



2020 Census Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP) Quick Reference: Tribal Block Groups

Tribal block groups (TBGs) are statistical geographic divisions of tribal census tracts (TCTs) defined for the tabulation and presentation of data from the decennial census and the American Community Survey (ACS). TBGs provide the geographic framework within which the U.S. Census Bureau (Census Bureau) defines and identifies census blocks.

TBG criteria and guidelines from the Census Bureau:

- Each TBG should be reasonably compact and contiguous.
- Up to nine TBGs can be contained within a single TCT.
- American Indian tribes will define TCTs and TBGs through the Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP), which now includes information for the review, update, and delineation of tribal statistical geography.
- TBG boundaries must nest within TCT boundaries.
- Visible features (e.g., roads, rivers, and other identifiable landscape features), are acceptable TBG boundaries, as well as tribal reservation, tribal subdivision, incorporated place, and minor civil division (MCD) boundaries.
- Comparability is not a significant concern for TBGs.

TBG Thresholds

Block Group Type	Threshold Type	Minimum	Maximum
TBGs	Population threshold	600	3,000
	Housing Unit threshold	240	1,200
Special Use Block Groups	Area measurement threshold within an urban area	1 square mile	none
	Area measurement threshold outside an urban area	10 square miles	none
	Population threshold	Either none, or must be within standard block group thresholds	

TBGs contain blocks beginning with the same number as the standard county-based block group and could contain seemingly duplicate block numbers. To better identify and differentiate TBGs from county-based block groups, TBGs use the letter range A through K (except "I," which could be confused with a number "1") to identify and code the tribal block group. Tribal block groups must nest within tribal census tract.

Refer to the Respondent Guide for complete instructions



2020 Census Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP) Quick Reference: Tribal Census Tracts

Tribal census tracts (TCTs) are relatively small, statistical geographic areas defined consistently within a federal American Indian reservation (AIR) or off-reservation trust land (ORTL) nationwide. Ideally, TCT boundaries remain consistent between censuses making it possible to compare statistics for the same geographic area from decade to decade. TCTs will be used in the tabulation and presentation of data from the decennial census and the American Community Survey (ACS).

TCT criteria and guidelines from the U.S. Census Bureau (Census Bureau):

- Federally recognized American Indian tribes with a federal AIR/ORTL will define TCTs through the Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP).
- Visible features (e.g., roads, rivers, and other identifiable landscape features), are acceptable TCT boundaries, as well as tribal reservation, tribal subdivision, incorporated place, and minor civil division (MCD) boundaries.
- The Census Bureau requests that where a TCT area must be updated to meet population/housing unit thresholds, the outer boundaries of the TCT should not be changed. Instead, the TCT should be split into two or more TCTs, or merged with one or more adjacent TCTs.
- TCT geography will be maintained separately from standard county-based census tract geography for the 2020 Census.

TCT Thresholds

Census Tract Type	Threshold Type	Optimum	Minimum	Maximum
TCTs	Population threshold	4,000	1,200	8,000
	Housing Unit threshold	1,600	480	3,200
Special Use Census Tracts	Area measurement threshold within an urban area	none	1 square mile	none
	Area measurement threshold outside an urban area	none	10 square miles	none
	Population threshold	Either none, or must be within standard census tract thresholds		

TCT codes are six characters long with a leading "T" alphabetic character followed by five numeric codes having an implied decimal between the fourth and fifth character; for example, T01000, translates as TCT 10. TBGs nest within TCTs.

Refer to the Respondent Guide for complete instructions



2020 Census Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP) Quick Reference: Tribal Overview

These 2020 Census Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP) "Quick Reference" documents provide high-level overviews for the following tribal statistical areas: tribal census tracts (TCTs), tribal block groups (TBGs), and census designated places (CDPs). Please refer to the Respondent Guide for more detailed information on these tribal statistical areas.

PSAP Program Materials

Tribal governments can choose to use GUPS or paper maps to participate in the 2020 Census PSAP. Tribal governments that choose to work with GUPS should refer to the *2020 Census Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP) Geographic Update Partnership Software (GUPS) Tribal Respondent Guide* for complete instructions on how use GUPS to participate in the 2020 Census PSAP. Tribal governments that choose to work with paper maps should refer to the *2020 Census Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP) Paper Tribal Respondent Guide* for complete instructions on how to use paper maps to participate in the 2020 Census PSAP.

Tribes working with GUPS can choose to download GUPS and the program materials from the U.S. Census Bureau's (Census Bureau) website: <http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/about/psap.html> or receive GUPS and the program materials on DVD. Program materials available for download and on DVD are as follows:

- GUPS (DVD 1).
- *Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP) Geographic Update Partnership Software (GUPS) Tribal Respondent Guide* (DVD 2).
- Census Bureau shapefiles for your area (DVD 2).
- Quick Reference documents for TCTs, TBGs, and CDPs (DVD 2).
- 2010 Census population and housing unit counts for statistical areas.

Tribes working with paper maps will receive paper copies of all appropriate program materials.

Tribal participants, working with GUPS or paper maps, should read the Respondent Guide before making edits to tribal statistical areas.

2020 Census PSAP Schedule

Date	Event
March – May 2018	Contact 2010 Census PSAP participants to inquire about 2020 Census PSAP participation.
July 2018	PSAP invitation materials sent to PSAP participants.
January 2019	PSAP delineation phase begins. Participants have 120 calendar days to submit updates.
February 2019	PSAP webinar trainings begin.
July 2019	Send PSAP participants communication notifying closeout of delineation phase.
January 2020	PSAP verification phase begins. Participants have 90 calendar days to review updates.

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Refer to the Respondent Guide for complete instructions



2020 Census Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP) Quick Reference: Census Designated Places

Census designated places (CDPs) are the statistical counterparts of incorporated places. CDPs are delineated to provide data for settled concentrations of populations that are identifiable by name, but are not legally recognized under the laws of the state in which they are located. The primary goal of the CDP program is to provide meaningful statistics for well-known, unincorporated localities.

A CDP should not be coextensive with an American Indian area (AIA) or minor civil division (MCD). A CDP may be located in more than one county but cannot cross state boundaries. A CDP cannot be located partially or entirely within an incorporated place or within another CDP.

Visible features (e.g., roads, rivers, and other identifiable landscape features) are acceptable CDP boundaries, as well as incorporated place and MCD boundaries in states where those boundaries tend to remain unchanged over time.

A CDP must contain at least some population or housing units. For the 2020 Census Partnership Statistical Areas Program (PSAP), the U.S. Census Bureau (Census Bureau) will not accept a CDP delineated with zero population and zero housing units, and requests a justification for CDPs delineated with fewer than ten housing units. The Census Bureau recognizes that some communities, such as resorts or other kinds of seasonal communities, may lack population at certain times of the year.

Participants may add a new CDP where a community exists in the landscape and a CDP has not been defined for that community. To reflect the current existence and area extent of the CDP, territory may be added to or removed from an existing CDP. When a CDP delineated for a previous census is no longer relevant (e.g., the population of a CDP was annexed by an adjacent incorporated place), the participant should delete the CDP. CDP names may be updated to meet naming guidelines or accommodate community name changes.

A CDP name should be one that is recognized and is used in daily communication by local residents. There should be features in the landscape that use the name, so that a non-resident would have a general sense of the location, for example:

- Signs indicating when one is entering the community.
- Highway exit signs that use the name.
- Businesses or other buildings that make use of the name.

CDPs cannot have the same name as a nearby incorporated place or another CDP in the same county. Hyphenated names are only acceptable where two or more communities are perceived to be a single area with the names mingling within the area.

Refer to the Respondent Guide for complete instructions



2020 Census Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP) Quick Reference: Tribal Designated Statistical Areas

A tribal-designated statistical area (TDSA) is a statistical geographic area identified and delineated by the U.S. Census Bureau (Census Bureau) with federally recognized tribes that do not have a reservation or off-reservation trust land (ORTL) and are not based in Alaska, Hawaii, and Oklahoma.

Census Bureau criteria and guidelines specify that TDSAs may/should:

- Be named for the tribe or tribes that are responsible for its delineation.
- Be comparable in area to the American Indian reservations (AIRs) and/or ORTLs of other tribes with similar numbers of members in the same state and/or region.
- Have a substantial population of American Indians where the majority of the American Indian population are members of the delineating tribe.
- Include an area where there is structured and organized tribal activity, including a tribal headquarters, tribal service centers, meeting areas and buildings, ceremonial grounds, tribally owned businesses, etc.
- Only include a water area to maintain contiguity, to provide a generalized version of the shoreline, or if the water area is completely surrounded by land area included in the TDSA.
- Have boundaries that follow visible, physical features, such as rivers, streams, shorelines, roads, and ridgelines.
- Have boundaries that follow the nonvisible, legally defined boundaries of AIRs, ORTLs, states, counties, incorporated places, or minor civil divisions (MCDs).

Census Bureau criteria and guidelines specify that TDSAs may not/should not:

- Include military areas.
- Contain large areas without housing or population.

Refer to the Respondent Guide for complete instructions



2020 Census Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP) Quick Reference: State Designated Tribal Statistical Areas

State-designated tribal statistical areas (SDTSAs) are geographic areas identified and delineated by the U.S. Census Bureau (Census Bureau) in partnership with state-recognized tribes. An SDTSA is limited to the state in which the respective tribe is officially recognized.

Census Bureau criteria and guidelines specify that each SDTSA may/should:

- Have boundaries that, preferably, follow visible, physical features, such as rivers, streams, shorelines, roads, and ridgelines.
- Follow legal or statistical boundaries such as states, counties, incorporated places, or other geographic boundaries.
- Have a name determined by the associated tribe, in conjunction with the Census Bureau and the state liaison responsible for its delineation. If the area with which a tribe is associated is located in two or more states, the tribe must be officially recognized by each state in order for the tribe's SDTSA to be delineated in each of those states.
- Be named for the tribe that is most commonly associated with the area encompassed by the SDTSA.
- Be comparable in area to the American Indian reservations (AIRs) of other tribes with similar numbers of members in the same state and/or region.
- Have a significant population of American Indians.
- Include an area where there is structured/organized tribal activity, including a tribal headquarters, tribal service centers, meeting areas and buildings, ceremonial grounds, tribally owned businesses, etc.
- Ideally be contiguous.
- Include a water area only when necessary to maintain contiguity, to provide a generalized version of the shoreline, or if the water area is completely surrounded by land area included in the SDTSA.

Census Bureau criteria and guidelines specify that SDTSAs may not/should not:

- Include military areas.
- Contain large areas without housing or population.

Refer to the Respondent Guide for complete instructions



2020 Census Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP) Quick Reference: Alaska Native Village Statistical Areas

A key goal for the 2020 Census is to improve the delineation of Alaska Native village statistical area (ANVSA) boundaries to result in more consistent and comparable ANVSAs and more meaningful, relevant, and reliable statistical data for Alaska Natives and their Alaska Native villages (ANVs). ANVSAs are statistical geographic entities representing the permanent and/or seasonal residences for Alaska Natives who are members of, or receiving governmental services from, the defining ANV located within the region and vicinity of the ANV's historic and/or traditional location. U.S. Census Bureau (Census Bureau) criteria and guidelines for 2020 Census ANVSAs are published in the *Federal Register* Notice <website>.

Census Bureau criteria and guidelines specify that ANVSAs may/should:

- Have boundaries that, preferably, follow visible physical features, including rivers, streams, shorelines, glaciers, roads, trails, and ridgelines. ANVSAs should only follow nonvisible boundaries when visible boundaries are not available.
- Have their entire areas located within 50 miles of ANV point locations.
- Preferably have the majority of their housing units, even if only seasonably used, occupied by Alaska Natives.
- Preferably, have a majority Alaska Native population, the majority of which should be members of the delineating ANV.
- Include water area only to maintain contiguity, to provide a generalized version of the shoreline, or if the water area is surrounded by land area included in the ANVSA.

Census Bureau criteria and guidelines specify that ANVSAs may not/should not:

- Overlap (for ANVSAs that are delineated for the 2020 Census).
- Completely surround the location of another ANV.
- Include more water area than land area.
- Include military installations or additional area within an urbanized area defined in the most recent decennial census.
- Extend beyond the regional boundary of the Alaska Native Regional Corporation (ANRC) in which the ANV is located.
- Contain large areas without housing or population.

Refer to the Respondent Guide for complete instructions



2020 Census Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP) Quick Reference: Oklahoma Tribal Statistical Areas

Oklahoma tribal statistical areas (OTSAs) are statistical areas identified and delineated by the U.S. Census Bureau (Census Bureau) and federally recognized tribes in Oklahoma that had a former American Indian reservation (AIR) in Oklahoma. The Census Bureau intends OTSAs to represent the former AIRs that existed in the Indian and Oklahoma territories prior to Oklahoma statehood in 1907. OTSAs provide a way to obtain data comparable to that provided to federally recognized tribes that currently have an AIR.

Census Bureau criteria and guidelines specify that OTSAs may/should:

- Have at least some American Indian population and housing.
- Be located completely within the current boundaries of the State of Oklahoma.
- Follow the last legal boundaries previously used by their former AIR.
- Have tribal subdivisions delineated by the tribe located within their own OTSAs.
- Have tribe-delineated census designated places (CDPs) representing unincorporated communities located within their own OTSAs.
- Be named by the tribe or tribes that are responsible for delineating each OTSA, and must be clearly distinguishable from the name of any other OTSA.
- Be renamed by the Census Bureau if the submitted name does not reflect one or more of the following conditions:
 - The tribe or tribes associated with the former AIR represented by the OTSA;
 - Tribes that have historically resided within the area of the OTSA;
 - Tribes that have significant population currently residing within the OTSA; and/or
 - The name(s) of the tribe(s) commonly associated with the area encompassed by the OTSA.

Census Bureau criteria and guidelines specify that OTSAs may not/should not:

- Include more water area than land area.
- Have additional overlapping OTSA boundaries that resulted in Census Bureau joint-use area OTSA(s) in the 2010 Census.

Refer to the Respondent Guide for complete instructions



2020 Census Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP) Quick Reference: Overview

These 2020 Census Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP) "Quick Reference" documents provide high-level overviews for the following statistical areas: census tracts, block groups, census designated places (CDPs), and census county divisions (CCDs). For detailed information on these statistical areas, please refer to the *2020 Census Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP) Geographic Update Partnership Software (GUPS) Respondent Guide*.

PSAP Program Materials

Participants must use the U.S. Census Bureau (Census Bureau) supplied shapefiles and GUPS.

If you chose the option to download GUPS, you may do so at the Census website: <https://www2.census.gov/geo/pvs/gups/>. Participants who opted to receive a GUPS DVD package will receive two Data DVDs:

Data DVD 1 – GUPS

- Software to review the U.S. Census Bureau's current statistical areas in your county/counties, delineate changes to the boundaries, and review statistical areas for compliance with 2020 Census PSAP guidelines prior to submission.

Data DVD 2 – PSAP Materials

- Detailed guidelines for delineating the statistical areas such as: the *2020 Census Participant Statistical Areas Program Information Document*, Quick Reference documents, and the *2020 Census Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP) Geographic Update Partnership Software (GUPS) Respondent Guide*.
- Census Bureau shapefiles for your area.
- 2010 Census population and housing unit counts for statistical areas.

Before beginning the editing of statistical areas for final submission, the participant should read the GUPS respondent guide and become familiar with the functionalities of GUPS.

2020 Census PSAP Schedule

Date	Event
March – May 2018	Contact 2010 Census PSAP participants to inquire about 2020 Census PSAP participation.
July 2018	PSAP invitation materials sent to PSAP participants.
January 2019	PSAP delineation phase begins. Participants have 120 calendar days to submit updates.
February 2019	PSAP webinar trainings begin.
July 2019	Send PSAP participants communication notifying closeout of delineation phase.
January 2020	PSAP verification phase begins. Participants have 90 calendar days to review updates.

Refer to the Respondent Guide for complete instructions



2020 Census Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP) Quick Reference: Block Groups

A block group is a statistical geographic subdivision of a census tract, defined for the tabulation and presentation of data from the decennial census and the American Community Survey (ACS). Each block group should be reasonably compact and contiguous. Up to nine standard block groups can be contained within a single census tract.

Block groups nest within and completely cover census tracts. To make the location of block group boundaries less ambiguous, wherever possible, boundaries should follow visible features (e.g., roads, rivers, and other identifiable landscape features).

Standard block groups have minimum and maximum population and housing unit thresholds. For the 2020 Census, standard block groups should have a population ranging between 600 to 3,000 or a housing unit count ranging from 240 to 1,200. Any standard block group with a population or housing unit count outside of the minimum and maximum threshold range should be updated to meet the threshold requirements. Each county is required to have at least one block group; a county with less than 600 people will contain one block group that encompasses the entirety of the county.

Special use block groups do not have a population or housing unit threshold. Instead, they have minimum land area thresholds, as shown in the table below.

Block Group Thresholds

Block Group Type	Threshold Type	Minimum	Maximum
Standard Block Groups	Population threshold	600	3,000
	Housing Unit threshold	240	1,200
Special Use Block Groups	Area measurement threshold within an urban area	1 square mile	none
	Area measurement threshold outside an urban area	10 square miles	none
	Population threshold	Either none, or must be within standard block group thresholds	

The U.S. Census Bureau (Census Bureau) strongly encourages and recommends merging or splitting block groups when they do not meet the required population/housing unit thresholds. The Census Bureau generally will not accept proposed block groups that do not meet the required thresholds.

Block group codes must be unique within a census tract. The range of acceptable codes is 1 through 9. To identify each standard block group, a single-digit code is used that will correspond to the first digit in the code of each block encompassed by the block group (e.g., all blocks within block group 3 will be numbered in the 3000 range).

Refer to the Respondent Guide for complete instructions



2020 Census Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP) Quick Reference: Census Tracts

Census tracts are relatively permanent geographic divisions of a county/county equivalent. The primary goal of the census tract is to provide a set of nationally consistent, relatively small statistical units, with stable boundaries, that facilitate analysis of data across time. The U.S. Census Bureau (Census Bureau) tabulates and presents data for census tracts from the decennial census and the American Community Survey (ACS).

Census tract boundaries must follow or entirely nest within county boundaries. Visible features (e.g., roads, rivers, and other identifiable landscape features) are acceptable census tract boundaries, as well as incorporated place and minor civil division (MCD) boundaries in states where those boundaries tend to remain unchanged over time, as referenced in the *Federal Register* Notice <website>.

Standard census tracts have optimum, minimum, and maximum population and housing unit thresholds. When revising tracts, participants should aim to meet or exceed the optimum population (4,000) or housing unit (1,600) thresholds to increase the reliability of sample data for census tracts.

Participants should merge any census tracts below the minimum population (1,200) or housing unit (480) count with adjacent census tracts. Participants should split any census tracts above maximum population (8,000) or housing unit (3,200) counts into multiple census tracts. Counties containing a single census tract that is coextensive with the county boundary and containing fewer than 1,200 population/480 housing units do not need to meet minimum thresholds.

Special use census tracts have no population or housing unit count thresholds. Instead, they have area thresholds, as shown in the table below.

Census Tract Thresholds

Census Tract Type	Threshold Type	Optimum	Minimum	Maximum
Standard Census Tracts	Population threshold	4,000	1,200	8,000
	Housing Unit threshold	1,600	480	3,200
Special Use Census Tracts	Area measurement threshold within an urban area	none	1 square mile	none
	Area measurement threshold outside an urban area	none	10 square miles	none
	Population threshold	Either none, or must be within standard census tract thresholds		

The Census Bureau prioritizes the comparability of census tracts from decade to decade. Therefore, we request that you do not change the outer boundaries of any census tracts when

making census tract updates, unless it is a correction due to boundary or feature inaccuracy.

Census tract codes must range from 1 to 9989 and must be unique within each county. Special use tract codes must range from 9800 to 9899. The acceptable range of census tract suffixes is from .01 to .98.

Refer to the Respondent Guide for complete instructions



2020 Census Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP) Quick Reference: Census County Divisions

Census county divisions (CCDs) are sub-county statistical geographic areas that usually represent a single contiguous area consisting of one or more communities, economic centers, or major land use areas in a county/county equivalent. Ideally, CCD boundaries remain the same between censuses, permitting comparison statistics for the same geographic area from one decade to another. Decennial census, the American Community Survey (ACS), and selected other censuses and surveys use CCDs in the tabulation and presentation of data.

CCDs are established in 21 states where minor civil divisions (MCDs) either do not exist or are unsatisfactory for reporting decennial census data. CCDs exist in the following states:

Alabama	Alaska*	Arizona	California	Colorado	Delaware
Florida	Georgia	Hawaii	Idaho	Kentucky	Montana
Nevada	New Mexico	Oklahoma	Oregon	South Carolina	Texas
Utah	Washington	Wyoming	*Census subareas are equivalent		

CCD boundaries must nest within state and county boundaries. CCD boundaries should follow census tract boundaries since CCDs should contain one or more contiguous census tracts, or, in less populated areas, two or more CCDs may nest within one census tract. Visible features (e.g., roads, rivers, and other identifiable landscape features) are acceptable CCD boundaries, as well as significant legal boundaries, such as the boundaries of American Indian reservations (AIRs), incorporated places, and MCDs in states where those boundaries tend to remain unchanged over time.

The primary goal of CCD delineations is to establish and maintain a set of sub-county units that have stable boundaries and recognizable names. The U.S. Census Bureau (Census Bureau) does not encourage major revisions to CCDs. However, updates may be necessary where the CCD boundaries and census tract boundaries should coincide due to census tract boundaries revisions. Additionally, revisions to CCD names may be necessary due to population changes within CCDs.

A CCD can derive its name from the largest population center or historically central place within it. CCD names should clearly identify the extent of the CCD. When a CCD contains multiple centers with relatively equal importance, the CCD name may represent the largest one to three of those multiple centers. Additionally, PSAP participants can use the following to name a CCD:

- An American Indian reservation.
- A prominent land use area.
- A prominent physical feature.
- A distinctive region.

If there is no clear cultural focus or topographic name that may be applied, a CCD name should consist of:

- The county name and a compass direction of the CCD location within the county, or
- A major place name and a compass direction of the CCD location relative to the place.

Refer to the Respondent Guide for complete instructions