



April 15, 2010

Be Counted, America! How are we doing? (Part 3)

An analysis of the first three weeks of participation in the 2010 Census

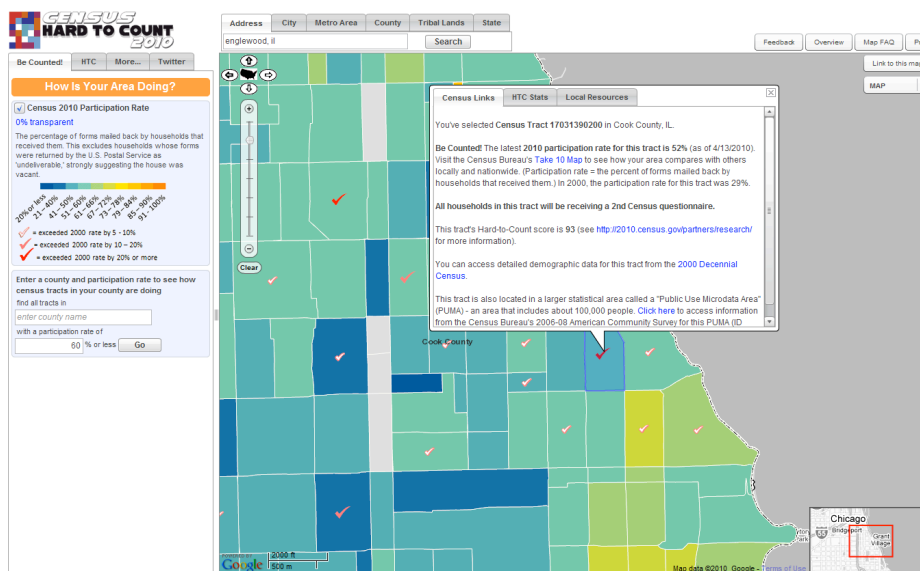
The Center for Urban Research (CUR) at the CUNY Graduate Center has analyzed the latest participation rates from the 2010 decennial census in an ongoing effort to understand which areas are not responding well and why. **This week we also focus on areas that are participating substantially better than in 2000 with a new map feature that highlights the extent of improvement down to the census tract level.**

On March 31 we prepared an analysis of the first week of census participation, when the nationwide rate was 50%. One week later, on April 6, the nationwide participation rate had risen to 62%. The rate rose more slowly in the third week of the Mail out/Mail back program: As of April 13 the nationwide rate was 67%. But several areas of the country are not only participating at much higher rates than the nationwide average, but have surged ahead of their participation levels in the 2000 census.

Our analysis below highlights these increases and examines whether the improvement occurred in areas that the Census Bureau had considered "hard-to-count." The Week 3 report also updates:

- *trends between urban/non-urban areas; and*
- *city-by-city tract-level correlations between participation rates and race/ethnicity.*

We have introduced a **new feature to our interactive Census mapping site** at www.CensusHardToCountMaps.org. The maps now highlight the tracts, counties, and states that have surpassed their 2000 participation rates by at least 5% (i.e., 5 percentage points). We use red check marks to identify these "high achievers", as the screen image below illustrates. On April 13, this particular tract's 2010 participation rate was 52%, almost twice its 2000 level of 29%. (Its HTC score was 93, indicating it was "very hard-to-count.")



Key Findings from Week 3 (as of April 13)

1. “High achievers” nationwide

- **More than 10% of the nation’s counties (427 of them) have exceeded their 2000 participation rate by 5 percentage points or more.** Most of these are in the upper Midwest (especially Michigan and Minnesota) or the South (including North Carolina, Kentucky, Virginia, and Georgia). One week earlier, fewer than 200 counties had surpassed their 2000 rates.
- **Nearly 10% of the nation’s tracts (6,093 of them) exceeded their 2000 participation rate by 5 percentage points or more.** Many of these were in the same states as those with high-achieving counties, but other states stood out: 401 of these tracts are in New York, 285 are in Pennsylvania, and 240 are in Illinois. (Any given county may have a number of high-achieving tracts, but this may not be enough to boost the county’s participation rate above the 5% threshold.)

2. High participation tracts in large cities

- **In the nation’s largest cities, “high achieving” tracts tend to have higher hard-to-count (HTC) scores.** On April 13, the 1,015 tracts in these cities with 2010 participation rates at least 5 percentage points higher than 2000 had a median HTC score of 74, compared with the other tracts in these cities that had a median HTC score of 53. According to the Census Bureau’s HTC index, tracts with HTC scores of 76 or more are considered “very hard-to-count.”
- It is too early to know why participation in 2010 tends to be much better than 2000 in these hard-to-count neighborhoods. Possible factors include advertising campaigns targeted toward HTC areas, local community outreach efforts focused on these neighborhoods, and changing demographic characteristics. Once final participation rates and 2010 Census demographic data are published, we plan to analyze these relationships in more detail.
- We provide a city-by-city comparison of HTC scores for these high achieving tracts and each city’s remaining tracts in the detailed analysis below.

3. Urban/Non-Urban trends

- **Census tracts in cities continue to have much lower participation rates than non-urbanized areas.** The median participation rate as of April 13 in tracts located in major cities was 62%, while the median participation rate in tracts in non-urban areas was eight points higher, at 70%.
- Generally, hard-to-count tracts continued to have lower participation rates – regardless of urban/non-urban location – than tracts with lower HTC scores.

4. Race/Ethnicity patterns in major cities

In Week 3, we examined tract-level correlations between census participation and race and ethnicity characteristics nationwide, and in the nation’s 67 largest cities (based on 2007 population estimates). Key findings include:

- **At the tract level nationwide, census participation continues to be correlated with race and ethnicity.**
- Neighborhoods in large cities tended to follow this pattern, though some cities exhibited stronger connections between race/ethnicity and census participation.
 - For example, in 20 large cities — including Boston, MA; Oakland, CA; St. Louis, MO; and Pittsburgh, PA — participation rates are more likely to be lower in census tracts whose Black population was larger than in other tracts, compared to what we found nationally.

- **Detroit was once again an exception, as the only major city in which the patterns of White and Black population and census participation are reversed.** Participation rates in Detroit (as of April 13) tended to be lower in tracts with a greater percentage of Whites, and tended to be higher in tracts with a greater percentage of Blacks, though the statistical strength of these associations is only moderate.
- Several cities — including Boston, MA; Milwaukee, WI; Toledo, OH; Oakland, CA; and Pittsburgh, PA — again had stronger correlations for tract-level White and Black populations and census participation.
- In Miami, Newark, NJ, and New York City, tract-level Hispanic population concentrations continued to have the opposite relationship with census participation than the national pattern. In these three cities, participation rates tended to be higher in tracts with greater Hispanic populations. Nationally, tracts with greater Hispanic populations tended to have lower participation rates.

In-Depth Analysis of Week 3 Findings

High Achievers Nationwide

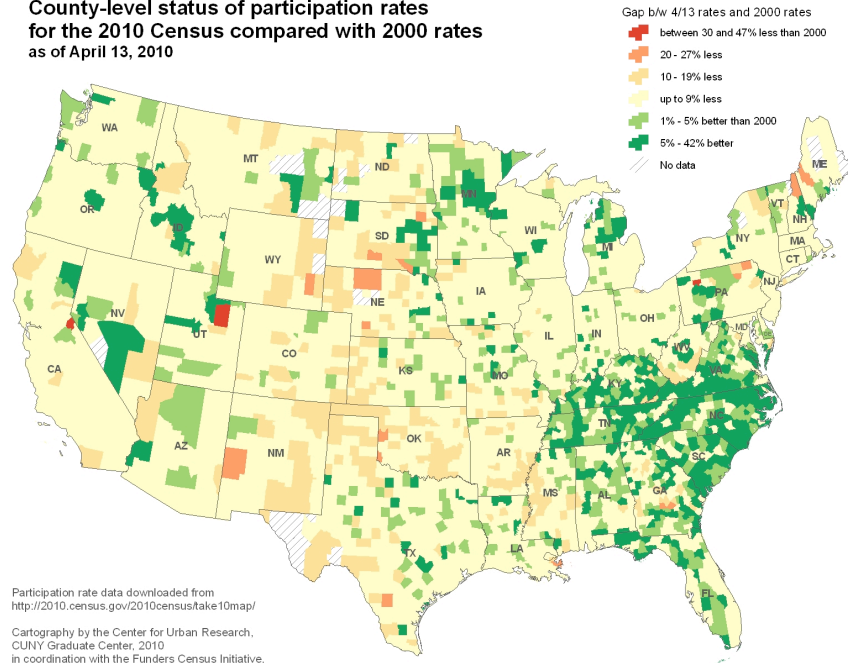
More than 10% of the nation’s counties (427 of them) have exceeded their 2000 participation rate by 5% (i.e., 5 percentage points) or more. The following table lists the states ranked by number of high achieving counties:

State	# of Counties	% of Total	State	# of Counties	% of Total
NC	65	15.2%	MS	3	0.7%
KY	54	12.7%	NV	3	0.7%
VA	52	12.2%	NY	3	0.7%
GA	43	10.1%	OR	3	0.7%
TN	39	9.1%	UT	3	0.7%
SC	23	5.4%	KS	2	0.5%
FL	19	4.5%	LA	2	0.5%
TX	13	3.0%	MD	2	0.5%
MI	12	2.8%	ME	2	0.5%
MN	11	2.6%	OH	2	0.5%
AL	10	2.3%	AK	1	0.2%
SD	10	2.3%	AZ	1	0.2%
ID	7	1.6%	CA	1	0.2%
MO	7	1.6%	IA	1	0.2%
PA	7	1.6%	MT	1	0.2%
WI	7	1.6%	NH	1	0.2%
IN	5	1.2%	VT	1	0.2%
NE	5	1.2%	WA	1	0.2%
WV	5	1.2%	TOTAL	427	100.00

(This list excludes the 29 counties for which the Census Bureau did not calculate a participation rate in 2000.)

The following map shows countywide participation rates in 2010 compared with 2000. The dark green shaded counties are ahead of their 2000 rates by 5 percentage points or more.

**County-level status of participation rates
for the 2010 Census compared with 2000 rates
as of April 13, 2010**



Nearly 10% of the nation's tracts (6,093 of them) exceeded their 2000 participation rate by 5 percentage points or more. The following table lists the states ranked by number of high achieving tracts:

State	# of Tracts	% of Total
NC	510	8.4%
FL	464	7.6%
NY	401	6.6%
TX	355	5.8%
TN	303	5.0%
SC	300	4.9%
VA	297	4.9%
KY	286	4.7%
PA	285	4.7%
IL	240	3.9%
GA	236	3.9%
MI	234	3.8%
CA	226	3.7%
AL	207	3.4%
MN	142	2.3%
MO	110	1.8%
AZ	105	1.7%
OH	96	1.6%
IN	85	1.4%
MD	84	1.4%
WA	84	1.4%
WI	80	1.3%
LA	76	1.2%
ME	74	1.2%
NJ	61	1.0%
MA	56	0.9%

HI	52	0.9%
NV	42	0.7%
CO	41	0.7%
UT	40	0.7%
WV	40	0.7%
CT	39	0.6%
MS	38	0.6%
OR	36	0.6%
KS	35	0.6%
AR	33	0.5%
IA	32	0.5%
NE	32	0.5%
VT	30	0.5%
NH	28	0.5%
SD	24	0.4%
OK	23	0.4%
ND	22	0.4%
ID	21	0.3%
NM	21	0.3%
DC	18	0.3%
RI	17	0.3%
DE	15	0.2%
WY	7	0.1%
MT	6	0.1%
AK	4	0.1%
TOTAL	6,093	100.0%

High Participation Tracts in Large Cities

Given the substantial and growing number of neighborhoods that have already exceeded their 2000 participation levels, we examined the characteristics of these communities to gain insight into why they are doing so well in 2010.

Our analysis identifies emerging patterns regarding “high achieving” neighborhoods by comparing the participation rates and hard-to-count (HTC) scores for tracts in the nation’s 67 largest cities (those with populations greater than 250,000, based on 2007 population estimates).

With few exceptions, the median HTC score for “high achieving” tracts in large cities is greater than the lower performing tracts. (We did not test the statistical significance of these differences.) The finding may seem counter-intuitive: Areas that are hard-to-count are expected to have relatively low participation rates. However, possible factors that would boost participation rates in these specific neighborhoods include advertising campaigns targeted toward HTC areas, local community outreach efforts focused on these neighborhoods, and changing demographic characteristics.

It is too early to know why participation in 2010 tends to be much better than 2000 in these hard-to-count neighborhoods. Once final participation rates and 2010 Census demographic data are published, we will analyze these relationships in more detail.

Our initial findings are presented in the table below. It displays median HTC scores for tracts in two categories: Those with less than a 5% gain over their 2000 rates, and those with a 5% or higher participation rate than 2000. The last column shows the median HTC score across all tracts in each city. The “N” refers to the number of tracts in each category.

City, State	MEDIAN HTC SCORES FOR TRACTS WITH:		
	Less than 5% gain over 2000	5% or higher participation rate than 2000	Citywide median HTC score
Albuquerque, NM	31	73	31
<i>N</i>	104	3	107
Anaheim, CA	55		55
<i>N</i>	51		51
Anchorage, AK	35	92	36.5
<i>N</i>	53	1	54
Arlington, TX	19	55	21
<i>N</i>	59	1	60
Atlanta, GA	73	77	74
<i>N</i>	107	8	115
Austin, TX	45	57	45
<i>N</i>	130	7	137
Bakersfield, CA	42	16.5	39
<i>N</i>	47	2	49
Baltimore, MD	53.5	83	61
<i>N</i>	150	41	191
Boston, MA	64	83	64
<i>N</i>	146	7	153
Buffalo, NY	66.5	76	67.5
<i>N</i>	76	8	84
Charlotte, NC	39	82	46
<i>N</i>	96	11	107
Chicago, IL	65	76	67
<i>N</i>	549	159	708
Cincinnati, OH	55	97	62
<i>N</i>	99	14	113
Cleveland, OH	73	75	73

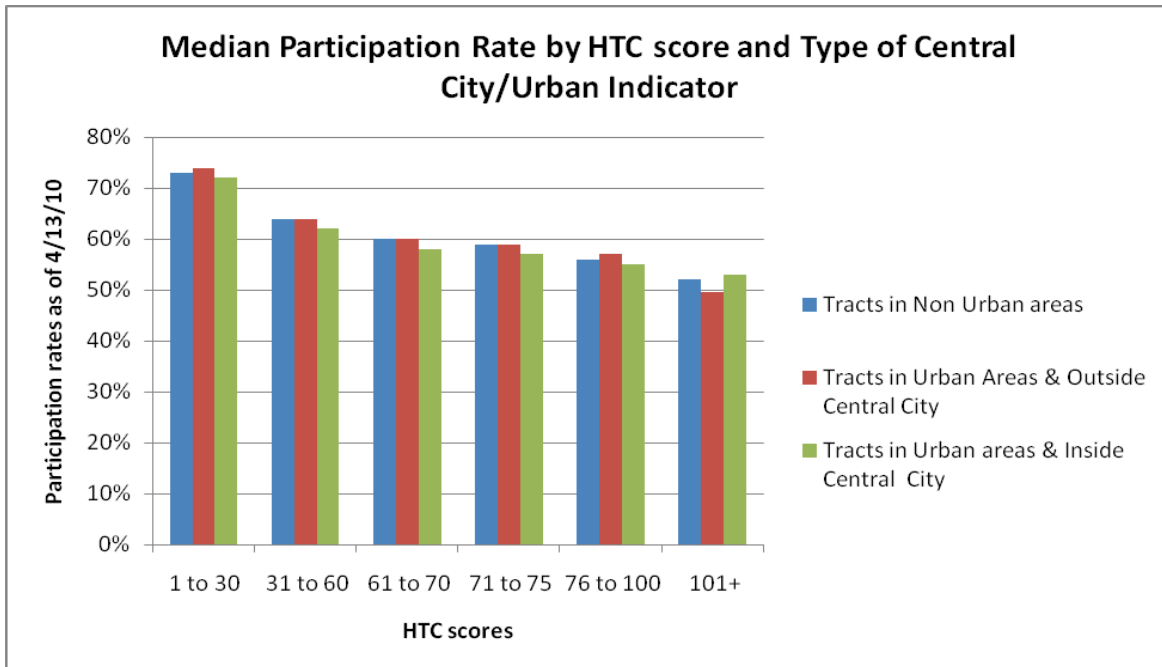
	<i>N</i>	191	9	200
Colorado Springs, CO		24.5	85	25
	<i>N</i>	80	1	81
Columbus, OH		41		41
	<i>N</i>	167		167
Corpus Christi, TX		42	57	46
	<i>N</i>	49	4	53
Dallas, TX		55.5	62	56
	<i>N</i>	232	23	255
Denver, CO		45	81	46
	<i>N</i>	124	11	135
Detroit, MI		70	88	71
	<i>N</i>	288	11	299
El Paso, TX		54	71	55
	<i>N</i>	106	1	107
Fort Worth, TX		49	81	51
	<i>N</i>	126	4	130
Fresno, CA		70.5		70.5
	<i>N</i>	80		80
Honolulu, HI		41	36.5	40.5
	<i>N</i>	68	20	88
Houston, TX		57	59.5	57
	<i>N</i>	326	42	368
Indianapolis city, IN		33	75	41
	<i>N</i>	163	24	187
Jacksonville, FL		32.5	35	33
	<i>N</i>	132	7	139
Kansas City, MO		40.5	64	49
	<i>N</i>	136	21	157
Las Vegas, NV		34	69	35
	<i>N</i>	83	6	89
Lexington-Fayette, KY		28		28
	<i>N</i>	60		60
Long Beach, CA		64		64
	<i>N</i>	95		95
Los Angeles, CA		66	80	67
	<i>N</i>	747	40	787
Memphis, TN		51	91	54.5
	<i>N</i>	141	11	152
Mesa, AZ		33	16.5	31
	<i>N</i>	73	8	81
Miami, FL		86	92	88
	<i>N</i>	55	12	67
Milwaukee, WI		59	85	61
	<i>N</i>	200	12	212
Minneapolis, MN		39.5	81	47.5
	<i>N</i>	74	38	112
Nashville-Davidson, TN		35	79	38
	<i>N</i>	121	11	132
New Orleans, LA		67	52	66.5
	<i>N</i>	173	5	178
New York, NY		59.5	63.5	60
	<i>N</i>	1810	204	2014
Newark, NJ		88.5	95.5	89
	<i>N</i>	78	10	88
Oakland, CA		63.5	88	66
	<i>N</i>	98	6	104
Oklahoma City, OK		45	31.5	43
	<i>N</i>	165	10	175

Omaha, NE		22	83	23
	<i>N</i>	111	5	116
Philadelphia, PA		53	61	55
	<i>N</i>	296	48	344
Phoenix, AZ		39	85.5	41
	<i>N</i>	256	26	282
Pittsburgh, PA		41.5	68.5	44
	<i>N</i>	114	20	134
Portland, OR		42.5	48	43
	<i>N</i>	138	3	141
Raleigh, NC		37	65.5	40
	<i>N</i>	47	4	51
Riverside, CA		49		49
	<i>N</i>	55		55
Sacramento, CA		53	71	55
	<i>N</i>	82	11	93
San Antonio, TX		52	91	52
	<i>N</i>	215	1	216
San Diego, CA		39	52	39
	<i>N</i>	251	4	255
San Francisco, CA		44	55	45
	<i>N</i>	162	9	171
San Jose, CA		33.5	19	33
	<i>N</i>	156	5	161
Santa Ana, CA		57		57
	<i>N</i>	51		51
Seattle, WA		33	80.5	35
	<i>N</i>	113	8	121
St. Louis, MO		71.5	86.5	74.5
	<i>N</i>	84	26	110
St. Paul, MN		48	37	45
	<i>N</i>	76	3	79
Stockton, CA		62	89	62
	<i>N</i>	45	1	46
Tampa, FL		51	85	56
	<i>N</i>	70	4	74
Toledo, OH		42	84	44
	<i>N</i>	93	3	96
Tucson, AZ		53.5	58	53.5
	<i>N</i>	96	2	98
Tulsa, OK		42	2	42
	<i>N</i>	118	1	119
Virginia Beach, VA		12		12
	<i>N</i>	87		87
Washington, DC		62.5	89	65
	<i>N</i>	166	18	184
Wichita, KS		36.5		36.5
	<i>N</i>	90		90

Urban/Non-Urban Trends: Update from Week 2

Census tracts in cities continue to have much lower participation rates than non-urbanized areas. The median participation rate (as of April 13) in tracts located in major cities was 62%, while the median participation rate in tracts in non-urban areas was eight points higher, at 70%.¹

Generally, **hard-to-count tracts continued to have lower participation rates – regardless of urban/non-urban location – than tracts with lower HTC scores.** See chart and table below.



Median Participation Rate by HTC score and Type of Central City/Urban Indicator

HTC Score	Tracts in Non Urban areas	Tracts in Urban Areas & Outside Central City	Tracts in Urban areas & Inside Central City	Nationwide median
1 to 30	73%	74%	72%	73%
31 to 60	64%	64%	62%	64%
61 to 70	60%	60%	58%	59%
71 to 75	59%	59%	57%	58%
76 to 100	56%	57%	55%	55%
101+	52%	50%	53%	52%
Median across all scores	69%	70%	61%	67%

¹ We used ArcGIS geographic information system (GIS) software to determine which tracts were located in urbanized areas, based on Census Bureau geographic classifications (www.census.gov/geo/www/ua/uaucbndy.html). We also separately determined which tracts were located in central cities based on metropolitan statistical areas. Central cities can be inside or outside urbanized areas.

Race/Ethnicity Patterns in Major Cities

At the tract level nationwide, census participation continues to be correlated with race and ethnicity. Participation rates tend to be higher for tracts that have a greater percent White population, while census participation tends to be lower in tracts with greater Black, Hispanic, and Asian populations. These relationships are generally the same in Week 3 as in earlier weeks as the following table shows, though the strength of the relationships regarding White, Black, and Hispanic populations is weakening (we did not test the statistical significance of the difference across the three weeks).

Correlation of *Tract-level* Population Characteristics with Participation Rates for weeks 1, 2, and 3 (values represent Pearson's r^2)

	March 30	April 6	April 13
Percent White	.631	.588	.551
Percent Hispanic	-.369	-.344	-.306
Percent Black	-.463	-.428	-.416
Percent Asian	-.076	-.062	-.045
Percent All Others	-.186	-.220	-.219

(Correlations based on N = 63,653 tracts. All r values are significant at the 2-tail, .01 level.)

As in Week 2, we analyzed the relationship between participation rate as of April 13 and race/ethnicity characteristics of tracts for the country's 67 largest cities (those with populations greater than 250,000, based on 2007 population estimates). The general patterns above were also observed at the tract level, though the strength of the correlations varied from one city to the next.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Because this tract-level analysis uses race/ethnicity data from the 2000 Census (SF3, table P7), the latest data available at that level of geography, the relationships described below may not be as reliable in local communities whose racial and ethnic (Hispanic) composition has changed substantially since 2000. Otherwise, they provide useful indicators regarding associations at the neighborhood level between race/ethnicity and participation in the 2010 Census.

Below are some variations identified by our analysis of tract population characteristics and participation rates within these cities. The results listed below are only for cities in which the correlations were found to be statistically significant.

1. In 20 major cities, the negative correlation between participation rates and the percent of the population that is Black is stronger than the national pattern (nationally, the tract-level correlation statistic = -.416). **In these cities (listed on the next page), participation rates are more likely to be lower in census tracts whose Black population was larger than in other tracts, compared to what we found nationally.** (The list is limited to cities with a Black population greater than 20% of total population.)

² Pearson's "r" reflects the degree of linear relationship between two variables. It ranges from +1 to -1. (<http://davidmlane.com/hyperstat/A34739.html>)

City	Pearson Correlation	City	Pearson Correlation
Boston, MA (strongest)	-.689	Philadelphia, PA	-.513
Toledo, OH	-.669	Columbus, OH	-.502
New Orleans, LA	-.645	Kansas City, MO	-.492
Oakland, CA	-.643	Newark, NJ	-.475
St. Louis, MO	-.627	Buffalo, NY	-.470
Pittsburgh, PA	-.614	Jacksonville, FL	-.456
Cincinnati, OH	-.584	Tampa, FL	-.448
Milwaukee, WI	-.572	Indianapolis city (balance), IN	-.433
Charlotte, NC	-.517	Nashville-Davidson (balance), TN	-.433
Raleigh, NC	-.516	Washington, DC	-.427

2. Only 8 cities had negative correlations at the tract level between participation rates and a tract's Black population that were weaker than or equal to the national pattern ($r = -.416$). (The list below is limited to cities with a Black population of 20% or more.) **In the cities below, participation rates are likely to be lower in census tracts compared to a given percent of a tract's population that is Black, though the relationship between participation and percent Black population is not as strong as what we found nationwide.**

City	Pearson Correlation	City	Pearson Correlation
Houston, TX (weakest)	-.208	Atlanta, GA	-.317
Baltimore, MD	-.266	New York, NY	-.343
Cleveland, OH	-.295	Chicago, IL	-.367
Dallas, TX	-.297	Memphis, TN	-.416

3. **Detroit was once again an exception, as the only major city in which the patterns of White and Black population and census participation are reversed.** Participation rates in Detroit as of April 13 tended to be **lower** in tracts with a greater percentage of Whites ($r = -.138$), and tended to be **higher** in tracts with a greater percentage of Blacks ($r = .210$), though the statistical strength of these associations is only moderate.
4. **Several cities again had stronger correlations for tract-level White and Black populations and census participation.** (The list below omits cities with Black population less than 20%. It also omits New Orleans, given the problems of attempting to analyze post-Katrina population patterns using pre-Katrina data from the 2000 Census.)

City, State	Pearson Correlation (for % White, non-Hispanic in 2000)	City, State	Pearson Correlation (for % Black, non-Hispanic in 2000)
Milwaukee, WI	.790	Boston, MA	-.689
Oakland, CA	.787	Toledo, OH	-.669
Toledo, OH	.767	Oakland, CA	-.643
Boston, MA	.711	St. Louis, MO	-.627
Charlotte, NC	.664	Pittsburgh, PA	-.614
St. Louis, MO	.660	Milwaukee, WI	-.572
Pittsburgh, PA	.637	Charlotte, NC	-.517

5. **In some cities, it is more likely than the national pattern for participation rates to be lower in census tracts with higher percentages of Hispanic population.** The negative correlation between participation rates and the percent of the population that is **Hispanic** is **stronger** than the national correlation ($r = -.306$) in 18 major cities (limited to cities with Hispanic population greater than 20%).

City	Pearson Correlation		
Santa Ana, CA (strongest)	-.753	Oakland, CA	-.450
Phoenix, AZ	-.630	Austin, TX	-.438
Long Beach, CA	-.623	Albuquerque, NM	-.418
Anaheim, CA	-.608	Stockton, CA	-.413
Fresno, CA	-.597	Sacramento, CA	-.392
San Jose, CA	-.589	Denver, CO	-.371
Las Vegas, NV	-.514	Riverside, CA	-.366
Bakersfield, CA	-.511	Tucson, AZ	-.327
San Diego, CA	-.478	Los Angeles, CA	-.314

6. **In Miami, Newark, NJ, and New York City, tract-level Hispanic population concentrations continued to have the opposite relationship with census participation than the national pattern.** In these three cities, **participation rates tended to be higher in tracts with greater Hispanic populations.** The strength of this relationship is greatest in Miami ($r = .652$), and only moderate in Newark ($r = .411$) and New York ($r = .132$). Nationally, tracts with greater Hispanic populations tended to have lower participation rates ($r = -.306$).

7. **Census participation tended to be somewhat lower in neighborhoods with higher concentrations of Asian Americans.** The correlation between participation rates and the percent of a tract's population that is Asian was slightly negative on a national basis ($r = -.062$). **But census participation was more strongly associated with the tract-level percent of Asians in several cities than what we found nationally.** The list below is limited to cities with an Asian population greater than 5% of total population.

Positive correlation (participation tends to be <i>higher</i> in tracts with greater percent Asian population in these cities)		Negative correlation (participation tends to be <i>lower</i> in tracts with greater percent Asian population in these cities)	
Santa Ana, CA	.624	St. Paul, MN	-.689
Honolulu, HI	.472	Minneapolis, MN	-.663
New York, NY	.078	Seattle, WA	-.490
		Anchorage, AK	-.393
		Riverside, CA	-.349
		Fresno, CA	-.321

For more information, contact:
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