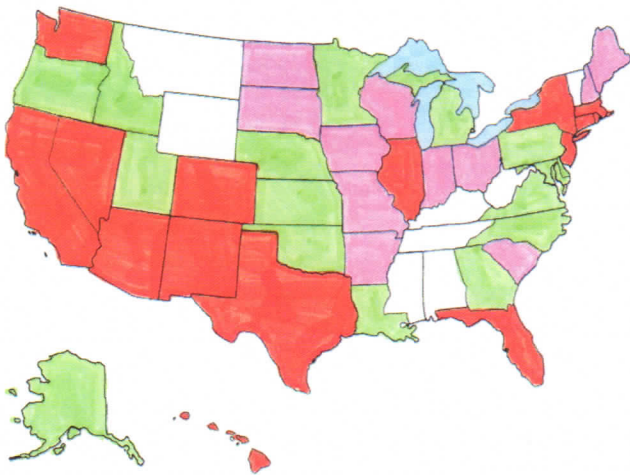




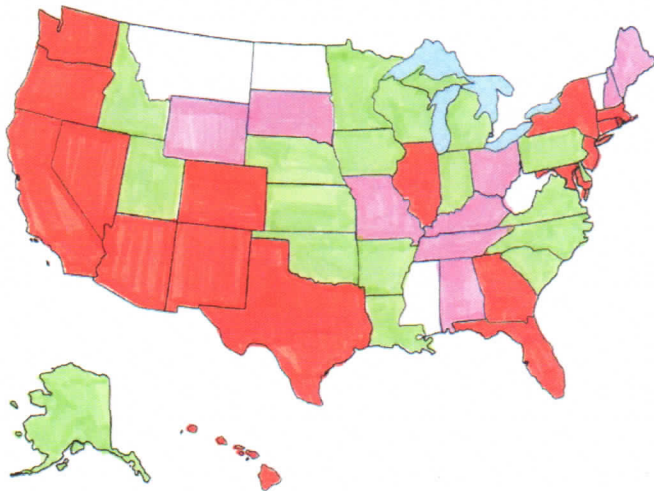
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Linguistically Isolated Household Rates in the United States 2000 to 2009

2000



2009



The 2009 American Community Survey found that 4.7% of all households in the United States are linguistically isolated. A linguistically isolated household (LIH) is one in which all adults speak a language other than English and none speaks English 'very well.' In other words, all members of the household 14 years old and over have at least some difficulty with English.

The 2000 Census showed nearly a 50 percent increase over the 2.9 million linguistically isolated households found in 1990, finding more than 4.3 million at the start of the new millennium. In 2009, the number has grown yet again, with 4.7 percent of households now considered linguistically isolated.

The state with the highest LIH rate was California, where 1 in 10, or 10.5 percent, of households meet the criteria. Rounding out the top five highest LIH states are Texas (8.5%), New York (8.3%), Nevada (7.4%) and New Jersey (7.2%).

Unfortunately, as these maps show, the number of linguistically isolated households continues to increase in each passing year. In 1990, 17 states had LIH rates of less than 1 percent. In 2000, the number had shrunk to 8 states. In 2009, it dropped even more significantly—only five states have LIH rates less than one in 100.

It is worth noting that the average LIH rate for states with Official English legislation is 2.8%, while the average LIH rate for states *without* Official English legislation is 3.8%. Declaring English the official language sends a message of assimilation and encourages non-English speakers to learn the common language in America so they are able to fully participate in society.

