

Results and Products from the Census Coverage Measurement Program for the 2010 U.S. Census

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Abstract

To assess the coverage of persons and housing units in the 2010 Census, the United States Census Bureau conducted a post-enumeration survey called the Census Coverage Measurement survey. In this paper, I present an overview of the coverage estimates and products from this evaluation of the 2010 decennial census. As with previous post-enumeration surveys conducted by the Census Bureau, we estimated the net coverage of the decennial census count using dual system estimation. New for the 2010 Census, we provided estimates of the components of census coverage. We described how the census count was composed of correct and erroneous enumerations and whole-person census imputations. We also presented the population estimate as the sum of correct enumerations and omissions. These component estimates allowed us to quantify the offsetting errors that resulted in a negligible net overcount. The Census Coverage Measurement estimates for the United States were released in a series of twelve reports in May 2012, seventeen months after the initial 2010 Census results were announced. In December 2012, we published single-page graphical summaries of the census coverage estimates for states and large places and counties on the Census Bureau website. The 2010 coverage measurement data will serve as an invaluable source of information for various research and planning activities in preparation for future censuses.

Keywords: post-enumeration survey, dual system estimation, coverage evaluation

¹ Any views expressed are those of the author and not necessarily those of the U.S. Census Bureau.