

Appendix A

ACS Geographic Terms and Concepts

Alaska Native Regional Corporation (ANRC) – Alaska Native Regional Corporations (ANRCs) are legally established corporate entities established to conduct both business and nonprofit affairs of Alaska Natives. Twelve ANRCs cover most of the state of Alaska.

American Indian Area, Alaska Native Area, Hawaiian Home Land (AIANAHH) – A Census Bureau term referring to these types of geographic areas: federal and state American Indian reservations, American Indian off-reservation trust land (individual or tribal), Oklahoma tribal statistical area (in 1990 tribal jurisdictional statistical area), tribal designated statistical area, state designated American Indian statistical area, Alaska Native Regional Corporation, Alaska Native village statistical area, and Hawaiian home lands.

Combined New England City and Town Area (CNECTA) – Adjacent New England City and Town Areas (see glossary term New England City and Town Area) that have a high degree of employment interchange may be combined to form Combined New England City and Town Areas (or CNECTAs). New England City and Town Areas that are part of a CNECTA retain their separate identities.

Combined Statistical Area (CSA) – Defined by the federal Office of Management and Budget for use by federal statistical agencies according to the Census data, adjacent metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas (see glossary term Metropolitan Statistical Area/Micropolitan Statistical Area) may be combined to form a CSA if the areas have a high degree of employment interchange. Each metropolitan or micropolitan statistical area retains its own identity.

Congressional district (CD) – An area established by State officials or the courts for the purpose of electing a person to the U.S. House of Representatives. Within each State, these areas must contain, as nearly as possible, an equal number of inhabitants. The number of Congressional districts in each State may change after each decennial census, and the boundaries may be changed more than once during a decade.

In the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, a single CD is created consisting of the entire area. The representative is termed a delegate or resident commissioner, respectively and does not have voting rights in Congress.

Core Based Statistical Area (CBSA) – Core Based Statistical Area is a collective term for both metropolitan and micropolitan areas (see glossary term Metropolitan Statistical Area/Micropolitan Statistical Area).

County – A type of governmental unit that is the primary legal subdivision of most states. In Louisiana, these subdivisions are known as parishes. In Alaska, which has no counties, the county equivalents are boroughs, a legal subdivision, and census areas, a statistical subdivision. In four states (Maryland, Missouri, Nevada and Virginia), there are one or more cities that are independent of any county and thus constitute primary subdivisions of their states. The District of Columbia has no primary divisions, and the entire area is considered equivalent to a county for statistical purposes. In Puerto Rico, municipios are treated as county equivalents.

County Subdivision – A legal or statistical division of a county recognized by the Census Bureau for data presentation. The two major types of county subdivisions are census county divisions and minor civil divisions.

Division – A grouping of States within a census geographic region established by the Census Bureau for the presentation of census data. The current nine divisions (East North Central, East South Central, Middle Atlantic, Mountain, New England, Pacific, South Atlantic, West North Central, and West South Central) are intended to represent relatively homogeneous areas that are subdivisions of the four census geographic regions.

Metropolitan Division – A metropolitan statistical area (see glossary term Metropolitan Statistical Area/Micropolitan Statistical Area) with population greater than 2.5 million may be divided into smaller groups known as metropolitan divisions.

Metropolitan Statistical Area/Micropolitan Statistical Area – Metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas (metro and micro areas) are geographic entities defined by the federal Office of Management and Budget for use by federal statistical agencies, based on the concept of a core area with a large population nucleus, plus adjacent communities having a high degree of economic and social integration with that core. The term "Core Based Statistical Area" (CBSA) is a collective term for both metro and micro areas.

Qualification of a metro area requires the presence of a city with 50,000 or more inhabitants, or the presence of an Urbanized Area (UA) and a total population of at least 100,000 (75,000 in New England). The county or counties containing the largest city and surrounding densely settled territory are central counties of the metropolitan area. Additional outlying counties qualify to be included in the metro area by meeting certain other criteria of metropolitan character, such as a specified minimum population density or percentage of the population that is urban. Metro areas in New England are defined in terms of minor civil divisions, following rules concerning commuting and population density.

A micro area contains an urban core of at least 10,000 (but less than 50,000) population. Each metro or micro area consists of one or more counties and includes the counties containing the core urban area, as well as any adjacent counties that have a high degree of social and economic integration (as measured by commuting to work) with the urban core.

New England City and Town Area (NECTA) – is a geographic entity defined by the federal Office of Management and Budget for use by federal statistical agencies in describing aspects of the New England region in the United States. NECTA is based on the concept of a core area with a large population nucleus, plus adjacent communities having a high degree of economic and social integration with that core. Similar to the metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas (see glossary term Metropolitan Statistical Area/Micropolitan Statistical Area), a metropolitan NECTA has an urban core of at least 50,000 population, while a micropolitan NECTA has an urban core of at least 10,000 inhabitants but less than 50,000.

New England City and Town Area (NECTA) Division – A NECTA (see glossary term New England City and Town Area) with population greater than 2.5 million may be divided into smaller groups known as NECTA Divisions.

Principle City – The largest city of a Core Based Statistical Area (see glossary term Core Based Statistical Area), plus additional cities that meet minimum standards of population thresholds.

Public Use Microdata Area (PUMA) – An area that defines the extent of territory for which the Census Bureau tabulates public use microdata samples (see glossary term Public Use Microdata Samples).

Public Use Microdata Samples (PUMS) – Computerized files consisting of the actual responses provided by individuals about themselves and their housing units rather than summary or tabulated statistics for geographic areas.

Place – A concentration of population either legally bounded as an incorporated place, or identified as a Census Designated Place (CDP) including comunidades and zonas urbanas in Puerto Rico.

Incorporated Place – All incorporated places recognized legally as in existence under the laws of their respective states as cities, boroughs, towns, and villages, with the following exceptions: the towns in the New England states, New York, and Wisconsin, and the boroughs in New York are recognized as minor civil divisions for census purposes; the boroughs in Alaska are county equivalents.

Census Designated Place (CDP) – A statistical entity, defined for each decennial census according to Census Bureau guidelines, comprising a densely settled concentration of population that is not within an incorporated place, but is locally identified by a name. CDPs are delineated cooperatively by state and local officials and the Census Bureau, following Census Bureau guidelines. These entities were called unincorporated places for the 1940 through 1970 censuses.

Region – Four groupings of states (Northeast, South, Midwest, and West) established by the Census Bureau in 1942 for the presentation of census data.

Northeast Region: Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania.

South Region: Maryland, Delaware, District of Columbia, West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas.

Midwest Region: North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Indiana and Ohio.

West Region: Washington, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Oregon, California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, Alaska and Hawaii.

Puerto Rico and the Island areas are not part of any region.

School District – The territory administered by the elected or appointed authorities of a State, county, or other local governmental unit to provide educational services to a resident population. A school district typically includes several school buildings, teachers, and related staff. The Census Bureau provided data tabulations for school districts from the 1970, 1980, and 1990 censuses.

Elementary School District – Elementary School Districts are school districts inclusive of kindergarten through either the eighth or ninth grade.

Secondary School District – A school district inclusive of only high school (either the ninth through the twelfth grades or the tenth through the twelfth grades).

Unified School District – Unified School Districts are school districts inclusive of kindergarten through twelfth grade.

State – A type of governmental unit that is the primary legal subdivision of the United States; a functioning county equivalent in Palau, where it also serves as a nonfunctioning MCD.

The District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Island Areas (the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Northern Mariana Islands) are each treated as the statistical equivalent of a state for census purposes.

United States (Nation) – Land area, water area, population counts, and housing unit counts for the United States, Regions and Divisions that do not include Puerto Rico.

Urban Area (UA) – For Census Bureau purposes, the territory within UAs and the urban portion of places outside of UAs that have a decennial census population of 2,500 or more. Other Federal Government agencies may define the term based on different criteria.

Note: For more information about the Census Bureau's statistical areas, geographic concepts or terminology, please reference the Geographic Areas Reference Manual <http://www.census.gov/geo/www/garm.html>, published by the U.S. Census Bureau.