

Hard-to-Count Overview

After each census, the U. S. Census Bureau reviews response rates. Areas that have low response rates are considered to be hard-to-count. Reasons for low response rates may be language barriers, low trust in government, or poor communications with citizens in certain groups or communities.

The attached maps show where the hard-to-count areas are in your county and within your congressional district according to 2010 Census response data. Additional information regarding how to identify hard-to-count areas within your county can be found through the following census resources:

CUNY Mapping Service

The City University of New York (CUNY) Mapping Service at the Center for Urban Research has developed a map of hard-to-count (HTC) communities to highlight areas of the country whose populations had low mail return rates for the 2010 Census. The map provides information to help stakeholders ensure these hard-to-count areas and populations are fully counted.

Resource: <https://www.censushardtcountmaps2020.us/>

The Response Outreach Area Mapper

The Response Outreach Area Mapper (ROAM) is designed to show characteristics of hard-to-count areas. This map shows the Low Response Score (LRS) for an area. The higher the number, the more difficult the area may be to survey. If the LRS is low, the area has a high probability of returning their census form immediately.

Resource: <https://gis-portal.data.census.gov/arcgis/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=6478c965507c442c83a07d73b49dc54e>

Census Engagement Navigator

The Census Engagement Navigator was specifically created to prepare for the 2020 census. It allows users to understand what areas of the country had high or low return rates in the 2010 Census, and the current demographic makeup of these neighborhoods.

Resource: <https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/interactive/engagement.html>

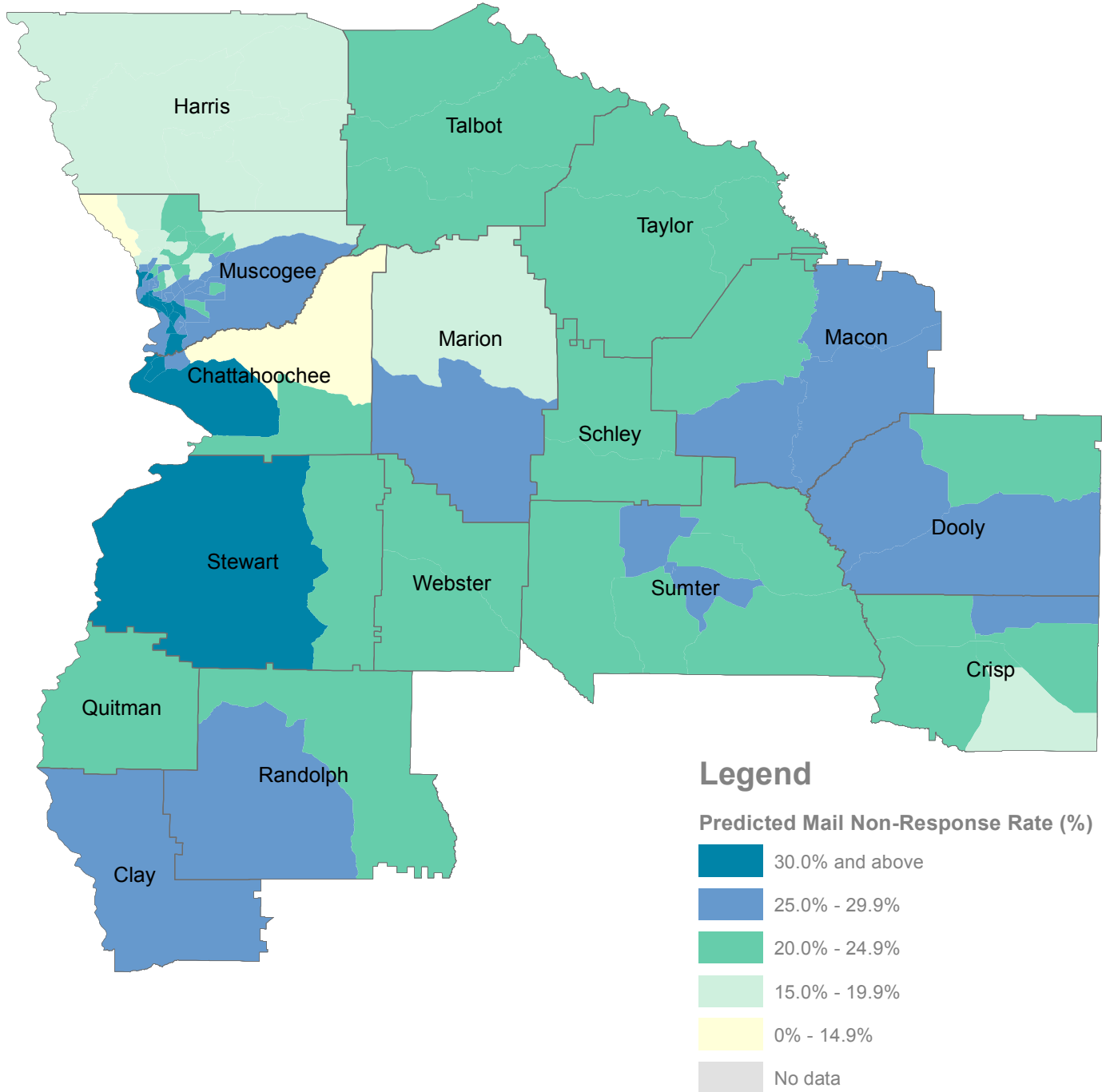
2010 Response Rates

Response Rates from the 2010 Census are available and can be broken down by state, county, city, and more. It also compares the participation rate from 2000 to 2010.

Resource: <http://census.socialexplorer.com/2010ratemap/>

Low Response Score River Valley Regional Commission

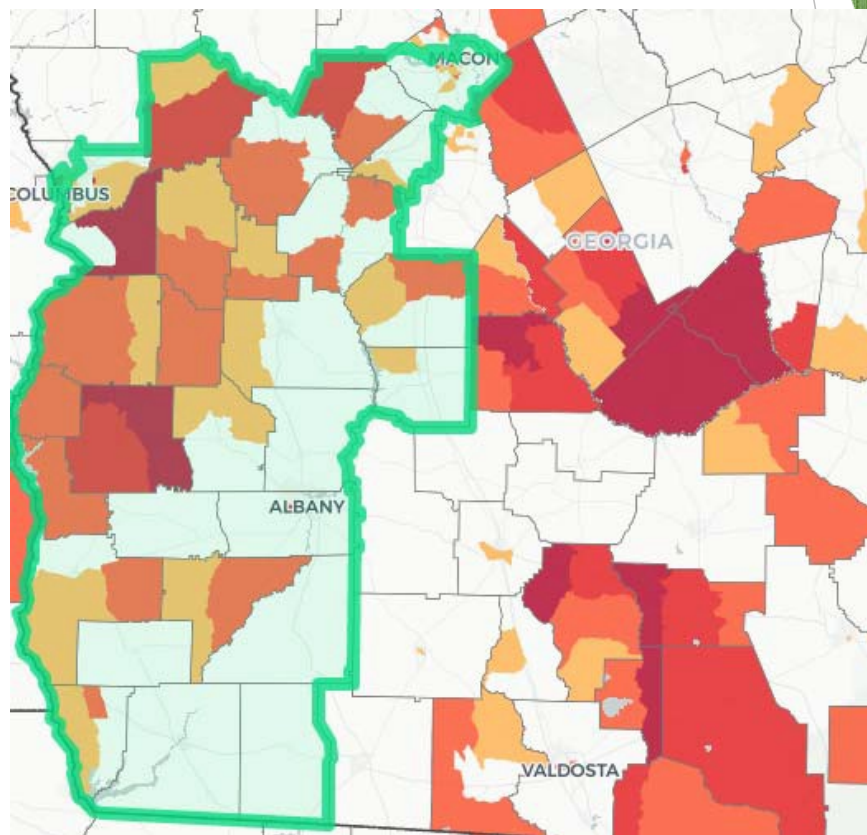
by Census Tract



Low Response Score (LRS) = predicted level of Census self non-response at the tract level.
Please note this considers only mail self-response

Congressional District 2

- ▶ 24.1% of this population required an in-person follow up
- ▶ Latest estimates show that about 29% of the district's population live in HTC neighborhoods (196,495 people)
- ▶ One of the hardest to count in the country
- ▶ In 2016, 30.6% of this district reported that they had no internet or dial-up only access



Congressional District 3

- ▶ 20.9% of this population required an in-person follow up
- ▶ Latest estimates show that about 8% of the district's population live in HTC neighborhoods (60,539 people)
- ▶ In 2016, 18.8% of this district reported that they had no internet or dial-up only access

