

Census 2010 – of Vital Interest to the Future of New Mexico

A Quantitative Description of the Issues

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The stakes...

- New Mexico is now losing close to \$20 million a year (and growing) from federal capitated grant programs – primarily Medicaid FMAP.
- For the decade 2002-2012, this ***averaged*** \$305 per person not counted per year

New Mexico lives on federal largesse.

- New Mexico is #1 in the amount of federal expenditures made in the state for each dollar of federal taxes paid.
- For FY04, New Mexicans paid \$4,927 per person in federal taxes
- In return, the federal government made payments within the state of \$10,628 per person.
- this works out to \$2.00 for each \$1.00 in federal taxes paid.
- In total for federal fiscal year 2006, the federal government paid \$22.418 BILLION dollars for all purposes within the state of New Mexico.

- From HB-2 of 2009, Federal funds for all purposes totaled \$4.91 billion, which includes approximately \$2.27 billion for Medicaid and \$1.11 billion in all other health and human services grants.
- By comparison, state general fund appropriations for 2009 HB-2 totaled \$5.96 billion and “other state funds” totaled \$2.55 billion.
- Thus, almost exactly 1/3rd of all appropriations in HB-2 derive from federal grants.

New Mexico's Undercount is Large...

- U.S. Bureau of Census estimated that it did not count nearly 36,000 persons in New Mexico in the 2000 Census.
- PriceWaterhouseCoopers used that estimated undercount to project that as a result of the undercount in New Mexico, we lost \$110 million dollars for the decade from 2002 to 2012. .

The problem is accelerating.

- In 2007 BBER estimated that the difference between its estimate and the official census estimate was 68,000 persons.
- By the time we get to Census 2010, the difference between the official census estimate and BBER's more methodologically correct estimate will grow to 126,000 people.
- See the detailed chart in your handout.

		Census Estimate	BBER Estimate	Difference	
				#	%
"April 1, 2000 Census Estimate	Base r/	1,819,046	1,819,046	0	0.0%
July 1, 2000	Estimate r/	1,820,861	1,825,461	4,600	0.3%
July 1, 2001	Estimate r/	1,829,032	1,852,740	23,708	1.3%
July 1, 2002	Estimate r/	1,850,562	1,876,287	25,725	1.4%
July 1, 2003	Estimate r/	1,870,113	1,899,846	29,733	1.6%
July 1, 2004	Estimate r/	1,892,182	1,929,713	37,531	2.0%
July 1, 2005	Estimate r/	1,916,331	1,968,352	52,021	2.7%
July 1, 2006	Estimate r/	1,942,302	2,010,570	68,268	3.5%
July 1, 2007	Estimate p/	1,969,915	2,049,206	79,291	4.0%
July 1, 2008	Projection	1,991,684	2,082,292	90,608	4.5%
July 1, 2009	Projection	2,013,693	2,115,913	102,219	5.1%
April 1, 2010	Projection	2,035,946	2,150,076	114,130	5.6%
July 1, 2010	Projection	2,058,445	2,184,791	126,346	6.1%
Avg.					
		1.11%	1.61%		

People Uncounted = Money Lost...

- The .5% difference between Census's official estimate (used for the calculation of the population denominator in the FMAP calculation) will result in an average shortfall of \$15 million per year in federal reimbursement for the FMAP program alone.
- $SMAP = (.45 * .82)^2$.

The undercount is not distributed proportionally -- geographically or with respect to racial and ethnic characteristics.

- New Mexico has a statistically large Indian population.
- The undercount by county, times the Native American population in each county can be combined to estimate the number of Native American New Mexicans not counted in the 2000 Census.
- At least 5,300 Native Americans are not included in the 2006 population estimates. The true number could be up to twice that.
- See table included in your handout for details.

	Total:	American Indian alone	Indian % of total county pop	Undercount %	Approx Indian Undercount	Undercount Rank
New Mexico Total	1,954,599	190,826	9.8%		5,294	
McKinley County, New Mexico	71,875	53,524	74.5%	4.07%	2,176	1
Cibola County, New Mexico	27,481	11,269	41.0%	3.17%	357	2
Socorro County, New Mexico	18,240	2,182	12.0%	3.00%	66	3
San Juan County, New Mexico	126,473	48,300	38.2%	2.97%	1,435	4
Hidalgo County, New Mexico	5,087	53	1.0%	2.88%	2	5
Dona Ana County, New Mexico	193,888	3,120	1.6%	2.40%	75	6
Roosevelt County, New Mexico	18,291	262	1.4%	2.21%	6	7
Rio Arriba County, New Mexico	40,949	6,240	15.2%	2.18%	136	8
Otero County, New Mexico	62,744	3,885	6.2%	2.14%	83	9
Torrance County, New Mexico	17,551	441	2.5%	2.13%	9	10
Santa Fe County, New Mexico	142,407	4,884	3.4%	2.12%	104	11
Curry County, New Mexico	45,513	684	1.5%	2.05%	14	12
San Miguel County, New Mexico	29,325	687	2.3%	2.01%	14	13
Guadalupe County, New Mexico	4,365	58	1.3%	1.94%	1	14
Taos County, New Mexico	31,832	2,222	7.0%	1.93%	43	15
Lea County, New Mexico	57,312	720	1.3%	1.91%	14	16

What causes an undercount?

- The undercount can be traced to five major factors (and a bunch of lesser ones):
 - (1) Colonias;
 - (2) Native American reservation population;
 - (3) Group quarters and homeless/transient housing;
 - (4) Dense housing
 - (5) Rapid increase in population

New Mexico is #1 in the percentage of the population that is “hard to count”.

“Hard to count” is the combination of a number of socio-economic-linguistic factors. Among these factors are rural and urban poverty, lack of English language ability, presence of undocumented workers in the local region and other similar factors.

What are we doing about this?

- The state has already invested approximately \$375,000 of General Fund money in providing 130,000 new addresses to the U.S. Census Bureau's Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) program.
- This significant addition used a combination of building permits data and careful assessment of aerial survey maps to obtain census block counts of residences.

What can you do to help?

- The most important thing you can do is to combat two statements often heard, “The Government doesn’t do anything for me. Why should I cooperate with anything the Government wants me to do?” and “What happens if Census reports me to the ICE?”