

United States®
**Census
2010**

Is Counting on You.



Northern Middlesex Council of Governments
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The Importance of the Census

Since 1790, the U.S. Constitution has required that the entire population be counted once every ten years. The decennial census is a count of every person residing in the United States, whether that person resides in one of the fifty states, Washington D.C., Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, or American Samoa. The count includes people of all ages, races, ethnic groups, citizens and non-citizens. On April 1st, 2010, every household will be asked to fill out a Census form that contains questions about the number of people living in the household, their ages, race, and other important demographic data.

It is important to note that each individual response is kept confidential and that the data is only released as aggregated information. The U.S. Census Bureau does not ask about the legal status of respondents in any of its surveys and census programs. Every Census Bureau worker takes an oath for life to protect the confidentiality of census responses. Violation would result in a jail term of up to five years and/ or fine of up to \$250,000. By law, the Census Bureau cannot share an individual's answers with anyone, including welfare and immigration agencies.

An operation called Service-Based Enumeration (SBE) is designed to provide people without "usual residence," who might not be included through other enumeration methods, an opportunity to be counted. Also, people without a "usual residence" will be able to pick up *Be Counted* questionnaires at selected non-SBE service locations, such as travelers' aid centers and health care clinics.

The foundation of our American democracy is dependent on fair and equitable representation in Congress. Census counts are used to determine the number of Congressional seats allocated to each state. The data is also used to determine how congressional district boundaries are mapped.

The census data is often used to develop formulas for distributing money from federal, state and local government funding programs for schools, transportation projects, hospitals and social programs over the next ten years. The 2010 census data will directly affect how more than three trillion dollars will be allocated over the next ten years. In order for this funding to be allocated fairly and accurately, it is critical that each person be counted only once, and that he or she be counted as residing in the correct location.

Hard to Count Populations

Even with the Census Bureau's best efforts, some people will be overlooked. Those most at risk of being undercounted include young children in low-income households, minorities, recent immigrants, the homeless, renters and persons living in large households. Many of the people that are overlooked are located in large urban areas or poorer sections of rural America.

Tract Level Planning Database Development Based on Census 2000 Data

The Tract Level Planning Database assembles a range of variables and factors related to housing, demographic, and socioeconomic conditions that are correlated with poor census form returns by mail. Using data from the Census 2000, a database containing these variables has been developed for all census tracts in the country.

The variables included in the Tract Level Planning Database with Census 2000 Data, also called the planning database or PDB, were guided by extensive research conducted by the Census Bureau and others to measure census coverage and to identify the reasons why certain groups of people are missed in the census count. The variables include housing indicators (percent renters, multi-units, crowded housing, lack of telephones, vacancy) and personal indicators (poverty, non-high school graduate, unemployed, complex households, mobility, and language isolation). Other operational and demographic data were also included (such as race/ethnic distributions). The PDB contains "hard-to-count" (HTC) scores, which summarize the attributes of each census tract or block group in terms of enumeration difficulty.

Hard –To-Count Scores

The 2000 database file contains "hard-to-count" scores which summarize the attributes of each tract in terms of enumeration difficulty. A total of twelve(12) variables that were correlated with nonresponse rates in 1990 and 2000 are used to derive the HTC score.

The HTC scores can range from 0 to 132. The comparative standing of areas provides an indicator of the likely degree of difficulty in enumeration. Areas with the highest scores (e.g. over 70) are likely to be the areas with relatively high non-return and undercount rates, while areas with the lowest scores are likely to be areas with low non-return and undercount rates. The Tables below detail the HTC scores for the census tracts within the Northern Middlesex region. The data shows that the hardest to count populations are located within the City of Lowell, with eleven census tract having HTC scores over seventy.

Hard – To – Count Population Scores by Census Tract for the NMCOG Region

Community	Census Tract	Total Population	Total Housing Units	Hard To Count Score
Billerica	3161.01	5,237	1,633	0
	3161.02	6,091	2,120	3
	3162.01	4,006	1,282	3
	3162.02	4,183	1,364	0
	3163.00	7,118	2,763	11
	3164.00	6,377	1,779	0
	3165.00	5,969	2,130	2

Community	Census Tract	Total Population	Total Housing Units	Hard To Count Score
Chelmsford	3171.01	5,891	2,574	6
	3171.02	4,395	1,600	5
	3171.03	5,034	1,730	0
	3172.01	2,883	1,003	0
	3172.02	3,445	1,206	4
	3172.03	4,368	1,168	0
	3173.00	7,842	3,294	4

Community	Census Tract	Total Population	Total Housing Units	Hard To Count Score
Dracut	3141.01	5,548	2,040	0
	3141.02	7,052	2,822	9
	3142.00	5,533	2,061	8
	3143.01	7,805	2,907	5
	3143.02	2,624	813	0

Community	Census Tract	Total Population	Total Housing Units	Hard To Count Score
Dunstable	3281.00	2,829	944	0

Community	Census Tract	Total Population	Total Housing Units	Hard To Count Score
Lowell	3101.00	3,881	2,025	100
	3102.00	6,070	2,288	35
	3103.00	6,157	2,414	46
	3104.00	3,581	1,209	74
	3105.00	3,353	1,223	51
	3106.01	5,392	1,942	29
	3106.02	5,610	2,284	30
	3107.00	4,575	1,593	66
	3108.00	2,457	361	93

Community	Census Tract	Total Population	Total Housing Units	Hard To Count Score
Lowell	3110.00	2,754	1,235	100
	3111.00	2,286	636	87
	3112.00	3,374	1,129	92
	3113.00	3,954	1,375	59
	3114.00	5,857	2,500	55
	3115.00	2,908	1,085	35
	3116.00	5,099	1,903	28
	3117.00	4,923	1,627	49
	3118.00	3,516	1,019	82
	3119.00	2,666	1,196	89
	3120.00	2,977	1,016	73
	3121.00	3,122	1,140	74
	3122.00	4,741	1,861	51
	3123.00	5,023	2,036	28
	3124.00	2,405	978	72
	3125.01	4,497	1,721	14
	3125.02	3,999	1,672	14

Community	Census Tract	Total Population	Total Housing Units	Hard To Count Score
Pepperell	3271.01	3,266	1,069	0
	3271.02	4,275	1,486	4
	3271.03	3,601	1,362	0

Community	Census Tract	Total Population	Total Housing Units	Hard To Count Score
Tewksbury	3151.00	5,277	1,818	2
	3152.00	7,265	2,810	0
	3154.01	3,736	1,397	13
	3154.02	2,833	901	0
	3154.03	1,763	602	0
	3155.00	7,977	2,630	0

Community	Census Tract	Total Population	Total Housing Units	Hard To Count Score
Tyngsborough	3131.01	4,927	1,686	1
	3131.02	6,154	2,120	2

Community	Census Tract	Total Population	Total Housing Units	Hard To Count Score
Westford	3181.00	6,116	2,077	0
	3182.00	3,690	1,338	0
	3183.00	7,175	2,389	0
	3184.00	3,773	1,137	0

How Undercounting Affects Massachusetts

A 2001 report prepared by PriceWaterhouse Coopers estimates the 2000 Census missed 48,623 people in the state of Massachusetts. That is an undercount of 0.76% of the total population statewide. Middlesex County was estimated to have been undercounted by 9,347 people or 0.63 % of its population. Suffolk County had the highest estimated undercount in the state, with an estimated 11,541 people missed or 1.65 % of its total population. The 2000 population statistic is used as the basis for all annual estimates until 2010; the undercount's effect is compounded each year, resulting in millions of dollars in lost federal funding based on underestimates.

The estimates found in the tables that follow show the effect of the Census 2000 undercount on federal funding for eight major programs over a ten year period, 2002 – 2012. The eight programs are Medicaid, Foster Care, Rehabilitation Services Basic Support, Child Care and Development Block Grant, Social Services Block Grant, Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant, Adoption Assistance and Vocational Education Basic Grants. As shown on the following page, Middlesex County lost out on nearly \$20 million in funding, for just these eight programs, due to undercounting.

Estimated Effect of 2000 Census Undercount On Federal Funding By Selected County

	Net Effect (Thousands)	Percent (1)
Bristol County	-11,329	-0.2%
Essex County	-2,138	Less than -0.05%
Middlesex County	-19,978	-0.1%
Norfolk County	-22,386	-0.4%
Suffolk County	-57,661	-0.9%
Worcester County	-8,980	-0.1%

Source: PriceWaterhouse Cooper's calculations

(1) Net effect as a percent of the adjusted funding level under the eight programs over 2002-2012

How Communities Can Support the Census

In an effort to get everyone counted, the Census Bureau works in partnership with over one hundred thousand organizations and community leaders. At the local level, the Census Bureau Partnership Program works with elected officials, educators, businesses, faith-based groups, and various community and social service organizations. Every ten years, the Census Bureau forms thousands of "complete count committees" that operate at the neighborhood and community levels. Some of the ways in which organizations and community leaders can help to ensure that everyone is counted correctly include the following:

- Enlist the support of other organizations and community leaders;
- Recruit census workers;
- Include information about the census in newsletters and mailings;
- Display and distribute census materials;
- Provide space for testing and training census employees; and
- Sponsor community events to promote the census.

Additional information regarding activities that can assist in achieving an accurate 2010 census can be found at www.census.gov/2010census/.

Participant Statistical Area Program (PSAP) and Housing Unit Estimate Review

The Northern Middlesex Council of Governments (NMCOG) has been playing an important role in improving the accuracy of the Census information for its member communities. Most recently NMCOG's efforts have been focused on revising Census geography to reflect current development patterns, and on improving the accuracy of population and housing estimates developed between each decennial census.

The goal of the Participant Statistical Area Program or PSAP is to define meaningful, relevant census tracts, block groups, census designated places (CDP's) and census county divisions (CCDs) to obtain meaningful, relevant small area and place-level statistical data. The updated boundaries for census tracts block groups, CDPs and CCDs will frame all the 2010 Census tabulations, and will be used for the American Community Survey (ACS) beyond 2010. Data tabulated to these PSAP geographic entities are used by various local, state, and federal agencies and organizations for planning and funding purposes. This data is also utilized by the private sector, academia, and the public.

The Census Bureau sought the assistance of regional and local governmental organizations in the review and update of the PSAP geographic designations. These governmental organizations are most familiar with where area population changes are occurring and how area settlement patterns are changing. This knowledge is essential to the proper editing of census tract, block group, and CCD boundaries to accommodate these changes in growth patterns. NMCOG, on behalf of the Census Bureau, worked with each member community that had block groups flagged for review by the Census Bureau. Meetings were held with interested local officials to determine the best way to restructure block groups so that they would meet 2010 Census criteria for population and housing units. Twenty-six (26) block groups were either split or merged in seven communities within the NMCOG region using the input and guidance provided by municipal officials.

The UMass Donahue Institute is charged with collecting housing unit construction and demolition information to support the 2009 U.S. Census population estimates for every municipality in the state. The data will also help with preparations for the 2010 Census by identifying high-growth areas. This data is essential to forecast and accurately depict changes in housing stock within the Commonwealth and within each municipality. It is imperative that the Census estimates are as accurate as possible for the appropriate distribution of federal and

state funds. Additionally, more precise data allows NMCOG and local municipalities to undertake more effective planning efforts and assist their communities.

While the Census solicits building permit data monthly through the Construction Survey (C-404), demolition data is not collected, and many municipalities have not been reporting this information regularly. NMCOG has assisted the Donahue Institute by collecting information on housing unit construction, housing unit losses and mobile home placement data for the years 2000 – 2007, for all communities in the NMCOG region. This was accomplished by working with the local planners and building departments in each community in order to develop an up-to-date and accurate database.

Census 2010 Employment Opportunities

By 2010, there will be an estimated 310 million people residing in the United States. Counting each person is one of the largest initiatives that the federal government undertakes. The Census Bureau will recruit nearly 3.8 million applicants for 2010 Census field operations. Of these applicants, the Census Bureau will hire about 1.4 million temporary employees. Some of these employees will be using GPS-equipped hand-held computers to update maps and ensure there is an accurate address list for the mailing of the census questionnaires. More information about job opportunities with the Census Bureau for the 2010 census can be found at www.2010censusjobs.gov.



Census 2010 Timeline:

- **Spring 2009 – Census employees go door-to-door to update address lists nationwide.**
- **Fall 2009 – Recruitment begins for census takers needed for peak workload in 2010.**
- **February – March 2010 – Census questionnaires are mailed or delivered to households.**
- **April 1, 2010 – Census Day**
- **April – July 2010 – Census takers visit households that did not return a questionnaire by mail.**
- **December 2010 – By law, the Census Bureau delivers population counts to the President for apportionment.**
- **March 2011 – By law, the Census Bureau completes delivery of redistricting data to states.**



BE COUNTED!! 

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Informational Websites

Census 2010 Home Page:

www.census.gov/2010census/

Employment Opportunities for the 2010

Census: www.census.gov/2010censusjobs/

U.S. Census Bureau Data:

<http://factfinder.census.gov/>

American Community Survey:

www.census.gov/acs