

2020 CENSUS

Week 3: Self-Response Analysis Summary** (April 3 – 9, 2020)

National overview

- U.S. response rate: **46.7%**
- Increase over last week: **5.4%**
- Smaller day-over-day increases than previous week

Update/Leave (U/L) areas: In the *10 states with greatest share of housing units in U/L operation* —

- Response rate in **tracts with at least some U/L areas:** **29%**
- Households in U/L tracts with **no home internet access:** **21%**

What's happening in cities?

- Response rate for tracts in **10 largest cities** (1+ million pop): **38%** (8 percentage points below national avg.)
- Response rates for tracts in **small** (<50K pop) and **medium** (50K–300K pop) **cities:** modestly above national average

Historically undercounted population groups

Children under age 5

Across 689 counties analyzed by Population Reference Bureauⁱ —

- Response rates for tracts with **low risk of undercounting young children:** **52%**
- Response rates for tracts with **very high risk of undercounting young children:** **40%**

People of color

By size of city, response rates in tracts with predominant population by race & Hispanic origin —

- Predominantly **Hispanic** census tracts had lowest response rates for cities of all sizes: **35.9%**
- Predominantly **Black** census tracts also had below-average response rates (for all tracts in those size cities), especially cities >1M (**34.9%**).
- Predominantly **Asian** census tracts had response rates well above national average in small (<50K: **53.5%**) and medium (50K–300K: **52.9%**) size cities, but well below national average in very large cities (>1M: **38.8%**).
- Predominantly **White** census tracts response rates (average for cities of all sizes): **47.9%**

People in "high poverty" census tracts (30% in poverty threshold)

- Response rate across all "high poverty" tracts: **34.5%**

Does educational attainment matter?

- Census tracts with greater concentrations of people with **high school degree or less** generally have **lower response rates**, while tracts where more people have college/advanced degrees generally have **higher response rates**.

For a searchable map of response rates & more, please visit www.censushardtocountmaps2020.us

****Note:** Tract-, county-, and city-level analyses represent **average percentages**. Unless otherwise noted, figures are based on response rates reported on April 9, 2020.

ⁱ <https://www.prb.org/new-strategies-to-reduce-undercount-of-young-children-in-2020-census/>

Prepared by:

Steven Romalewski, [Center for Urban Research at The Graduate Center, City University of New York \(CUNY\)](#)
Terri Ann Lowenthal, Consultant, Funders Census Initiative (FCI 2020)