



South Carolina and the 2010 Census

What: As required by the Constitution, a count of everyone residing in the United States is conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. The count has been taken every ten years since 1790.

When: Census forms will be mailed or hand-delivered in March 2010. Some people in remote areas will be counted in person. An estimated 1.8 million forms will be sent to South Carolina addresses. April 1, 2010 is national Census Day. People who do not respond by mail will receive a follow-up visit from a Census worker.

Why it Matters to South Carolina

- Every year \$400 billion in federal aid is distributed based on census data. The more people a state has, the bigger share it gets.
- In 2007 alone, South Carolina has missed out on as much as \$115 million in federal aid because an estimated 48,335 people went uncounted during the 2000 Census. Some experts believe the number of people missed was many times higher, meaning the financial impact would be even larger.
- Census numbers are used to fund important programs like road construction, vocational education, college scholarships, health care, aid to crime victims and programs to grow small businesses.
- Census data is used to assign seats in Congress. South Carolina is believed to be close to gaining enough population to add a seventh seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. South Carolina lost its seventh seat after the 1930 census.
- Within South Carolina, census counts are used to draw state House and Senate districts and to draw voting districts for municipal and county governments.

What Is Being Done to Improve South Carolina's Census Count?

South Carolina counties and cities participated in the Local Update of Census Address program (LUCA) which allowed local governments to review and update the list of

housing unit and group quarters addresses that the Census Bureau will use to deliver questionnaires. The program added over 150,000 addresses to the master address file.

Local governments also participate in the Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS) which gives federal officials accurate information about municipal and other local boundaries. That helps ensure that people are counted in the right place.

The state is also partnering with local and federal officials to increase awareness of the importance of the census among citizens.

Facts About South Carolina

In 2000, South Carolina's 58 percent census form mail in rate was the second lowest in the nation. The national rate was 67 percent.

In 2007, South Carolina received \$5.4 billion in federal aid that was distributed via census-driven formulas. 79 26 \$1,241.08 26

U.S. Census officials expect to hire about 12,500 employees in South Carolina to conduct the 2010 count.

To Learn More

U.S. Census website: <http://2010.census.gov>

South Carolina Census website: www.census.sc.gov

South Carolina Census 2010 on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/SCCensus2010>