

1957
CENSUS OF
GOVERNMENTS
ADVANCE
RELEASES

GOVERNMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES IN 1957

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This is the second of a series of brief releases designed to make available as promptly as possible, in summary or preliminary form, findings of the 1957 Census of Governments. The several series of publications resulting from the Census of Governments will supply data concerning numbers and characteristics of governments in the United States, value of taxable property, public employees and payrolls, and governmental revenues, expenditures, debt, and financial assets.

Figures herein as to numbers of school districts and other school systems supplant the preliminary count that appeared in the first advance release of the Census of Governments, *School Districts in 1956-57*.

The research and Census of Governments operations upon which this report is based have been supervised by Mrs. Gertrude A. Whitehouse, Chief of the Governmental Units Branch of the Governments Division, Bureau of the Census.

There were 102,353 governmental units in the United States in January 1957. Local school districts, numbering 50,453, make up almost one-half of this total. The remainder includes the Federal Government, the 48 States, and 51,851 local governments other than school districts: 17,214 township governments, 17,167 municipalities, 14,423 special districts, and 3,047 counties. The average number of governmental units per State is 2,132, but Nebraska has 6,659 while Rhode Island has only 91.

More than 5,000 governments are found in each of 8 States, as follows:

Nebraska.....	6,659	Wisconsin.....	5,738
Illinois.....	6,495	Missouri.....	5,303
Minnesota....	6,303	Michigan.....	5,174
Kansas.....	6,207	Pennsylvania....	5,074

Together, these States account for almost one-half of the total number of governmental units in continental United States. Each of these 8 States has numerous township and school-district governments.

Table 1 and figure 2 show numbers of local governments in each of the 48 States. Included in table 1 as exhibit information, but not included in continental United States totals, is information for the Territories of Alaska and Hawaii and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

In the five years since the 1952 enumeration of governments, the total number of governmental units has declined by 14,400, or 13 percent; there has been a decline of 52,800 (34 percent) since the 1942 enumeration. Trends in numbers of the several types of governments are shown below:

Type of government	Number of units			Change in number	
	1957	1952	1942	1952 to 1957	1942 to 1957
Total.....	102,353	116,743	155,116	-14,390	-52,763
U. S. Government.....	1	1	1	...	...
States.....	48	48	48	...	...
Counties.....	3,047	3,049	3,050	-2	-3
Municipalities..	17,167	16,778	16,220	389	947
Townships and towns.....	17,214	17,202	*18,919	12	*-1,705
School districts	50,453	67,346	108,579	-16,893	-58,126
Special districts.....	14,423	12,319	*8,299	2,104	*6,124

*As to definitional factors that affect the indicated differences between the count for 1942 and those for later years, see text discussion below regarding townships and special districts.

The most striking changes have involved school districts, for which extensive reorganization has resulted in a steady decline in number, to a 1957 total less than half that of 1942.

On the other hand, the number of special districts has increased by 6,100 in the last 15 years, with 2,100 of this increase occurring since 1952. Table 2 shows, by State, the changes in numbers of school districts and special districts between 1952 and 1957.

TYPES OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Counties. Organized county governments are found in all of the 48 States except Rhode Island. Terminology throughout the United States is uniform with one exception: in Louisiana the designation "parish" is applied.

The change in number of county governments since 1942 has been negligible. One new county, Los Alamos, New Mexico, was created; the parish of East Baton Rouge, Louisiana, became substantially consolidated with the city of Baton Rouge for governmental purposes; and two Virginia counties went out of existence when Elizabeth City County became part of the independent city of Hampton and the county of Warwick became the independent city of Warwick. In addition, Nantucket County, Massachusetts, which was counted, in 1942, as a county government, is excluded from the 1952 and 1957 figures. The government of Nantucket County is identical with that of Nantucket Town. For the 1952 and 1957 counts, therefore, the county and town of Nantucket are counted only once, as a town government.

There are several geographical areas in the United States that are not within any county, and not all areas designated as counties have county governments. These areas without county governments are listed on page 7.

Municipalities. There were 389 more municipalities in the United States in 1957 than in 1952, owing to new incorporations during the 5-year period.

The term "municipalities" as used here includes all governmentally active units officially designated as cities, boroughs, villages or--except for New England, New York, and Wisconsin--towns.

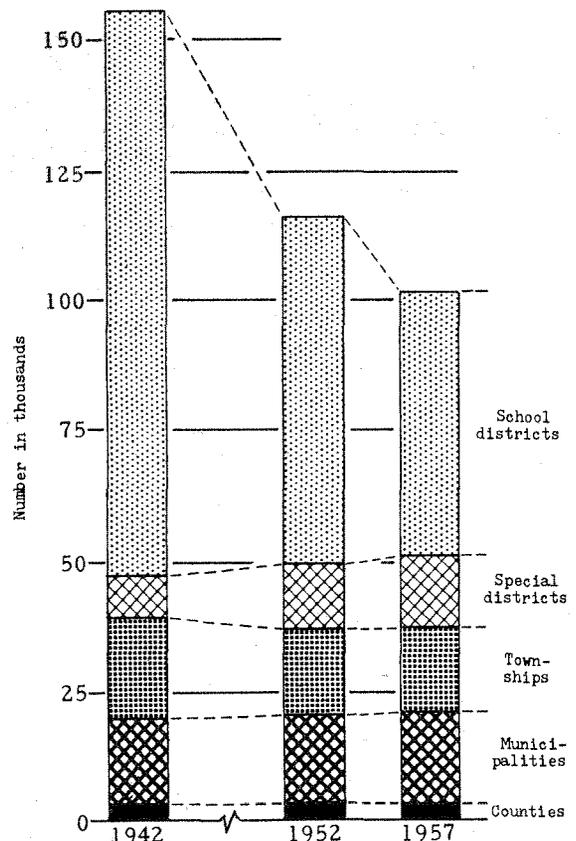
Illinois, with 1,181, has more municipalities than any other State. Pennsylvania has 991, Iowa 942, and Ohio 915. At the other extreme, each of 7 States--Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island--has fewer than 50 municipalities. It may be noted that 5 of these 7 last named are New England States, where a strong town (township) government often provides urban services ordinarily provided by municipalities in other States.

Townships and towns. Classified in this report under the summary heading of "townships" are organized governments to be found in 22 States, including units locally termed towns in the 6 New England States and in New York and Wisconsin, and some "plantations" in Maine and "locations" in New Hampshire, as well as governments called townships in other areas.

The classification "townships" includes units which range widely in scope of governmental powers and operations. Most of them, particularly in the North Central States, perform only a very limited range of services for predominantly rural areas. However, by general law in New England, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania, and to some degree in Michigan, New York, and Wisconsin, townships (or "towns") are vested with rather broad powers and, where they include urbanized areas, perform many functions commonly associated with municipalities.

While township organization is generally restricted to the Northeastern and North Central States, South Carolina has two active township governments in one county, and the State

Fig. 1--NUMBER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES, BY TYPE: 1942, 1952, AND 1957



of Washington has one county and part of another with township organization.

Excluded from this count of township governments are unorganized township areas, townships coextensive with cities where the city governments have absorbed the township functions, and townships known to have ceased to perform governmental functions. At least some of the minor changes in township numbers indicated here to have taken place since 1952 result from a more thorough check of the status of individual units for the present report than was possible in the enumeration for that year (see "Statement of Procedure"). Most of the indicated decrease in total number of township governments between 1942 and 1952 reflects the exclusion from the later figures of all Iowa township areas. County governments in that State have absorbed substantially all former township functions.

School districts. School organization throughout the United States varies widely. In 29 States the school districts are independent governmental units. At the other extreme, in 4 States there are no independent school districts, and local schools are administered by the State or by county, city, or town governments. A "mixed" system is found in 15 States, each having some independent school districts and some school systems administered by other governments. Numbers of school districts by State are shown in table 1, which also shows, as an exhibit column, the number of other or "dependent" school systems in each State.

School districts differ widely in the scope of their educational responsibilities. Some of them provide both elementary and high school grades, and a limited number also maintain junior college facilities. A majority of the total number of school districts, however, are small rural units which provide only elementary instruction. These are found in particularly large numbers in the North Central States. Many such districts do not operate schools, but instead provide pupil transportation to other districts.

Reorganization laws to facilitate consolidation, annexation, and abolition of school districts have resulted in a marked decline in the number of small rural districts. Each of the 7 States shown below has had a decrease

of more than 1,000 school districts since 1952:

State	Number of school districts		Decrease 1952 to 1957
	1957	1952	
Illinois.....	1,993	3,484	1,491
Michigan.....	3,228	4,845	1,617
Minnesota.....	3,469	6,227	2,758
Missouri.....	3,233	4,891	1,658
Nebraska.....	4,943	6,392	1,449
New York.....	1,666	2,915	1,249
Wisconsin.....	3,764	5,298	1,534

Together, these 7 States account for more than two-thirds of the total decrease of the past 5 years in number of school districts.

Despite the emphasis on consolidation of school districts, the State of Nebraska still had, in January 1957, more than 4,000 districts and 7 States each had more than 3,000--Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, South Dakota, and Wisconsin.

Special districts. These units make up the most varied and least recorded area of local government. They are to be found in every State and the District of Columbia. Criteria used to determine what types of local districts, authorities, commissions, boards, and other entities should be classified as independent local governments are described in detail below, under "Characteristics for Classification of Governmental Units."

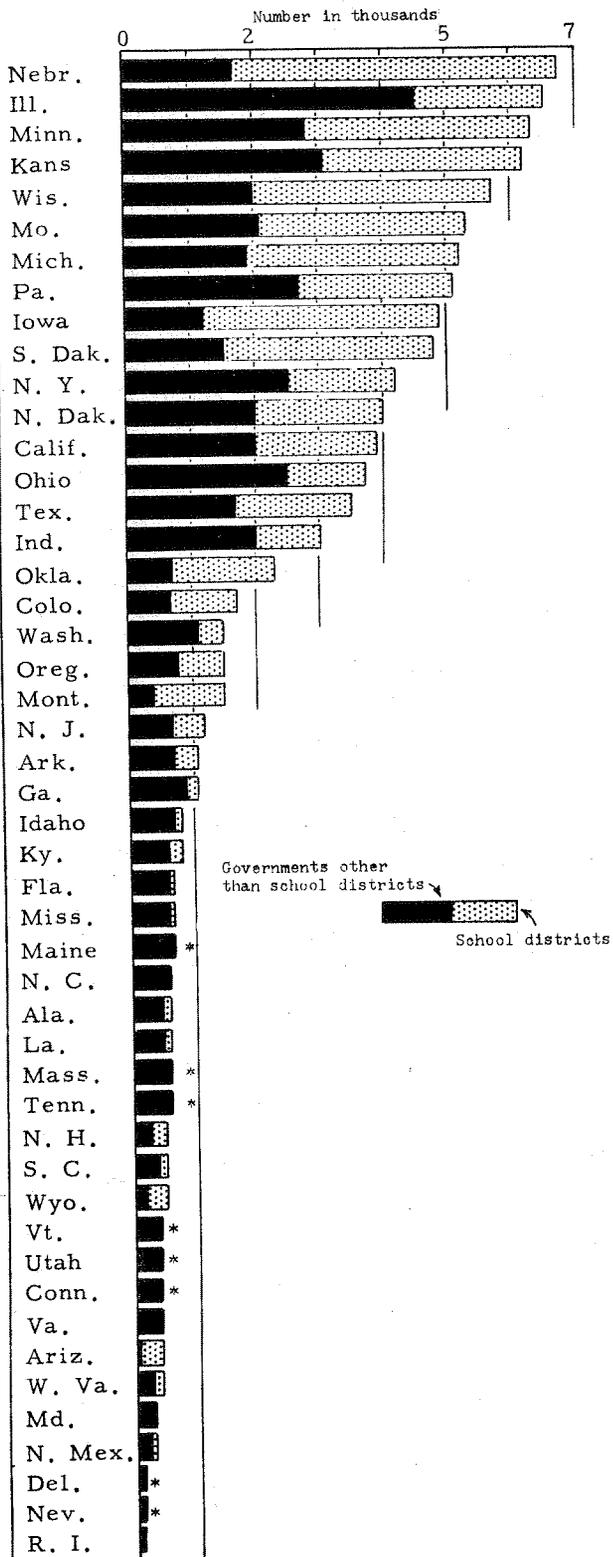
There is no consistent pattern from State to State, or even within a State, as to the organization and financing of special districts. The majority of special districts are established to perform a single function but some have been given authority by their enabling legislation to provide several kinds of services.

The following 9 States, each having at least 500 special district governments, account for three-fifths of all such local governments:

Illinois.....	1,785	Washington.....	746
California.....	1,652	Texas.....	648
New York.....	926	Nebraska.....	610
Missouri.....	826	Oregon.....	549
Kansas.....	809		

Special districts have been increasing steadily during the 15-year period from 1942 to 1957, and during the last 5 years they have grown in number by 17 percent. Table 2 provides a State-by-State comparison of the 1957 count of special districts with that for 1952.

Fig. 2--NUMBER OF GOVERNMENTS, BY STATES: 1957



*Less than 50 school districts

Increasingly, State and local governments are establishing "authorities" to undertake the construction and operation of toll roads and bridges, port and airport facilities, public buildings, and other revenue-producing facilities. Only those authorities which meet certain specifications (as outlined below) are classed as independent governmental units and included in the Census count of special districts.

As a class, authorities resemble special districts in that they are created to serve a single function or a limited number of functions. In many instances, however, the functions assigned are in lieu of, or to supplement, services ordinarily provided by an established government. As to numerous authorities, moreover, a significant degree of administrative control is retained by the creating government. Thus, most authorities are not sufficiently autonomous to be classed as governmental units.

CHARACTERISTICS FOR CLASSIFICATION OF GOVERNMENTAL UNITS

Governmental services in the United States are provided through a complex structure made up of numerous public bodies and agencies. In addition to the widely recognized pattern of Federal, State, county, municipal, and township government, there exists many offshoots from the regular structure in the form of single-function and multiple-function districts, authorities, commissions, boards, and other entities that have varying degrees of autonomy. The basic pattern differs widely from State to State. Moreover, various classes of local units within a particular State also differ in their characteristics.

Before attempting to identify and count units of government, therefore, it is necessary to define what is to be counted and to establish standards for classifying the various types of governmental entities that are encountered. The following discussion sets forth the definitions and criteria that have been used by the Bureau of the Census in classifying and counting governmental units for this report.

Essential Characteristics of a Governmental Unit

A government is an organized entity which, in addition to having governmental character, has sufficient discretion in the management of its own affairs to distinguish it as separate from the administrative structure of any other governmental unit.

To be regarded as a government, any entity must possess all three of the attributes reflected in this definition: Existence as an organized entity; governmental character; and substantial autonomy. Following are some of the characteristics which are taken as evidence of these attributes.

Existence as an organized entity. Evidence on this score is provided by the presence of some form of organization and the possession of some corporate powers, such as perpetual succession, the right to sue and be sued, have a name, make contracts, acquire and dispose of property, and the like.

Designation of a class of units in law as "municipal corporations," "public corporations," "bodies corporate and politic," and the like indicates that such units are organized entities. On the other hand, some entities not so specifically stated by law to be corporations have sufficient powers to be recognized as governmental units.

Obviously, the mere right to exist is not sufficient. Where a former governmental unit has ceased to operate--e.g., receives no revenue, conducts no activities, and has no officers currently--it is not counted as an existing government.

Governmental character. This characteristic is indicated where officers of the entity are popularly elected or are appointed by public officials. A high degree of responsibility to the public, demonstrated by requirements for public reporting or for accessibility of records to public inspection, is also taken as critical evidence of governmental character.

Governmental character is attributed to any entities having power to levy property taxes, power to issue debt paying interest exempt from Federal taxation, or responsibility for performing a function commonly regarded as governmental in nature. However, a lack of these attributes or of evidence concerning them does not preclude a class of units being recognized as governmental in character, if it meets the indicated requirements as to officers or public accountability. Thus, some "special districts" exist which have no taxing powers and are empowered only to provide electric power or other public utility services also widely rendered privately but are counted as local governments because of provisions as to their administration and public accountability.

Substantial autonomy. This requirement is met where, subject to statutory limitations and any supervision of local governments by the

State, an entity has considerable fiscal and administrative independence. Fiscal independence generally derives from power of the entity to determine its budget without review and detailed modification by other local officials or governments, to determine taxes to be levied for its support, to fix and collect charges for its services, or to issue debt without review by another local government. Administrative independence is closely related to the basis for selection of the entity's governing body.

Accordingly, a public agency is classified as an independent unit of government if it has independent fiscal powers and in addition (1) has a popularly elected governing body; (2) has a governing body representing two or more State or local governments; or (3) even in the event its governing body is appointed, performs functions that are essentially different from those of, and are not subject to specification by, its creating government.

Conversely, separate existence is not attributed to entities which lack either fiscal or administrative independence. Some local government agencies having considerable fiscal autonomy are therefore classified as being parts of other "parent" governmental units where integration is evidenced by characteristics (usually more than one) such as the following:

(1) Appointment of agency officers by the chief executive of the parent government, or control of the agency by a board composed wholly or mainly of parent government officials.

(2) Control by the agency over facilities that supplement, serve, or take the place of facilities ordinarily provided by the creating government.

(3) Provision that agency properties and responsibilities shall revert to the creating government after agency debt has been repaid.

(4) Requirements for approval of agency plans by the creating government.

(5) Legislative or executive specification by the parent government as to the location and type of facilities the agency is to construct and maintain.

Other factors. Although application of the foregoing criteria involves little difficulty in many instances, the infinite variety of provisions regarding local government entities and particularly the shadings of autonomy which they exhibit leave the classification of

some types of entities subject to considerable judgment. In such cases, the Census Bureau has taken account of (1) local attitudes as to whether the type of unit involved is independent or not and (2) the effect of the decision upon collection and presentation of statistics of governmental finances and employment.

Such considerations apply, however, only where other criteria leave room for alternative decisions. As indicated below under "Relation to other classifications and listings," regard for local terminology or traditions as to the nature of particular types of governmental entities has been subordinated, wherever necessary, to the need for uniform classification of entities of similar nature as among various States and areas.

Common Other Characteristics of Governmental Units

The foregoing description of essential characteristics makes no reference to certain other attributes which are possessed by many governments but which are not essential criteria for the identification of governmental units.

Area and population. Most, but not all, governments exist to serve and operate primarily within an explicit geographic area for which a population can be determined. However, some entities having all essential characteristics of local governments do not possess this attribute but at best can be associated only with an undefined general location or area, rather than an explicitly defined territory. Examples of this are districts providing toll road and bridge facilities.

Even those governmental units which can be directly associated with a defined territory for certain purposes, such as property taxation, often own and operate facilities outside or provide services on one basis or another to residents of adjoining territory.

It should be noted also that, in connection with governmental operations, various types of geographic areas are established or recognized which lack characteristics of independent governments. These constitute, in most instances, devices for the conduct of elections, administration of justice, or performance of particular public services by governments serving the total area of all the particular types of districts concerned. Although these are useful for administration and are significant for the analysis of particular services and operations of governments, such minor

geographic areas and "districts" have no place in a count of governmental units.

Taxing power. Most units of governments are vested with authority to impose taxes. Again, however, this is not an essential or critical attribute, since some types of local entities, which in every other respect can properly be viewed as independent units of government, lack such authority, but derive a considerable degree of fiscal independence through powers to impose assessments for improvements, to charge for services, or to incur indebtedness. Some of the very largest special districts, such as the Port of New York Authority and the Chicago Transit Authority, as well as numerous other special-district governments, are of this nature.

Uniformity of taxation and services. Even for those units of government which have property taxing powers and serve a precisely determined area, it cannot always be said that a single level of taxation and standard of services applies throughout the area concerned. Differential taxation often occurs legally where annexation or other boundary changes place a burden of debt service on some but not all of the territory; and subordinate "districts" which lack independence from the parent government are sometimes provided for, with regard to particular types of improvements or governmental services, with resulting differences of tax level within the total area served by the government.

Relation to Other Classifications and Listings

Local areas for population statistics. A similarity of terminology appears, as between some major types of local governments and certain local areas for which population data (and certain other statistics) are reported. This is particularly true as to entities here termed "counties," "municipalities," and "townships and New England towns."

This report is concerned with the governmental units so designated, however, rather than with the geographic areas to which similar terminology applies. Here, therefore, the numbers reported under such headings refer to operating governments; the number of areas similarly designated in other statistical reports includes some areas without an organized local government of the type concerned. The difference between county areas and county governments reflects the fact that in 58 county "areas" no distinct county government exists. The following tabulation provides a reconciliation of the

number of county governments with the number of county "areas":

- I. Independently organized county governments..... 3,047
- II. County governments not independently organized..... 12
 - A. County governments having specified types of county offices, but counted only as cities or townships--10:
 - New York--counties of Bronx, Kings, New York, Queens, and Richmond (counted only as city of New York)
 - Louisiana--parish of East Baton Rouge (counted as city of Baton Rouge) and parish of Orleans (counted as city of New Orleans)
 - Massachusetts--county of Nantucket (counted as township of Nantucket) and county of Suffolk (counted as city of Boston)
 - Pennsylvania--county of Philadelphia (counted as city of Philadelphia)
 - B. City-county governments designated as city-county and operating primarily as cities--2:
 - California--city and county of San Francisco
 - Colorado--city and county of Denver
- III. Areas lacking county government... 46
 - A. "Independent" cities located outside of designated counties and administering functions performed by counties elsewhere--34:
 - Maryland--Baltimore City (distinct from Baltimore County)
 - Missouri--St. Louis City (distinct from St. Louis County)
 - Virginia--Alexandria, Bristol, Buena Vista, Charlottesville, Clifton Forge, Colonial Heights, Covington, Danville, Falls Church, Fredericksburg, Galax, Hampton, Harrisonburg, Hopewell, Lynchburg, Martinsville, Newport News, Norfolk, Norton, Petersburg, Portsmouth, Radford, Richmond, Roanoke, South Norfolk, Staunton, Suffolk, Virginia Beach, Warwick, Waynesboro, Williamsburg, and Winchester

B. Unorganized areas bearing county designations--8:

- Rhode Island (county areas with no county government)--Bristol, Kent, Newport, Providence, and Washington
- South Dakota (county areas attached to other counties for governmental purposes)--Shannon, Todd, and Washabaugh

C. Federal areas--4:

- District of Columbia (without county government and operating primarily as a city)
- Yellowstone National Park (not organized for local governments)--areas in Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming

Total of all county governments and related areas in continental United States..... 3,105

Neither Alaska nor Puerto Rico have organized county governments. There are five county areas in Hawaii. Governments for three of these are classified by the Census Bureau as county governments; the City and County of Honolulu, is treated as a municipality; the remaining county area, Kalawao, is considered to be an adjunct of the Territorial Government.

The difference with regard to towns and townships is similar to that for counties, but reflects the fact that considerable numbers of township areas, rather than only a few, do not have organized and operating township governments.

1942 Census of Governments. To a considerable degree, differences between numbers of governments here reported for 1952 and 1957 and numbers shown in the Census of Governments for 1942 reflect the actual establishment, dissolution, or consolidation of governmental units. However, a more detailed appraisal of statutory provisions which has been possible for the two more recent studies has resulted in different treatment of particular types of entities in some States. The over-all effect of such changes in classification is relatively limited, except for the following instances.

In 1942, the count of townships included 1,608 such governments in the State of Iowa. For the 1952 and 1957 figures it has been considered that the extremely limited discretion and activity of these entities does not justify their classification as independent and operating units of government.

The only major change in Census handling of school district classification that has been made since 1942 pertains to the State of Mississippi. The 1952 and 1957 figures on independent school districts include, for Mississippi, only the municipal and rural separate districts. Other school administrative units in Mississippi are regarded by the Bureau of the Census as dependent agencies of the county governments.

For the 1942 Census of Governments, soil conservation districts created by State governments and lacking powers of property taxation were not counted as independent governmental units, but as dependent agencies of the States. For 1952 and 1957, such entities have been classified as local governments where, as is commonly the case, they have substantial fiscal and administrative autonomy.

For the 1942 Census of Governments, all local housing authorities were classified as independent governments. In connection with the 1952 count, legal provisions for such authorities in each State were examined and their classification as separate governments or as dependent agencies of other local governments thus determined. Housing authorities in 5 States--Arizona, Kentucky, Michigan, New York, and New Mexico--were thus moved out of the count of independent governments, being regarded instead as dependent agencies of other local governments. Since 1952, Virginia housing authorities have also, on the basis of new legislation, been classified as dependent agencies of the city or county governments.

Minor changes between the 1952 and 1957 figures are, to some extent, attributable to the more intensive verification process used to obtain the 1957 figures. See "Statement of Procedure."

Other sources. The discussion above of "Common other characteristics of governmental units" will suggest why numbers of governments here reported may differ materially from data as to "taxing units," "taxing areas," or as to governments or agencies concerned with particular functions. An important example of the latter involves statistics as to "school administrative areas" developed by the U. S. Office of Education and by the educational agencies of particular States.

Where all local schools are provided by school districts independent of other local governments, Census figures, as to numbers of school districts, will tie directly to data as to "school administrative areas" based upon similar standards regarding autonomy of in-

dividual districts. However, where local schools are provided, throughout a State or in some particular instances within a State, by dependent agencies of other governments, such dependent agencies are included in any count of school administrative units or areas, but naturally are not counted here as separate units of government.

Similar differences will be found between the data here provided as to numbers of governments and any statistics or listings concerning agencies or entities in other functional fields--e.g., health, hospitals, housing, soil conservation, etc.--which in some instances are independent and in others dependent entities of parent governments.

STATEMENT OF PROCEDURE

This report is based primarily on two types of activity: (1) research leading to the development of a framework for proper classification of governmental units and entities legally authorized in each State; and (2) the identification and counting, in terms of appropriate categories, of all existing local governments in the various States.

Classification. Prior to the 1952 enumeration of governments, a detailed analysis was made of legal provisions governing existence or establishment of local government entities in each State. In the light of this analysis, a listing was prepared for each State showing the types of entities tentatively classified as independent units of government and the types considered to be dependent agencies of other governments, or geographic areas lacking the characteristics of distinct governmental agencies.

Such listings were forwarded to several individuals in each of the States, together with a statement of the criteria applied by the Census Bureau in their preparation. Comments were requested as to the completeness of the listings and the correctness of classification. The comments received were analyzed in detail and the preliminary listings and classifications adjusted in the light of the additional information thus obtained. (For a list of the persons so consulted, see pp. 89-91 of the Bureau of the Census report, Local Government Structure in the United States.)

With very few exceptions, the interpretations of the Census Bureau as to classification of types of government entities is in accordance with views expressed by some or all of the advisers thus contacted in each State concerned. In some few instances, however, it

was necessary to depart from such views as to particular types of entities, in order to apply nationally uniform criteria and to achieve consistency of classification as among various areas and States.

For the present report, subsequent State legislation relating to local governments has also been analyzed, and the findings used to adjust previous classifications affected.

The Bureau of the Census report, Local Government Structure in the United States, published in 1954, provides a description by State of each type of entity considered as of 1952 to be an independent government, as well as a listing of those classes not considered to have sufficient autonomy to be classified as independent governments.

Identification of school districts. The 1957 figures herein as to school districts and other school systems are based upon a complete card listing which includes for each the system name, county of location, and post office address, as well as information on enrollment, type of school service provided, type of area served, and number of schools operated.

To obtain the 1957 data, name-and-address information from the 1952 enumeration was initially brought up to date for most States through the use of published reports of State departments of education. In some instances, correspondence with these agencies or compilations from their records were used to obtain the necessary information. For 12 States, comprising 35,000 districts, central sources were inadequate and the listings of individual districts were obtained, during July 1956, by mail canvass inquiries to county superintendents of schools. Then, during a 3-month period beginning in November 1956, a directory survey covering all local school systems was conducted by mail to verify address information, to eliminate any districts that had gone out of existence during the latter half of calendar 1956, and to obtain information as to school enrollment and other characteristics.

Identification of nonschool governments. Figures herein regarding local nonschool governments, as in the case of school districts, are based upon a complete card listing which includes for each government the name, county

of location, post office address and, for counties and municipalities, the 1950 population of the unit.

For municipalities and townships, the 1952 enumeration, which was originally based on the 1950 Census of Population, has been brought up to date through a verification of the listings for each county with the county clerk--and other local officers as necessary--by the field staff of the Bureau of the Census. Verification was done by telephone for counties having only a few units, and elsewhere by personal visit.

For special districts, a preliminary revision of the basic 1952 listings was developed from published Federal and State listings of such units wherever available and through correspondence with State officials having data concerning particular types of special districts. These revised listings were then checked with the county clerk--and other local officials as necessary--at the same time the verification of municipalities and townships was made.

The local check conducted by Census field offices in August and September 1956 provided the basis for (1) dropping from the final listing and count some initially recorded units which were no longer in existence or which continued only as geographic areas but without governmental activity; (2) adding some units not covered by the tentative listings--including newly incorporated municipalities; and (3) ascertaining or confirming the official mailing address of each unit whose existence was verified.

After the revision of the listings of nonschool governments from the local verification, a directory survey covering all such units was conducted by mail in January 1957 to verify address information and to eliminate any governments which had gone out of existence or become inactive since the local verification.

The Bureau of the Census lists were then revised to reflect the number of active governmental units as of January 1, 1957.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Grateful acknowledgment is due to the numerous State and local officials who generously supplied the information needed for this report.

CENSUS OF GOVERNMENTS

Table 1.—NUMBER OF GOVERNMENTAL UNITS, BY TYPE AND BY STATES: 1957

State	All governmental units ¹	Local governments except school districts					School districts	Exhibit: Other public school systems ²
		Total	Counties	Municipalities	Townships	Special districts		
Continental United States, total....	102,353	51,851	3,047	17,167	47,214	14,423	50,453	2,471
Alabama.....	619	506	67	318	...	121	112	...
Arizona.....	367	116	14	52	...	50	250	3
Arkansas.....	1,127	703	75	374	...	254	423	...
California.....	3,881	2,039	357	330	...	1,652	1,841	...
Colorado.....	1,670	733	362	246	...	425	936	...
Connecticut.....	384	380	8	33	152	187	3	167
Delaware.....	132	116	3	49	...	64	15	2
District of Columbia.....	2	2	...	1	...	1	...	1
Florida.....	673	605	67	310	...	228	67	...
Georgia.....	1,123	923	159	508	...	256	199	...
Idaho.....	844	675	344	199	...	432	168	...
Illinois.....	6,495	4,501	102	1,181	1,433	1,785	1,993	...
Indiana.....	2,989	1,958	92	544	1,008	314	1,030	...
Iowa.....	4,906	1,240	99	942	...	199	3,665	...
Kansas.....	6,207	3,064	105	610	1,540	809	3,142	...
Kentucky.....	822	600	120	323	...	157	221	...
Louisiana.....	584	516	362	237	...	217	67	...
Maine.....	667	659	16	42	492	109	7	478
Maryland.....	328	327	323	149	...	155	...	24
Massachusetts.....	573	568	312	39	312	205	4	349
Michigan.....	5,174	1,945	83	498	1,262	102	3,228	...
Minnesota.....	6,303	2,833	87	826	1,828	92	3,469	15
Mississippi.....	673	593	82	262	...	249	79	82
Missouri.....	5,303	2,069	3114	801	328	826	3,233	...
Montana.....	1,502	353	356	123	...	174	1,148	...
Nebraska.....	6,659	1,715	93	534	478	610	4,943	...
Nevada.....	109	91	17	16	...	58	17	...
New Hampshire.....	545	324	10	12	222	80	220	9
New Jersey.....	1,215	725	21	333	233	138	489	74
New Mexico.....	318	221	32	77	...	112	96	...
New York.....	4,194	2,527	357	610	934	926	1,666	6
North Carolina.....	626	625	100	412	...	113	...	173
North Dakota.....	3,969	1,970	53	356	1,392	169	1,998	...
Ohio.....	3,668	2,499	88	915	1,335	161	1,168	...
Oklahoma.....	2,333	688	77	506	...	105	1,644	...
Oregon.....	1,525	798	36	213	...	549	726	...
Pennsylvania.....	5,074	2,656	366	991	1,565	34	2,417	442
Rhode Island.....	91	90	(3)	7	32	51	...	39
South Carolina.....	507	398	46	235	2	115	108	...
South Dakota.....	4,817	1,527	364	306	1,080	77	3,289	...
Tennessee.....	561	544	95	255	...	194	16	137
Texas.....	3,478	1,683	254	781	...	648	1,794	7
Utah.....	399	358	29	210	...	119	40	...
Vermont.....	412	395	14	68	241	72	16	243
Virginia.....	369	368	398	229	...	41	...	130
Washington.....	1,948	1,106	39	252	69	746	441	...
West Virginia.....	362	306	55	219	...	32	55	...
Wisconsin.....	5,738	1,973	71	547	1,276	79	3,764	90
Wyoming.....	487	240	323	86	...	131	246	...
Outside Continental United States (Exhibit Data) ⁵								
Alaska.....	42	33	(3)	31	...	2	8	20
Hawaii.....	22	21	33	1	...	17	...	1
Puerto Rico.....	96	95	(3)	75	...	20	...	1

... Represents zero. ¹Includes Federal Government and the 48 States, not shown in distribution by type. ²Includes other local public school systems operated as part of State, county, municipal, or township governments and not included with the independent school-district figure. Count of "All governmental units" does not include these numbers. ³Excludes areas corresponding to counties but having no organized county government. See text, page 7. ⁴Includes "towns" in the 6 New England States, New York, and Wisconsin. ⁵These data are excluded from continental United States totals shown above.

GOVERNMENTAL UNITS

Table 2.—NUMBER OF SCHOOL-DISTRICT AND SPECIAL-DISTRICT GOVERNMENTS BY STATES: 1957 AND 1952

State	School districts			Special districts		
	1957	1952	Change ¹ 1952-1957	1957	1952	Change ¹ 1952-1957
United States, total.....	50,453	67,346	16,893	14,423	12,319	2,106
Alabama.....	112	108	4	121	70	51
Arizona.....	250	270	- 20	50	34	16
Arkansas.....	423	422	1	294	231	23
California.....	1,841	2,010	- 169	1,652	1,390	262
Colorado.....	936	1,352	- 416	425	297	128
Connecticut.....	3	3	...	187	166	21
Delaware.....	15	15	...	64	40	24
District of Columbia.....	...	...	...	1	1	...
Florida.....	67	67	...	228	188	40
Georgia.....	199	187	12	256	154	102
Idaho.....	168	305	- 137	432	395	37
Illinois.....	1,993	3,484	- 1,491	1,785	1,546	239
Indiana.....	1,030	1,115	- 85	314	293	21
Iowa.....	3,665	4,653	- 988	199	170	29
Kansas.....	3,142	3,984	- 842	809	724	85
Kentucky.....	221	232	- 11	157	130	27
Louisiana.....	67	67	...	217	144	73
Maine.....	7	4	3	109	128	- 19
Maryland.....	...	...	...	155	158	- 3
Massachusetts.....	4	...	4	205	220	- 15
Michigan.....	3,228	4,845	- 1,617	102	84	18
Minnesota.....	3,469	6,227	- 2,758	92	71	21
Mississippi.....	79	93	- 14	249	254	- 5
Missouri.....	3,233	4,891	- 1,658	826	886	- 60
Montana.....	1,148	1,287	- 139	174	133	41
Nebraska.....	4,943	6,392	- 1,449	610	485	125
Nevada.....	17	166	- 149	58	44	14
New Hampshire.....	220	228	- 8	80	78	2
New Jersey.....	489	481	8	138	81	57
New Mexico.....	96	106	- 10	112	78	34
New York.....	1,666	2,915	- 1,249	926	968	- 42
North Carolina.....	...	...	...	113	106	7
North Dakota.....	1,998	2,079	- 81	169	94	75
Ohio.....	1,168	1,465	- 297	161	140	21
Oklahoma.....	1,644	2,100	- 456	105	94	11
Oregon.....	726	1,071	- 345	549	407	142
Pennsylvania.....	2,417	2,506	- 89	34	29	5
Rhode Island.....	...	...	...	51	49	2
South Carolina.....	108	49	59	115	78	37
South Dakota.....	3,289	3,399	- 110	77	56	21
Tennessee.....	16	13	3	194	85	109
Texas.....	1,794	2,479	- 685	648	491	157
Utah.....	40	40	...	119	106	13
Vermont.....	16	20	- 4	72	70	2
Virginia.....	...	...	...	41	42	- 1
Washington.....	441	545	- 104	746	644	102
West Virginia.....	55	55	...	32	23	9
Wisconsin.....	3,764	5,298	- 1,534	79	73	6
Wyoming.....	246	318	- 72	131	91	40

... Represents zero.

¹Changes are increases unless preceded by a minus sign (-) which denotes a decrease.