The Census Project

April 2009

RESOURCES:
"HARD TO COUNT" POPULATIONS BY COUNTY
(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=cF9zcmNoPSZwX3NvcnRfYnk9JnBfZ3JpZHNvcnQ9JnBfcm93X2NudD0mcF9wcm9kcz0mcF9jYXRzPSZwX3B2PSZwX2N2PSZwX3BhZ2U9MQ**&.

The table below, ranking the **50 U.S. counties with the *highest percent of people living in hard-to-count areas*,** 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 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 Highest Percent of People Living in Hard-to-Count Areas*

Rank	County	State	HTC Population by County	Total Population by County	Percent of HTC Population by County
1	Aleutians West Census Area	AK	5465	5465	100.0%
1	Bethel Census Area	AK	16006	16006	100.0%
1	Brooks County	TX	7976	7976	100.0%
1	Clark County	ID	1022	1022	100.0%
1	Cochran County	TX	3730	3730	100.0%
1	Costilla County	CO	3663	3663	100.0%
1	Dimmit County	TX	10248	10248	100.0%
1	Hardee County	FL	26938	26938	100.0%
1	Hudspeth County	TX	3344	3344	100.0%
1	Issaquena County	MS	2274	2274	100.0%
1	Jefferson County	MS	9740	9740	100.0%
1	Kalawao County	HI	147	147	100.0%
1	Kenedy County	TX	414	414	100.0%
1	Kinney County	TX	3379	3379	100.0%
1	Lake and Peninsula Borough	AK	1823	1823	100.0%
1	Long County	GA	10304	10304	100.0%
1	Luna County	NM	25016	25016	100.0%
1	Maverick County	TX	47297	47297	100.0%
1	Mellette County	SD	2083	2083	100.0%
1	Mora County	NM	5180	5180	100.0%
1	Nome Census Area	AK	9196	9196	100.0%
1	North Slope Borough	AK	7377	7385	100.0%
1	Northwest Arctic Borough	AK	7208	7208	100.0%
1	Presidio County	TX	7304	7304	100.0%
1	Sharkey County	MS	6580	6580	100.0%
1	Starr County	TX	53597	53597	100.0%
1	Todd County	SD	9050	9050	100.0%
1	Tunica County	MS	9227	9227	100.0%

1	Wade Hampton Census Area	AK	7028	7028	100.0%
1	Wilcox County	AL	13183	13183	100.0%
1	Wilkinson County	MS	10312	10312	100.0%
1	Willacy County	TX	20082	20082	100.0%
1	Yakutat City and Borough	AK	808	808	100.0%
1	Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	AK	6551	6551	100.0%
1	Zapata County	TX	12182	12182	100.0%
1	Zavala County	TX	11600	11600	100.0%
37	Hendry County	FL	36068	36210	99.6%
38	Shannon County	SD	12220	12466	98.0%
39	Duval County	TX	12108	13120	92.3%
40	McKinley County	NM	68000	74798	90.9%
41	Buffalo County	SD	1833	2032	90.2%
42	Culberson County	TX	2645	2975	88.9%
43	Allendale County	SC	9917	11211	88.5%
44	Hidalgo County	TX	497889	569463	87.4%
45	Claiborne County	MS	10110	11831	85.5%
46	Apache County	AZ	58819	69423	84.8%
47	Sumter County	AL	12452	14798	84.1%
48	Sioux County	ND	3382	4044	83.9%
49	Cameron County	TX	273051	335227	81.5%
50	Corson County	SD	3386	4181	81.0%

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