



Growing ND by the Numbers

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In 2008, 21 of North Dakota's 53 counties and 68 of the state's 357 cities participated in LUCA. The remaining North Dakota counties, cities and tribes either declined to participate or did not respond to the Census Bureau offer. Those that declined to participate in LUCA placed their trust in the Census Bureau to have their address data correct.

Source: Census Bureau Geography Division, ND Census Office

Early Preparations for Census 2020 by Local Governments

Preparations for Census 2020 have begun. All North Dakota counties, townships, cities and tribes have been sent letters inviting them to participate in the Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) program, an important step in preparation for the next Census in 2020.

In 1994, Congress passed the Census Address List Improvement Act, also known as Public Law 103-430. This law required the Census Bureau to work with local governments to improve the bureau's master address lists. The bureau's address list is not released to the public. This law both required the bureau to work with willing local governments and gave them permission to share their address lists with those governments. While participation is voluntary, this law makes sense as local governments generally have a better understanding of what has occurred in their areas. Simply put, no one understands the local area as well as the people who actually live there.

To understand the importance of LUCA, one must first understand the importance of the

decennial census. This once in every ten-year event is our chance to find out how many people truly live in an area. This count ensures that each area is proportionally represented in the legislative process and allows for the equal distribution of federal and state funds.

As federal (and state) funds distribution for several programs are based upon population counts, the accuracy of the count impacts the flow of funds to the local area. A study on federal funds estimated that there was \$1,910 in federal funds distributed in 2015 for each resident in the state based upon the census count. As we live with that data for 10 years, that adds up to about \$19,100 per resident.

The decennial census is first a count of housing units and then a count of the number of residents in each housing unit. If the Census Bureau is unaware that a housing unit exists, the chances of the residents in those housing units not being counted increases. So, local governments have a vested interest in participating in this program.

The more accurate the residential address data is, the more accurate the decennial census is expected to be. In Census 2000, more than six million residents were believed to have been missed. In Census 2010, the estimate was one and a half million residents missed.

When local governments participate in LUCA, the Census Bureau shares their confidential address lists and maps of what they understand housing in a local area to be, solely for the purpose of identifying errors and omissions. LUCA information is shared only with local officials, government employees and designated contractors who take an oath not to share or use the Census Bureau's confidential data with anyone else or use it in any other way than spelled out in the program. Penalties for unauthorized release or misuse are severe and data storage requirements are significant. Given the significant changes the state has seen since the last census, the participation of all North Dakota counties, cities and tribes is important in this program.

Source: ND Census Office, George Washington University - Counting Dollars in 2020 Report

North Dakota Participation in LUCA In Preparation for Census 2020

Participation in LUCA is voluntary. Since the Census Bureau sent letters out to each county, city and tribe's highest elected official in July 2017, 10 North Dakota counties and 27 cities have responded to the Census Bureau indicating they will participate in LUCA. Meanwhile, 5 of the state's counties and 20 cities have responded indicating an intention to decline the opportunity to review LUCA data.

Source: Source: Census Bureau Geography Division, ND Census Office

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Local Review Can Have a Significant Impact

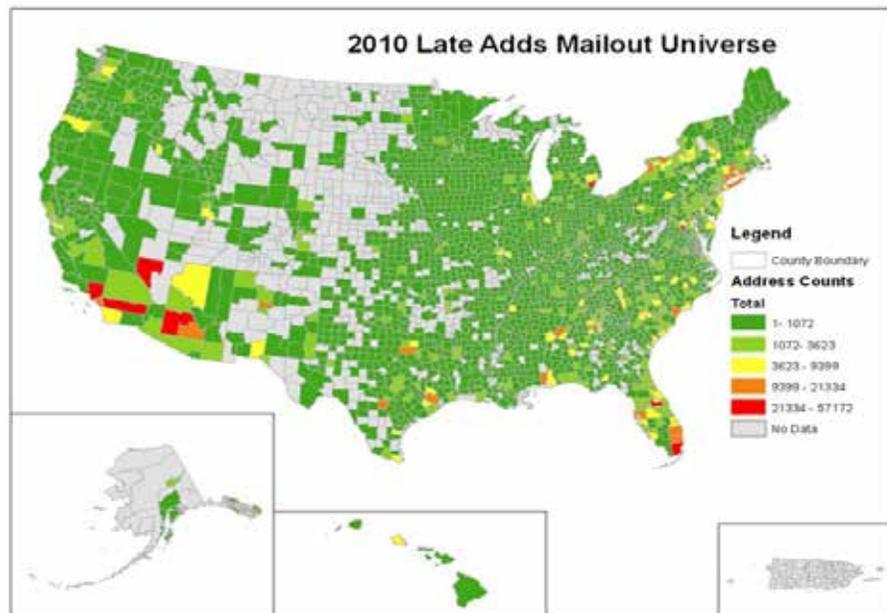
In the years prior to Census 2010 in the State of Nevada, 16 of its 17 counties and 18 cities collectively were able to identify 110,666, or 10.4 percent, more housing units

than the Census Bureau had listed in its master address file for the state. That volume of housing may have held a quarter million people. Uncounted, that number of residents

could have cost the state hundreds of millions of dollars per year in federal funds for an entire decade.

Sources: Nevada State Demographer's Office, George Washington University – Counting Dollars in 2020 Report

Northern Plains Appeared Less Active Just Prior to Census 2010 in Adding Residential Addresses



The Census Late Adds Mailout Operation Assessment Report details late additions to their address list prior to Census 2010 for several reasons, including LUCA related activities. North Dakota is among the states where the fewest changes occurred. This may indicate our approach to LUCA and related Census address programs is far more passive than most of the rest of the country.

Source: Census Bureau 2010 Census Late Adds Mail Operations Assessment Report, dated December 4, 2012

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