



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 or county equivalent. Ideally, CCD boundaries remain consistent between censuses, facilitating comparison of statistics from one decade to another. CCDs have no legal status and are defined only for the tabulation and presentation of statistical data. The U.S. Census Bureau uses CCDs in the tabulation and presentation of data from the decennial census, the American Community Survey (ACS), and the Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics (LEHD) Program.

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

Alabama	Colorado	Hawaii	Nevada	South Carolina	Wyoming
Alaska ¹	Delaware	Idaho	New Mexico	Texas	
Arizona	Florida	Kentucky	Oklahoma	Utah	
California	Georgia	Montana	Oregon	Washington	

Census Bureau criteria and guidelines specify that CCDs:

- Center on one or more places, typically an incorporated place or an unincorporated community, and encompass additional surrounding territory that together form a cohesive community area. In some cases, the CCD may center on a major area of significantly different topography, land use, or ownership (e.g. military installation or American Indian reservation).
- Comprise a reasonably compact, continuous land area, generally with road access to all areas within the CCD.
- Nest within state and county boundaries.
- Have boundaries that follow visible features (e.g. roads, rivers) or other acceptable features (e.g. federally recognized American Indian reservation boundaries, conjoint city limits, or boundaries of federal, state, or locally managed lands). The Census Bureau may also accept nonstandard visible features and/or nonstandard potentially non-visible features, on a case-by-case basis, when visible and/or stable identifiable boundaries are not available.
- Encompass one or more contiguous census tracts, or multiple CCDs should constitute a single census tract.
- Establish/maintain a set of sub-county units that have stable boundaries and recognizable names.
- Must not have their existing name changed unless a compelling reason is provided.
- Name should clearly identify the extent of the CCD. Newly created CCDs will usually be named based on the largest population center or historically central place within it. When a CCD contains multiple centers with relatively equal importance, the CCD name may represent the two or three centers. CCDs may also be named after:
 - 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 must 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.

Any name used as a CCD name must also be recognized by the Board on Geographic Names for federal use and appear in the Geographic Names Information System maintained by the U.S. Geological Survey.

¹ In Alaska, census subareas are the county subdivision equivalents to CCDs.

Refer to the Respondent Guide for complete instructions.