US Census 2020 and Mississippi: Fast Facts

- Every 10 years, the government counts all people living in the US.
- These counts are used to determine Mississippi’s representation in Congress, as well as governmental policies and programs.
- The next Census will occur April 1, 2020, and people can participate online or by telephone, mail, or an in-person enumerator.
- The questionnaire asks about 10 questions related to age, sex, race, ethnicity, relationship to householder, and housing.
- Under Title 13, US Code, the US Census Bureau is legally required to keep individual information confidential.
- No personal information provided in response to the Census will be shared with other government agencies.
- In Mississippi, if children are undercounted by just 5%, census tracts across the state stand to lose between $14K and $587K annually.
- Young children are one of the groups likely to be undercounted.

Sources: US Census Bureau; MS Kids Count. HTC is calculated on the basis of 2010 Census mail response rates and numerous contemporary indicators from the American Community Survey.

Census counts are used to allocate funding for:

- Roads, highways, and bridges
- Police and fire departments
- Hospitals and health insurance
- Education (i.e. Head Start, schools)
- Nutrition programs (i.e. WIC)

For more information, contact the State Data Center of Mississippi/Center for Population Studies, via email: cps@olemiss.edu.