

## Glossary of Terms

### Alaska Native race/ethnic categories

Self-identification among people of Alaska Native descent. These are the five detailed Alaska Native race and ethnic categories used in tabulating data in the Census 2000:

Alaska Athabaskan  
Aleut  
Eskimo  
Tlingit-Haida  
All other tribes

### American Indian tribe/Selected American Indian categories

Self-identification among people of American Indian descent. Many American Indians are members of a principal tribe or group empowered to negotiate and make decisions on behalf of the individual members. Census 2000 data are available for 36 tribes or selected American Indian categories:

|           |  |                    |
|-----------|--|--------------------|
| Apache    | Houma  | Pueblo             |
| Blackfeet | Iroquois                                     | Puget Sound Salish |
| Cherokee  | Kiowa  | Seminole           |
| Cheyenne  | Latin American (Aztec,<br>Inca, Mayan, etc.) | Shoshone           |
| Chickasaw | Lumbee                                       | Sioux              |
| Chippewa  | Menominee                                    | Tohomo O'Odham     |
| Chocktaw  | Navajo                                       | Ute                |
| Colville  | Osage  | Yakama             |
| Comanche  | Ottawa                                       | Yaqui              |
| Cree      | Paiute                                       | Yuman              |
| Creek     | Pima   | All other          |
| Crow      | Potawatomi                                   |                    |
| Delaware  |  |                    |

These tribes were selected based on a 1990 population threshold of 7,500.

Related term: Race

### Asian

Self-identification among people of Asian descent. There are 17 detailed Asian race and ethnic categories used in for tabulating data in the Census 2000:

|                           |            |             |
|---------------------------|------------|-------------|
| Asian Indian              | Indonesian | Sri Lankan  |
| Bangladeshi               | Japanese   | Taiwanese   |
| Cambodian                 | Korean     | Thai        |
| Chinese, except Taiwanese | Laotian    | Vietnamese  |
| Filipino                  | Malaysian  | Other Asian |
| Hmong                     | Pakistani  |             |

Related term: Race

### Borough

A county equivalent in Alaska, a minor civil division in New York, and an incorporated place in Connecticut, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania.

### **Central place**

The core incorporated place(s) or a census designated place of an urban area, usually consisting of the most populous place(s) in the urban area plus additional places that qualify under Census Bureau criteria. If the central place is also defined as an extended place, only the portion of the central place contained within the urban area is recognized as the central place.

### **Census**

A complete enumeration, usually of a population, but also of businesses and commercial establishments, farms, governments, and so forth.

### **Census (decennial)**

The census of population and housing, taken by the Census Bureau in years ending in 0 (zero). Article I of the Constitution requires that a census be taken every ten years for the purpose of reapportioning the U.S. House of Representatives.

### **Census area**

The statistical equivalent of a county in Alaska. Census areas are delineated cooperatively by the state of Alaska and the Census Bureau for statistical purposes in the portion of Alaska not within an organized borough.

### **Census county division (CCD)**

A subdivision of a county that is a relatively permanent statistical area established cooperatively by the Census Bureau and state and local government authorities. Used for presenting decennial census statistics in those states that do not have well-defined and stable minor civil divisions that serve as local governments.

### **Census designated place (CDP)**

A statistical entity, defined for each decennial census according to Census Bureau guidelines, comprising a densely settled concentration of population that is not within an incorporated place, but is locally identified by a name. CDPs are delineated cooperatively by state and local officials and the Census Bureau, following Census Bureau guidelines. Beginning with Census 2000 there are no size limits.

Related term: Incorporated place

### **Central city**

The largest city of a Metropolitan area (MA). Central cities are a basis for establishment of an MA. Additional cities that meet specific criteria also are identified as central cities. In a number of instances, only part of a city qualifies as central, because another part of the city extends beyond the MA boundary.

Related term: Metropolitan area (MA)

### **City**

A type of incorporated place in 49 states and the District of Columbia. In 23 states and the District of Columbia, some or all cities are not part of any Minor Civil Division (MCD), and the Census Bureau also treats these as county subdivisions, statistically equivalent to MCDs.

Related terms: Incorporated place, Minor civil division (MCD)

**Comunidad**

Represents a census designated place that is not the representing governmental center of the municipio in Puerto Rico. There are no incorporated places in Puerto Rico. For Census 2000 there are no minimum population requirements. For 1990 comunidades had to have at least 1,000 people.

Related term: Municipio

**Confidentiality**

The guarantee made by law (Title 13, United States Code) to individuals who provide census information regarding nondisclosure of that information to others.

For US Code, Title 13, see

[http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/epss/glossary\\_t.html#title\\_13\\_u.s.\\_code](http://factfinder.census.gov/home/en/epss/glossary_t.html#title_13_u.s._code)

**Consolidated city**

An incorporated place that has combined its governmental functions with a county or sub-county entity but contains one or more other incorporated places that continue to function as local governments within the consolidated government.

Related term: Incorporated place

**Consolidated metropolitan statistical area (CMSA)**

A geographic entity defined by the federal Office of Management and Budget for use by federal statistical agencies. An area becomes a CMSA if it meets the requirements to qualify as a metropolitan statistical area, has a population of 1,000,000 or more, if component parts are recognized as primary metropolitan statistical areas, and local opinion favors the designation.

Related terms: Metropolitan statistical area (MSA), Primary metropolitan statistical area (PMSA)

**County and equivalent entity**

The primary legal subdivision of most states. In Louisiana, these subdivisions are known as parishes. In Alaska, which has no counties, the county equivalents are boroughs, a legal subdivision, and census areas, a statistical subdivision. In four states (Maryland, Missouri, Nevada and Virginia), there are one or more cities that are independent of any county and thus constitute primary subdivisions of their states. The District of Columbia has no primary divisions, and the entire area is considered equivalent to a county for statistical purposes. In Puerto Rico, municipios are treated as county equivalents.

Related term: Borough

**County subdivision**

A legal or statistical division of a county recognized by the Census Bureau for data presentation. The two major types of county subdivisions are census county divisions and minor civil divisions.

Related terms: Minor civil division (MCD), Unorganized territory

### **Householder**

The person, or one of the people, in whose name the home is owned, being bought, or rented. If there is no such person present, any household member 15 years old and over can serve as the householder for the purposes of the census.

### **Housing unit**

A house, an apartment, a mobile home or trailer, a group of rooms, or a single room occupied as separate living quarters, or if vacant, intended for occupancy as separate living quarters. Separate living quarters are those in which the occupants live separately from any other individuals in the building and which have direct access from outside the building or through a common hall. For vacant units, the criteria of separateness and direct access are applied to the intended occupants whenever possible.

### **Hispanic or Latino origin**

For Census 2000, American Community Survey: People who identify with the terms "Hispanic" or "Latino" are those who classify themselves in one of the specific Hispanic or Latino categories listed on the Census 2000 or ACS questionnaire—"Mexican," "Puerto Rican," or "Cuban"—as well as those who indicate that they are "other Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino." Origin can be viewed as the heritage, nationality group, lineage, or country of birth of the person or the person's parents or ancestors before their arrival in the United States. People who identify their origin as Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino may be of any race.

1990 Census of Population and Housing: A self-designated classification for people whose origins are from Spain, the Spanish-speaking countries of Central or South America, the Caribbean, or those identifying themselves generally as Spanish, Spanish-American, etc. Origin can be viewed as ancestry, nationality, or country of birth of the person or person's parents or ancestors prior to their arrival in the United States.

### **Income**

"Total income" is the sum of the amounts reported separately for wages, salary, commissions, bonuses, or tips; self-employment income from own non-farm or farm businesses, including proprietorships and partnerships; interest, dividends, net rental income, royalty income, or income from estates and trusts; Social Security or Railroad Retirement income; Supplemental Security Income (SSI); any public assistance or welfare payments from the state or local welfare office; retirement, survivor, or disability pensions; and any other sources of income received regularly such as Veterans' (VA) payments, unemployment compensation, child support, or alimony.

### **Incorporated place**

A type of governmental unit incorporated under state law as a city, town (except the New England states, New York, and Wisconsin), borough (except in Alaska and New York), or village and having legally prescribed limits, powers, and functions.

Related terms: Census designated place (CDP), Place

**Living quarters**

A housing unit is a house, an apartment, a mobile home or trailer, a group of rooms or a single room occupied as separate living quarters or, if vacant, intended for occupancy as separate living quarters. Separate living quarters are those in which the occupants live separately from any people in the building and which have direct access from outside the building or through a common hall.

Related term: Housing unit

**Long form**

The decennial census questionnaire, sent to approximately one in six households for the 1980, 1990, and 2000 censuses, contains all of the questions on the short form, as well as additional detailed questions relating to the social, economic, and housing characteristics of each individual and household. Information derived from the long form is referred to as sample data, and is tabulated for geographic entities as small as the block group level in 1980, 1990, and 2000 census data products.

Related terms: Census (decennial), Sample data, Short form

**Metropolitan**

Refers to those areas surrounding large and densely populated cities or towns.

**Metropolitan area (MA)**

A collective term, established by the federal Office of Management and Budget, to refer to metropolitan statistical areas, consolidated metropolitan statistical areas, and primary metropolitan statistical areas.

**Metropolitan statistical area (MSA)**

A geographic entity defined by the federal Office of Management and Budget for use by federal statistical agencies, based on the concept of a core area with a large population nucleus, plus adjacent communities having a high degree of economic and social integration with that core. Qualification of an MSA requires the presence of a city with 50,000 or more inhabitants, or the presence of an Urbanized Area (UA) and a total population of at least 100,000 (75,000 in New England). The county or counties containing the largest city and surrounding densely settled territory are central counties of the MSA. Additional outlying counties qualify to be included in the MSA by meeting certain other criteria of metropolitan character, such as a specified minimum population density or percentage of the population that is urban. MSAs in New England are defined in terms of minor civil divisions, following rules concerning commuting and population density.

Related terms: Consolidated metropolitan statistical area (CMSA), Primary metropolitan statistical area (PMSA)

**Minor civil division (MCD)**

A primary governmental and/or administrative subdivision of a county, such as a township, precinct, or magisterial district. MCDs exist in 28 states and the District of Columbia. In 20 states, all or many MCD's are general-purpose governmental units: Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont, and Wisconsin. Most of these MCD's are legally designated as towns or townships.

Related Terms: Census county division (CCD), County subdivision, Unorganized territory

## Municipio

Primary legal divisions of Puerto Rico. These are treated as county equivalents.

## Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander race and ethnic categories

Self-identification among people of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander descent. These are the 12 detailed Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander race and ethnic categories used in displaying data from Census 2000:

### Polynesian:

Native Hawaiian  
Samoan  
Tongan  
Other Polynesian

### Micronesian:

Guanamanian or  
Chamorro  
Other Micronesian

### Melanesian:

Fijian  
Other Melanesian  
Other Pacific Islander

## Nonmetropolitan

The area and population not located in any Metropolitan area (MA).

## Occupied housing unit

A housing unit is classified as occupied if it is the usual place of residence of the person or group of people living in it at the time of enumeration.

## Parish

A type of governmental unit that is the primary legal subdivision of Louisiana, similar to a county in other states.

## Place

A concentration of population either legally bounded as an incorporated place, or identified as a Census Designated Place (CDP) including comunidades and zonas urbanas in Puerto Rico. Incorporated places have legal descriptions of borough (except in Alaska and New York), city, town (except in New England, New York, and Wisconsin), or village.

Related terms: Census designated place (CDP), City, Comunidad, Incorporated place, Town, Zona urbana

## Plumbing facilities

The data on plumbing facilities were obtained from both occupied and vacant housing units. Complete plumbing facilities include: (1) hot and cold piped water; (2) a flush toilet; and (3) a bathtub or shower. All three facilities must be located in the housing unit.

## Population

All people, male and female, child and adult, living in a given geographic area.

## Population density

Total population or number of housing units within a geographic entity (for example, United States, state, county, place) divided by the land area of that entity measured in square kilometers or square miles. Density is expressed as both "people (or housing units) per square kilometer" and "people (or housing units) per square mile" of land area.

## Poverty

Following the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB's) Directive 14, the Census Bureau uses a set of money income thresholds that vary by family size and composition to detect who is poor. If

the total income for a family or unrelated individual falls below the relevant poverty threshold, then the family or unrelated individual is classified as being "below the poverty level."

For a detailed description of how the poverty level is determined, see:  
<http://www.census.gov/hhes/poverty/povdef.html>

Related term: Income

### **Primary metropolitan statistical area (PMSA)**

A geographic entity defined by the federal Office of Management and Budget for use by federal statistical agencies. If an area meets the requirements to qualify as a metropolitan statistical area and has a population of one million or more, two or more PMSAs may be defined within it if statistical criteria are met and local opinion is in favor. A PMSA consists of one or more counties (county subdivisions in New England) that have substantial commuting interchange. When two or more PMSAs have been recognized, the larger area of which they are components then is designated a consolidated metropolitan statistical area.

Related terms: Consolidated metropolitan statistical area (CMSA), Metropolitan statistical area (MSA)

### **Puerto Rico**

The U.S. Census Bureau treats the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico as the equivalent of a state for data presentation purposes. Puerto Rico is divided into legal government municipios, which are statistically equivalent to counties.

### **Race**

Race is a self-identification data item in which respondents choose the race or races with which they most closely identify.

*For Census 2000:*

In 1997, after a lengthy analysis and public comment period, the Federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) revised the standards for how the Federal government would collect and present data on race and ethnicity.

These new guidelines revised some of the racial categories used in 1990 and preceding censuses and allowed respondents to report as many race categories as were necessary to identify themselves on the Census 2000 questionnaire. The full report is available at  
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/infoleg/race.pdf>.

*How the new guidelines affect Census 2000 results and the comparison with data from 1990:*

Census 2000 race data are not directly comparable with data from 1990 and previous censuses. See the Census 2000 Brief, "Overview of Race and Hispanic Origin" at  
<http://www.census.gov/prod/2001pubs/c2kbr01-1.pdf>.

Race Alone categories (6):

Includes the minimum five race categories required by OMB, plus the ‘some other race alone’ included by the Census Bureau for Census 2000, with the approval of OMB.

- White alone
- Black or African-American alone
- American Indian or Alaska Native alone
- Asian alone
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander alone
- Some other race alone

Race Alone or in combination categories (63):

There are other tabulations where ‘race alone or in combination’ are shown. These tabulations include not only persons who marked only one race (the ‘race alone’ category) but also those who marked that race and at least one other race. For example, a person who indicated that she was of Filipino and African-American background would be included in the African-American alone or in combination count, as well as in the Asian alone or in combination count. The alone or in combination totals are tallies of responses, rather than respondents. So the sum of the race alone or in combination will add to more than the total population.

Some tabulations show the number of persons who checked ‘two or more races’.

In some tables, including the first release of Census 2000 information, data is tabulated for 63 possible combinations of race:

- 6 race alone categories
- 15 categories of 2 races (e.g., White and African American, White and Asian, etc.)
- 20 categories of 3 races
- 15 categories of 4 races
- 6 categories of 5 races
- 1 category of 6 races
- =63 possible combinations

Some tables show data for seven race categories: the six (mutually exclusive) major race-alone categories (White, African-American, American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, and some other race) and a ‘two or more races’ category. The sum of these seven categories adds to 100 percent of the population.

Related terms: Alaska Native race/ethnic categories, American Indian tribe/Selected American Indian categories, Asian, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander race and ethnic categories, Spanish/Hispanic/Latino

**Rural**

Territory, population and housing units not classified as urban. “Rural” classification cuts across other hierarchies and can be in metropolitan or non-metropolitan areas.

Related terms: Urban, Metropolitan

**Sample data**

Population and housing information collected from the census long form for a one in six sample of households in the United States and Puerto Rico, and on a continuous basis for selected areas in the American Community Survey.

Related terms: Census (decennial), Long form

### Short Form

The decennial census questionnaire, sent to approximately five of six households for the 1980, 1990, and 2000 censuses. For Census 2000, the questionnaire asked population questions related to household relationship, sex, race, age and Hispanic or Latino origin and housing questions related to tenure, occupancy, and vacancy status. The 1990 short form contained a question on marital status. The questions contained on the short form also are asked on the long form, along with additional questions.

Related terms: Census (decennial), Long form

### Spanish/Hispanic/Latino

For Census 2000 and the American Community Survey: People who identify with the terms "Hispanic" or "Latino" are those who classify themselves in one of the specific Hispanic or Latino categories listed on the Census 2000 or ACS questionnaire—"Mexican," "Puerto Rican," or "Cuban"—as well as those who indicate that they are "other Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino." Origin can be viewed as the heritage, nationality group, lineage, or country of birth of the person or the person's parents or ancestors before their arrival in the United States. People who identify their origin as Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino may be of any race.

For 1990 Census of Population and Housing:

A self-designated classification for people whose origins are from Spain, the Spanish-speaking countries of Central or South America, the Caribbean, or those identifying themselves generally as Spanish, Spanish-American, etc. Origin can be viewed as ancestry, nationality, or country of birth of the person or person's parents or ancestors prior to their arrival in the United States.

### Spanish/Hispanic/Latino people may be of any race.

Listed below are the 28 Hispanic or Latino categories used in Census 2000 tabulations:

|                        |                      |                           |
|------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Mexican                | South American:      | Other Hispanic or Latino: |
| Puerto Rican           | Argentinian          | Spaniard                  |
| Cuban                  | Bolivian             | Spanish                   |
| Dominican Republic     | Chilean              | Spanish American          |
| Central American:      | Colombian            | All other Hispanic or     |
| Costa Rican            | Ecuadorian           | Latino                    |
| Guatemalan             | Paraguayan           |                           |
| Honduran               | Peruvian             |                           |
| Nicaraguan             | Uruguayan            |                           |
| Panamanian             | Venezuelan           |                           |
| Salvadoran             | Other South American |                           |
| Other Central American |                      |                           |

### Summary File 3 (SF 3)

This file presents data on the population and housing long form subjects such as income and education. It includes population totals for ancestry groups. It also includes selected characteristics for a limited number of race and Hispanic or Latino categories. The data are available for the U.S., regions, divisions, states, counties, county subdivisions, places, census tracts, block groups, metropolitan areas, American Indian and Alaska Native areas, tribal subdivisions, Hawaiian home lands, congressional districts, and Zip Code Tabulation Areas.

Related term: Long form

### **Town**

A type of minor civil division in the New England states, New York, and Wisconsin and a type of incorporated place in 30 states and the Virgin Islands of the United States.

Related term: County subdivision

### **Unorganized Territory**

Occur in 10 minor civil division (MCD) states where portions of counties are not included in any legally established MCD or independent incorporated place. The pieces are recognized as one or more separate county subdivisions for statistical data presentation purposes.

### **Urban**

All territory, population and housing units in urbanized areas and in places of more than 2,500 persons outside of urbanized areas. "Urban" classification cuts across other hierarchies and can be in metropolitan or non-metropolitan areas.

Related terms: Metropolitan, Rural

### **Urban Area**

Collective term referring to all areas that are urban. For Census 2000, there are two types of urban areas: urban clusters and urbanized areas.

### **Urban Cluster**

A densely settled territory that has at least 2,500 people but fewer than 50,000. This is new for Census 2000.

### **Urbanized area (UA)**

An area consisting of a central place(s) and adjacent territory with a general population density of at least 1,000 people per square mile of land area that together have a minimum residential population of at least 50,000 people. The Census Bureau uses published criteria to determine the qualification and boundaries of UAs.

### **Usual residence**

The living quarters where a person spends more nights during a year than any other place.

Related term: Living quarters

### **Usual residence elsewhere**

A housing unit temporarily occupied at the time of enumeration entirely by people with a usual residence elsewhere is classified as vacant. The occupants are classified as having a "Usual residence elsewhere" and are counted at the address of their usual place of residence.

### **Village**

A type of incorporated place in 20 states and American Samoa. The Census Bureau treats all villages in New Jersey, South Dakota, and Wisconsin and some villages in Ohio as county subdivisions.

### **Zona Urbana**

Represents a census designated place that is the governmental center of each municipio in Puerto Rico. There are no incorporated places in Puerto Rico.

Related term: Municipio