

Census 2000 Update for Indiana



Washington is abuzz over the upcoming census. Well, maybe not just about the census.... But there has been significant activity since our last update in the July *IBR*. A panel of federal judges determined that the count of the population in 2000 should not include a sampling effort to rectify an undercount. The Clinton Administration has appealed this decision and the Supreme Court will hear arguments in the case just after the Thanksgiving holiday, November 30th. A decision is due sometime in the spring. The sampling for non-response in the 100% count portion of the census is a significant issue that can affect both apportionment of congressional representation and how much federal money each state receives for programs that are population-based.

Other news of note...

- LUCA—the Local Update of Census Addresses—became a household word among city and town planners this summer as they attended workshops by the Census Bureau throughout our state. So far, 13 such workshops have been held in Indiana, with a total of 156 participants. These numbers fall well below those of our regional partners, Wisconsin (397 attendees) and Illinois (354). (The Chicago office is responsible for these three states.) In terms of jurisdictions (local governments) that plan to participate in this review process, we are also not quite keeping pace with our partners. As of September, 231 Indiana jurisdictions were committed to this program—122 cities and towns and 85 townships.

If you're a local official or planner, it isn't too late to contact the regional office of the Census Bureau and sign the necessary forms for participation. Call 1-800-688-6948 (the Indiana team leader is Joe Virruso). There is also a LUCA Web site now available at www.census.gov/geo/www/luca

Note: Phase 2 of LUCA begins next year when rural areas are targeted for participation.

- Complete Count Committees are the next step local governments can take to work toward a comprehensive count in their communities. The idea behind these committees (we had dozens of them around Indiana who worked successfully in 1990 to "get the count out") is to promote response to the census. The general structure is that of business, government, not-for-profit, citizenry, and education in each community banding together to develop a strategy that will work in that community. The Census Bureau has lots of suggestions that can help prime the pump as a city or town gets its committee and plan going.

- Census Field Offices will open in Indiana on or about October 8, 1998. These offices (currently planned for South Bend and Bloomington, with Evansville and Muncie coming on line by November 5) will focus on address list canvassing in rural areas of our state. We understand that recruitment is currently taking place in these areas. If you know any hard-working people looking for a temporary job, have them call (312) 353-9790 at the regional office in Chicago.
- Data users will be glad to note that plans are under way to ensure that the information collected from the census—in its summarized form, of course (thus protecting privacy)—will be available via the Internet. Those of us who work with census tapes, CD-ROMs, and files on a daily basis are previewing the table outlines currently in draft form at the Bureau. Because disk space is cheap and technology more prevalent, be prepared for a plethora of statistical tables. Just trying to comprehend the race category iterations is enough to cause eye strain. A few issues back we reported that the race question would now be multiple choice. For tabulation purposes, this creates an exponential nightmare of sorts, because there are potentially so many new race categories.

Questions? Comments? Suggestions for items to include in this quarterly update on Census 2K activities? E-mail us at rogersc@indiana.edu or call us at 317-274-2979. Your interest is greatly appreciated.

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THIS IS YOUR FUTURE.
DON'T LEAVE IT BLANK.

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