The 2020 Census Undercount Hurts Florida

Key Takeaways

1. Florida has a history of undercounts, and the most recent undercount was expected.

2. During the 2020 Census, Florida’s population was undercounted by 3.48 percent, with about 750,000 residents uncounted.

3. The Census undercount will lose Florida at least $11 billion of federal funds by the end of the decade. Under unusual circumstances, such as natural disasters or pandemics, Florida could lose up to $21 billion in federal funds.

4. The loss of federal funding will leak from programs affecting nearly every facet of a taxpayer’s life, including health, education, transportation, job training, and economic development.

5. Florida gained one additional congressional seat in the United States House of Representatives, but with a complete Census count, Florida would have likely gained a second.

6. The American Community Survey (ACS)—population data used by the private and public sector to make well-informed decisions—relies upon Census data. When the Census count is inaccurate, the population data provided by the ACS could be less accurate as well.

Want to Learn More?

To learn about who was missed by the 2020 Census undercount, read: “The Economic and Fiscal Significance of the U.S. Census and American Community Survey” (10 minutes)

To learn about the size and effects of the 2020 Census undercount, read: “Looking Back at Census 2020: What Florida’s Businesses and Community Leaders Need to Know.” (12 minutes)

Review presentation materials from the Florida TaxWatch Census Data and Business Webinar to consider the risks of an undercount upon Florida’s business community. (5 minutes)

A high self-response rate correlates with a more complete census count. To review the self-response rates of Florida counties, visit: “2020 Census Quality Metrics Viewer,” (5 minutes)