Participant Statistical Areas Program for the 2010 Census

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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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Census 2000</th>
<th>Proposed for the 2010 Census</th>
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<tbody>
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<tr>
<td>Minimum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maximum</td>
<td>8,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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

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<tr>
<td>Minimum</td>
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<td>1,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maximum</td>
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</table>
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

Source: NPS
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
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?

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