

CENSUS 2020: THE IMPACT OF RACE AND RACISM ON BLACK COMMUNITY CENSUS PARTICIPATION

Lurie Daniel Favors, Esq.

Center for Law and Social Justice at
Medgar Evers College, CUNY

1150 Carrol Street, Brooklyn, NY 11225

718.804.8893 | info@clsj.org |

www.CLSJ.org/CensusJustice

T/IG: @CLSJ_MEC



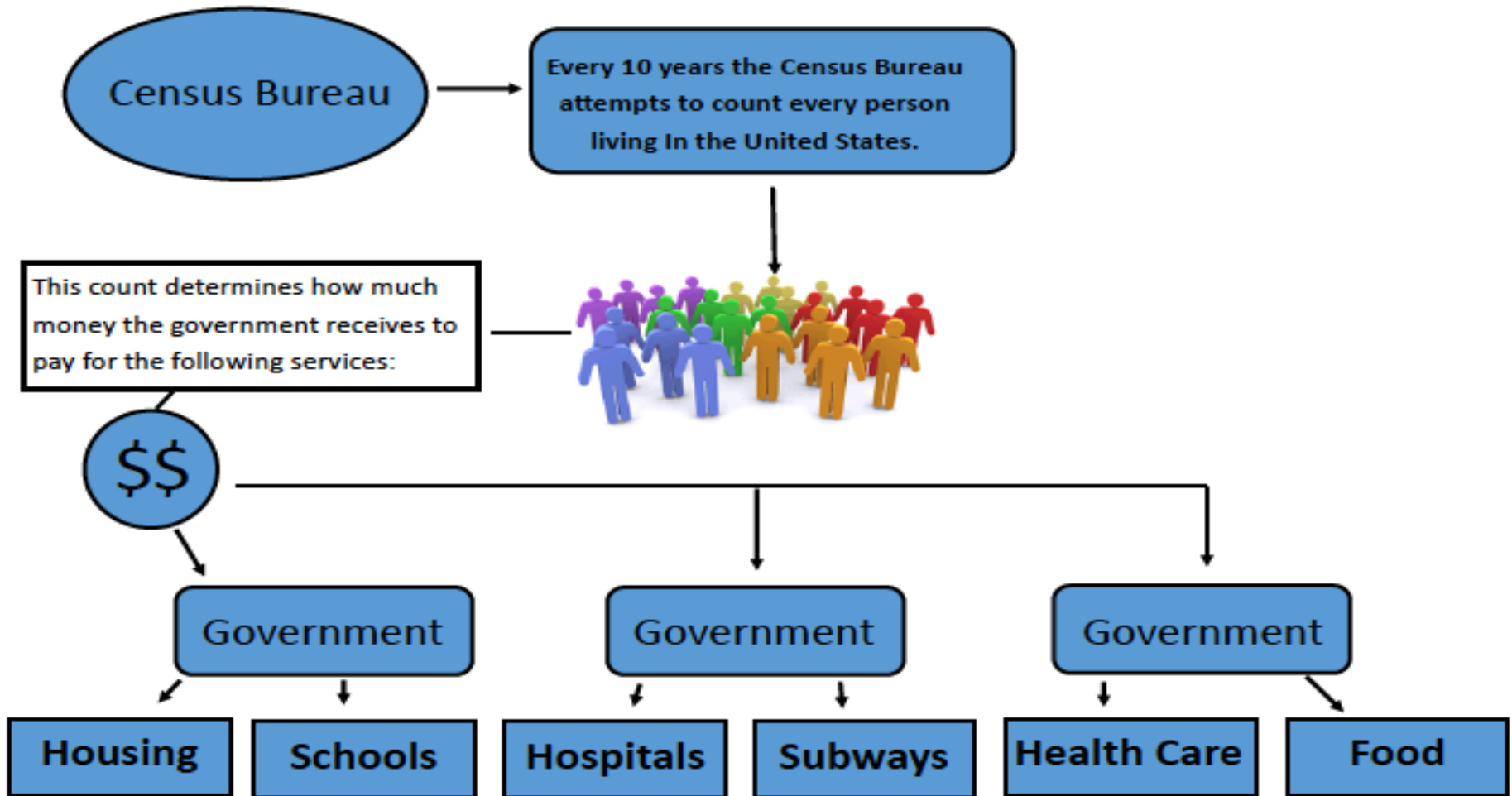
WHAT IS THE CENSUS?

The census is a survey that takes place every 10 years and it is required by the constitution.

The census survey answers three questions for government:

- Who lives where?
- How many of them live there?
- What are their needs?

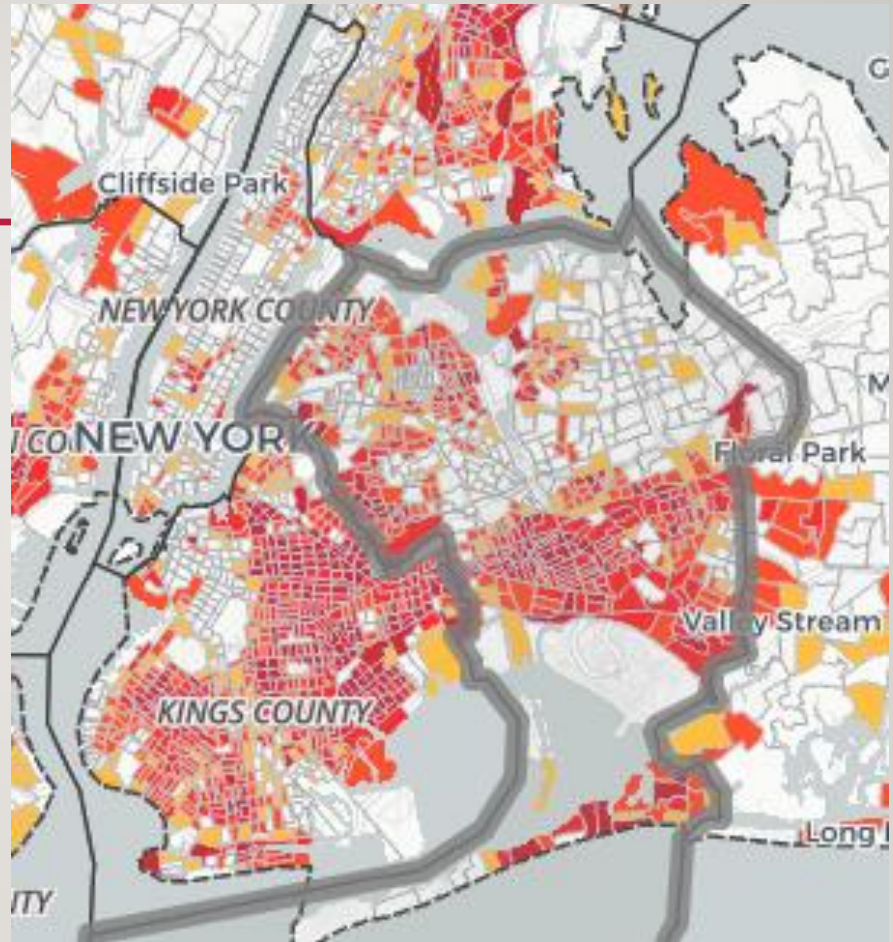
CENSUS FLOW CHART



HARD TO COUNT COMMUNITIES

Many New York State & New York Cities communities are considered “Hard to Count” (HTC) in the U.S. Census.

Most NYC communities of African descent live in HTC areas.



RACE MATTERS: THE IMPACT OF RACISM ON BLACK CENSUS PARTICIPATION

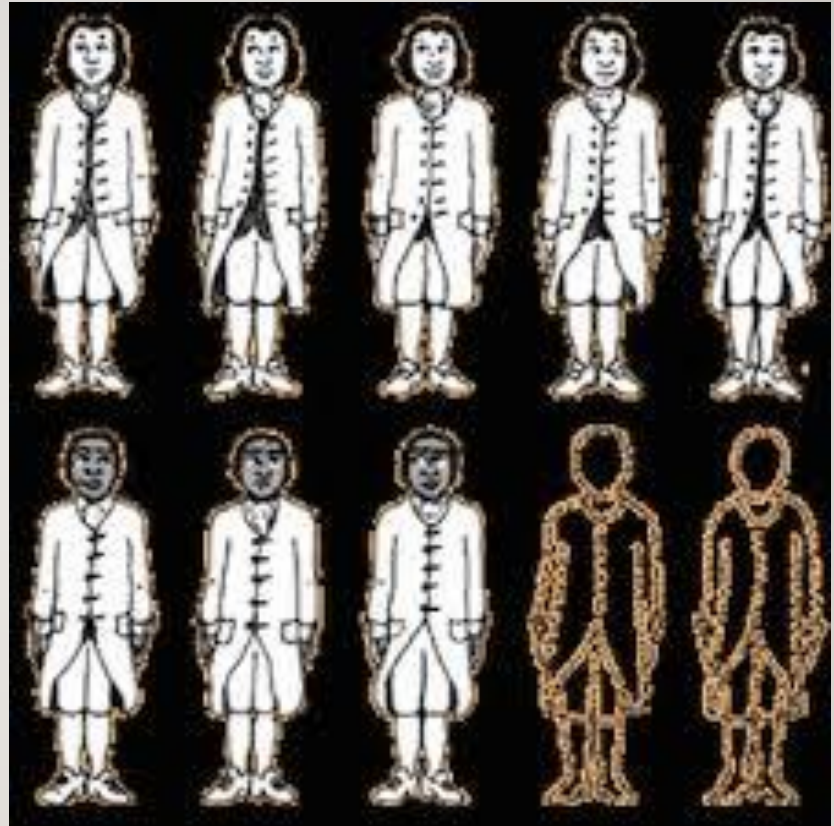


RACE & THE CENSUS: THE THREE FIFTHS CLAUSE

A Mathematical Formula for Census Data Discrimination

Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States...according to their respective Numbers, which shall be determined by adding to the whole Number of free Persons, including those bound to Service for a Term of Years, and excluding Indians not taxed, **three fifths of all other Persons.**

US Const. Article 1, Sec 2, Clause 3



Simba, M. (2014, October 03) *The Three-Fifths Clause of the United States Constitution (1787)*. Retrieved from <https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/events-african-american-history/three-fifths-clause-united-states-constitution-1787/>

How Will This Impact Census Participation in NYS Communities of African Descent?



MEET THE JACKSON FAMILY:



CENSUS UNDER COUNTS



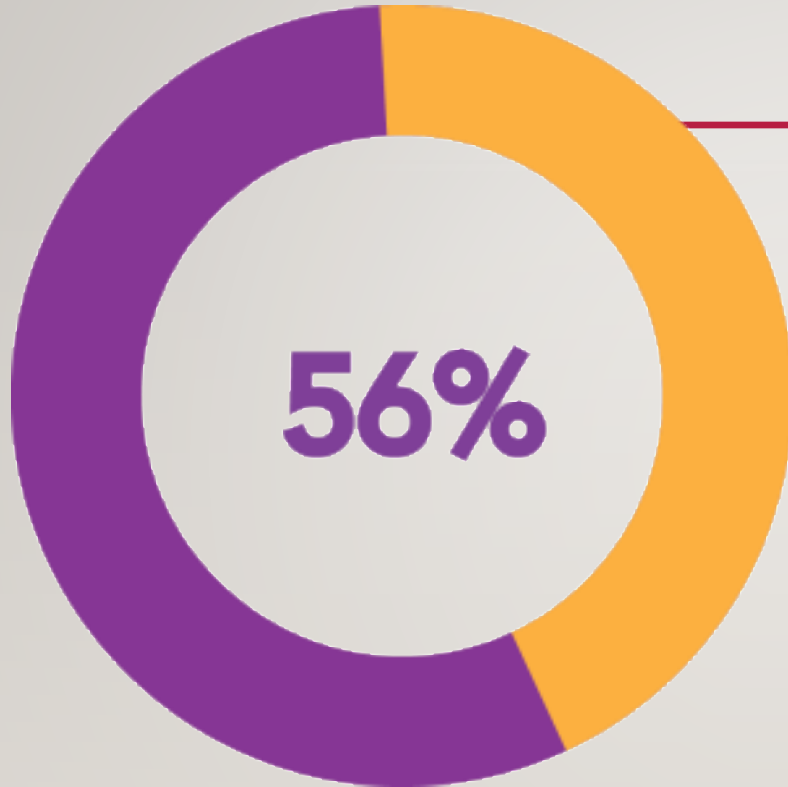
- Some communities are severely **UNDER counted**
- Extensive histories marked by government sponsored discrimination and the denial of equitable civic/societal engagement
- One form filled out per family, *maybe*
- College student fails to complete
- Multi family households fail to complete
- *African descendant men & children under 4 are the least counted!*



- Fewer schools, decreased early childcare options/over crowding
- Fewer college readiness program related funding
- Reduced senior services
- Eliminated bus/rail lines
- Fewer grocery stores, banking centers
- Decreased health care options
- Decreased political power

UNDER COUNTS: THE RESULTS

CENSUS MATH: 56%



- 56% of the elected officials
- 56% of the schools & teachers
- 56% of the homework help
- 56% of the transportation
- 56% of the medical care
- 56% of the healthy food options
- 56% of the affordable housing
- 56% of the legal services
- 56% of the counseling services

MEET THE JOHNSON FAMILY:



CENSUS OVER COUNTS



- Some communities are severely **OVER counted**
- Extensive histories marked by racial privilege and over distribution of societal engagement/benefit opportunities
- Positive culture/history of civic engagement
- Parents fill out form for the entire family
- College students fill out a form
- Multi-parent households submit multiple forms
- Forms for multiple homes, etc.



- Increased early childcare and k-5 services
- Increased college readiness funding
- Increased public transportation options
- Additional grocery stores
- Additional senior services that cater to this cultural group
- Additional health care & banking options
- Increased political power

OVER COUNTS: THE RESULTS

CENSUS MATH: 95%



- 95% of the elected officials
- 95% of the schools & teachers
- 95% of the homework help
- 95% of the transportation
- 95% of the medical care
- 95% of the healthy food options
- 95% of the affordable housing
- 95% of the legal services
- 95% of the counseling services

WHAT'S AT STAKE?



THE 2020 CENSUS CONT.



Check Black!

The 2020 Census will be the first opportunity for communities of African descent to confirm their ethnicity. In addition to identifying your ethnicity, we want to urge our communities to “Check Black!”

Voter protection, health research and access to government resources are some of the many entities that are tied to racialized data. Checking “Black” as your race in addition to writing in your ethnicity is the best way to ensure a complete count for our communities.

#CheckBlackOnCensus2020



WHY SHOULD
YOU CARE:
HOUSING &
GENTRIFICATION





WHY SHOULD YOU CARE: “COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT”



WHY SHOULD YOU CARE: TRAFFIC PATTERNS & COMMUNITY DISRUPTION

Copyright 2019: Center for Law and Social Justice



WHY SHOULD YOU CARE: OVERCROWDED SCHOOLS

Copyright 2019: Center for Law and Social Justice



NYC BLAC FOR CENSUS 2020

- A NYC based coalition of organizations and individuals servicing NYC communities of African descent.
- Working in partnership with allies, city, local and state government officials to ensure a full count of NYC communities of African descent in the 2020 Census.



CENTER FOR LAW AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

at MEDGAR EVERS COLLEGE, CUNY • Brooklyn, NY

More than 30 years of "Staying on Freedom and Justice" | www.CLSJ.org



www.CLSJ.org/CensusJustice

718.804.8893 | info@clsj.org

1150 Carroll Street, Brooklyn, NY, 11225

Twitter/IG: @clsj_mec