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RESOURCES:
"HARD TO COUNT" POPULATIONS
BY STATE
(Ranked by Percent of People Living in HTC Areas)

Throughout the history of the decennial census, it has been easier to achieve a more accurate count of certain population groups than others. Since 1940, scientific evaluations have confirmed that the census misses higher proportions of racial and ethnic minorities, low income households, and young children than of other population segments, such as non-Hispanic Whites, affluent households, and older Americans. Some of the latter groups are even subject to overcounting, due to factors such as ownership of more than one home and a higher percentage of children attending college away from home. (This gap in accuracy is often referred to as the "differential undercount.")

More recently, the Census Bureau has worked to identify the location and characteristics of communities that are at greater risk of being undercounted. The **Tract Level Planning Database with Census 2000 Data** (Planning Database, or PDB) uses a range of demographic, housing, and socio-economic factors that correlate to low mail response in the census. The Census Bureau designates these low response areas as **"hard to count" (HTC)** communities.

Factors that contribute to the HTC designations for neighborhoods include *demographic indicators* such as poverty, low educational attainment, unemployment, complex household arrangements, high mobility, and minority language status, and *housing indicators* such as high percentage of renters and vacant units, multi-unit buildings, crowded housing, and lack of telephones.

For more information on the Planning Database the Census Bureau is using to guide its 2010 census efforts, and to access to the PDB itself, go to:
https://ask.census.gov/cgi-bin/askcensus.cfg/php/enduser/std_adp.php?p_faqid=1410&p_created=1172675199&p_sid=NwTM6ppj&p_accessibility=&p_lva=&p_sp=cF9zcmNoPSZW

[X3NvcnRfYnk9JnBfZ3JpZHNvcnQ9JnBfcm93X2NudD0mcF9wcm9kcz0mcF9jYXRzPSZwX3B2PSZwX2N2PSZwX3BhZ2U9MQ**&](#).

The table below, displaying **Hard To Count Populations by State**, was developed by Dr. William O'Hare and Edwin Quiamboia of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, from the Census Bureau's Planning Database. It is based on data from the 2000 Census, and in this analysis, census tracts with **HTC scores of 60 or higher** are defined as "hard to count areas."

States Ranked by Percent of State Population Living in Hard-to-Count Areas*

Rank	State	State Population Living in Hard-To-Count Areas*	Total Population in State	Percent of Population in State Living in Hard-to-Count Areas*
1	Wyoming	12,456	493,688	2.5%
2	Vermont	20,950	608,827	3.4%
3	North Dakota	26,268	641,993	4.1%
4	Iowa	122,656	2,926,273	4.2%
5	Maine	56,311	1,274,848	4.4%
6	New Hampshire	55,956	1,235,786	4.5%
7	West Virginia	96,991	1,808,344	5.4%
8	Minnesota	338,862	4,919,479	6.9%
9	Idaho	92,949	1,293,896	7.2%
10	Delaware	57,784	783,600	7.4%
11	Virginia	530,209	7,078,486	7.5%
12	Montana	72,160	901,934	8.0%
13	Wisconsin	446,763	5,363,670	8.3%
14	Nebraska	147,850	1,711,202	8.6%
15	Kentucky	371,814	4,041,744	9.2%
16	South Carolina	380,810	4,012,012	9.5%
16	Kansas	256,600	2,688,395	9.5%
18	Pennsylvania	1,194,589	12,280,771	9.7%
19	South Dakota	73,624	754,755	9.8%
20	Indiana	607,778	6,080,485	10.0%
21	North Carolina	816,393	8,049,313	10.1%
22	Maryland	557,910	5,296,388	10.5%
23	Missouri	603,329	5,595,116	10.8%
23	Ohio	1,225,207	11,352,636	10.8%
25	Utah	244,346	2,233,111	10.9%

26	Colorado	476,062	4,301,257	11.1%
26	Tennessee	630,157	5,689,277	11.1%
28	Alabama	505,834	4,447,081	11.4%
29	Oregon	424,442	3,421,399	12.4%
29	Michigan	1,236,057	9,938,119	12.4%
31	Arkansas	364,721	2,673,400	13.6%
32	Washington	833,276	5,894,002	14.1%
33	Connecticut	513,369	3,405,516	15.1%
34	Oklahoma	522,964	3,450,505	15.2%
35	Georgia	1,257,940	8,186,435	15.4%
36	Massachusetts	988,281	6,348,960	15.6%
37	Mississippi	528,289	2,844,623	18.6%
38	Florida	2,981,402	15,982,265	18.7%
39	New Jersey	1,583,306	8,414,036	18.8%
40	Illinois	2,400,355	12,418,799	19.3%
41	Louisiana	874,388	4,468,809	19.6%
42	Hawaii	287,574	1,211,491	23.7%
43	Rhode Island	250,646	1,048,319	23.9%
44	Alaska	150,762	626,924	24.0%
45	Nevada	517,378	1,998,155	25.9%
46	Arizona	1,395,113	5,130,309	27.2%
46	Texas	5,661,540	20,851,377	27.2%
48	New York	5,559,642	18,974,875	29.3%
49	California	10,393,982	33,870,923	30.7%
50	New Mexico	622,260	1,818,918	34.2%
51	DC	313,884	571,898	54.9%
	United States	49,684,189	281,414,424	17.7%

*Hard-to-Count Areas are defined in this table as census tracts with HTC scores above 60.