

Southern Coalition for Social Justice

Census 2010 Factsheet: Wilson County

How has Wilson County changed since the last census?

	2000 Census	2010 Projection
<i>Total population</i>	73,811	81,055, a 9.8% increase
<i>Percent African-American</i>	39.3%	39.9%
<i>Percent Hispanic</i>	6.04%	8.53%

These projections come from NC's Office of State Budget and Management, in conjunction with data from the US Census American Community Survey (ACS 2006-2008). The NC OSBM projections are based on Census 2000 data, so they're only as accurate as the census itself!

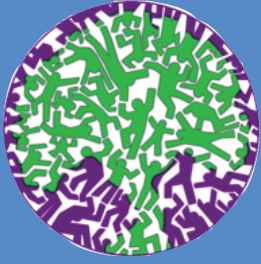
Also, the ACS is a three-year average of phone survey data, and for privacy reasons data is not released for populations less than 20,000. In rural parts of NC, that means small-area data on race, ethnicity, poverty, transportation, health coverage, etc. will be either infrequently released or not available at all. In many counties of NC, timely data on the Hispanic population is simply not available.

What do population shifts mean for political representation?

- Overall, African-Americans have increased as a percentage of the Wilson County population. This shift is probably not significant enough to flip districts at the State House or Senate level, but could lead to new opportunities for majority-minority districts in local politics, especially if outreach work leads to an accurate count of the African-American population.
- Wilson County is losing population relative to the state as a whole (which is projected to have a 18.9% increase). Wilson is split between State House Districts 23 and 24. District 23 was counted as 63% white in Census 2000, while District 24 was counted as 54.5% African-American. The racial makeup of these districts isn't likely to change significantly after Census 2010.
- Wilson County is in State Senate District 11, which was counted as 62.2% white in 2000.
- US Congress – Wilson County is split between the 1st and 3rd Congressional Districts. The 1st District (represented by G.K. Butterfield) was a majority-minority district as of the 2000 Census, with 48.1% of the voting age population African-American, and 2.8% Hispanic. The 1st district will likely stay majority-minority, but with a slimmer margin, so it's important that census outreach efforts ensure an accurate count, especially of African-Americans and Hispanic/Latino folk in the district. The 3rd District, represented by Walter Jones, was 79.7% white as of the 2000 Census.

How would an accurate count impact federal funding?

- Medicaid: As of January 2010, **16,118** Wilson County residents were enrolled in Medicaid. An accurate count for NC in 2000 would have resulted in **\$57 million** increased funding statewide **in 2008 alone**.
- Title I: Wilson County received **\$3,794,220** in federal Title I allotments in the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Those were distributed between 14 Title I eligible schools (see attached list).



Southern Coalition for Social Justice

Census 2010 Factsheet: Wilson County

Wilson County: Title I Schools

School	% from low-income families	Total students
B.O. Barnes Elementary	92.4%	484
Charles H. Darden Middle	89.4%	264
Elm City Elementary	68.8%	414
Gardners Elementary	68.4%	307
John W. Jones Elementary	49.9%	535
Lee Woodard Elementary	55.5%	263
Lucama Elementary	62.8%	452
Margaret Hearne Elementary	92.2%	525
Rock Ridge Elementary	47.1%	508
Stantonsburg Elementary	71.9%	302
Vick Elementary	96.0%	326
Vinson-Bynum Elementary	44.3%	429
Wells Elementary	55.1%	523
Winstead Elementary	89.1%	394

Which parts of Wilson County are Hard-to-Count?

The US Census Bureau tracks these and other neighborhood characteristics through its Hard-to-Count (HTC) index. Areas with an HTC index above 60 are considered 'hard-to-count' -- see the accompanying map for a detail of HTC areas in Wilson County. Of course, the Census index relies on 2000 data, and in many cases neighborhood-level characteristics have changed so much since 2000 that your knowledge as a local organizer will be more useful for targeting census outreach than the HTC data.