How do I find out more about the Census Bureau’s geographic programs?

For detailed information, refer to the URLs listed above after each program name.

Or go directly to the 2010 Census Website at <http://www.census.gov/2010census>. Bring down the Geography menu and click on Geographic Programs. From the page titled ‘Census Bureau Geographic Programs’ you can select the BAS, LUCA, PSAP, TSAP, and other programs. These are also accessible from the Census Bureau home page at <http://www.census.gov>. Click on 2010 Census and follow the same steps as above.

If you have questions and issues regarding specific programs, you may e-mail or phone us at:

- Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS) geo.bas@census.gov 301.763.1099
- Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) luca@geo.census.gov 866.511.LUCAParticipant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP) geo.psap.list@census.gov 301.763.3056
- Tribal Statistical Areas Program (TSAP) geo.aiana@census.gov 301.763.3056
- Boundary Validation Program geo.bas@census.gov 301.763.1099

(For questions on general census geography, contact <geography@geo.census.gov>.)

If you would like to find out about how these programs were handled in Census 2000, scroll down the Geographic Programs page and click on the links American Indian and Alaska Native Programs, Geographic Programs Involving Local Participation for Census 2000, and Census 2000 Participant Statistical Areas Programs.

If you want information about earlier censuses or more detail relating to specific geographic entities, scroll down the Geography menu and click on Understanding Census Geography – Reference Resources. This page has numerous links to diagrams, glossaries, criteria, guides, reference files, and other material. One detailed source is the Geographic Areas Reference Manual (GARM), a publication with many chapters on geographic entities from 1990 and earlier censuses.

If you are interested in census maps and cartographic products, a good place to start is the MAPS and Map Resources link from the Geography menu. Also check out the Census 2000 Geographic Products page, which presents these sources along with other material.

As plans for the 2010 Census take shape we can expect changes and refinements to the above programs and products.

Keep checking the Geographic Programs page for the most recent updates: <www.census.gov/geo/www/programs.html>.
Geographic Programs – Descriptions and Schedules

The Census Bureau works with tribal, state, county, and local officials, as well as coordinating agencies such as regional planning commissions to implement a number of programs designed to review geographic information. The geographic information that is provided as part of these programs will frame all the 2010 Census tabulations and will be used for the American Community Survey beyond 2010. The knowledge provided by our local partners allows the Census Bureau to meet many of the statistical and spatial data needs that are part of the agency’s mission: to be the statistical source for a better understanding of our Nation. The descriptions below provide an overview of each geographic program and a milestone schedule. Related websites where you can find additional program information are listed after each program name. If you have questions, please feel free to contact our Geography Division staff (e-mail addresses and phone numbers on last page).

Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS)
http://www.census.gov/geo/www/bas/bashome.html

This annual survey collects boundary and area change information about legally defined geographic areas such as cities, towns, counties, municipios and barrios in Puerto Rico, federally recognized American Indian reservations, and Hawaiian home lands. The survey is mailed to designated contacts, and starting in 2008, the BAS will include each entity every year. The BAS also provides an opportunity for participants to review the names and geographic relationships for these areas. The BAS information enables reporting data for geographic areas from the decennial census, the American Community Survey, the Economic Census, the Population Estimates Program, and other Census Bureau surveys. Key dates associated with the BAS are:

- September (annually) Mailout of advanced letters to entities
- January (annually) Mailout of materials to entities with changes
- April 1 (annually) Deadline for entity response

Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) Program
http://www.census.gov/geo/www/luca2010/luca.html

This program offers tribal, state and local governments the opportunity to review and update the census address list for their community. The LUCA Program is made possible by the Census Address List Improvement Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–430) which provides the opportunity for designated representatives who agree with the Census Bureau’s confidentiality requirements to review the addresses contained in the Census Bureau’s Confidential Master Address File. Each participant’s review period is 120 days, and occurs between late summer and April 1 2008, depending on sign-up date. The Census Bureau regional office staff provides support for participants to facilitate accurate and timely submissions. Key dates associated with LUCA are:

- Winter 2006–07 Advance notice letters mailed
- Summer 2007 Mail invitation letters
- Summer 2007 Materials mailout begins
- Summer 2007 Participants begin address list review
- Winter 2007 Last opportunity to register for LUCA (December 31, 2007)
- Winter/Spring 2008–09 Address field check
- Summer/Fall 2008 Feedback materials mailout
- Fall/Winter 2009–10 Opportunity for participants to file an appeal
- Fall/Winter 2009–10 LUCA Appeals Office resolves appeals

 Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP)
http://www.census.gov/geo/www/psap2010/psap2010_main.html

This program enables coordinating agencies such as Regional Planning Commissions and Councils of Governments to identify and propose changes to the boundaries for census tracts, block groups, census designated places, and census county divisions in accordance with Census Bureau criteria. These areas become a critical part of our geographic hierarchy for providing data at the subcounty level. Key dates associated with PSAP are:

- April 6, 2007 Proposed criteria published in the Federal Register for comment
- July 5, 2007 Deadline for comments on proposed criteria
- Winter 2007–08 Final criteria published in the Federal Register
- Spring/Summer 2008 Identify and train participants
- Fall 2008 Materials mailout
- Winter 2008–09 Participants complete work
- Spring 2009 Census regional office review and participant verification begin

Tribal Statistical Areas Program (TSAP)

This program enables federally recognized tribes (and designated state officials for state-based tribal statistical areas) to identify and propose changes to the boundaries for American Indian and Alaska Native statistical areas for the reporting of census data. This program provides for the delineation of Alaska Native village statistical areas (ANVSAs), Oklahoma tribal statistical areas (OTSAs), tribal designated statistical areas (TDSAs), state designated tribal statistical areas (SDTSAs), and all subreservaton statistical areas: tribal subdivisions on OTSAs, tribal census tracts and tribal block groups on reservations and/or off-reservation trust lands for federally recognized American Indian tribes. Key dates associated with TSAP are:

- Fall 2007 Proposed criteria published in the Federal Register for comment
- Spring 2008 Final criteria published in the Federal Register
- Spring/Summer 2008 Identify and train participants
- Fall 2008 Materials mailout
- Winter 2008–09 Participants complete work
- Spring 2009 Census regional office review and participant verification begin

Boundary Validation Program
http://www.census.gov/geo/www/luca2010/luca.html

This program provides the highest elected or appointed official of each local or tribal government a final opportunity to review the boundary for their jurisdiction before the 2010 Census data tabulation. The boundary validation follows the 2010 Boundary and Annexation Survey (which is typically mailed to a designated local or tribal contact rather than the highest elected official).

- Early Summer 2010 Materials mailout
- Summer 2010 Last opportunity to submit corrections and boundaries

Seeing the Results

Explore <http://factfinder.census.gov> to see how data from all geographic programs are represented in American FactFinder (AFF). At <http://www.census.gov/geo/www/index.html>, access the Geographic Products Web page, which will describe Census 2010 products such as maps and boundary files as they become available. Two important examples are:

2010 Census Block Maps
These are large-scale reference maps of the smallest geographic entities, census blocks. We will produce them for all American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian areas, counties, county subdivisions, and places. The maps show the boundaries, names, and codes for these entities and for census tracts and blocks. Also shown are detailed base features such as roads, railroads, lakes, and streams.