Than Older Children

	Age 0-4	Age 10-17	Difference (0 to 4 minus 10 to 17)
Age of householder is 18-29	29	3	26
Living in rental housing unit	44	32	12
Living in a multi-unit structure	38	26	12
Different address one year ago	15	8	7
Living in a complex household	40	33	7
Below poverty	25	19	6
Enumerator completed response	31	27	4
Grandparent responsible for grandchild	5	3	2
Living with one parent or two unmarried parents	36	34	2

Source: U. S. Census Bureau

Some young children are missed because they are left off a returned Census questionnaire, and some are missed because their whole household is missed.

- About 80-85% of young children missed in the 2010 Census were living in households that returned a Census questionnaire.
- What does this mean for messaging?
 1. Return Census questionnaireor
 1. Make sure everyone in the household is included on the questionnaire



Which Predictors are Most Powerful?

Statistically Significant

- Child lives in a racial/Hispanic minority household
- Child lives in a household where no one speaks English
- Child lives with a grandparent(s)
- Child lives in a complex household

Not Statistically Significant

- Child lives in neighborhoods with a low mail return rate
- Child lives in a hard-to-count neighborhood (based on mail return rates)
- Child lives with young parent(s) (age 15-34)
- Child lives in a household that recently moved
- Child lives with parents with low education attainment
- Child lives in a low-income household



Why the net undercount of young children is important

Impact of 2020 Census Undercount: from 2021 to 2030

- At the recent rate of increase, the amount of money that will be distributed to states and localities from 2021 to 2030 based on Census-derived data is roughly

\$25 Trillion

Census Directed funds to North Carolina in FY 2016 for 54 largest Programs = \$23.7 billion

Selected Child and Youth Programs Where Funding is Related to Census Counts	
Medical Assistance Program (Medicaid)	Title IV-E Foster Care
Federal Direct Student Loans	Health Care Centers
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	School Breakfast Program
Federal Pell Grant Program	Child and Adult Care Food Program
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families	Child Care
Title I Grants to Local Education Agencies	Child Care and Development Block Grant
State Children's Health Insurance Program	Adoption Assistance
National School Lunch Program	Supporting Effective Instruction State Grants
Special Education Grants	Social Services Block Grant
Head Start	Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Youth Activities
Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children	Community Services Block Grant

What can be done to improve the count of young children in the 2020 Census?

1. Make sure Congress provides enough money to the Census Bureau (in a timely fashion) to conduct the 2020 Census properly
2. Educate everyone to make sure young children are included in the 2020 census
3. Form state and local complete count committees and make sure someone is there to represent the interests of young children

Summary

- Young children have a higher net undercount than any other age group in the 2010 Census
- Black and Hispanic young children are undercounted at a higher rate
- The net undercount of young children has been increasing since 1980 (opposite of adults)
- There are many reasons why young children are missed in the Census
- There are many uses of census data – including distribution of trillions of dollars over a decade
- There is a role for everyone in making sure we get an accurate count of young children in the 2020 Census.

THANKS

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