

OVERVIEW OF CENSUS GEOGRAPHY

Introduction

The use of census data products requires not only a knowledge of census data concepts and definitions, but of census geography as well. "Census geography" refers to all the geographic entities used by the Census Bureau in its data collection and tabulation operations, including their designations, definitions, purpose, and relationships to one another.

The Census Bureau produces published and unpublished statistics from its many censuses and surveys for large areas such as census regions, metropolitan areas, States, counties, and cities, and, from the decennial census, for small areas down to the size of a city block. Some of these geographic entities are legally defined, while others are established specifically for statistical purposes. The data for these entities may be presented in a hierarchical sequence, an inventory listing, or both. Figure 1, on page 20, depicts the hierarchies involving the basic geographic entities for which the Census Bureau provides data. The individual State texts describe how these entities relate to each State. The level of information provided for areas varies by profile and reports specific idiosyncrasies that exist for a State.

The United States, States, and Statistically Equivalent Areas

The largest geographic entity for which the Census Bureau prepares data is the Nation; that is, the United States, which encompasses the 50 States and the District of Columbia. The Census Bureau also provides data for the individual States. For purposes of data presentation, the Census Bureau treats the District of Columbia as the equivalent of a State. The land area, population, and population density of the U.S., States, and the District of Columbia, together with the rank of each State, are shown in table 1, on page 12. The table also lists the official Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) code for each entity. Published by the National Bureau of Standards, FIPS codes are a standardized system of identifying various geographic entities. Each profile is labeled with the State/area name, the United States Postal Service code (two letter abbreviation), and FIPS code.

The Census Bureau provides decennial population and housing data for several other entities that it treats as the equivalents of States in order to be consistent in its data presentations and tabulations. These are referred to collectively as the Outlying Areas (see table 2, on page 13). For the 1990 census, the Census Bureau undertook the enumeration cooperatively with the governments of six entities: American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Republic of Palau, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands of the United States. The other entities shown in table 2 also are under the jurisdiction of the United States. Because the counts for these entities are based on administrative records rather than a direct census of the inhabitants, the Census Bureau provides *only* total population counts—no demographic characteristics data—for these entities. Previous decennial censuses also included the Canal Zone (transferred to Panama in 1979), the Philippine Islands (attained independence in 1946), the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (since 1986, Palau is the only remaining component of this territory), and several small islands in the Caribbean Sea and the Pacific Ocean. The Census Bureau and the local governments also take the census of agriculture in American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands, and the economic censuses in all except American Samoa.

The Census Bureau recognizes a number of geographic entities that may cross State boundaries. These are shown in figure 1 as components of the Nation rather than of States: American Indian areas, regions, and divisions, metropolitan areas, and urbanized areas.

As illustrated in figure 1, counties and their statistical equivalents are subdivisions of the States, as are congressional districts. County subdivisions, census tracts/block numbering areas, block groups, and blocks subdivide the counties (see figure 2, on page 21). The latter three geographic units and congressional districts appear only in the decennial census. Although places are subdivisions of the States, the hierarchical data presentations of the decennial census may show places and "place parts" as sub-units of counties and/or county subdivisions. The decennial census also provides data for voting districts; the decennial, economic, and agriculture censuses provide data for ZIP Codes; and the decennial, economic, agriculture, and governments censuses provide data for several special geographic entities. Table 3, on page 14, lists the number of entities covered by most of the Census Bureau's programs. The two parts of table 4, on page 16, report the number of selected decennial census entities by State and statistically equivalent entity.

The entities included in a census and the boundaries used for those entities in that census are those in effect on January 1 of the census year, with two exceptions:

1. ZIP Codes; for the 1990 census, their vintage is late 1991, while for the 1992 economic censuses, most will be late 1992.
2. For the 1992 economic censuses, the metropolitan areas are those in effect on June 30, 1993.

American Indian and Alaska Native Areas

American Indian and Alaska Native areas (AI/ANA's) appear only in the decennial census data tabulations. They include the following legally defined entities and statistical entities:

1. The legally defined AI/ANA's include:
 - a. Federally-recognized American Indian reservations—some are called pueblos, rancherias, colonies, communities, and so forth—established legally by treaty, statute, and/or executive or court order.
 - b. State-recognized American Indian reservations, which comprise lands held in trust by State governments for the use and benefit of a specific tribe.
 - c. Off-reservation trust lands associated with specific Federal reservations or tribes.
 - d. Alaska Native Regional Corporations (ANRC's).

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Department of the Interior, provided maps that identified the boundaries of Federal reservations for the Census Bureau. State officials did the same for the State reservations. The BIA also identified the trust lands, which represent property held in trust by the Federal Government either for a tribe (tribal trust land) or for an individual member of a tribe (individual trust land). The Census Bureau recognizes only those trust lands located outside a reservation boundary. The trust lands identified for the 1990 census comprise all off-reservation tribal trust lands and those individual trust lands thought to be inhabited; the 1980 census—the first census that recognized trust lands—generally included only tribal trust lands encompassing at least 10 square miles, but smaller areas were included if thought to be inhabited. The Census Bureau submitted its maps depicting the boundaries of the reservations and trust lands to tribal officials for their review; the tribes were requested to report any discrepancies to the appropriate agencies, which sent any revisions to the Census Bureau. The Alaska Native Regional Corporations (ANRC's), established by Congress in 1972 in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) to conduct both business and nonprofit affairs of Alaska Natives, divided most of the State of Alaska into 12 areas. The Census Bureau first tabulated data for the corporations following the 1980 census. The boundaries of the legally established AI/ANA's may change from time to time.

2. The statistical entities include:

- a. Alaska Native village statistical areas (ANVSA's)
- b. Tribal jurisdiction statistical areas (TJSA's)
- c. Tribal designated statistical areas (TDSA's)

The Census Bureau recognizes statistical entities that generally delimit the area that contains the American Indian population over which a federally- or State-recognized landless tribe has jurisdiction (tribal jurisdiction statistical areas—TJSA's—in Oklahoma) and/or for which it may provide benefits and services to its members (tribal designated statistical areas—TDSA's—in other States). The TJSA's replace the single entity referred to as the "Historic Areas of Oklahoma (excluding urbanized areas)" in the 1980 census. Unlike the 1980 entity, a TJSA may include all or part of an urbanized area. The Census Bureau recognized TDSA's for the first time in the 1990 census. Alaska Native village statistical areas encompass the settled portion of Alaska Native villages (ANV's). ANV's constitute tribes, bands, clans, groups, villages, communities, or associations in Alaska, recognized pursuant to the ANCSA. The Census Bureau reported data specifically for ANV's for the first time following the 1980 census. Recognizing that the ANV's do not have legally defined limits, the Census Bureau changed the designation for the 1990 census to "Alaska Native village statistical areas" (ANVSA's) to emphasize the statistical nature of the boundaries of these entities. The names and appropriate boundaries of the statistical entities were identified for the Census Bureau by tribal and Alaska Native officials. Like the legal entities, the boundaries of the statistical entities may change over time.

Regions and Divisions

The Census Bureau has grouped the 50 States and the District of Columbia into 4 regions for data presentation purposes: Northeast, Midwest, South, and West. It has further divided the regions into nine divisions—two or three in each region. (See figure 3, on page 22.) The Census Bureau first delineated large-area divisions of the Nation for the 1850 census, based on demographic and physical geographic factors. The current structure essentially was put in place for the 1910 census, with only minor changes in 1950 (dividing the "North" Region into the "Northeast" and "North Central" Regions), 1959 (adding Alaska and Hawaii to the West Region and Pacific Division), and 1984 (renaming the "North Central" Region as the "Midwest" Region).

Metropolitan Areas

A metropolitan area (MA) represents a large population nucleus, together with adjacent communities that have a high degree of economic and social integration with that core area. Each MA must contain either an incorporated place—or a census designated place or minor civil division in a very few, specific instances—with a population of at least 50,000, or a Census Bureau-defined urbanized area and a total MA population of at least 100,000 (75,000 in New England). Each MA outside New England consists of one or more central counties, and may include one or more outlying counties that have close economic and social relationships with the central county(s); an outlying county must have a specified level of commuting relative to the central county(s) and also must meet certain criteria regarding metropolitan character, such as population density, urban population, and/or population growth. In New England, county subdivisions (primarily cities and towns) rather than counties constitute the MA's. A county-based alternative—the New England county metropolitan area, or NECMA—provides a nationally equivalent entity, but the Census Bureau provides only population estimates for these areas; they are not included in the standard census data tabulations.

The Federal Government first established MA's for the 1950 census. Currently, the Federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) establishes the standards for and designates the names and geographic components of MA's, based on decennial census data. The profiles present data for MA's as defined by the OMB as of June 1990 (that is, the same MA definitions

used for the 1990 data products). From time to time, the OMB may revise the standards and redefine the names and geographic components of the MA's. The OMB revised the standards for MA's in 1980, and again in 1990. The 1980 changes were first reflected in the MA's announced in June 1983; the 1990 changes are reflected in those announced at the end of 1992. At the time of the 1980 census and the 1982 economic censuses, individual MA's were called "standard metropolitan statistical areas" (SMSA's). Two or more adjacent SMSA's were grouped to form "standard consolidated statistical areas" (SCSA's) if:

1. Their combined census population totalled at least one million.
2. The population of each SMSA was at least 75 percent urban.
3. The SMSA's met specified levels of commuting between the areas.

The 1980 revisions included redesignation of the basic entities as "metropolitan statistical areas" (MSA's), which appear in the data tabulations for the 1987 economic censuses and the 1990 census. An MSA may be *divided* into smaller MA's if:

1. It has a census population of at least one million.
2. It contains two or more counties or groups of counties (cities and towns in New England) each of which displays very strong internal socioeconomic links in addition to the ties to the other portion(s) of the MSA.
3. Local opinion favors recognition of the sub-areas as separate MA's.

If these requirements are met, each sub-area is designated as a "primary metropolitan statistical area" (PMSA) and the original MSA is redesignated as a "consolidated metropolitan statistical area" (CMSA). In each MSA and CMSA, the most populous place and, in some cases, additional places are designated as "central cities," based on the official standards. There is no maximum limit to the number of central cities in an MA; however, the MA title need not include the names of all the central cities. If a place qualifies to be an MA central city but part of that place is located outside the MSA/CMSA boundary, only *the portion inside the MA* is treated as the central city. A few PMSA's do not have a central city.

Urbanized Areas

The Census Bureau establishes the criteria for and delineates the boundaries of urbanized areas (UA's) to help provide better identification of urban and rural territory, population, and housing in the vicinity of large places. A UA comprises one or more places ("central place") and the adjacent densely settled surrounding territory ("urban fringe") that together include at least 50,000 people. The central place(s) identifies the most populous center(s) of each UA, based on specific criteria. (The 1980 term was "central city," which now applies only to MA's.) There is no maximum limit on the number of central places in a UA, and not all central places are necessarily included in the UA title.

The urban fringe generally consists of contiguous territory having a population density of at least 1,000 people per square mile. The urban fringe also includes outlying territory of such density if it is connected to the core of the contiguous area by road and meets certain other requirements. Other territory with a population density of fewer than 1,000 people per square mile may be included in the urban fringe if it eliminates an enclave or closes an indentation in the boundary of the UA, or is part of a place that meets specific criteria. Most UA's form the cores of MA's, but a few are not part of any MA. Also, two or more UA's may exist in a single MA, and an individual UA may extend beyond an MA boundary, either into non-MA territory or into another MA. The Census Bureau first established UA's for the 1950 census, so that it could provide separate data for those population clusters centered in places containing 50,000 or more people. The criteria have undergone refinements over the years, resulting primarily in UA's being defined around smaller places. Nevertheless, the original concept—including the 50,000-minimum-population requirement for the entire UA and the need for the small geographic entities that comprise a UA generally to have a minimum population density of 1,000—remains the same.

Urban or Rural

The Census Bureau identifies all territory, population, and housing as urban or rural. The term "urban" comprises all territory, population, and housing units in UA's and in places (both incorporated and census designated) of 2,500 or more people outside UA's. All territory, population, and housing units not classified as urban constitute "rural." The Census Bureau has used this classification, with minor changes from time to time, since the 1950 census; other definitions were used prior to 1950. For incorporated places that contain substantial territory that is sparsely populated, such territory may be treated as rural even though it lies within the corporate limits; such places, first identified for the 1970 census, are referred to as "extended cities." For the first time, the Census Bureau published data from the 1990 census for extended cities outside of UA's.

Congressional Districts

Congressional districts (CD's) are the 435 areas from which members are elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. After the Federal apportionment of congressional seats among the States based on the decennial census population counts, State officials are responsible for establishing CD's for the purpose of electing representatives; occasionally, the courts are called upon to delineate the CD's. In a series of decisions beginning in 1962, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that each CD must be as equal in population as practicable to all other CD's in the State; therefore, it is critical that census data be available for very small geographic units to enable officials to establish districts that meet this mandate.

The 1990 census provides data in Summary Tape File (STF) 1A for the districts of the 101st Congress; this is the Congress that was in office on January 1, 1990, which was the effective date for the boundaries used in the 1990 census. The boundaries and data for that Congress also apply to the 102nd Congress. Data for the districts of the 103rd Congress—the first Congress that reflects the reapportionment and revised congressional districts based on the 1990 census—appear in STF 1D, STF 3D, and the 1990 CPH-4 series of reports. Where the boundary of a CD of the 103rd Congress splits a 1990 census block, the Census Bureau's maps depict its location correctly, but for data tabulation, that block is allocated in its entirety to only one CD, as specified by the State or assigned by the Census Bureau.

Counties

Counties are the primary legal divisions of most States. In Louisiana, these primary divisions are known as parishes. In Alaska, the county equivalents, beginning with the 1980 census, consist of 1) the organized boroughs and 2) the "census areas" delineated for statistical purposes by the State of Alaska and the Census Bureau. In four States (Maryland, Missouri, Nevada, and Virginia), one or more cities are independent of any county organization and thus constitute primary divisions of their States; the Census Bureau refers to these places as "independent cities" and treats them as the equivalents of counties for statistical purposes. A portion of Yellowstone National Park in Montana also is treated as a county equivalent. The District of Columbia and Guam have no primary divisions, and the entire area of each is considered to be the equivalent of a county for statistical purposes. For Puerto Rico, the municipios serve as county equivalents for reporting data; for American Samoa, three districts and two islands (the entities called counties in American Samoa are treated as minor civil divisions); for the Northern Mariana Islands, the municipalities; for Palau, the States; and for the Virgin Islands, the three major islands.

Each State and statistically equivalent entity is covered in its entirety by counties and statistically equivalent entities. Most, but not all, counties are functioning governmental units, whose powers and functions vary from State to State. Except for the establishment of two new counties (one each in Arizona and New Mexico), several changes in the boroughs and census areas of Alaska, and the recognition of the municipalities in the Northern Mariana Islands and of the States in Palau as county equivalents, there were no significant changes in the county structure between 1980 and 1990. The census of agriculture does not report data for selected

county-equivalent entities, primarily because some entities, such as many of the independent cities, have few or no farms. It uses a special set of five county equivalents for Alaska because of the limited agricultural production in much of that State.

County Subdivisions

County subdivisions are the primary divisions of counties and statistically equivalent entities. They comprise both legal and statistical entities that cover the entire United States and its territories, with the exception of all or part of some water bodies that are not assigned to any county subdivision.

Minor Civil Divisions—Legally defined county subdivisions are referred to as minor civil divisions (MCD's). They comprise both governmentally functioning entities—that is, those that have elected officials who can provide services and raise revenues—and nonfunctioning entities that exist primarily for administrative purposes. Twenty-eight States and all the territories have MCD's, although the MCD's are functioning governmental units in all or part of only 20 States, American Samoa, and Palau (see part 1 of table 4).

The legal powers and functions of MCD's vary from State to State. Many of the MCD's in 12 States (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Wisconsin) serve as full, general-purpose local governments, and the Census Bureau presents the same array of decennial census data for these MCD's that it provides for places. For these 12 States, the Census of Retail Trade also provides data for MCD's that have a census population of at least 10,000; the census refers to these as special economic urban areas (SEUA's) and treats them as the statistical equivalents of places. (Prior to the 1992 economic censuses, SEUA's were recognized only in New England, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.) MCD's primarily are called towns (in New England, New York, and Wisconsin), townships, and districts, but also include a variety of other entities. In Maine and New York, American Indian reservations are not part of any other MCD and; therefore, the Census Bureau treats them as if they are MCD's. In some States, all or some incorporated places that are not part of any MCD are treated as if they are MCD's; all other incorporated places are subordinate to the MCD's in which they are located. Therefore, a place may be either independent of or dependent upon MCD's. (In one State (Ohio), a multi-county place may be treated differently from county to county.) The District of Columbia defined no MCD's for the 1990 census, so the District itself serves as the equivalent of an MCD for data presentation purposes. With the exception of a few States, MCD's tend to be reasonably stable geographic entities. In Puerto Rico, some MCD's (barrios-pueblo and barrios) are subdivided into legally defined sub-MCD's (subbarrios).

Census County Subdivisions, Census Subareas, and Unorganized Territories—County subdivisions delineated for the purpose of reporting decennial census data include census county divisions (CCD's), census subareas (CSA's), and unorganized territories (UT's). The Census Bureau has established CCD's cooperatively with the State and local governments of 21 States that do not have legally established MCD's or where the MCD's do not have an administrative or governmental purpose, the boundaries of the MCD's are poorly defined and/or change frequently, and/or the MCD's generally are not well known to the public. Nevada had CCD's for the first time for the 1990 census.

For Alaska, the State government and the Census Bureau cooperatively have identified and delineated CSA's, which are similar to CCD's and serve as statistical subdivisions of the boroughs and census areas in that State. UT's—identified as "unorg." in the 1980 and 1990 census data tabulations—exist in eight States for which the Census Bureau recognizes MCD's, but the MCD's do not cover the entire territory of the State. They exist primarily in Maine, Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota, but there are a few in Arkansas, Iowa, Louisiana, and North Carolina. (The 1980 and 1990 censuses also included—erroneously—a few nonexistent UT's in Kansas, and did not report the lone UT that exists in Indiana.) The Census Bureau recognizes each geographically separate unorganized area within a county as one or more UT's. The CCD's, CSA's, and UT's have no legal functions and are not governmental units. The boundaries of CCD's are delineated to follow visible features; CSA boundaries may follow visible features, but often coincide with or approximate the boundaries of Alaska's rural

education attendance areas or the legally-defined boundaries of the ANRC's; the location of MCD boundaries usually determine the boundaries of the "remainder areas" reported as UT's. The names of the statistical county subdivisions are based on places, other well-known local names that identify their location, or the location within a county (for example, Southeast Adams). CCD's were first established for one State—Washington—for the 1950 census and CSA's for the 1980 census; the unorganized portions of counties have been recognized since the earliest censuses.

Places

Places comprise both legal entities, referred to as incorporated places, and statistical entities, referred to as census designated places (CDP's). (The latter were called "unincorporated places" for the decennial censuses from 1940 through 1970.) In general, places represent the densely settled portions of a State within specific circumscribed boundaries. Therefore, unlike county subdivisions, places do *not* encompass all the land area of a State or county. Because they tend to encompass built-up areas, the inventory and boundaries of places is changing constantly in most States through a variety of actions: new incorporations, mergers and consolidations of legal entities, disincorporations, and annexations and detachments. Also, every 10 years, tribal, State, and local officials may identify new CDP's and revise the boundaries of existing CDP's to reflect changes in the extent of urban development from decade to decade.

Places (and place parts) appear in the hierarchical listings as sub-areas of counties and/or county subdivisions, but also appear in a single alphabetical listing within each State. For Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Wisconsin, the published tables intermingle the county subdivisions with the places. As previously noted, the Census of Retail Trade treats some MCD's as places for statistical purposes. Places never cross a State line; for example, Bristol, Tennessee and Bristol, Virginia share a common boundary—the State line—but each is incorporated separately under the laws of its State. For census purposes, any place (outside of a UA) with a population of 2,500 or more usually is treated as "urban."

Incorporated Places—incorporated places are those legally in existence, under the laws of their respective States, as cities, towns (except in New England, New York, and Wisconsin, where the Census Bureau recognizes towns as MCD's for census purposes), boroughs (except in Alaska, where the Census Bureau recognizes boroughs as the equivalents of counties, and New York, where the Census Bureau recognizes the five boroughs that constitute New York City as MCD's), and villages as MCD's. The legal designations, powers, and functions of places vary from State to State. The economic censuses (with three exceptions) include only places with a decennial census population of 2,500 or more.

Consolidated Cities—"Consolidated cities" represent a special type of governmental unit that the Census Bureau recognized specifically for the first time in the 1990 decennial and 1992 economic censuses. A consolidated government is a unit of local government for which the functions of an incorporated place and its county or MCD have merged. Where one or more other incorporated places within the consolidated government continue to function as separate governmental units, the primary incorporated place is referred to as a "consolidated city." The data presentations for places include the semi-independent places and the "consolidated city (remainder)"—that is, the portion of the consolidated city not in one of those places—as well as separate data for the consolidated city as a whole.

Census Designated Places—CDP's are densely settled population centers without legally established boundaries or governmental functions. Each CDP should have a definite residential and commercial nucleus, and can be identified with a name by local people. CDP's are delineated, usually by tribal, State, and local officials, for the decennial census as the statistical counterparts of incorporated places. The intent is to provide data for settlements even though they have not incorporated as cities, villages, and so forth. Because the Census Bureau treats any place (outside of a UA) with a population of at least 2,500 as "urban," the identification of CDP's helps improve the data related to the urban and rural components of the population. CDP

boundaries, which usually follow visible features or coincide with the boundary of an adjacent incorporated place, should include, insofar as possible, all—and only—the closely settled territory and population associated with the place name. CDP's and their boundaries have no legal status, nor do these places have officials elected to serve traditional municipal functions. To qualify as a CDP, a settlement must meet specific population thresholds. However, for the 1990 census, CDP's qualified on the basis of the population counts prepared for the 1990 Postcensus Local Review Program; because these counts were subject to change, a few CDP's may have final population counts lower than the threshold. The population size criteria are as follows:

1. In all States except Alaska and Hawaii, the Census Bureau uses three population size criteria to designate a CDP. These criteria are:
 - a. 1,000 or more people if the settlement is outside the boundaries of a UA delineated for the previous decennial census or a subsequent special census.
 - b. 2,500 or more people if the settlement is inside the boundaries of a UA delineated for the previous decennial census or a subsequent special census. (This criterion is new for the 1990 census; the previous requirement was a minimum of 5,000 people if the settlement was inside a UA with a central city that had a population of at least 50,000, and 1,000 people in any other UA.)
 - c. 250 or more people if the settlement is outside the boundaries of a UA delineated for the previous decennial census or a subsequent special census, and within the official boundaries of an American Indian reservation recognized for the 1990 census. (This criterion is new for the 1990 census. The previous requirement was a minimum of 1,000 people.)
2. In Alaska, 25 or more people if the settlement is outside a UA.
3. In Hawaii, the Virgin Islands, and the Pacific Outlying Areas, 300 or more people, regardless of whether the settlement is inside or outside a UA.
4. In Puerto Rico, a CDP called a "zona urbana" represents the area consisting of the municipio seat of government and adjacent built-up territory, and has no minimum population requirement. All other CDP's, called "comunidades"—referred to as "aldeas" for the 1980 census—must have a population of 1,000 or more.

For the economic censuses, the census of retail trade recognizes CDP's only in Hawaii, and includes those with a census population of at least 2,500.

Census Tracts and Block Numbering Areas

Census tracts and block numbering areas (BNA's) are small statistical subdivisions of a county delineated based on Census Bureau guidelines.

Census Tracts—Census tracts in MA's and other highly populated counties are established and maintained for the decennial census by local committees. Committees also have delineated census tracts for a few small non-MA counties that represent special situations; however, a few MA counties do not have census tracts. The concept of census tracts, first considered for the 1890 census, was implemented officially as part of the decennial census for eight large cities for the 1910 census. By the time of the 1990 census, census tracts covered more than 80 per cent of the Nation's population—but only about 25 per cent of its land area. Census tracts usually contain between 2,500 and 8,000 people, and should average approximately 4,000 people. Accordingly, the areal size of census tracts varies widely, depending on the density of settlement. They are designed to be homogeneous with respect to population characteristics, economic status, and living conditions *when first delineated*. Census tracts do not cross county boundaries. Census tract boundaries are delineated using visible permanent features, insofar as possible, with the intention that they be maintained over a long time so that statistical

comparisons can be made from census to census. However, physical changes in street pattern caused by new highway construction, street closings, and the like, may require occasional revisions; also, census tracts occasionally are split due to large population growth, or combined as a result of substantial population decline.

A special type of census tract is populated entirely by persons aboard one or more civilian and/or military vessels; a "crews-of-vessels" census tract provides data for the population of ships. It has neither a specific location or any area. It is associated with the onshore census tract having the same 4-digit basic number, and is assigned a .99 suffix. Suffixes in the range .70 through .98 usually identify census tracts that either were revised or were created during the 1990 census data collection activities as a result of the correction in the location of a legal boundary or, in a very few instances, as a result of a request by a local government to correct the location of a misplaced census tract boundary. Some of these revisions may have resulted in census tracts that have an extremely small land area and may have little or no population or housing; for data analysis such census tracts can be summarized with an adjacent census tract.

Block Numbering Areas—The original purpose of BNA's was to provide the Census Bureau with small areas to be used as the framework for grouping and numbering blocks in counties for which local committees had not established census tracts. Accordingly, from 1940 to 1980, they covered only the block-numbered portion of such a county. For the first time, the 1990 census covers with BNA's all counties that do not have census tracts, and the Census Bureau publishes the same types of data for BNA's as it does for census tracts in the rest of the Nation. BNA's may be delineated by State officials or the Census Bureau; prior to the 1990 census, only the Census Bureau delineated BNA's. In sparsely populated counties, their population, of necessity, may be smaller than that of census tracts; indeed, a very sparsely populated county may have only a single BNA. Otherwise, BNA's follow the same rules for delineation as census tracts. The special situations noted above for census tracts with suffixes of .70 through .98 and .99 apply to BNA's as well.

Block Groups

A block group (BG) is a cluster of blocks, within a census tract or BNA, that have the same first digit in their identifying numbers; for example, BG 3 within a census tract or BNA includes all blocks numbered between 301 and 399. In most cases, a BG comprises substantially fewer than 99 census blocks. For the 1990 census, BG's were delineated by State and local officials and by the Census Bureau following specific guidelines. As with census tracts and BNA's, the boundaries of BG's should use relatively permanent visible features. BG's never cross census tract or BNA boundaries, but may cross the boundaries of county subdivisions, places, AI/ANA's, UA's, voting districts, and CD's. The 1990 census tabulates data for the total area of a BG, which is referred to as a "geographic BG." The census also provides data for each portion of BG's that are split by every unique combination of AI/ANA, UA, CD, county subdivision, place, urban/rural, and voting district shown in the data product; for example, if BG 3 is partly in a city and partly outside the city, there will be separate tabulated records for each portion of BG 3. These may be referred to as "tabulation BG's." Geographic BG's were designed to have an optimum size of 400 housing units, but in actual practice for the 1990 census, they averaged 452 housing units, or 1,100 people; tabulation BG's averaged 286 housing units, or 696 people.

BG's were used in tabulating decennial census data nationwide in the 1990 census, whereas they occurred only in block-numbered areas in the 1980 census and in the urban cores of MA's in the 1970 census. BG's represent the lowest level of geography for which the Census Bureau presents sample data. For purposes of data presentation, the BG's are a substitute for the enumeration districts (ED's) used for presenting unpublished subcounty data in many parts of the United States for the 1970 and 1980 censuses, and in all areas for several previous censuses.

Census Blocks

Census blocks are small areas bounded on all sides both by visible features, such as streets, roads, streams, and railroad tracks, and by invisible boundaries, such as city, town, township, and county limits, property lines, and short imaginary extensions of streets and roads. Because

blocks are numbered within census tracts and BNA's; they do not cross the boundaries of these entities. Blocks also do not cross the boundaries of AI/ANA's, UA's, counties, county subdivisions, places, or voting districts.

The Census Bureau first presented data by block for large cities as part of the data tabulations from the 1940 Census of Housing. For the 1980 census, both population and housing data were provided for census blocks in and adjacent to all UA's, in all incorporated places with a 1980 census population of 10,000 or more, and in other places and areas for which State or local governments contracted with the Census Bureau to obtain counts by block. The 1990 census is the first for which the entire United States and its territories were block-numbered and, therefore, for which data are available at the block level for every higher-level geographic entity. It also is the first for which each area identified as a separate block had its own number; that is, for the 1980 and earlier censuses, block 101 could have been split among several places and/or county subdivisions, but would always be shown as block 101, whereas for the 1990 census, the portion of the Census Bureau's originally defined block 101 in each higher-level entity has a different suffix: 101A, 101B, 101C, and so forth. Crews-of-vessels blocks can be identified by their unique suffix of "Z" (for example, 101Z). Outside the cores of the larger urban areas, generally it is unlikely that a polygon for the 1980 census has the same block number in the 1990 census.

ZIP Codes

ZIP Codes are administrative units established by the United States Postal Service (USPS) for the distribution of mail. ZIP Codes generally do not respect legal boundaries or statistical entities. Rather, ZIP Codes are associated with specific addresses to ensure the most efficient delivery of mail by the USPS, and therefore generally reflect linear entities that usually cannot be represented by clearly identifiable boundaries. Furthermore, ZIP Codes often represent a continually expanding area, and the USPS will split a ZIP Code delivery "area" to form two or more new ZIP Codes when appropriate to meet the needs of the postal delivery system. Finally, ZIP Codes do not cover all the land area of the United States. Nevertheless, to tabulate the data for ZIP Codes for the 1990 census, each tabulation block was assigned to a single residential ZIP Code, and then the Census Bureau summarized the block information from its internal, detailed data files. For the 1980 census, ZIP Code tallies were based on the mailing addresses shown on the census questionnaires.

Voting Districts

In response to Public Law (P.L.) 94-171 (1975), the Census Bureau offered State officials the opportunity to delineate voting districts (VTD's) for use in tabulating decennial census data. A VTD can refer to a variety of geographic entities (for example, election districts, precincts, wards, legislative districts) established by State and local governments for the purpose of taking elections. For the 1990 census, 46 States and the District of Columbia chose to outline the boundaries of VTD's around groups of whole census blocks on census maps, which enabled the Census Bureau to tabulate data for the VTD's. State officials may have identified VTD's for the whole State, selected counties, or parts of selected counties. The entities identified as VTD's are not necessarily those legally or currently established—in part because, to meet the "whole block" criterion, a State may have had to depict the boundaries of VTD's that split blocks to follow nearby block boundaries; the Census Bureau refers to such VTD's as "pseudo-VTD's." The P.L. 94-171 data file flags each VTD to identify whether it is an "actual" VTD or a "pseudo" VTD; if a State did not designate whether VTD's were "actual" or "pseudo," the Census Bureau identified them as "pseudo." A special program, separate from the P.L. 94-171 program, permitted Puerto Rico to identify VTD's for data tabulation. For the 1980 census, VTD's were referred to as "election precincts."

School Districts

School districts were identified and delineated by State officials so that the Census Bureau could prepare special tabulations for the U.S. Department of Education. They comprise four levels of districts: elementary districts, intermediate districts, secondary districts, and unified

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districts. These districts may overlap, and some territory may not be covered by any district or specific type of district. In all or parts of some States, school districts are coextensive with counties, MCD's, places, or combinations thereof; in other areas, they have virtually no relationship to other census geography, and may even split blocks. In tabulating the 1990 census data, the Census Bureau assigned proportional shares of the data for selected blocks to school districts, based on information provided by the States; that is, if a State identified a block to be one-third in one district and two-thirds in another, the data for the block were apportioned to each district based on its specified share. If a State did not identify proportions, the Census Bureau allocated the data for split blocks based on the proportion of the land area of the school district in each part of the block.

User-Defined Areas Program

In addition to the standard geographic entities for which it provides data, the Census Bureau will provide, for a fee, specific 1990 census data summaries for geographic configurations delineated by data users through its User-Defined Areas Program (UDAP). This program can be useful for users who need data for service areas, neighborhoods (for which the Census Bureau provided data in a separate special program for the 1980 census), marketing territories, legislative districts, and so forth.

Census Contacts

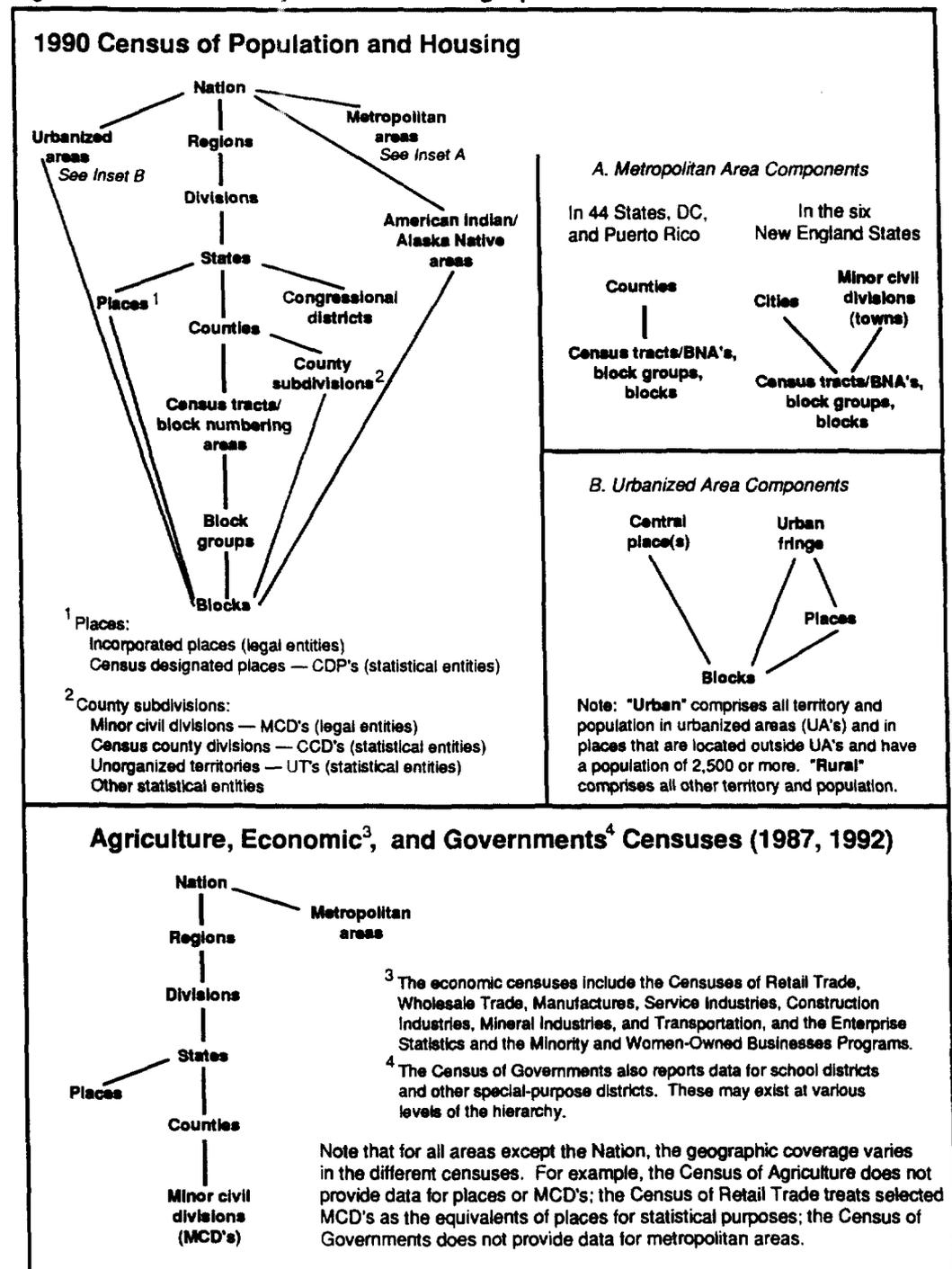
Information regarding *census data and their availability for various geographic entities* can be obtained by calling the Census Customer Services on 301-763-4100, and for the *User-Defined Areas Program* by calling 301-763-4282. Census Bureau staff also can provide further information about the *conceptual aspects of the various geographic entities* covered by the several censuses as follows:

Geographic concepts—general	301-763-5720
Decennial census entities	301-763-3827
Economic and agriculture censuses entities	301-763-4667
Governments censuses entities	301-763-7789
Metropolitan areas	301-763-5158
Urbanized areas	301-763-3827
ZIP Codes	301-763-4667
Outlying areas	301-763-2903

Table 3. Number of Geographic Entities—1990 and Other Recent Censuses—U.S. and Territories

Entity	Decennial censuses		1987 censuses		
	1980	1990	Economic	Agriculture	Government
LEGAL/ADMINISTRATIVE ENTITIES					
United States	1	1	1	1	
States and statistically equivalent entities	57	57	55	53	
States	50	50	50	50	
District of Columbia	1	1	1	-	
Outlying Areas	6	6	²⁴	³³	
Counties and statistically equivalent entities	3,231	3,248	3,221	⁴ 3,179	3
Minor civil divisions (MCD's)	30,450	30,386	-	-	16,0
Sub-MCD's	265	145	-	-	
Incorporated places	19,176	19,365	⁵ 6,776	-	19,2
Consolidated cities	-	6	-	-	
American Indian reservations	277	310	-	-	
American Indian entities with trust lands	37	52	-	-	
Alaska Native villages (ANV's)	209	See ANVSA	-	-	
Alaska Native Regional Corporations (ANRC's)	12	12	-	-	
Congressional districts (CD's)	435	435	-	-	
Voting districts (VTD's)	36,361	148,872	-	-	
School districts	16,075	14,422	-	-	14,2
ZIP Codes	37,000E	⁷ 29,469	31,000E	31,000E	
Tabulated parts	-	⁷ 36,932	-	-	
STATISTICAL ENTITIES					
Regions	4	4	4	-	
Divisions	9	9	9	-	
Offshore areas	-	-	⁸ 7	-	
Metropolitan areas (MA's)					
Standard metropolitan statistical areas (SMSA's)	323	-	-	-	
Standard consolidated statistical areas (SCSA's)	17	-	-	-	
Metropolitan statistical areas (MSA's)	-	268	265	-	
Consolidated metropolitan statistical areas (CMSA's)	-	21	21	-	
Primary metropolitan statistical areas (PMSA's)	-	73	73	-	
Urbanized areas (UA's)	373	→405	-	-	
Tribal jurisdiction statistical areas (TJSA's)	-	17	-	-	
Tribal designated statistical areas (TDSA's)	-	19	-	-	
Alaska Native village statistical areas (ANVSA's)	See ANV	217	-	-	
County subdivisions					
Census county divisions (CCD's)	5,827	5,903	⁹ 433	-	
Unorganized territories (UT's)	5,512	5,581	-	-	
Other statistical entities	274	282	-	-	
Special economic urban areas (SEUA's)	41	40	-	-	
Special economic urban areas (SEUA's)	-	-	⁹ 433	-	
Census designated places (CDP's)	3,733	→4,423	44	-	
Balance of MA's	-	-	¹⁰ 34	-	
Census tracts	43,691	50,690	-	-	
Block numbering areas (BNA's)	3,423	11,586	-	-	
Block groups (BG's)	156,163	229,192	-	-	
Tabulated parts ¹¹	197,957	363,047	-	-	

Figure 1. The Hierarchy of Census Geographic Entities



GLOSSARY

American Indian Reservation—An American Indian area with boundaries established by treaty, statute, and/or executive or court order. The reservations and their boundaries are identified for the Census Bureau by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and State governments. Federal and State reservations are located in 33 States. They may cross the boundary of any other Census Bureau tabulation geography, including State. In data tabulations for reservations, trust lands outside the boundaries of a reservation are not included as part of the reservation. The Census Bureau has assigned a 4-digit (3-digit in 1980) code, unique within the United States, to each American Indian reservation; each reservation also has a 5-digit FIPS Code that is unique within State.

American Indian Subreservation Area (ISA)—An administrative subdivision of a reservation, known as an "area," "chapter," "district," "segment," or "community." ISA's may lie wholly or partially within a reservation, and a few are located entirely outside the reservation (off-reservation). Recognized in the 1980 census, tribal governments identified and delineated ISA's for the Census Bureau. The Census Bureau assigned a unique 3-digit code to each American Indian subreservation area for the 1980 census. There are no plans to recognize these areas for 1990.

American Indian Tribal Trust Lands—See American Indian Trust Lands.

American Indian Trust Lands—Lands held in trust by the Federal government for either a tribe (tribal trust lands) or an individual member of that tribe (individual trust lands). They may be located on or outside the reservation; the Census Bureau recognizes and tabulates data only for the off-reservation trust lands. Trust lands are associated with a specific reservation or tribe. The Bureau of Indian Affairs provides the Census Bureau with maps of these areas. Data for trust lands were first reported for the 1980 census.

Annexation—An area added to a governmental unit—usually an incorporated place—by an ordinance or other legal action. Also, the act or process of being added to a governmental unit.

Block (census block)—A geographic area bounded on all sides by visible features such as streets, roads, streams, and railroad tracks, and occasionally by nonvisible boundaries such as city, town, or county limits, property lines, and short imaginary extensions of a street or road. Blocks do not cross census tract or block numbering area boundaries, but may cross other boundaries, such as minor civil divisions (MCD's) lines and city limits (1980 and earlier censuses; for 1990, collection geography only); in 1990, data tabulations. MCD and place boundaries also will be block boundaries. Usually, a block is the smallest area for which decennial census data are tabulated; when a block is split by an incorporated place or MCD limit, the split portions of the block (1980 and earlier censuses) are the smallest area.

Block Numbering Area (BNA)—An area defined for the purpose of grouping and numbering decennial census blocks in block-numbering areas where census tracts have not been defined—typically, prior to 1990, in non-standard metropolitan statistical area (SMSA) places of 10,000 or more population and in contract block areas. BNA's do not cross county boundaries. While BNA's are similar to census tracts, BNA's are not census tracts; BNA's are delineated by State officials and the Census Bureau, following Census Bureau guidelines. BNA's may be split by the boundaries of any subcounty geographic entity. Also see BNA number.

BNA number—A 4-digit number, possibly with a 2-digit suffix, used to identify a block numbering area (BNA) uniquely within a county in which census tracts have not been defined. BNA numbers range from 9501 to 9989. Also see Block Numbering Area.

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Borough—

1. In Alaska, a county equivalent for statistical purposes.
2. One of the five boroughs comprising New York City, treated as minor civil divisions (MCD's) for statistical purposes. In New Jersey and Pennsylvania, an incorporated place that is treated as equivalent to an MCD for statistical purposes.
3. A type of incorporated place with legally established boundaries and powers. The legal classification of "borough" exists only in Connecticut, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

Census County Division (CCD)—A statistical subdivision of a county that is established cooperatively by the Census Bureau and State and local government authorities, for presenting decennial census data in those States that do not have well-defined minor civil divisions (MCD's); that is, MCD's have not been legally established, do not serve a legal or administrative governmental purpose, are not well known, have poorly defined boundaries, and/or have frequent boundary changes. A CCD usually consists of one or more census tracts or block numbering areas. The boundaries of CCD's normally follow physical features and county lines, but may follow corporate boundaries and other invisible features in selected instances.

Census Designated Place (CDP)—A statistical area, defined for a decennial census, comprising a densely settled concentration of population that is not incorporated, but resembles an incorporated place in that it can be identified with a name by local people. Each CDP should have a definite nucleus of residences, and the boundaries should include, as far as possible, all the surrounding closely settled territory identified with the place name. The boundaries, which usually coincide with visible features or the boundary of an adjacent incorporated place, have no legal status, nor are there any officials elected to serve traditional municipal functions. These areas were called "unincorporated places" prior to the 1980 census.

Census Geography—A general term that refers to all or any geographic areas used by the Census Bureau in its data tabulations, including their structure and their relationship to one another.

Census Tract—A small, relatively permanent division of a metropolitan statistical area or selected nonmetropolitan county, delineated for the purpose of presenting decennial census data. When census tracts are established, they are designed to be relatively homogeneous with respect to population characteristics, economic status, and living conditions, and to contain between 2,500 and 8,000 inhabitants. Census tracts may be split by any subcounty geographic entity.

City—A type of incorporated place with legally established boundaries and powers. The legal definition of "city" varies from State to State.

Coextensive—Descriptive of two or more geographic areas that cover exactly the same area, with all boundaries conjoint.

Consolidated City—An incorporated place that, as a result of a governmental consolidation, contains one or more other incorporated places and also may contain some formerly unincorporated area.

Consolidated Government—Two or more separate geographic or political entities that have joined together for a common purpose or end and occupy the same physical space; that is, a consolidated city-county government.

Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area (CMSA)—Effective June 30, 1983, an area defined by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) as a Federal statistical standard. Where primary metropolitan statistical areas are defined, the metropolitan statistical area, of which they are a component, is redesignated as a consolidated metropolitan statistical area.

Consolidation—A combining of two or more governmental units; the units may be at the same or different levels of government. Also see Consolidated Government.

County—The primary subdivision of a State (except Alaska and Louisiana). A county usually is a governmental unit with powers defined by State law. In American Samoa, a county is a minor civil division. Also see Statistical Equivalent of a County.

County Subdivision—A legal or statistical division of a county recognized by the Census Bureau for data presentation. Also see Minor Civil Division; Census County Division; Unorganized Territory.

Disincorporate—Descriptive of the legal action taken by an incorporated place, county, or State to end the place's existence.

Disorganize—Descriptive of the legal action taken by a minor civil division, county, or State to end the minor civil division's existence.

District—A political area used primarily for voting purposes (election or voting district). Also used as a minor civil division in Maryland (election), Mississippi (supervisors'), Virginia (magisterial), West Virginia (magisterial), and Guam (election); as a county equivalent in American Samoa; as a county equivalent in the 1980 census in the Northern Mariana Islands (administrative) and the remainder of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (administrative); as a minor civil division (MCD) in 1990 in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (municipal).

Election District—

1. An area equivalent to a county for statistical purposes for the 1960 census in the State of Alaska.
2. A geographic unit representing a minor civil division in Maryland, Guam, and historically, several census county division States.
3. Also see Election Precinct.

Election Precinct (EP)—In 1980 census usage, any of a variety of types of areas (that is election districts, precincts, legislative districts, wards, and so forth) defined by States and local governments for purposes of elections. For the 1990 census, the term is replaced by "voting districts."

Enclave—An "island" of area with one set of geographic codes within and completely surrounded by an area with a different set of geographic codes; usually refers to an unincorporated area that lies completely within the limits of an incorporated place.

Exclave—A discontinuous part of a geographic area; also referred to as an outlier. Usually refers to a small portion of an incorporated place that is completely separate from the remainder of the place.

False Entity—A geographic entity that is established to create complete coverage at a specific geographic level; that is, a place that also is recognized as a minor civil division (MCD) in order to provide complete geographic coverage at the MCD level, or a remainder-of-MCD record that is coded as a place to complete coverage at the place level.

Functional Status—The political activity associated with a governmental unit; that is, the political entity is active, inactive, nonfunctioning; the functional status code also identifies statistical units and false entities.

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Functioning Governmental Unit—Any political entity that has the legal capacity to elect or appoint officials, raise revenues, and provide services; the entity may exercise the capacity and be considered active, or it may merely retain the capability and be considered inactive.

Geographic Hierarchy—A system of relationships among geographic units wherein those geographic units are subdivided into lower-order units that in turn may be further subdivided. For example, States are subdivided into counties, which are further subdivided into minor civil divisions or census county divisions. Some census reports and summary tape files present data in the following 1980 "hierarchical sequence":

- United States
- Region
- Division
- State
- County
 - Minor civil division (MCD)/census county division (CCD)
 - Place* or remainder of MCD/CCD
 - Census tract/block number area (BNA)*
 - Block group*/enumeration district
 - Block

*The asterisks denote geographic entities that may cross the boundaries of higher-level units; that is, a place that exists partly in one MCD and partly in another. In a hierarchical presentation, lower-level units must fit into the specified framework; that is, a place crossing the boundary between two MCD's would be shown as two place parts sequenced separately following the appropriate MCD records.

Governmental Unit (GU)—A political or administrative area established by legal action and having officially recognized boundaries. All areas and population of the United States are covered by one or more levels of political units, such as States, counties, minor civil divisions, and places. Also, in a broad sense, includes other areas established for special governmental purposes, such as election precincts/voting districts, assessment districts, road districts, and school districts.

Inactive Government Unit—Any functioning political entity that has the legal capacity to have elected or appointed officials, but has no officials and, thus is neither raising revenues nor providing general services.

Incorporated Place (Inc.)—A political unit, incorporated as a city, town (except in New England, New York, and Wisconsin), village, or borough (except in Alaska and New York), having legally prescribed limits, powers, and functions. Also known as an "incorporated municipality."

Independent City—An incorporated place, with legally prescribed limits, powers, and functions, that is not a subdivision of or located within any county. Also see Statistical Equivalent of a County.

Independent Place—An incorporated place, with legally prescribed limits, powers, and functions, that is not part of any minor civil division.

Metropolitan—Refers to any area and population included in a metropolitan area (SMA, SMSA, MSA, CMSA, PMSA). All areas in this guide reflect June 1990 definitions.

Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)—An area defined by the Office of Management and Budget as a Federal statistical standard. An area qualifies for recognition as an MSA in one of two ways: if there is a city of at least 50,000 population, or an urbanized area of at least 50,000 with a total metropolitan population of at least 100,000 (75,000 in New England). In addition to the county containing the main place, an MSA also may include additional counties that meet

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specific criteria concerning economic and social ties to the central county. MSA's are defined in terms of counties except in the six New England States where cities and towns (minor civil divisions) are used. Designations of MSA's were first published in June 1983 and went into effect on June 30, 1983. Metropolitan statistical areas prior to that date were known as standard metropolitan statistical areas (SMSA's)

Minor Civil Division (MCD)—The primary political and administrative subdivision of a county in 28 States. Minor civil divisions (MCD's) may be identified by a variety of legal designations such as township, election district, borough, magisterial district, and gore. In most States, MCD's generally retain their boundaries over long periods of time and, in 20 States, all or some represent functioning, local, general-purpose governmental units or nonfunctioning administrative units, which makes them required areas for presentation of decennial census data. In States where all or some places are independent of any MCD, such places are recorded by the Census Bureau as areas equivalent to MCD's for statistical purposes (as well as places) that are false entities. There were 30,491 MCD's and areas equivalent to MCD's included in the 1980 Census of the U.S., Puerto Rico, and the Outlying Areas. Also see Census County Division.

Multicounty Place—A census-recognized place that is legally located in more than one county (for example, Oklahoma City lies in parts of five counties).

Municipality—

1. An incorporated place.
2. A 1980 minor civil division (MCD) in the Northern Mariana Islands and the remainder of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands; a 1990 census entity equivalent to a county for statistical purposes in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.
3. Local usage for an MCD in some States—but this usage is not accepted by the Census Bureau.

Outlying Area—An area (other than a State, the District of Columbia, or Puerto Rico) under the jurisdiction of the United States; for the 1990 census, this included five areas (American Samoa, Guam, the Virgin Islands of the United States, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Republic of Palau and several small islands).

Place—A legally established incorporated place—that is, a city, town (except in New England, New York, and Wisconsin), borough (except in Alaska and New York), or village—or a densely settled but unincorporated population center such as a census designated place (CDP) defined by the Census Bureau for statistical purposes. Also see Incorporated Place; Census Designated Place.

Place Description—The legal or Census Bureau status of a place: city, town, borough, village, or census designated place (CDP).

Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area (PMSA)—An area defined by the Office of Management and Budget as a Federal statistical standard. A PMSA is comprised of one or more counties (cities and towns in New England), within a metropolitan complex having a population of 1,000,000 or more, that demonstrate—based on specific criteria—very strong internal economic and social links separate from the ties to other portions of the metropolitan complex. By definition, a PMSA is always part of a consolidated metropolitan statistical area (CMSA). The term PMSA went into effect on June 30, 1983. Also see Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area.

Redistricting—The process of defining new geographic boundaries for administrative, electoral, or representation areas. For example, the congressional districts of a State may be redefined after each decennial census to accommodate changes in the State's number of seats in Congress and/or to reflect population shifts, with the objective that each district have approximately the same number of inhabitants.

Rural—The population and territory not in an urbanized area or a place with a decennial census population of 2,500 or more.

State—A primary governmental division of the United States. Also see State Statistical Equivalent.

State Statistical Equivalent—A political unit treated as if it were a State by the Census Bureau for data collection and tabulation, including the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and each of the Outlying Areas.

Statistical Area—Any nonpolitical geographic unit or special combination of political areas for which census data are gathered and tabulated. Also referred to as a "statistical entity."

Statistical Equivalent of a County—A geographic entity that is not legally referred to as a county but is recognized by the Census Bureau as equivalent to a county for statistical purposes. Includes: independent cities in Virginia, Maryland (Baltimore), Missouri (St. Louis), and Nevada (Carson City); parishes in Louisiana; boroughs and census areas in Alaska; a portion of Yellowstone National Park in Montana; municipios in Puerto Rico; and various entities in the Outlying Areas. The District of Columbia and Guam have no subdivisions comparable to counties, and the entire area of each is treated as an area equivalent to a county for statistical purposes.

Tabulation Geography—A geographic entity for which the Census Bureau presents data, usually in publications, microform, and/or computer tapes; that is, State, county, place, census tract. Some tabulation geography areas also are collection geography areas.

Town—

1. A type of incorporated place with legally established boundaries and powers. The legal classification of "town" exists only in certain States, and the legal definition varies from State to State.
2. In the New England States, New York, and Wisconsin, a minor civil division (MCD). In New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and South Dakota, an incorporated place that also is treated as equivalent to an MCD for statistical purposes.

Township (Civil or Political Township)—A unit of local government that is a subdivision of a county. It may or may not coincide with a survey township, and also occurs in certain States not covered by the United States Public Land Survey System (Township and Range System); that is, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania. It may be a functioning governmental unit or a nonfunctioning administrative area of a county. Those portions of a township outside a dependent place or a census designated place tend to be rural in character. Also see Minor Civil Division.

Tribal Jurisdiction Statistical Area (TJSA)—A statistical area identified and delineated by Oklahoma tribal officials as containing the American Indian population over which they have jurisdiction, for use as a 1990 census tabulation area.

Unorganized Territory (UT)—The area that is not included in an MCD, in a county with minor civil divisions (MCD's) recognized by the Census Bureau for data tabulation. That area may be divided into several unorganized territories by the Census Bureau for statistical purposes, with each given a unique name.

→ **Urban**—A concept defined by the Census Bureau to comprise the population and territory within urbanized areas (UA's) and places of 2,500 or more inhabitants outside UA's.

→ **Urbanized Area (UA)**—A central city (or cities) and the surrounding closely settled territory ("urban fringe") that together have a minimum population of 50,000. The Census Bureau uses published criteria to determine the eligibility and boundaries of urbanized areas.

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Village—A type of incorporated place with legally established boundaries and powers. The legal classification of "village" exists only in certain States.

Voting District—See Election Precinct.

Ward—

1. A local electoral subdivision of an incorporated place or minor civil division (MCD).
2. An MCD in Louisiana, officially called a police jury ward.

ZIP Code—A 5- or 9-digit code assigned by the United States Postal Service to an area, establishment, structure, group of post office boxes, and so forth, for the delivery of mail. The first three digits identify a major city or sectional distribution center; the next two digits signify a specific post office's delivery area. See ZIP Code area.

ZIP Code area—An "area" established by the Postal Service to expedite the delivery of mail and identified by a 5-digit code. ZIP Code areas do not coincide with Census Bureau geographic or political areas, and change according to postal requirements. Most ZIP Code areas do not have specific boundaries, and their implied boundaries do not necessarily follow clearly identifiable physical features. See ZIP Code.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Katie M. Turner, hereby certify that the foregoing, "PETITION FOR RECONSIDERATION AND CLARIFICATION OF SBC COMMUNICATIONS INC." in CS Docket No. 97-151 has been filed this 13th day of April, 1998 to the Parties of Record.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie M. Turner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Katie M. Turner

April 13, 1998

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