

# Participant Statistical Areas Program for the 2010 Census

Vince Osier  
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USCENSUSBUREAU

# Participant Statistical Areas

- Census Tracts
- Block Groups
- Census County Divisions
- Census Designated Places

# Topics Geography Division reexamined

- Current relevance and use of these geographies
- Needs of the data user community
- Validity of existing thresholds
- Accommodating ACS data
  - Minimum thresholds for data reporting
  - Population vs. housing unit counts
- Through:
  - Geography Division research
  - Consultation with Census Bureau stakeholders (ACS team leaders, statisticians, and others)
  - Consultation with non-Census Bureau stakeholders

# No substantial changes to criteria

- All PSAP geographies are recognizable in:
  - Concept and purpose
  - Coding and naming conventions
  - Boundary features permitted
- Things done informally in operational guidelines in the past are made clear and consistent in the criteria

# Census Tracts

- Nationally consistent small, statistical geographic units
- Boundary continuity for data comparability
- Data reliability

# Census Tracts: Considerations for the 2010 Census

- All types of populated tracts meet the same thresholds
  - National standard
  - Reliability of sample data
- Change minimum population threshold to 1,200
  - Reliability of sample data
  - Avoid application of disclosure avoidance methodologies

# Census Tracts: Considerations for the 2010 Census

- Housing unit counts or population counts to meet thresholds
  - Accommodate ACS data

Thresholds

	Census 2000	Proposed for the 2010 Census	
	Population	Population	Housing Unit
Optimum	4,000	4,000	1,600
Minimum	1,500	1,200	480
Maximum	8,000	8,000	3,200

# Block Groups (BG)

- BGs nest within census tracts
- Smallest area for ACS sample data tabulation
- Continuity and comparability from one census to another less of a concern

# Block Groups: Considerations for the 2010 Census

- All types of populated BGs meet the same thresholds
  - National standard
  - Reliability of sample data
- Increase the minimum thresholds
  - Sample data reliability
  - Avoid application of disclosure avoidance methodologies

# Block Groups: Considerations for the 2010 Census

- Housing unit counts or population counts to meet thresholds
  - Accommodate ACS data

## Thresholds

	Census 2000	Proposed for the 2010 Census	
	Population	Population	Housing Unit
Optimum	1,500	---	---
Minimum	600	1,200	480
Maximum	3,000	3,000	1,200

# Tracts and Block Groups: Considerations for the 2010 Census

## Special land use tracts and block groups

- Areas of 1 sq. mile or more within an urban area, 10 sq. miles outside
- No residential population
- Has an official name
- Large public parks, large public forests

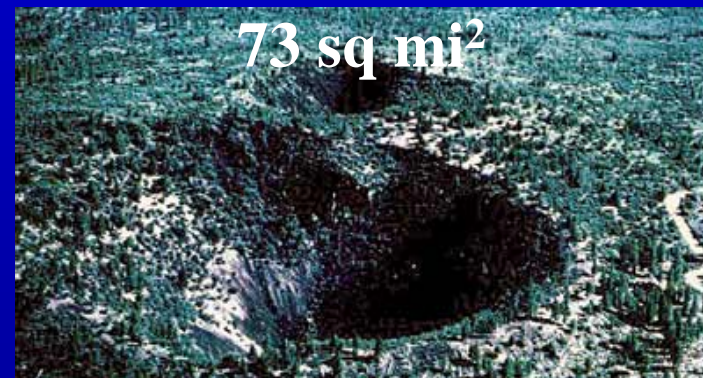
# Tract and Block Groups: Considerations for the 2010 Census

## Special land use areas

Central Park, NY



Lava Beds National Monument, CA



# Tract and Block Groups: Considerations for the 2010 Census

Why define special land use tracts and block groups?

- Clarify and cohere current practice
- Enhance thematic mapping of data

# Tract and Block Groups: Considerations for the 2010 Census

## Tribal tracts and tribal block groups

- Unique geographic framework separate from the county-based census tracts and block groups that are defined nationwide
- Equivalent to county-based census tracts and block groups
- Improve data relevance, availability, and reliability for American Indian tribes

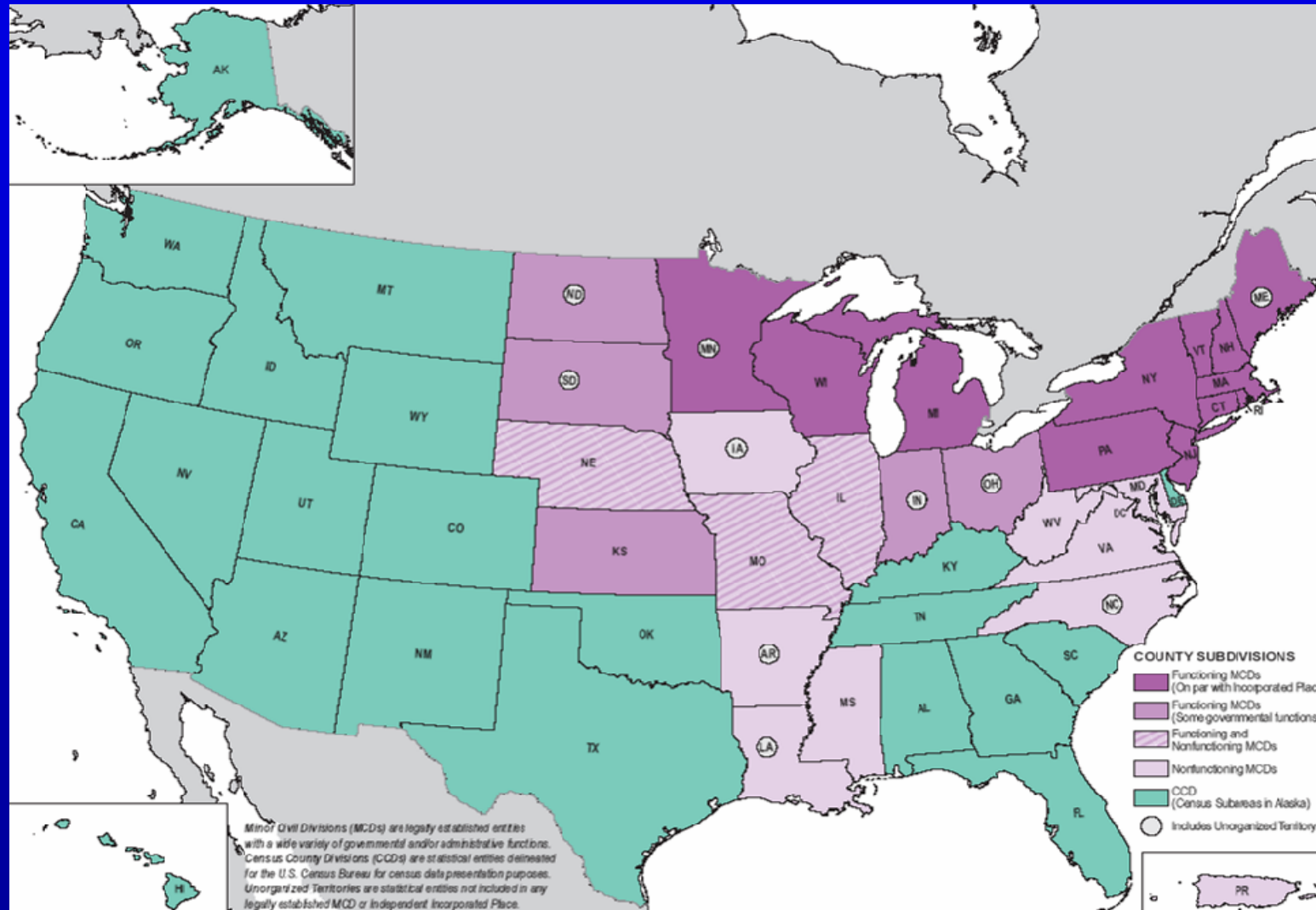
## Implications:

- Standard, county-based census tracts defined nationwide (wall-to-wall coverage)
- Tribal tracts are a completely separate set of geography for data presentation purposes

# Census County Divisions

- Set of sub-county units that have stable boundaries and recognizable names;
- Provide comparable set of sub-county geographic areas for longitudinal analysis;
- Represents one or more communities, trading centers, or major land uses;
- Can have more CCDs than census tracts in counties with small populations

# Census County Divisions



# Census County Divisions: Considerations for the 2010 Census

## Options:

1. Retain the CCD concept
2. Eliminate the CCD concept and do not replace with another type of sub-county geographic unit

# Census Designated Places

- Place-level statistics for well-known, settled unincorporated communities;
- Statistical equivalents of incorporated places;
- Mix of residential, commercial, and retail areas around a nucleus of relatively high residential population density

# Census Designated Places: Considerations for the 2010 Census

- CDPs cannot have zero population and zero housing units
  - Zero population and housing units is contrary to the concept of “place”
- Not allow CDPs to be defined coextensively with governmentally functioning MCDs in the 12 “strong-MCD” states
  - Reduce redundancy in data presentations

# Participant Statistical Areas Program

- Regional, multi-county organizations, (e.g. COGs, MPOs) preferred primary participant
  - To reflect local input and the needs of a wide range of data users
- Participation open to all interested parties
- MAF/TIGER Participant Software for electronic submission of boundaries

# Participant Statistical Areas Program

- Proposed criteria published in *Federal Register* in early 2007
- 90 day public review and comment period
- Final criteria published late 2007
- Participants identified late 2007 – early 2008
- Materials distributed: Summer 2008
- Participants will have 120 days to review and submit boundaries

# Comments and Suggestions?

Geographic Standards and Criteria Branch (GSCB)

301-763-3056

April Avnayim, Vince Osier, & Mike Ratcliffe

[geo.psap.list@census.gov](mailto:geo.psap.list@census.gov)

[www.census.gov/geo/www/psap2010/psap2010\\_main.html](http://www.census.gov/geo/www/psap2010/psap2010_main.html)