

Population Surveys Classify Rural and Urban Areas

Key Takeaways

1. The Census is used to determine which areas are classified as “rural,” which influences the allocation of federal spending.
2. Rural areas are the exclusive recipients to about 60 programs that have Census-derived federal funding, totaling about \$30 billion.
3. In Florida, about 8.7 percent of the population are rural residents.
4. Historically, attaining a complete Census count in rural areas has proven difficult, due to a lack of broadband, hard to find addresses, and low-density concentrations of hard to count populations.
5. Rural residents are especially important to identify because an unproportionally high percentage of them need access to Census-guided programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Medicaid.

Want to Learn More?

To learn more about how the Census affects **the understanding and investments of rural communities**, read: “[Why the 2020 Census Matters for Rural America.](#)” (8 minutes)

To learn more about **rural data points**, explore the story map “[Rural America](#)”
