

U.S. Census Bureau

Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP) Criteria for the 2010 Census and Beyond

- Census County Divisions (CCD) *Federal Register* Notice (Final Criteria) [PDF] [TEXT]
- Census Designated Place (CDP) *Federal Register* Notice (Final Criteria) [PDF] [TEXT]
- Census Tract *Federal Register* Notice (Final Criteria) [PDF] [TEXT]
- Block Group *Federal Register* Notice (Final Criteria) [PDF] [TEXT]

These statistical areas also may be used to tabulate and present American Community Survey (ACS) data post-2010. The Economic Census may also tabulate and present data for selected census designated places (CDPs) according to specific population and employment thresholds.

Summary of Final Criteria for PSAP Entities

Census County Divisions (CCDs)	The Census Bureau will retain CCDs as geographic entities for the 2010 Census.
Census Designated Places (CDPs)	A CDP cannot have zero population and zero housing units.
	A CDP cannot be coextensive with a governmentally active minor civil division (i.e., town, township, charter township, plantation). This change will reduce redundancy in place and county subdivision data tabulations for the following states: Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Wisconsin.
	A CDP must represent a single, distinct community. A CDP that represents multiple distinct communities, and the hyphenated name typically assigned to represent such CDPs, will not be permitted. Exceptions will be made for communities whose identities have merged and in which both names commonly are used together.
Census Tract	Population Thresholds. Minimum: 1,200 Maximum: 8,000 Optimum: 4,000
	Housing Unit Thresholds. Minimum: 480 Maximum: 3,200 Optimum: 1,600
	All types of populated census tracts must meet the same thresholds.
	Wherever possible census tracts conform to American Indian reservations.
	Special census tracts may be created for large special land use areas without housing units or population (e.g., large public parks, forests).
Block Groups (BGs)	Population Thresholds. Minimum: 600 Maximum: 3,000 Optimum: none
	Housing unit counts may be used to meet BG thresholds. Minimum: 240 Maximum: 1,200 Optimum: none
	All types of populated BGs must meet the same thresholds.
	Wherever possible BGs conform to American Indian reservations.
	Special BGs may be created for large special land use areas without housing units or population (e.g., large public parks, forests).

U.S. Census Bureau**Participant Statistical Areas Program
General Characteristics of Geographic Entities**

	Primary Purpose	Nationwide wall-to-wall coverage	Geography Nests Within
Census Tracts	- Boundary continuity - Data Comparability	Yes	County
Block Groups	- Accurate sample, characteristics data	Yes	Census Tract
Census County Divisions (CCDs)	- Set of subcounty units that have stable boundaries and recognizable names	- CCDs and MCDs together - CCDs exist in 22 states	County
Census Designated Places (CDPs)	- Place-level statistics for well-known, closely settled localities - Mix of residential, commercial, and retail uses	No, CDPs represent distinct communities	State

If you have questions regarding proposed criteria for geographic entities covered under the Participant Statistical Areas Program or the program details, please contact the Geographic Standards and Criteria Branch at 301-763-3056, by e-mail at geo.psap.list@census.gov or by mail to Geography Division, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, DC, 20233-7400.

When sending comments by e-mail, please include a telephone number, street address, and professional/organizational affiliation.

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Geographic Standards and Criteria Branch
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