



April 2009

## **RESOURCES:**

### **"HARD TO COUNT" POPULATIONS BY COUNTY** **(Ranked by *Number of People 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=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, ranking the **50 U.S. counties with the highest number of people living in hard-to-count areas**, 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."

**50 Counties with the Largest Number of People Living in Hard-to-Count Areas\***

Rank	County	State	County Population Living in Hard-To-Count Areas*	Total Population in County	Percent of Population in County Living in Hard-to-Count Areas*
1	Los Angeles County	CA	4,418,226	9,519,338	46.4%
2	Cook County	IL	1,887,510	5,376,741	35.1%
3	Kings County	NY	1,648,656	2,465,326	66.9%
4	Harris County	TX	1,184,437	3,400,578	34.8%
5	Bronx County	NY	1,071,925	1,332,650	80.5%
6	Miami-Dade County	FL	995,009	2,253,362	44.2%
7	Queens County	NY	820,282	2,229,379	36.8%
8	New York County	NY	817,859	1,537,195	53.2%
9	Maricopa County	AZ	741,073	3,072,149	24.1%
10	Dallas County	TX	697,508	2,218,899	31.4%
11	San Diego County	CA	676,357	2,813,833	24.0%
12	Orange County	CA	647,478	2,846,289	22.7%
13	Wayne County	MI	641,988	2,061,162	31.1%
14	Philadelphia County	PA	639,514	1,517,550	42.1%
15	San Bernardino County	CA	608,431	1,709,434	35.6%
16	Hidalgo County	TX	497,889	569,463	87.4%
17	Fresno County	CA	465,123	799,407	58.2%

18	Riverside County	CA	420,005	1,545,387	27.2%
19	Essex County	NJ	410,069	793,633	51.7%
20	Bexar County	TX	397,876	1,392,931	28.6%
21	Clark County	NV	397,578	1,375,765	28.9%
22	Suffolk County	MA	376,939	689,807	54.6%
23	Hudson County	NJ	370,468	608,975	60.8%
24	Alameda County	CA	346,073	1,443,741	24.0%
25	Cuyahoga County	OH	342,764	1,393,978	24.6%
26	Sacramento County	CA	338,504	1,223,499	27.7%
27	Broward County	FL	319,719	1,623,018	19.7%
28	District of Columbia	DC	313,973	572,059	54.9%
29	El Paso County	TX	313,728	679,622	46.2%
30	Baltimore city	MD	302,098	651,154	46.4%
31	Kern County	CA	278,838	661,645	42.1%
32	Milwaukee County	WI	278,594	940,164	29.6%
33	Cameron County	TX	273,051	335,227	81.5%
34	Tarrant County	TX	270,656	1,446,219	18.7%
35	Fulton County	GA	260,562	816,006	31.9%
36	Pima County	AZ	243,966	843,746	28.9%
37	Travis County	TX	243,276	812,280	29.9%
38	Orleans Parish	LA	239,190	484,674	49.4%
39	Shelby County	TN	235,648	897,472	26.3%
40	St. Louis city	MO	231,532	348,189	66.5%
41	Hillsborough County	FL	230,220	998,948	23.0%
42	Honolulu County	HI	224,053	876,156	25.6%
43	Providence County	RI	223,993	621,602	36.0%
44	King County	WA	221,212	1,737,034	12.7%
45	San Francisco County	CA	208,595	776,733	26.9%

<b>46</b>	<b>Marion County</b>	<b>IN</b>	<b>207,421</b>	<b>860,454</b>	<b>24.1%</b>
<b>47</b>	<b>Oklahoma County</b>	<b>OK</b>	<b>193,900</b>	<b>660,448</b>	<b>29.4%</b>
<b>48</b>	<b>Orange County</b>	<b>FL</b>	<b>193,355</b>	<b>896,344</b>	<b>21.6%</b>
<b>49</b>	<b>Franklin County</b>	<b>OH</b>	<b>192,494</b>	<b>1,068,978</b>	<b>18.0%</b>
<b>50</b>	<b>Palm Beach County</b>	<b>FL</b>	<b>189,731</b>	<b>1,131,184</b>	<b>16.8%</b>

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