



# The Census Project

## RESOURCES:

### "HARD TO COUNT" POPULATIONS BY STATE

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 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.")

Since the 1990 census, the Census Bureau has worked to identify more precisely the types 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.

In addition to the variables cited above, 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 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=cF9zcmNoPSZwX3NvcnRfYnk9JnBfZ3JpZHNVcnQ9JnBfcm93X2NudD0mcF9wcm9kcz0mcF9jYXRzPSZwX3B2PSZwX2N2PSZwX3BhZ2U9MQ\\*\\*&](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=cF9zcmNoPSZwX3NvcnRfYnk9JnBfZ3JpZHNVcnQ9JnBfcm93X2NudD0mcF9wcm9kcz0mcF9jYXRzPSZwX3B2PSZwX2N2PSZwX3BhZ2U9MQ**&)

The table below, displaying **Hard To Count Populations by State**, was developed by Dr. William O'Hare and Edwin Quiamboa of the Annie E. Casey Foundation, from the Census Bureau's Planning Database. It is based on hard-to-count areas and data from the 2000 Census.

Rank	State	Hard-to-Count Population	Total Population	% of Population Living in Hard-to-Count Areas
30	Alabama	184,334	4,447,081	4.1%
11	Alaska	73,910	626,924	11.8%
3	Arizona	824,633	5,130,309	16.1%
31	Arkansas	106,990	2,673,400	4.0%
4	California	5,326,970	33,870,923	15.7%
36	Colorado	159,938	4,301,257	3.7%
12	Connecticut	361,630	3,405,516	10.6%
42	Delaware	19,697	783,600	2.5%
1	District of Columbia	210,732	571,898	36.8%
14	Florida	1,443,618	15,982,265	9.0%
18	Georgia	499,622	8,186,435	6.1%
13	Hawaii	111,989	1,211,491	9.2%
46	Idaho	26,986	1,293,896	2.1%
10	Illinois	1,469,645	12,418,799	11.8%
35	Indiana	227,484	6,080,485	3.7%
43	Iowa	72,885	2,926,273	2.5%
33	Kansas	102,433	2,688,395	3.8%
39	Kentucky	135,624	4,041,744	3.4%
16	Louisiana	344,596	4,468,809	7.7%
44	Maine	28,711	1,274,848	2.3%
27	Maryland	233,730	5,296,388	4.4%
15	Massachusetts	539,321	6,348,960	8.5%
17	Michigan	640,703	9,938,119	6.4%
38	Minnesota	165,683	4,919,479	3.4%
19	Mississippi	161,669	2,844,623	5.7%
22	Missouri	293,549	5,595,116	5.2%
45	Montana	18,979	901,934	2.1%
37	Nebraska	59,711	1,711,202	3.5%
7	Nevada	284,286	1,998,155	14.2%
47	New Hampshire	22,415	1,235,786	1.8%
9	New Jersey	1,009,881	8,414,036	12.0%
6	New Mexico	260,075	1,818,918	14.3%
2	New York	3,554,746	18,974,875	18.7%
32	North Carolina	316,874	8,049,313	3.9%
48	North Dakota	10,320	641,993	1.6%
24	Ohio	543,692	11,352,636	4.8%
20	Oklahoma	188,776	3,450,505	5.5%
29	Oregon	146,085	3,421,399	4.3%
25	Pennsylvania	575,242	12,280,771	4.7%
5	Rhode Island	155,678	1,048,319	14.9%

<b>Rank</b>	<b>State</b>	<b>Hard-to-Count Population</b>	<b>Total Population</b>	<b>% of Population Living in Hard-to-Count Areas</b>
40	South Carolina	124,627	4,012,012	3.1%
21	South Dakota	40,928	754,755	5.4%
28	Tennessee	249,286	5,689,277	4.4%
8	Texas	2,686,836	20,851,377	12.9%
34	Utah	84,538	2,233,111	3.8%
51	Vermont	2,996	608,827	0.5%
41	Virginia	197,775	7,078,486	2.8%
26	Washington	271,631	5,894,002	4.6%
49	West Virginia	23,877	1,808,344	1.3%
23	Wisconsin	258,907	5,363,670	4.8%
50	Wyoming	3,692	493,688	0.7%

*January 9, 2008*