

Participant Statistical Areas Program for the 2010 Census

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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

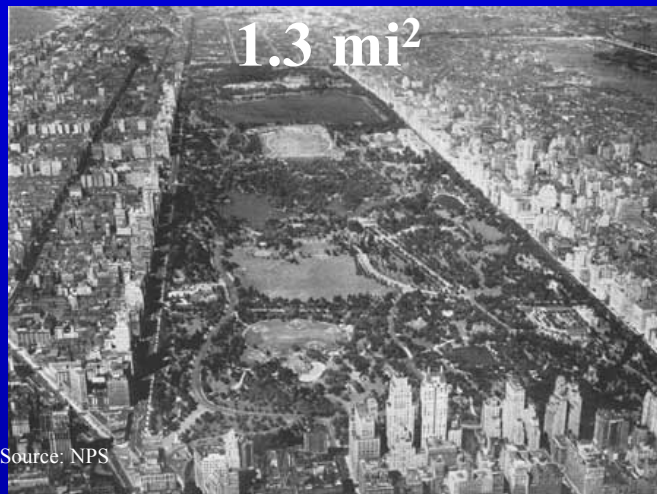
Special land use tracts and block groups

- 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

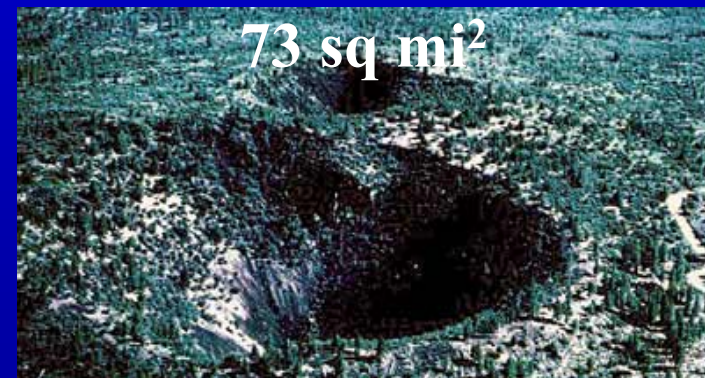
Tract and Block Groups: Considerations for the 2010 Census

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

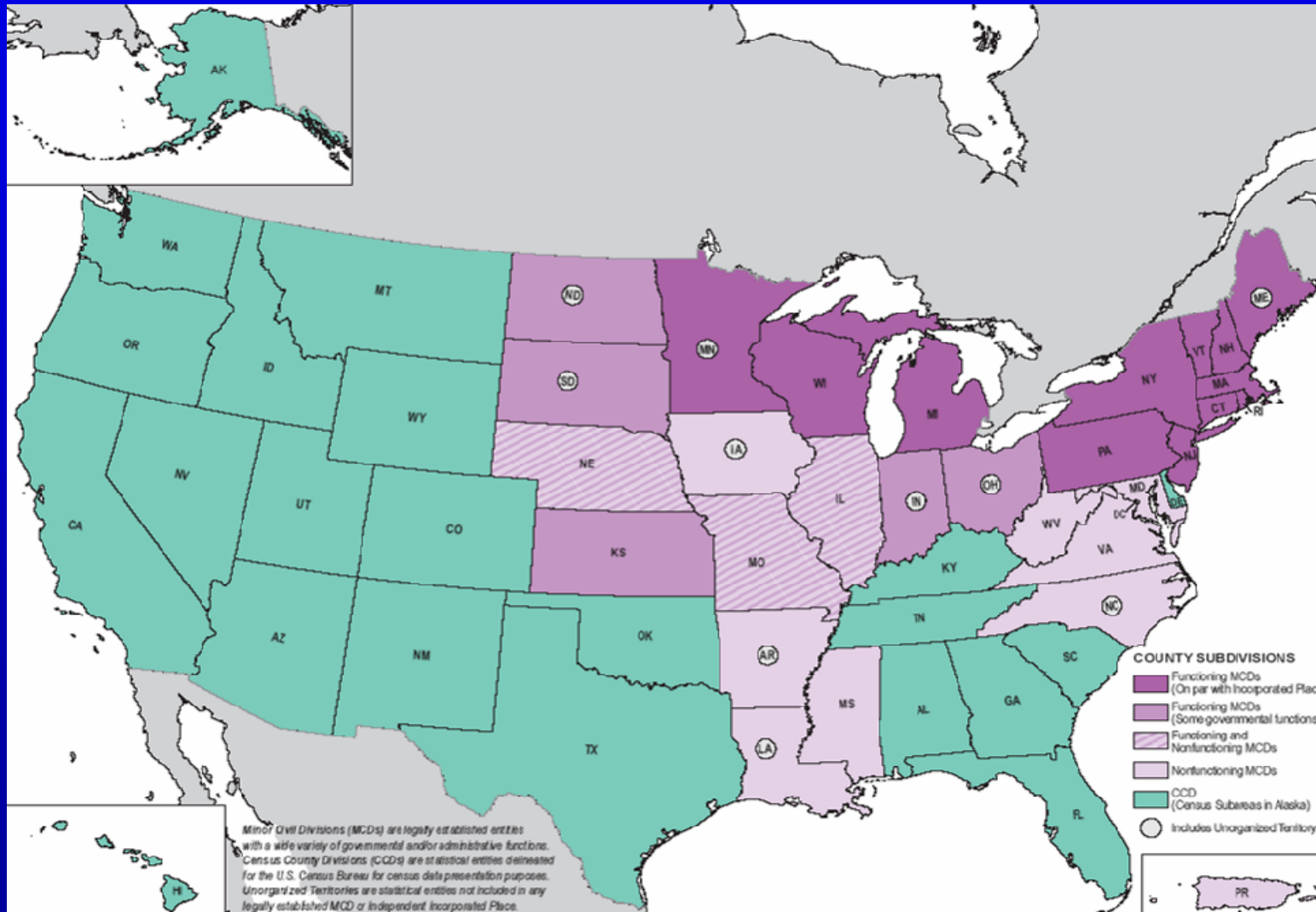
Implications:

- 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)

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www.census.gov/geo/www/psap2010/psap2010_main.html