

Geographic Areas and Concepts for the American Community Survey

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Overview of Session

- Basic Census Bureau geography
- Geographic areas for which ACS data are available
 - 2007 1-year estimates
 - 2005-2007 3-year estimates
- Geographic area concept and definition issues to be aware of when using ACS data

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What is not covered?

- Small geographic areas that will only appear in 5-year products
 - Block groups and census tracts
- Geography products, such as maps, shapefiles, and relationship files
- Geographic entity codes, such as FIPS codes

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Census Geographic Concepts

Legal/Administrative and Statistical Areas

Legal/Administrative Areas	Statistical Areas
Nation	Regions
States	Divisions
Counties	Census County Divisions
Minor Civil Divisions	Census Designated Places
Incorporated Places	Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas
Congressional Districts	Urban / Rural Areas
School Districts	Census Tracts
Voting Districts	Block Groups
	Public Use Microdata Areas
	ZIP Code Tabulation Areas

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ACS Geographic Area Types

U.S. and Puerto Rico

Type of Geographic Area	Total Number of Areas	Percent of Areas with a Population of 65,000 or more	Percent of Areas with a Population of 20,000 or more
States, District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico	52	100.0	100.0
Congressional Districts	435	100.0	100.0
Public Use Microdata Areas	2,071	99.9	100.0
Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas	952	53.6	96.8
Urban Areas	3,646	10.8	23.4

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ACS Geographic Area Types

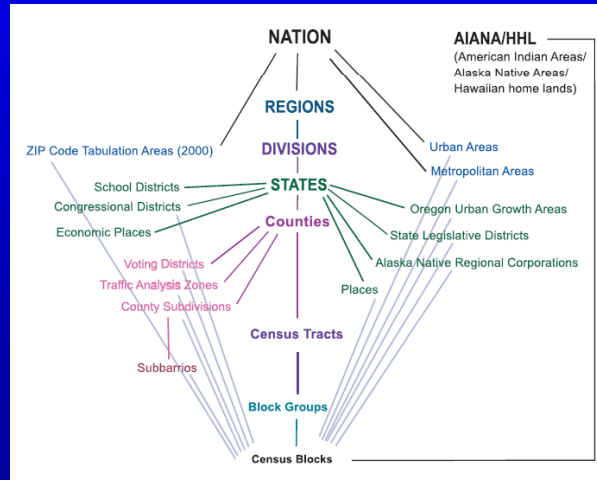
Puerto Rico

Type of Geographic Area	Total Number of Areas	Percent of Areas with a Population of 65,000 or more	Percent of Areas with a Population of 20,000 or more
Puerto Rico	1	100.0	100.0
Public Use Microdata Areas	30	100.0	100.0
Metropolitan Statistical Areas	8	100.0	100.0
Micropolitan Statistical Areas	5	0.0	60.0
Urban Areas	18	55.6	72.3

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Hierarchy of Census Geographic Entities



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Hierarchy of Puerto Rico Geographic Entities



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County Subdivisions

Minor Civil Divisions and Census County Divisions

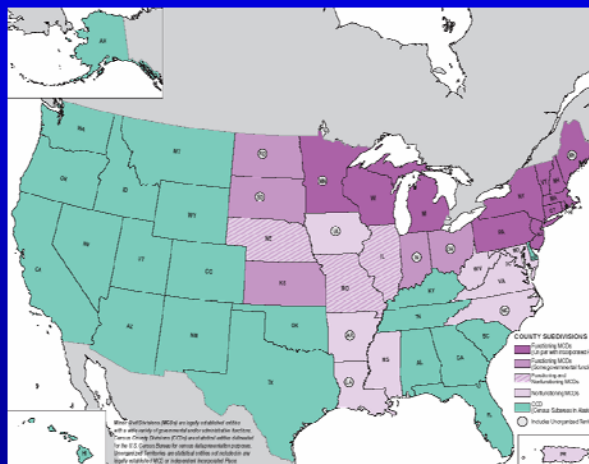
- Minor Civil Divisions (MCDs)
 - Legally bounded entity
 - Sub-county entities in 28 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico
 - May have a formal government with elected officials
- Census County Divisions (CCDs)
 - Statistical entity
 - Sub-county units that have stable boundaries and recognizable names in 22 states
 - No minimum or maximum population guidelines
 - Not included in ACS single year data products

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County Subdivisions

Distribution Map of MCDs and CCDs



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Places

Incorporated Places and Census Designated Places

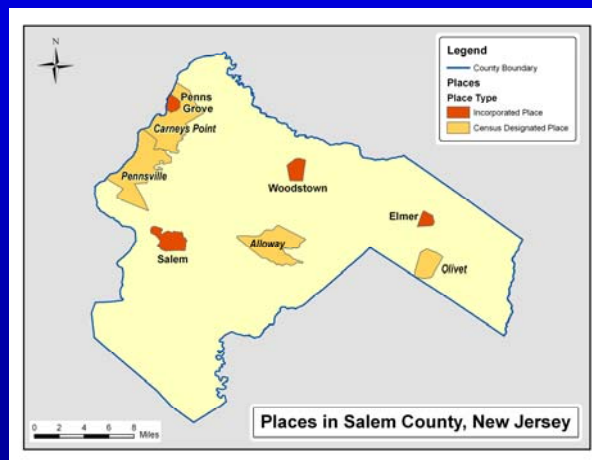
- Incorporated Places
 - Legally bounded entity
 - Referred to as cities, boroughs, towns, or villages, depending on the state
- Census Designated Places (CDPs)
 - Statistical entity
 - Created to present census data for an area with a concentration of population, housing, and commercial structures that is identifiable by name, but not within an incorporated place
 - Example: Columbia, MD; Paradise, NV

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Places

Salem County, New Jersey

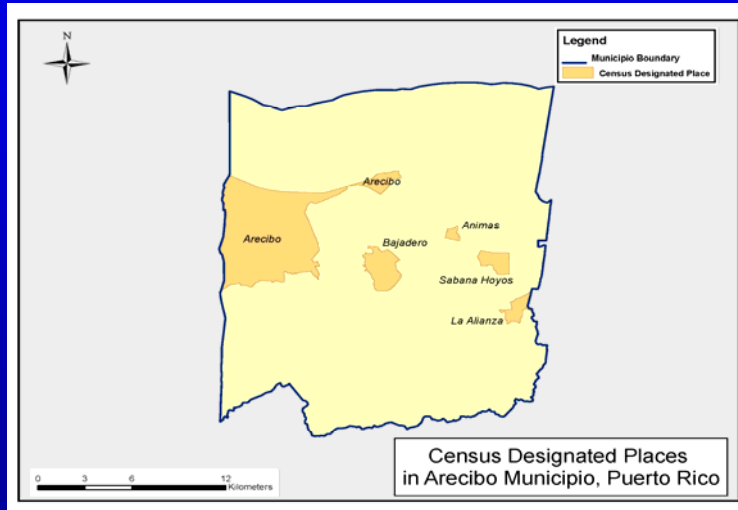


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Places

Puerto Rico



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Places

Doña Ana County, New Mexico



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Urban Areas

Urbanized Areas and Urban Clusters

- Urbanized Areas
 - 50,000 or more people
- Urban Clusters
 - 2,500 up to 50,000 people
- Both defined after each decennial census
- Current urban area boundaries do not reflect urbanization occurring after Census 2000

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Rural Areas

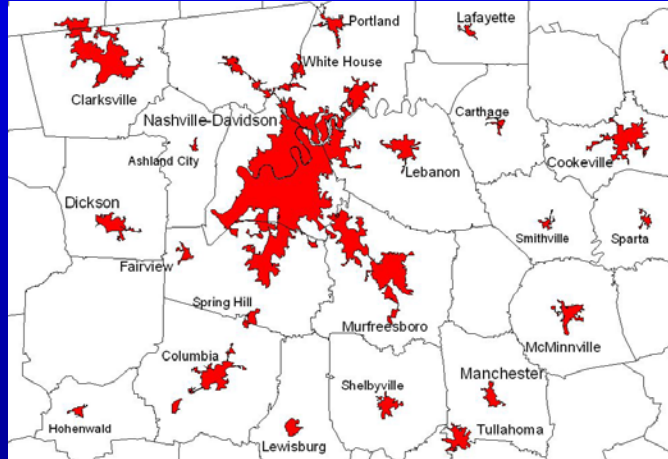
- All territory not within an urban area
- Cuts across other hierarchies
- Can be in metropolitan or non-metropolitan areas

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Urban Areas

Urbanized Areas and Urban Clusters in Tennessee

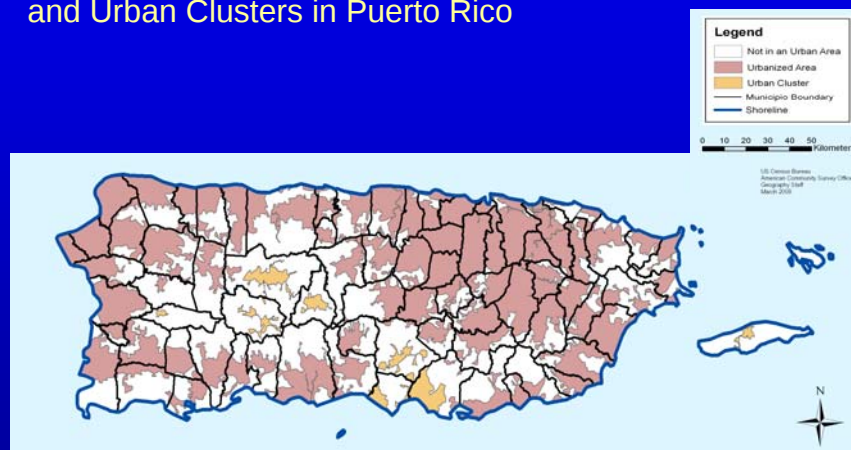


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Urban Areas

Urbanized Areas and Urban Clusters in Puerto Rico



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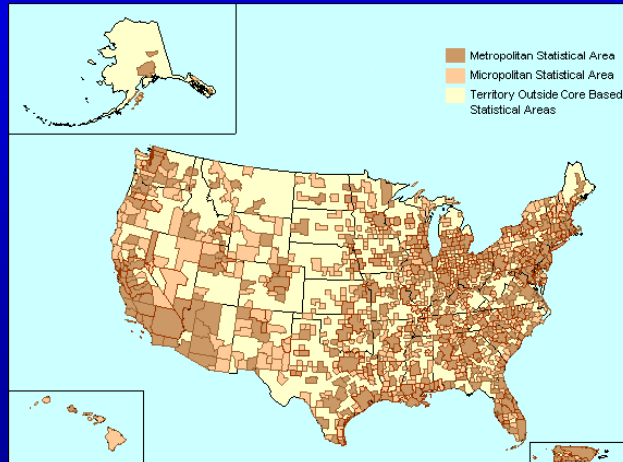
Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas

- Defined by U.S. Office of Management and Budget
- Metropolitan Statistical Areas
 - Contains core Urban Area of 50,000 or more population
 - Its own County, and
 - Surrounding counties with heavy commuting patterns
- Micropolitan Statistical Areas
 - Contains urban core between 10,000 – 49,999 population
 - Only small percentage have population 65,000 or more

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Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas



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Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas in Puerto Rico



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Partial Map of Virginia Metropolitan Statistical Areas, Urban Areas, Places



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Partial Map of Puerto Rico

Metropolitan Statistical Areas, Urbanized Areas



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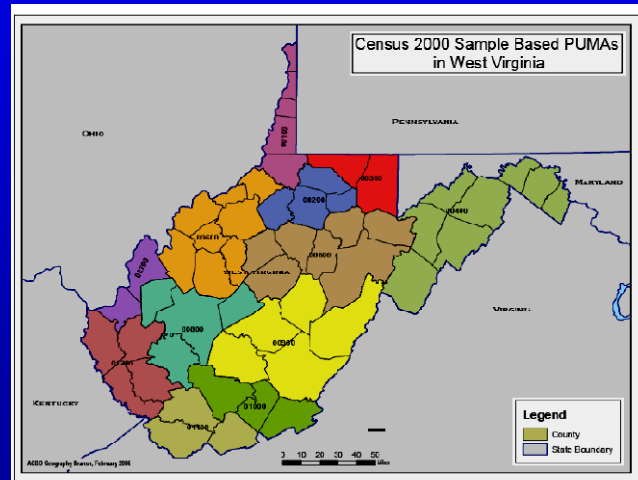
Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMAs)

- Minimum population of 100,000
- Cannot cross state boundaries
- Composed of:
 - Census tracts
 - Places
 - One or more Counties
 - Combination of Tracts and Counties

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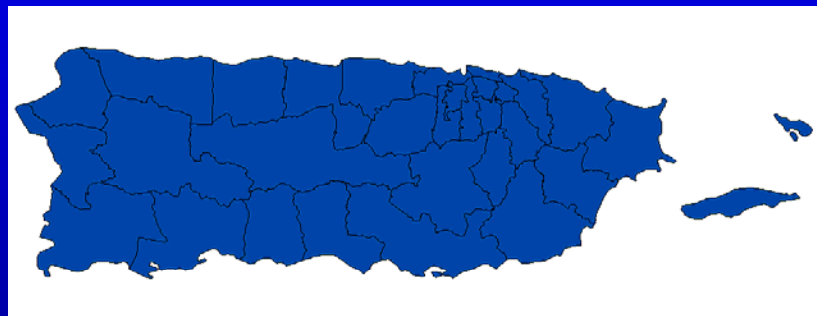
Public Use Microdata Areas



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Public Use Microdata Areas Puerto Rico



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ACS Geographic Area Types

U.S. and Puerto Rico

Type of Geographic Area	Total Number of Areas	Number of Areas with a Population of 65,000 or more	Number of Areas with a Population of 20,000 or more
County	3,219	800	1,882
County Subdivision	21,171	187	999
Place	25,292	520	2,081
Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas	952	510	922
Urban Areas	3,646	394	854

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ACS Geographic Area Types

Puerto Rico

Type of Geographic Area	Total Number of Areas	Number of Areas with a Population of 65,000 or more	Number of Areas with a Population of 20,000 or more
Municipios	78	12	53
Metropolitan Statistical Areas	8	8	0
Micropolitan Statistical Areas	5	0	0
Urban Areas	18	10	3
Places (Zonas Urbanas, Comunidades)	225	7	10

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2007 Data Product Details

State Search Results

AREAS TO BE PUBLISHED IN 2007

Wyoming

040 - State

Wyoming

050 - County

Laramie County, Wyoming

Natrona County, Wyoming

310 - Metropolitan or Micropolitan Statistical Area

Casper, WY Metropolitan Statistical Area

Cheyenne, WY Metropolitan Statistical Area

400 - Urban Area

Cheyenne, WY Urbanized Area

500 - Congressional District (110th)

Congressional District (at Large), Wyoming (110th Congress)

795 - Public Use Microdata Area (PUMA)

PUMA5 00100, Wyoming

PUMA5 00200, Wyoming

PUMA5 00300, Wyoming

PUMA5 00400, Wyoming

970 - School District, Unified

Laramie County School District 01, Wyoming

Natrona County School District 01, Wyoming

Choose a state or Puerto Rico:

Select a State

Choose a geographic area:

☐ All

☐ State

☐ County

☐ County Subdivision

☐ Place

☐ American Indian Area-Alaska Native Area-Hawaiian Home Land

☐ Metropolitan or Micropolitan Statistical Area

☐ Metropolitan or Micropolitan Statistical Area-State-Principal City

☐ Metropolitan Statistical Area-Metropolitan Division

☐ Combined Statistical Area

☐ Combined New England City and Town Area

☐ New England City and Town Area

☐ New England City and Town Area-State-Principal City

☐ New England City and Town Area (NECTA)-NECTA Division

☐ Urban Area

☐ Congressional District (110th)

☐ Public Use Microdata Area (PUMA)

☐ School District

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2007 Data Product Details

Puerto Rico Search Results

Census > ACS Home > Using This Data > 2007 Data Product Details > State Search Results

2007 Data Product Details: State Search Results

AREAS TO BE PUBLISHED IN 2007

Puerto Rico

040 - State

Puerto Rico

050 - County

Aguadilla Municipio, Puerto Rico

Arecibo Municipio, Puerto Rico

Bayamón Municipio, Puerto Rico

Caguas Municipio, Puerto Rico

Carolina Municipio, Puerto Rico

Guaynabo Municipio, Puerto Rico

Mayagüez Municipio, Puerto Rico

Ponce Municipio, Puerto Rico

San Juan Municipio, Puerto Rico

San Antonio Municipio, Puerto Rico

Trujillo Alto Municipio, Puerto Rico

160 - Place

Bayamón zona urbana, Puerto Rico

Caguas zona urbana, Puerto Rico

Carolina zona urbana, Puerto Rico

Guaynabo zona urbana, Puerto Rico

Mayagüez zona urbana, Puerto Rico

Choose a state or Puerto Rico:

Select a State

Choose a geographic area:

☐ All

☐ State

☐ County

☐ County Subdivision

☐ Place

☐ American Indian Area-Alaska Native Area-Hawaiian Home Land

☐ Metropolitan or Micropolitan Statistical Area

☐ Metropolitan or Micropolitan Statistical Area-State-Principal City

☐ Metropolitan Statistical Area-Metropolitan Division

☐ Combined Statistical Area

☐ Combined New England City and Town Area

☐ New England City and Town Area

☐ New England City and Town Area-State-Principal City

☐ New England City and Town Area (NECTA)-NECTA Division

☐ Urban Area

☐ Congressional District (110th)

☐ Public Use Microdata Area (PUMA)

☐ School District

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Geographic Boundaries

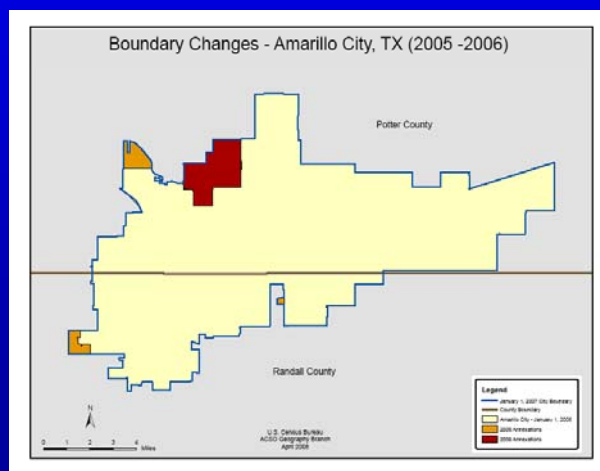
- Multiyear estimates are based on geographic boundaries as of January 1 of the last year in the multiyear period
- Boundary Annexation Survey collects boundary changes
- Boundaries of other statistical areas will be updated every decade in conjunction with the decennial census

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Geographic Boundaries

Amarillo city, TX



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Boundary and Annexation Survey

- Annual survey
- Primary source of information about
 - Legal boundaries
 - Boundary changes
 - Names of governments
 - Legal status
 - Types of governmental units
 - New or dissolved governmental units
 - Higher-level geographic relationships

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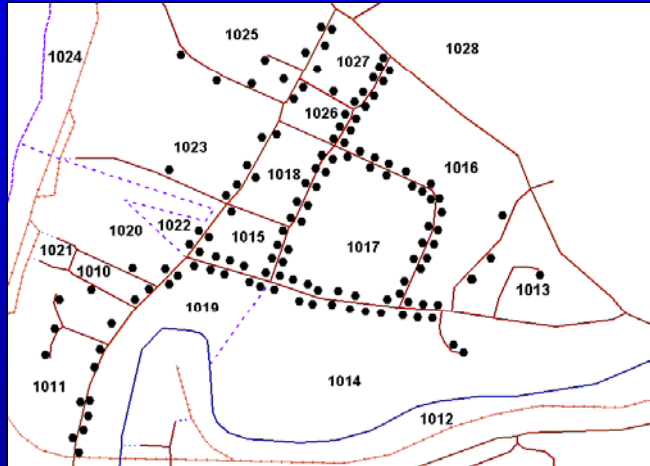
Master Address File (MAF)

- Official inventory of all known housing units in the U.S. and Puerto Rico
- Updated using information from
 - U.S. Postal Service
 - local governments
 - Census field operations
- The ACS sample is drawn from the MAF

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MAF/TIGER Database

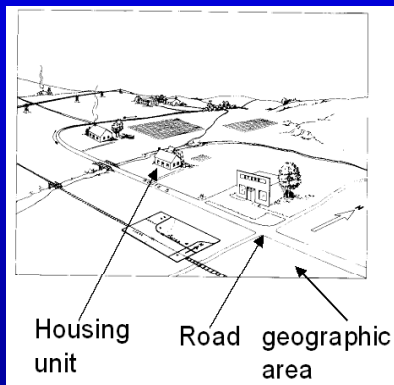
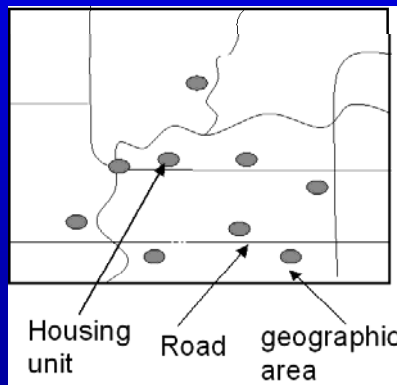


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MAF/TIGER Database

Digital representation of Geographic Features



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For more information ...

Subscribe to "ACS Alert"

<http://www.census.gov/acs/www/Special/Alerts.htm>

Visit the ACS/PRCS website:

<http://www.census.gov/acs/www>

Contact by telephone:

General ACS Questions: 1-800-923-8282

ACS Geographic Area Questions: 301-763-3056

Contact by email:

acso.users.support@census.gov

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