Understanding the Geographic Coding in the 1960 Decennial Census Microdata

Todd Gardner
U.S. Census Bureau

CES Technical Notes
CES-TN-2019-03

The geographic coding used in the 1960 decennial census was unique to that year. State, county, place and subcounty geographic units of residence require only a simple conversion, but the place of work and migration geography is more complicated. The 1960 made use of Universal Area Codes, which combined counties with selected places and Minor Civil Divisions into a single coding system. This technical note describes how to interpret the place of work and migration variables and convert the information into more readily comparable geographic codes.

Relevant Datasets: Decennial Census

Required Dataset Permissions: Decennial Census 1960

CES Technical Notes may contain confidential data and, thereby, disclosure is prohibited. The opinions, conclusions and suggestions expressed in these notes are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of the CES or the U.S. Census Bureau. Researchers (CES staff, SSEs and other Census employees) who wish to access the full text of a technical note or submit their own technical note should contact CES.Technical.Notes.List@census.gov.