



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

Tribal-designated statistical areas (TDSAs) are statistical geographic areas identified and delineated by the U.S. Census Bureau in partnership with federally recognized tribes that do not have a reservation or off-reservation trust land and are not located in Alaska, Hawaii, or Oklahoma. The primary purpose for delineating a TDSA is to obtain meaningful statistical data for a recognized tribe within a specific geographic area encompassing a substantial concentration of tribal members. The Census Bureau uses TDSAs in the tabulation and presentation of data from the decennial census and the American Community Survey (ACS).

Census Bureau criteria specify that each TDSAs must:

- Not include military areas.
- Have the name determined by the associated tribe, in conjunction with the Census Bureau. The Census Bureau will evaluate the submitted name to ensure it is clearly distinguishable from the name of any other legal or statistical American Indian Area.
- Be named for the tribe that has the largest population currently residing within the TDSA and/or the tribe that is most commonly associated with the area encompassed by the TDSA.
- Contain some American Indian population and housing.
- Not overlap with, or completely surround, an American Indian reservation (AIR), off-reservation trust land, or state designated tribal statistical area.
- Not include more water area than land area.

Census Bureau guidelines recommends that each TDSAs:

- Be comparable in area to the AIRs and/or off-reservation trust lands of other tribes with similar numbers of members in the same state and/or region.
- Have a significant population of American Indians and the majority should be members of the tribe.
- Have a minimum population of 1,200 or a minimum housing unit count of 480.
- Include an area where there is structured/organized tribal activity, including tribal headquarters, tribal service centers, meeting areas and buildings, ceremonial grounds, tribally owned businesses, etc.
- Not contain large areas without housing or population. The Census Bureau suggests a minimum density of three housing units per square mile.
- Be contiguous.
- Only include a water area if it maintains contiguity, provides a generalized version of the shoreline, or is completely surrounded by land area that is included in the TDSA.
- Have boundaries that preferably follow visible, physical features such as rivers, streams, shorelines, roads, and ridgelines.
- Only follow nonvisible boundaries if they are legally defined boundaries of AIRs, off-reservation trust lands, states, counties, or incorporated places.
- Only add nonvisible lines as a boundary if other acceptable boundary features are not available and they aid in meeting other specific TDSA delineation criteria and guidelines.

Refer to the Respondent Guide for complete instructions.