

Virginia's Triennial Census
A preliminary study of process, accuracy, and options

Susan Perrone
Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service

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Subcommittee on Education
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Overview

- Background
- Issues
- Analysis
- Conclusions
- Options

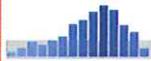


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Background

- School divisions conduct triennial census of 5-19 year olds residing in the district
- Counts determine appropriation of state sales and use tax for public education
- VDOE provides guidelines
- Planning and execution left to local school boards



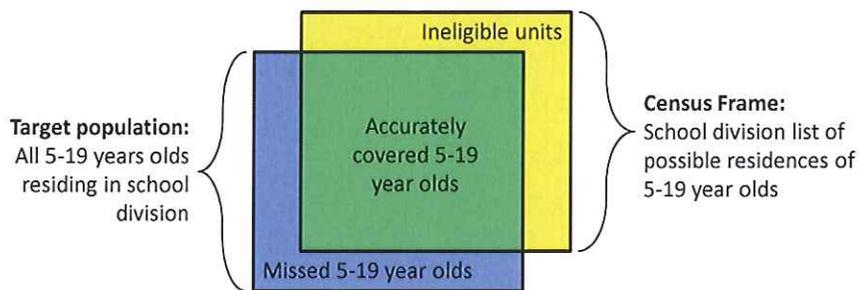
Background

School divisions must:

- Appoint census director
- Prepare budget
- Develop schedule
- Plan method for conducting census
- Conduct census
- Tabulate census counts
- Follow-up on nonrespondents
- Evaluate data
- Report count to VDOE



Issues - Inaccurate or incomplete identification of target population



- Developing list of where all children may be living is very challenging



Issues - Widely varying methods for obtaining responses



Face-to-face enumeration

- Higher accuracy, completion, and participation rates
- Higher cost



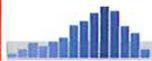
Mail and web-based forms

- Lower cost
- Lower accuracy, completion, and participation rates



Issues - Poor or inconsistent training of census enumerators

- VDOE recommends ½ to 1 day training sessions
- VDOE recommended topics:
 - Background on triennial census
 - Safety
 - State laws pertaining to triennial census
 - Overall school organization
 - Review of forms and instructions
 - Practice enumeration
 - Accounting purposes
 - Respondent refusal
- Training is inconsistent and often inadequate



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Issues— Differences in Questionnaire Design

- Standard form should be used throughout entire operation
- Different questionnaires can affect quality and accuracy of data
- In triennial census, localities can use sample form from VDOE or design their own



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VDOE Sample Form

VIRGINIA SCHOOL CENSUS 2008

(1) _____ County, City, or Town (2) _____ District, Ward or Other

(3) Name of Parents, Guardian, or Other <small>(Last Name, First Name, Middle Initial)</small>	(5) Address of Residence	
	Street No. and Name Or RFD and Box No.	Ap- No.
	City or Town	Zip

Name and data for all persons in family who will have reached their fifth birthday and who will not have reached their twentieth birthday on December 31, 2008.

(6) NAMES OF CHILDREN <small>(Last Name, First Name, Middle Initial)</small>	(7) Date of Birth			(10) Age in Years on 12/31/2008
	MO.	DAY	YEAR	
a.				
b.				
c.				
d.				
e.				
f.				
g.				
h.				
i.				
j.				

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Madison County Schools
Post Office Box 442
Madison, Virginia 22727

phone: 540-948-3760
fax: 540-948-5143

VERY IMPORTANT FOR MADISON COUNTY PARENTS
2008 Triennial School Census – Conducted By Madison County Public Schools
In Accordance With the Provisions of §22.1-281 through §22.1-296, Code of Virginia

The total number of people turning 6 through 19 on or before 12-31-2008 living in Madison County directly affects the amount of 1% sales tax our county can get from the state.

Please review the family census form and send it back to school immediately. Note that only your youngest child if you have more than one child in Madison County Public Schools will carry forms home.

Please follow these directions:

- Carefully look at family information in each section. Mark through errors and print the correct information.
- Add the name and date of birth of children not listed living in your home including < those ages 2, 3, or 4 > and < those away at college or in the military who maintain residency status in your home ages 18 or 19 >.
- Write any comment on the form you feel helps us understand changes or additional children added on the form.
- Questions? Please call Bob Franco, Supervisor of Pupil Services, 948-3760.

Signature of Parent or Guardian Reviewing This Form _____ Date _____ Phone Number _____
After Attesting the Information Below is Correct

Name of Parents, Guardian, or Other <small>(Last Name, First Name, Middle Initial)</small>	Mailing Address of Residence	Physical Address of Residence <small>If a PO Box is used for Mailing Address</small>

Please follow directions listed above. Carefully look. Add 10% Questions?

Name of Children in My Home <2 Through 19 Years of Age >	Date of Birth (Use Day Year)	Age on 12-31-08	School	Grade	Homeless

Comments: _____
_____ (continue on back if needed)

VERY IMPORTANT alert

Extensive instructions

Reminder to read instructions

Contact number

Space for comments

VIRGINIA SCHOOL CENSUS 2008

Please check only one:
 Lives in the ...
 Town of Berryville
 Town of Boyce
 County of Clarke

School(s) student or students attend:
 Primary Private
 Cooley Home School
 Boyce College
 FVSIS Other
 CCSS

NAME OF PARENT(S), GUARDIAN(S) OR OTHER and ADDRESS OF RESIDENCE			Primary language spoken at home	
Last Name:	First Name:	Middle Initial:	English	Other
Street No. and Name (Do not use PO Box addresses)				
Last Name:	First Name:	Middle Initial:	City or Town	Zip

Names and dates of all persons in family with birthdates between January 1, 1989 and December 31, 2008.

Name of Children		Birthdate				Gender	Type of School Plans up to Adams level
Last Name	First Name	Mo.	Day	Year	MS*		
Example: Doe	John	F	1	1	98	M	Public/Private/Other (P, Private L, Private O), Home School (H), College (C), Nonenrolled (N)

If more room is needed, please attach another sheet of paper. Please call 240-855-4100 if you have any questions.

PLEASE RETURN FORM
 Mail to: Clarke County Public Schools, Attn: School Census, 309 W. Main St., Berryville, VA 22811
 Or Return form with your child to his or her school
 Or Fax to 240-855-4100

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO COMPLETE THIS IMPORTANT INFORMATION.

Limited instructions

Contact number

VIRGINIA SCHOOL CENSUS 2008

(1) City of Martinsville

(2) Martinsville City Schools

Name of Parents , Guardians ,
or Other

(5) Address of Residence

(3) _____ *Street No. and Name _____ Apt. _____

(4) _____ City or Town _____ Zip _____

*Need physical address for census purposes

Name and dates for all persons in family who will have reached their fifth birthday and who will not have reached their twentieth birthday on December 31, 2008.

(6) NAMES OF CHILDREN	(7) Dates of Birth		
	(8) MONTH	(9) DAY	(9) YEAR
a			
b			
c			
d			
e			
f			
g			

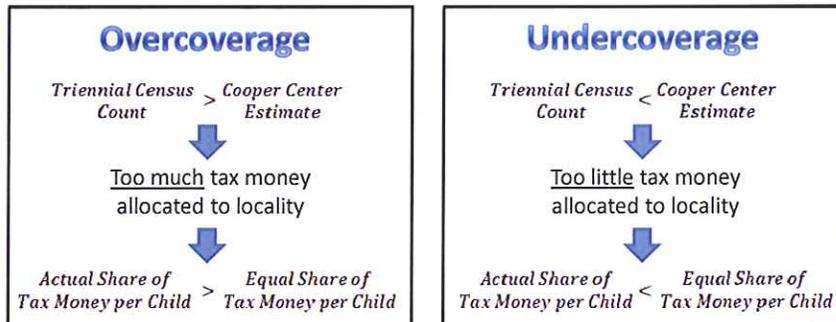
Submit Reset

Limited instructions

No contact number

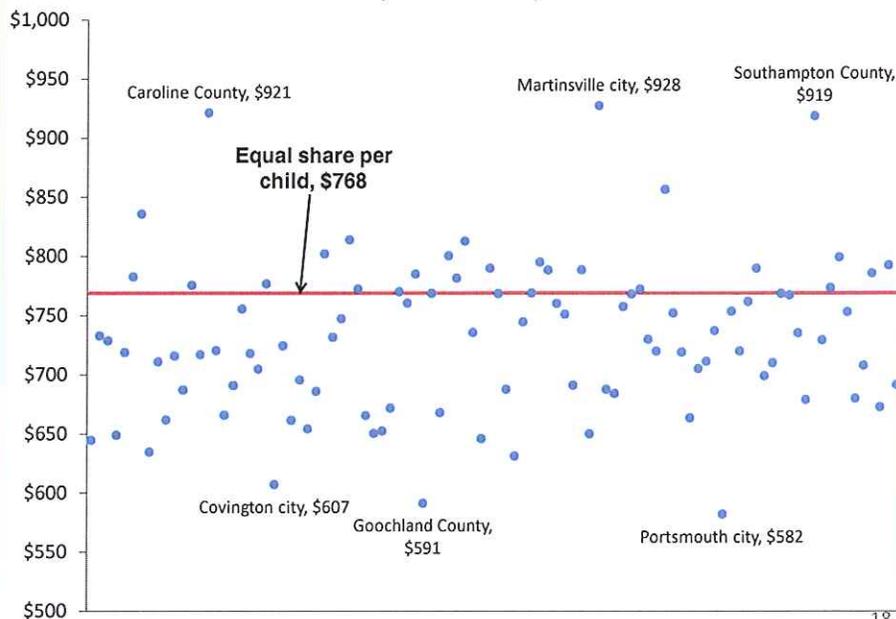
Analysis

When counts are inaccurate, the amount of tax money received per child is not the same for all localities.



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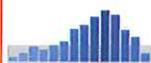
Actual Tax Money Distribution per Child in 2007



Option 2

Establish statewide triennial census plan and provide support for school divisions.

- Standardized procedures and requirements
- Standard, fully-tested questionnaire and training materials
- State-level census directors provide local support
- Streamlines census process, resulting in more consistent and reliable counts of school-age population



Option 3

Appoint Weldon Cooper Center to provide annual estimates of school-age population.

- Cooper Center has expertise, experience, and techniques to provide annual estimates
- Consistent, timely, reliable results for a fraction of the current costs
- Distribution of tax money would actually be proportional to the number of students living in each locality



Option 4

Appoint Cooper Center, as above, but include triennial census option.

- Provide school districts with preliminary distribution plan based on Cooper Center estimates for all localities
- Localities can accept or reject estimate
- Improves accuracy and reduces overall cost
- Offers mitigation strategy for potential local dissatisfaction with new method



Summary

- Accurate census is complex, demanding, requires many resources
- Current practice is inadequate
- Several alternatives would provide more accurate data and reduce costs
- Change is likely to cause shifts in funding shares
- Change is necessary to equalize amount of money distributed per child



Contact Information

Susan A. Perrone
Statistician, Demographics and Workforce
susan.perrone@virginia.edu
434.982.5690

www.coopercenter.org/demographics

