

		Primary purpose	Nationwide wall-to-wall coverage	Geography nests within	Census 2000 population criteria	Other criteria/guidelines	Summary of changes to criteria for the 2010 Census The final criteria can be found at: http://www.census.gov/geo/www/psap2010/psap2010_main.html	
Participant Statistical Areas	Census Tracts	Boundary continuity	Yes	County	Optimum: 4,000	Merge and split tracts to meet thresholds, not change	Lower the minimum threshold for most tracts. Minimum: 1,200 Maximum: 8,000 Optimum 4,000	
		Data comparability			Minimum: 1,500 (1,000 within AIRs)		Housing unit counts may be used to meet tract thresholds. Minimum: 480 Maximum: 3,200 Optimum: 1,600	
					Maximum: 8,000		All types of populated tracts must meet the same thresholds. Wherever possible conform to American Indian reservations. Special tracts may be created for large special land use areas without housing units or population (e.g., large public parks, forests).	
	Block Groups (BGs)	Small area, characteristics data	Yes	Census Tract	Optimum: 1,500	Smallest area for American Community Survey (ACS) sample data	Increase the minimum population threshold. Minimum: 600 Maximum: 3,000 Optimum: none	
		Meet minimum thresholds			Minimum: 600 (300 within AIRs)		Between 1 and 9 BGs nest within a census tract	Housing unit counts may be used to meet BG thresholds. Minimum: 240 Maximum: 1,200 Optimum: none
					Maximum: 3,000		Census tract boundaries are always BG boundaries	All types of populated BGs must meet the same thresholds. Wherever possible conform to American Indian reservations. Special BGs may be created for large special land use areas without housing units or population (e.g., large public parks, forests).
	Census County Divisions (CCDs)	Set of subcounty units that have stable boundaries and recognizable names	CCDs and MCDs together	County	None	Usually represents one or more communities, trading centers, or major land uses	<i>No significant changes.</i>	
			CCDs exist in 22 states					
	Census Designated Places (CDPs)	Place-level statistics for well-known, closely settled localities	No, CDPs capture distinct communities	State	None	Named community	A CDP cannot have zero population and zero housing units.	
		Mix of residential, commercial, and retail areas				Not part of an incorporated place or other CDP	A CDP must represent a single, distinct community. A CDP that represents multiple, distinct communities, and the hyphenated name typically assigned to represent such CDPs, will not be permitted. Exceptions will be made for communities whose identities have merged and in which both names commonly are used together.	
					Nucleus of relatively high residential population density			

These statistical areas are for statistical uses only. All comprise relatively compact, contiguous land areas

The complete final criteria for census tract, block group, CDP and CCD final criteria *Federal Register* notices are available on the 2010 PSAP website at:
http://www.census.gov/geo/www/psap2010/psap2010_main.html

For information about the history of the PSAP and PSAP geographic entities see Appendix B – PSAP History.

V. Information on PSAP geographic entities that need to be updated or revised for 2010

In creating the 2010 PSAP plan, PSAP participants review and update census tracts, block groups, CDPs and CCDs to accommodate changes in their communities and to meet the 2010 PSAP criteria. The following are the types of edits that should be executed by the PSAP participants to meet the 2010 PSAP criteria.

Note: To meet population and housing unit thresholds the Census Bureau provides 2000 population and housing unit counts. Other population and housing estimates may be used to meet thresholds and the use of estimates must be noted in the 2010 PSAP submission. Future growth may be considered, but should not extend beyond 2013 and should not be used to meet minimum thresholds.

Census Tracts

1. Above maximum

- Split census tracts into two or more census tracts when the population and housing unit count is above the maximum thresholds. The maximum thresholds for census tracts are 8,000 for population and 3,200 for housing units.
- Since data comparability over time is paramount with census tracts, the outer boundary of a census tract should be maintained to facilitate data comparability over time. Therefore, above maximum census tracts should be split into one or more census tracts to meet thresholds while maintaining the outer boundary of the parent census tract.
- The PSAP MTPS flags all census tracts that are above the maximum thresholds and prompts the user to split those census tracts to meet the threshold.

2. Below minimum

- Merge census tracts with an adjacent census tract or census tracts when the population and housing unit count is below the minimum thresholds. Minimum thresholds for census tracts are 1,200 for population and 480 for housing units.
- Since data comparability over time is paramount with census tracts, the outer boundary of a census tract should be maintained to facilitate data comparability over time. Therefore, below minimum census tracts should be merged to meet population and housing unit thresholds while maintaining the outer boundaries of the parent census tracts.
- The PSAP MTPS flags all census tracts that are below the maximum thresholds and prompts the user to merge those census tracts to meet the threshold.

3. Split AIR/ORTL/HHL

- Edit census tracts so that the American Indian reservations (AIRs), off-reservation trust lands (ORTL), and Hawaiian Home Lands (HHLs) are within as few census tracts as possible.
- All AIRs/ORTLs/HHLs should be within as few census tracts as possible, and each AIR, ORTL, or HHL with a population of 2,400 or less and a housing unit count of 960 or less should not be split by census tract boundaries. If possible, census tracts delineated to encompass AIRs/ORTLs/HHLs should have the majority of their area covered by AIRs/ORTLs/HHLs. The only circumstance where retracting, or completely changing the boundaries of the census tract (not by splitting or merging), is encouraged by the Census Bureau is where an AIR/ORTL/HHL is split unnecessarily by census tract boundaries. In order to edit these census tracts one can split, merge, or change the boundaries.
- The PSAP MTPS will flag all census tracts that split an AIR/ORTL/HHL and prompt the user to edit (split, merge, or boundary change) the census tracts so that they no longer split the AIR/ORTL/HHL if possible.

4. Special land use tract

- Special land use tracts may be designated to capture an area that has a specific and non-residential land use.
- An area designated as a special land use tract must have an official name (e.g., Jay Cooke State Park), must have little or no residential population or housing units, and must not create a noncontiguous tract. If delineated within a densely populated, urban area, a special land use tract must have an area of one square mile or more. If delineated outside an urban area, a special land use tract must have an area of 10 square miles or more. The area must be first split from the existing census tract(s) and the attribute information (e.g., land use type, official name) must be provided. When a special land use tract is delineated a special land use block group will be created coextensive with the special land use tract.
- The PSAP MTPS provides tools to split tracts and assign special land use tract type and name attribute information to that tract. Additionally, the PSAP MTPS will alert the user if their special land use tracts do not meet area requirements.

5. Ineligible boundary features

- Edit the census tract boundaries that following ineligible boundary features so that they follow eligible features.
- To make the location of all PSAP geography entity boundaries less ambiguous, wherever possible, their boundaries should follow visible and identifiable features-especially roads. The use of visible features also makes it easier to locate and identify census tract boundaries over time, as the locations of many visible features in the landscape tend to change infrequently. The Census Bureau also requires the use of state and county boundaries in all states, and permits incorporated place and minor civil division (MCD) boundaries in states where those boundaries tend to remain unchanged over time. When acceptable visible and governmental boundary features are not available for use as boundaries, the Census Bureau may, at its discretion, approve other nonstandard visible features.

See Appendix C – Eligible boundary features.

- The PSAP MTPS has an ineligible boundary features tool that can turn ineligible boundary feature line symbolization on and off and has a boundary change tool to edit the boundary of the tract.

Block groups

1. Above maximum

- Split block groups into two or more block groups when the population and housing unit count is above the maximum thresholds. The maximum thresholds for block groups are 3,000 for population and 1,200 for housing units.
- The PSAP MTPS flags all block groups that are above the maximum thresholds and prompts the user to split those block groups to meet the threshold. The boundary change tool can also be used to edit block group boundaries to meet the thresholds.

2. Below Minimum

- Merge block groups into two or more block groups when the population and housing unit count is below the minimum thresholds. The minimum thresholds for block groups are 1,200 for population and 240 for housing units.
- The PSAP MTPS flags all block groups that are below the minimum thresholds and prompts the user to merge those block groups to meet the threshold. The boundary change tool can also be used to edit block group boundaries to meet the thresholds.

3. Ineligible boundary feature

- See the Census Tract “Ineligible boundary feature” section for information.

CDP

1. Below minimum

- Edit the CDP boundaries or remove the CDP if the CDP is below the minimum housing unit threshold. The minimum housing unit threshold is 3 housing units.
- The PSAP MTPS flags below minimum CDPs and prompts the user to edit the boundaries of the CDP, through the boundary change – add tool, so that the CDP meets the threshold. The remove tool can be used to remove CDPs that do not meet the threshold.

2. Create a new CDP

- Create a new CDP to encompass an unincorporated community that is not already delineated as a CDP. Divide a CDP that represents more than one community into two or more distinct CDPs.
- The PSAP MTPS provides a new tool to define a new CDP. The boundary change-remove tool can be used in conjunction with the new tool to divide a CDP that represents more than one community into two or more communities.

3. Remove a CDP

- Remove a CDP when the community no longer exists or a portion of the CDP has