

Southern Coalition for Social Justice

Census 2010 Factsheet: Immigrant Communities and the Census

North Carolina's foreign-born immigrant population has increased since 2000

	2000 Census	2010 (projected)
<i>total foreign-born population</i>	430,000 5.3% of the state	669,998 7% of the state
<i>foreign-born citizens</i>	112,822 26.2% of all immigrants	193,629 28.9% of all immigrants

Using projections based on the Census Bureau's 2007 American Community Survey data, North Carolina's foreign-born immigrant population is expected to increase by 55.8% between 2000 and 2010. In contrast, the total state population increased by only 18.9%.

Immigrant communities will be undercounted in 2010, unless we take action

Foreign-born residents of NC, and especially undocumented immigrants and non-English speakers, are some of the most likely groups to be undercounted. The Census undercounts immigrant populations for a number of reasons:

- Language – While Census materials are available in 5 different languages (see table below), the burden is largely on immigrants themselves to call the Census Bureau and request materials in their native language. Without good outreach work to distribute alternate-language census materials and educate folks about the census language programs, many non-English proficient folks in immigrant communities will skip the census.

Census questionnaires available in...

English
Spanish-English bilingual (mailed to "Spanish Assistance" tracts* only)

Call 1-866-928-2010 for English questionnaires and 1-866-928-2010 for bilingual forms.

Translated forms (for reference only) and live phone support in...

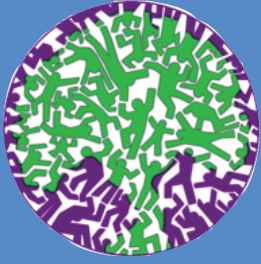
English
Spanish
Chinese
Korean
Vietnamese
Russian

"Language Assistance Guides" in...

all the languages listed to the left, plus 9 other languages, including Burmese, Hindi, Hmong, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Laotian, Malayalam, Navajo, Nepali, Somali, Tamil, Thai, Urdu, Vietnamese and others...

*tracts in which more than 20% of households were counted as limited-English proficient and Spanish-speaking in 2000

- Housing and family structure – Because Census forms are distributed by housing unit, folks living in multi-family households and multi-unit housing structures (especially informal, temporary housing) may not even get a census form in the first place.
- Fear/mistrust – Even though Census workers are sworn to protect confidentiality, and the census does not ask about citizenship status, many immigrants (especially undocumented folk) won't return census



Southern Coalition for Social Justice

forms and won't want to take the risk of opening the door to a census enumerator. Outreach work is essential both to allay this fear and to ensure that census workers maintain their confidentiality and treat immigrant communities with respect.

- *If your constituents do not receive a census form, they should call the Telephone Questionnaire assistance line at 1-866-872-6868 (English), 1-866-928-2010 (Spanish) or 1-866-783-2010 (Hearing-impaired TDD). The lines will be open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. (your local time) seven days a week from February 25, 2010 through July 30, 2010.*

A complete census count builds political power for immigrant communities

- State law GS 163-165.5A (expiring in January 2012) mandates that bilingual ballot instructions must be provided in counties where the most recent census counts a Hispanic population of at least 6%. Assuming Census counts agree with estimates, this means that *Cabarrus, Catawba, Granville, Guilford, Harnett, Robeson, Rowan, Wake, and Wayne counties will all have to provide bilingual ballot instructions in the next election cycle.*

- Population counts from Census 2010 will be used to redraw electoral districts at the state, local and national levels.

A complete census count will build power for immigrant communities by providing opportunities to draw majority-immigrant districts at the local level, as well as consolidating existing majority-minority districts at state and national levels and increasing political visibility for immigrant communities statewide.

- A complete count of Hispanic/Latino communities is particularly important to offset declining numbers of African-Americans in many of the states' borderline majority-minority districts.

Census Funding to NC available to all immigrants

<i>Program</i>	<i>NC Funding in 2008 (millions)</i>
Highway planning and construction	\$992.2
Special Education	\$304.6
School Lunch Program	\$298.7
Title I Funding to Schools	\$202.5
Federal Transit Grants	\$84.7
Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment	\$82.1
School Breakfast Program	\$82.1
Child and Adult Care Food Program	\$79.2
Child Support Enforcement	\$73.3
Improving Teacher Quality Grants	\$68.1

Census-allocated federal funding helps immigrants

Over \$478 billion of federal funding was distributed based on census data in fiscal year 2009. Nearly two-thirds of that funding went to state Medicaid programs. Undocumented immigrants and newly-arrived documented immigrants are mostly ineligible for standard Medicaid assistance, but nearly all recipients of emergency medical assistance in North Carolina are undocumented immigrants (99.2% in 2004, according to a JAMA study).

- NC spent \$63.7 million on emergency medicaid for non-citizens in 2008, serving 19,556 patients
- A large number of federal census-allocated grant programs affect immigrants. Out of 178 federal formula grant programs, recent immigrants are specifically blocked (due to the 1996 Welfare Reform laws) from access to only 14.