2020 Census
Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP)
Information Guide

WHAT IS THE 2020 CENSUS PSAP?

The 2020 Census Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP) enables invited participants to review and update selected statistical area boundaries for 2020 Census data tabulation following U.S. Census Bureau guidelines and criteria. The Census Bureau will use the defined statistical areas to tabulate data for the 2020 Census, American Community Survey (ACS), and the Economic Census.

There are two types of statistical geographies eligible for review under the 2020 Census PSAP. The first is standard statistical geography and the second is tribal statistical geography.

Standard statistical geographies include:

- Census tracts.
- Block groups.
- Census designated places (CDPs).
- Census county divisions (CCDs), in selected states.

Tribal statistical geographies include:

- Tribal census tracts (TCTs).
- Tribal block groups (TBGs).
- Census designated places (CDPs).
- Tribal designated statistical areas (TDSAs).
- State designated tribal statistical areas (SDTSAs).
- Alaska Native village statistical areas (ANVSAs).
- Oklahoma tribal statistical areas (OTSAs).
- Statistical tribal subdivisions.

The Census Bureau initially solicits 2020 Census PSAP participation from our 2010 Census PSAP participants. Where no previous partner exists, the Census Bureau attempts to solicit new partners. The Census Bureau strongly recommends 2020 Census PSAP participants seek input from other census data users and stakeholders regarding the delineation of 2020 Census statistical areas.

The Census Bureau may modify, and if necessary, reject statistical geographic areas and/or their boundaries submitted by participants that do not meet established criteria and guidelines.

WHY PARTICIPATE IN THE 2020 CENSUS PSAP?

The 2020 Census PSAP is the only opportunity prior to the 2020 Census for regional planning agencies (RPAs); councils of governments (COGs); Alaska Native Regional Associations (ANRAs); and tribal, state, county, and local governments (including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico) to review and update the selected statistical areas. Examples of how these data are used include:

- Prepare grant applications to fund community and regional development, education, agriculture, energy, and environmental programs, as well as other needed community improvements and enhancements.
- Plan for future community needs.

The next opportunity to review and delineate statistical areas is planned for the 2030 Census.

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WHAT IS NEW FOR THE 2020 CENSUS PSAP?

The former Tribal Statistical Areas Program (TSAP) is included as part of the 2020 Census PSAP. Federally recognized tribes and state tribal liaisons are invited to update tribal statistical geographies in the 2020 Census PSAP.

To reduce participant burden, the Census Bureau will create 2020 Census statistical area suggestions for review and update by all 2020 Census PSAP participants. Participants may accept the Census Bureau's 2020 Census proposed statistical areas, update the 2020 Census proposed statistical areas, or use the 2010 Census statistical area geography as a base to make updates.

Participants reviewing standard statistical area geographies are required to use the Census Bureau's Geographic Update Partnership Software (GUPS) to delineate updates. The GUPS runs in QGIS, which is an open source Geographic Information System (GIS). GUPS contains all functionality required to make 2020 Census PSAP updates, executes automated checks for program criteria compliance, and creates standardized data output files for Census Bureau processing. The GUPS is available on DVD or available for download from the Census Bureau's Web site at <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial

-census/about/psap.html> during the 2020 Census PSAP delineation phase.

Tribal participants reviewing tribal block groups, tribal census tracts, or CDPs may elect to use the GUPS or Census Bureau provided paper map products to review and edit tribal statistical geographies.

Participants using the GUPS must use the Secure Web Incoming Module (SWIM) to send their updates. The SWIM is the official Web portal for uploading partnership materials to the Census Bureau and is found at <https://respond.census.gov/swim/>.

Participants reviewing ANVSAs, OTSAs, OTSA tribal subdivisions, TDSAs, or SDTSAs are provided Census Bureau paper map products to review and edit tribal statistical areas.

2020 CENSUS PSAP *FEDERAL REGISTER* NOTICE

The 2020 Census PSAP *Federal Register* notice is available at <www.census.gov/programs-surveys /decennial-census/about/psap.html>. The *Federal Register* notice includes detailed information on standard and tribal statistical areas geography criteria and guidelines.

2020 CENSUS PSAP SCHEDULE	
Date	**Event**
March–May 2018	Contact 2010 Census PSAP participants to inquire about 2020 Census PSAP participation.
July 2018	2020 Census PSAP invitation materials sent to participants.
September 2018	Final criteria for standard statistical areas published.
January 2019	2020 Census PSAP delineation phase begins. Participants have 120 calendar days to submit updates.
January 2019	2020 Census PSAP Webinar trainings begin.
July 2019	2020 Census PSAP participants notified of delineation phase closeout.
January 2020	2020 Census PSAP verification phase begins. Participants have 90 calendar days to review updates.

Review the 2020 Census PSAP schedule and determine staffing and budget needs.

Plan for the number of staff needed to review and update statistical geographies prior to the start of the delineation phase scheduled for January 2019.

Identify the primary 2020 Census PSAP contact.

The primary 2020 Census PSAP contact will coordinate the 2020 Census PSAP review and update activities. Past primary PSAP contacts have included planning directors, executive directors, COG presidents, or other persons with decision-making authority.

Identify the 2020 Census PSAP technical contact.

The technical 2020 Census PSAP contact will conduct the technical review work or manage the technical staff. Consider whether this person will be available for the verification phase of the 2020 Census PSAP.

Review the 2020 Census PSAP criteria and guidelines.

Review the 2020 Census PSAP criteria and guidelines for census tracts, block groups, CDPs, and, if applicable to your state, CCDs. Tribal participants should review the 2020 Census PSAP criteria and guidelines for tribal statistical geographies for which they are eligible. Criteria and guidelines for all 2020 Census PSAP statistical areas are published in the *Federal Register* at <www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/about/psap.html>.

Seek 2020 Census PSAP stakeholder input.

Contact local governments and planning organizations in your service area for input into the review and update of statistical areas for the 2020 Census PSAP.

Establish a meeting schedule for stakeholders during the 2020 Census PSAP delineation phase.

Coordinate stakeholder meetings during the delineation phase to review the Census Bureau's 2020 Census proposed statistical areas, and subsequent updates, to seek consensus among stakeholders.

Conduct research on local housing unit and population data trends.

Conduct research to determine where housing unit and population growth or decline have occurred since 2010. Determine whether there are areas of future change that may affect the delineation of statistical areas based on housing unit and population criteria beyond the 2020 Census.

Identify potential CDPs for definition during the 2020 Census PSAP.

Work with local stakeholders to identify potential CDPs. CDPs can be delineated for the 2020 Census PSAP for unincorporated, named places with concentrations of housing units or population.

Attend a 2020 Census PSAP Webinar training.

Training Webinars will offer "hands-on" experience using the 2020 Census PSAP materials. Self-training aids and Webinars will be available online on the 2020 Census PSAP Web site. In addition, the 2020 Census PSAP Respondent Guides will contain detailed instructions and examples for conducting your statistical area review.

Review and update 2020 Census PSAP delineation phase materials.

You have 120 calendar days from receipt of materials to conduct your 2020 Census PSAP review and return updates to the Census Bureau. The time it will take to complete your 2020 Census PSAP review and submit your updates depends on the geographic territory and number of changes.

QUESTIONS

For more information about 2020 Census PSAP, call 1-844-788-4921, e-mail us at <GEO.PSAP@census .gov>, or visit our Web site at <www.census.gov /programs-surveys/decennial-census/about/psap .html>.

Review and update 2020 Census PSAP verification phase materials.

After updating statistical areas based on 2020 Census PSAP participants' submissions, the Census Bureau will provide verification products to participants. You have 90 calendar days from the receipt of your verification materials to conduct the 2020 Census PSAP verification review and respond to the Census Bureau.

Table 1.
2020 CENSUS PSAP STANDARD STATISTICAL AREAS CRITERIA—Con.

Statistical area	Primary purpose	Nationwide wall-to-wall coverage	Geography nests within	2020 Census population criteria	2020 Census housing unit criteria
CENSUS TRACTS					
Standard census tract	Boundary continuity. Data comparability.	Yes	County	Optimum: 4,000 Minimum: 1,200 Maximum: 8,000	Optimum: 1,600 Minimum: 480 Maximum: 3,200
Special use	Distinguish areas of little or no population that have a specific type of land use. Large water bodies.	No	County	Population Threshold = Little/None or must be within the standard census tract threshold. Employment threshold (suggested): Minimum of 1,200 jobs/ workers. Area Measurement Thresholds: Should be comparable in land area size to surrounding census tracts	
BLOCK GROUPS					
Standard block group	Form the geographic framework within which census blocks are numbered. Smallest area for which demographic characteristics are produced from the American Community Survey (ACS).	Yes	Census Tract	Minimum: 600 Maximum: 3,000	Minimum: 240 Maximum: 1,200
Special use	Distinguish areas of little or no population that have a specific type of land use AND are coextensive with a special land use census tract. Large water bodies.	No	Census Tract	Population Threshold = Little/None or must be within the standard block group threshold. Employment threshold (suggested): Minimum of 600 jobs/ workers. Area Measurement Thresholds: Should be comparable in land area size to surrounding block groups	

Table 1.
2020 CENSUS PSAP STANDARD STATISTICAL AREAS CRITERIA—Con.

Statistical area	Primary purpose	Nationwide wall-to-wall coverage	Geography nests within	2020 Census population criteria	2020 Census housing unit criteria
Census designated places (CDPs)	Place-level statistics for well-known, closely settled named localities that are not part of an incorporated place. Mix of residential and commercial areas.	No, CDPs capture distinct communities.	State	Should have population during at least one entire season (at least 3 consecutive months) of the year.	Should have higher housing unit (or population) density than surrounding area. If less than 10 housing units, Census Bureau will ask for an explanation.
Census county divisions (CCDs)	Provide data for sub-county units that have stable boundaries and recognizable names. Usually represents one or more communities, economic centers, or major land uses.	Partial—CCDs and minor civil divisions (MCDs) together provide national coverage. CCDs exist in 21 states.[1]	County	None	None

[1] CCDs exist in the following states:

Alabama	Montana
Alaska (referred to as census subarea)	Nevada
Arizona	New Mexico
California	Oklahoma
Colorado	Oregon
Delaware	South Carolina
Florida	Texas
Georgia	Utah
Hawaii	Washington
Idaho	Wyoming
Kentucky	

Table 2.
2020 CENSUS PSAP TRIBAL STATISTICAL AREAS CRITERIA—Con.

Statistical area	Primary purpose	Coverage	Geography nests within	2020 Census population criteria	2020 Census housing unit criteria
TRIBAL CENSUS TRACTS (TCTs)					
TCT *(Conceptually similar and equivalent to standard census tract.)*	Meet unique statistical needs of federally recognized American Indian reservation (AIR) and/or off-reservation trust land (ORTL). Tract-level data without the imposition of state or county boundaries. Data comparability.	Entire land and water area of the AIR and/or ORTL must be covered by one or more TCTs.	Federally recognized AIR or ORTL. *(Identified uniquely to distinguish from standard census tract.)*	Optimum: 4,000 Minimum: 1,200 Maximum: 8,000 *(Fewer than 2,400 = 1 TCT coextensive with AIR and/or ORTL.)*	Optimum: 1,600 Minimum: 480 Maximum: 3,200
Special use	Distinguish areas of little or no population that have a specific type of land use. Large water bodies.			Population Threshold = Little/None or must be within the standard census tract threshold. Employment threshold (suggested): Minimum of 1,200 jobs/workers. Area Measurement Thresholds: Should be comparable in land area size to surrounding tribal census tracts.	

Table 2.
2020 CENSUS PSAP TRIBAL STATISTICAL AREAS CRITERIA—Con.

Statistical area	Primary purpose	Coverage	Geography nests within	2020 Census population criteria	2020 Census housing unit criteria
TRIBAL BLOCK GROUPS (TBGs)					
TBG *(Conceptually similar and equivalent to standard block group.)*	Smallest area for which demographic characteristics are produced from the American Community Survey (ACS). Maintained separately from standard county-based block groups to meet unique statistical needs of federally recognized AIR and/or ORTL.	Because TCTs must cover the entire area of each AIR and/or ORTL, by definition, TBGs also must cover the entire area of each AIR and/or ORTL.	TCT *(Identified uniquely to distinguish from standard block group.)*	Minimum: 600 Maximum: 3,000 *(Equal to or fewer than 1,200 = 1 TBG coextensive with TCT, AIR, and/or ORTL.)*	Minimum: 240 Maximum: 1,200
Special use	Distinguish areas of little or no population that have a specific type of land use AND are coextensive with a special land use tribal census tract. Large water bodies.			Population Threshold = Little/None or must be within the standard block group threshold. Employment threshold (suggested): Minimum of 600 jobs/workers. Area Measurement Thresholds: ▪ Should be comparable in land area size to surrounding tribal block groups.	
OTHER TRIBAL STATISTICAL GEOGRAPHIES					
Census designated places (CDPs)	Place-level statistics for well-known, closely settled named localities that are not part of an incorporated place. Mix of residential and commercial areas.	CDPs capture distinct communities.	State *(Tribes that would like to delineate CDPs for communities partially or completely outside the boundaries of their legal or statistical area should work with the primary participants for those areas.)*	Should have population during at least one entire season (at least 3 consecutive months) of the year.	Should have higher housing unit (or population) density than surrounding area. If less than 10 housing units, Census Bureau will ask for an explanation.

Table 2.
2020 CENSUS PSAP TRIBAL STATISTICAL AREAS CRITERIA—Con.

Statistical area	Primary purpose	Coverage	Geography nests within	2020 Census population criteria	2020 Census housing unit criteria
Tribal designated statistical areas (TDSAs)	Provide meaningful statistical data for federally recognized tribes that do not have an AIR or ORTL and are not based in Alaska, Hawaii, or Oklahoma. Enhance the ability for data users to make more meaningful comparisons, over time, between data for both legal and statistical American Indian Areas (AIAs).	Relates to distribution of tribal members and American Indians receiving governmental services from the tribe.	United States—excluding Alaska, Hawaii, and Oklahoma. *(Can cross state boundaries.)*	Minimum = 200 American Indian population makes up large proportion of population and majority of that population are members of the delineating tribe. Should not include large numbers of people and households not affiliated with the tribe.	Minimum = 480 Housing unit density of at least 3 housing units per square mile.
State tribal designated statistical areas (STDSAs)	Provide meaningful statistical data for state-recognized tribes that are not federally recognized, do not have a state-recognized AIR or ORTL, and are not based in Alaska, Hawaii, or Oklahoma. Enhance the ability for data users to make more meaningful comparisons, over time, between data for both legal and statistical AIAs.	Relates to distribution of tribal members and American Indians receiving governmental services from the tribe.	State in which the respective tribe is officially recognized.	Minimum = 200 American Indian population makes up large proportion of population and majority of that population are members of the delineating tribe. Should not include large numbers of people and households not affiliated with the tribe.	Minimum = 480 Housing unit density of at least 3 housing units per square mile.

Table 2.
2020 CENSUS PSAP TRIBAL STATISTICAL AREAS CRITERIA—Con.

Statistical area	Primary purpose	Coverage	Geography nests within	2020 Census population criteria	2020 Census housing unit criteria
Alaska Native village statistical areas (ANVSAs)	Provide meaningful, relevant, and reliable statistical data for Alaska Natives and their Alaska Native villages (ANVs) that are federally recognized by Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) or recognized pursuant to Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) as either a Native Village or Native Group.	State of Alaska—represent relatively densely settled portion of each ANV.	Alaska Native Regional Corporation (ANRC).	Significant proportion of the population during at least one season of the year (at least 3 consecutive months) is Alaska Native and the majority are members of the defining ANV.	Majority of housing units, permanent and/or seasonal, should be for Alaska Natives who are members of or receiving governmental services from the defining ANV. Should not include large areas that are unpopulated or have no housing units. Should have housing unit density of at least 3 housing units per square mile.
Oklahoma tribal statistical areas (OTSAs)	Provide a way to obtain data comparable to that provided to federally recognized tribes that currently have an AIR.	Represent the former AIRs that existed in the Indian and Oklahoma territories prior to Oklahoma statehood in 1907.	State of Oklahoma. *(Cannot overlap with any other AIA at the same level of the geographic hierarchy.)*	Must contain some American Indian population.	Must contain some American Indian housing units.
Statistical tribal subdivisions	Provide a way to obtain data for units of self-government and/or administrations within an OTSA.	Federally recognized tribes in Oklahoma with a defined OTSA.	OTSA	Must contain some American Indian population.	Must contain some American Indian housing units.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Alaska Native Regional Associations (ANRAs). The 12 regional nonprofit associations in Alaska (incorporated under State Law in 1973) whose boundaries became the basis of the for-profit regional corporations (Alaska Native Regional Corporations [ANRC]) pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) (as amended) (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq. [2000]). Regional nonprofit associations were created to administer social, education, and health services for Alaska Native people in their region.

Alaska Native villages (ANVs). Constitute associations, bands, clans, communities, groups, tribes, or villages recognized pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (Public Law 92-203).

Alaska Native village statistical areas (ANVSAs). Statistical geographic entities that represent the more densely settled portions of ANVs.

American Community Survey (ACS). An ongoing survey that collects demographic and housing characteristics data, January through December, to provide every community with the information they need to make important decisions. The Census Bureau releases new data every year, in the form of estimates, in a variety of tables, tools, and analytical reports.

American Indian reservations (AIRs). Areas that have been set aside by the United States for the use of tribes, the exterior boundaries of which are more particularly defined in the final tribal treaties, agreements, executive orders, federal statutes, secretarial orders, or judicial determinations. The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) maintains a list of all federally recognized tribal governments and makes final determination of the inventory of federal AIRs.

American Indian tribal subdivisions. Described as additions, administrative areas, areas, chapters, county districts, communities, districts, or segments and are legal administrative subdivisions of federally recognized AIRs and ORTLs or are statistical subdivisions of OTSAs.

Block groups. Statistical geographic divisions of census tracts that generally contain population ranging from 600 to 3,000 and are used to present data and control block numbering within a census tract.

Census county divisions (CCDs). Statistical geographic entities in 21 states where MCDs either do not exist or change too frequently for reporting comparable census data over time. The primary goal of the CCD program is to establish and maintain a set of subcounty units that have stable boundaries and recognizable names. In most cases census tracts should nest within CCDs, but in less populated counties CCDs should nest within census tracts.

Census designated places (CDPs). Statistical geographic entities representing closely settled, unincorporated communities that are locally recognized and identified by name. CDPs are the statistical equivalents of incorporated places, with the primary differences being the lack of both a legally defined boundary and an active, functioning governmental structure, chartered by the state and administered by elected officials.

Census tracts. Small, relatively permanent statistical subdivisions of a county or equivalent entity that provide a stable set of geographic units for the presentation of statistical data. Census tracts generally have a population ranging from 1,200 to 8,000, with an optimum population of 4,000.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS). A collection of computer hardware, software, and geographic data for capturing, managing, analyzing, and displaying all forms of geographically referenced information.

Geographic Update Partnership Software (GUPS). A customized GIS, based on the open-source platform QGIS, provided by the Census Bureau to facilitate the participation and submission of statistical area updates for the 2020 Census PSAP.

Master Address File/Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing (MAF/TIGER) System. A digital (computer-readable) geographic database that automates the mapping and related geographic activities required to support the Census Bureau's census and survey programs.

Minor civil divisions (MCDs). Primary governmental or administrative divisions of a county in many states (parishes in Louisiana) and the county equivalents in Puerto Rico and the Island Areas.

Off-reservation trust lands (ORTLs). Areas for which the United States holds title in trust for the benefit of a tribe (tribal trust land) or for an individual American Indian (individual trust land).

Oklahoma tribal statistical areas (OTSAs). Statistical entities identified and delineated by the Census Bureau in consultation with federally recognized American Indian tribes that had a former reservation in Oklahoma. OTSAs generally follow the boundaries of former reservations.

2020 Census Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP). A decennial census program that allows invited participants to review and update selected statistical area boundaries following Census Bureau guidelines and criteria.

State designated tribal statistical areas (SDTSAs). Statistical entities for state-recognized American Indian tribes that do not have a state-recognized land base (reservation).

Tribal block groups (TBGs). Statistical geographic divisions of tribal census tracts (TCTs) that generally contain population ranging from 600 to 3,000 and are used to present data and control block numbering within a TCT. TBGs are defined independently of the standard county-based block group delineation.

Tribal census tracts (TCTs). Small, relatively permanent statistical subdivisions of federally recognized AIRs or ORTLs that provide a stable set of geographic units for the presentation of statistical data. TCTs generally have a population ranging from 1,200 to 8,000, with an optimum population of 4,000. TCTs are defined independently of the standard county-based tract delineation.

Tribal designated statistical areas (TDSAs). Statistical entities identified and delineated by federally recognized American Indian tribes that do not currently have a federally recognized land base (reservation or off-reservation trust land).