

EVERYONE WINS WHEN **EVERYONE IS COUNTED**



## LGBTQ CALIFORNIANS COUNT!



### **IT'S HARD TO OVERSTATE HOW MUCH IS AT STAKE FOR THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY IN THE 2020 U.S. CENSUS.**

Despite rising acceptance of LGBTQ people and increasing LGBTQ self-identification — particularly among millennial voting-aged Americans (ages 18-34) — accurate reporting of the LGBTQ community continues to lag in comparison to non-LGBTQ populations, in large part due to antiquated polling methods of LGBTQ people and cultural and physical barriers prevalent within the community.

The Census does not collect information on one's sexual orientation or gender identity, and the Census's identification of LGBTQ households has relied solely on those who report having a "same-sex partner."

Such a process fails to capture statistical data on LGBTQ people in the following household situations:

- Single-occupant households
- Multi-occupant households that involve roommate(s) that are not a same-sex partner
- Households that contain members who identify as transgender, gender non-conforming, or bisexual and reside with a different sex partner

Census data directly affects issues of democracy (such as formation of Congressional districts and allocation of representative seats) as well as the distribution of federal funding for social services (including Medicaid, Section 8 housing vouchers and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). Thus, with over 300 federal programs and \$800 billion in funds being annually allocated based on the U.S. Census, the ongoing undercount of the LGBTQ community, coupled with the intersectional characteristics (detailed below), has limited the resources made available to the LGBTQ community and has led to drastic underrepresentation on the national level. Therefore, careful planning and sensitive inclusion of the LGBTQ community is essential for the protection and ongoing future of the LGBTQ community.

# FACTORS TO CONSIDER

## LGBTQ PEOPLE EXIST WITHIN ALL POPULATIONS

The U.S. Census Bureau and the California Complete Count Office have designated the LGBTQ community as a “Hard-to-Count” population for the 2020 Census. Additionally, LGBTQ people are more likely to be among other populations that both agencies consider “Hard-to-Count,” such as racial and ethnic minorities, persons with limited English proficiency, immigrants either documented or undocumented, lower income persons, persons experiencing homelessness or housing instability and youth.

- Non-white racial minorities in the U.S. are becoming more likely to identify as LGBTQ+, comprising nearly 40% of all LGBT-identified adults. An increase of 7% since 2012. (Gallup)<sup>1</sup>
- An estimated 904,000 LGBT-identifying immigrants reside in the U.S. today, with approximately 30% of them undocumented. (Williams Institute)<sup>2</sup>
- For both women and men, the percentage of gay/bisexual adults who have an income at or below poverty level substantially exceeds rates for heterosexual adults. And, for those who live alone, LGBT people again prove to be more vulnerable to poverty with one in five LGBT people reporting an income at or below poverty level. (Williams Institute)<sup>3</sup>
- Despite LGBTQ+ persons comprising only 3-5% of the U.S. population, nearly 40% of all homeless youth identify as LGBTQ+. (Task Force)<sup>4</sup>

## SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

In consideration of the 2020 U.S. Census, it will be fundamental to engage, educate and encourage participation among the growing LGBTQ population of California, especially the growing sect of LGBTQ-identifying youth and young adults, on the local and national importance of the U.S. Census.

Recommendations for achieving this goal:

- Coordinating both in-person and digital communication programs for LGBTQ community partners throughout the state
- Establishing Census Action Kiosks at LGBTQ community centers and training census outreach workers to reflect the diversity of the population they serve
- Partnering with community-based organizations and LGBTQ-specific employment resources to engage hard-to-count populations that overlay with the LGBTQ community

## ENDNOTES

- 1 <https://news.gallup.com/poll/201731/lgbt-identification-rises.aspx>
- 2 <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/research/immigration/infographic-the-lgbt-undocumented/>
- 3 <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/LGB-Poverty-Update-Jun-2013.pdf>
- 4 <http://www.thetaskforce.org/visualizing-youth-homelessness/>

For more information about the  
Census Policy Advocacy Network,  
please contact  
CPAN@AdvanceProj.org or visit  
AdvancementProjectCA.org/CPAN