

Southern Coalition for Social Justice

Census 2010 Factsheet: Harnett County

How has Harnett County changed since the last census?

	2000 Census	2010 Projection
<i>Total population</i>	91,006	116,270, a 27.8% increase
<i>Percent African-American</i>	22.5%	21.6%
<i>Percent Hispanic</i>	5.9%	8.3%

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!

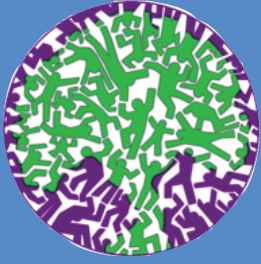
Also, the ACS is a three-year average of phone survey data, and for privacy reasons data is not released for populations less than 20,000. In rural parts of NC, that means small-area data on race, ethnicity, poverty, transportation, health coverage, etc. will be either infrequently released or not available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

What does that mean for political representation?

- Bilingual ballot instructions – if Harnett County's Hispanic population exceeds 6% in the 2010 count, then state law will require bilingual ballot instructions (*NCGS 163-165.5A*).
- Harnett County is gaining population significantly relative to the state as a whole (which is predicted to have an 18.9% increase).
- *NC State House* – Harnett County is split between House districts 51 (western Harnett and eastern Lee counties) and 53 (eastern Harnett). In 2000, 71% of the voting-age census respondents in District 51 were counted as white, while in District 53 that percentage was 70.5%. Neither of these districts is likely to change significantly in racial makeup for 2010.
- *NC State Senate* – Harnett County is entirely in NC Senate District 22, which was counted as 77.9% white in 2000.
- *US House* – Harnett County is entirely within the 2nd Congressional District. The 2nd District, 64% white as of Census 2000, is represented by Bob Etheridge (D).

How would an accurate count impact federal funding?

- Medicaid: As of January 2010, **17,654** Harnett County residents were enrolled in Medicaid (1.2% of the total state enrollment). An accurate count for NC in the last Census would have resulted in \$57 million more funding statewide in 2008 alone.
- Title I: Harnett County Schools received \$5,122,299 in federal Title I allotments in the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Harnett County's Title I funds were distributed between 17 Title I eligible schools, serving 9080 students (see table).



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Harnett County: Title I Schools

School	% from low-income families	Total students
Anderson Creek Primary	78.8%	514
Angier Elementary	63.4%	399
Benhaven Elementary	54.9%	485
Boone Trail Elementary	67.3%	611
Buies Creek Elementary	38.2%	280
Coats Elementary	60.7%	758
Erwin Elementary	58.9%	260
Gentry Primary	62.3%	342
Harnett Primary	76.2%	638
Highland Elementary	36.0%	887
Johnsonville Elementary	67.9%	560
LaFayette Elementary	35.1%	826
Lillington-Shawtown Elementary	67.5%	616
North Harnett Primary	67.2%	448
Overhills Elementary	46.7%	720
South Harnett Elementary	59.0%	461
Wayne Avenue Elementary	73.8%	275

Where should community organizations focus outreach efforts?

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 <http://www.censushardtocomaps.org/> for an online interactive map of HTC areas. 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.