

# 2020 Census Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP)

U.S. Census Bureau

# 2020 PSAP

- Allows invited participants to review and update selected statistical area boundaries for 2020 Census data tabulation using Census Bureau criteria and guidelines.
- The Census Bureau uses the defined statistical areas for the 2020 Census, Economic Census, and American Community Survey data.



# Importance of PSAP Participation

---

- Data needs not always met by legal areas alone.
- Statistical geography can help provide data.
  - For example, CDPs are used to create boundaries for a concentration of population where no legal boundaries exist.
    - Cities or communities without legal boundaries.
    - Neighborhoods.
    - State-recognized tribal areas.
- Data for these statistical geographies are often used as criteria in grant applications or programs. (e.g. Opportunity Zones Program)

# Tabulation Geography

## Legal

- States (and equivalents) (57)
- Counties (3,000)
- County subdivisions  
(Towns & townships) (31,000)
- Places (Incorporated) (19,000)
- Tribal areas  
(Reservations and trustlands) (400)

## Administrative

- Election areas (186,000)
- School districts (13,000)

## Statistical

- Regions (5)
- Divisions (10)
- County subdivisions  
(Census county divisions) (5,000)
- Places (Census designated) (10,000)
- Tribal areas (Statistical areas) (280)
- Census tracts (74,000)
- Block groups (220,000)
- Tabulation blocks (11 million)
- Metropolitan/Micropolitan areas (1,000)
- Urban areas (3,000)
- ZCTAs (33,000)

# PSAP Statistical Geographies

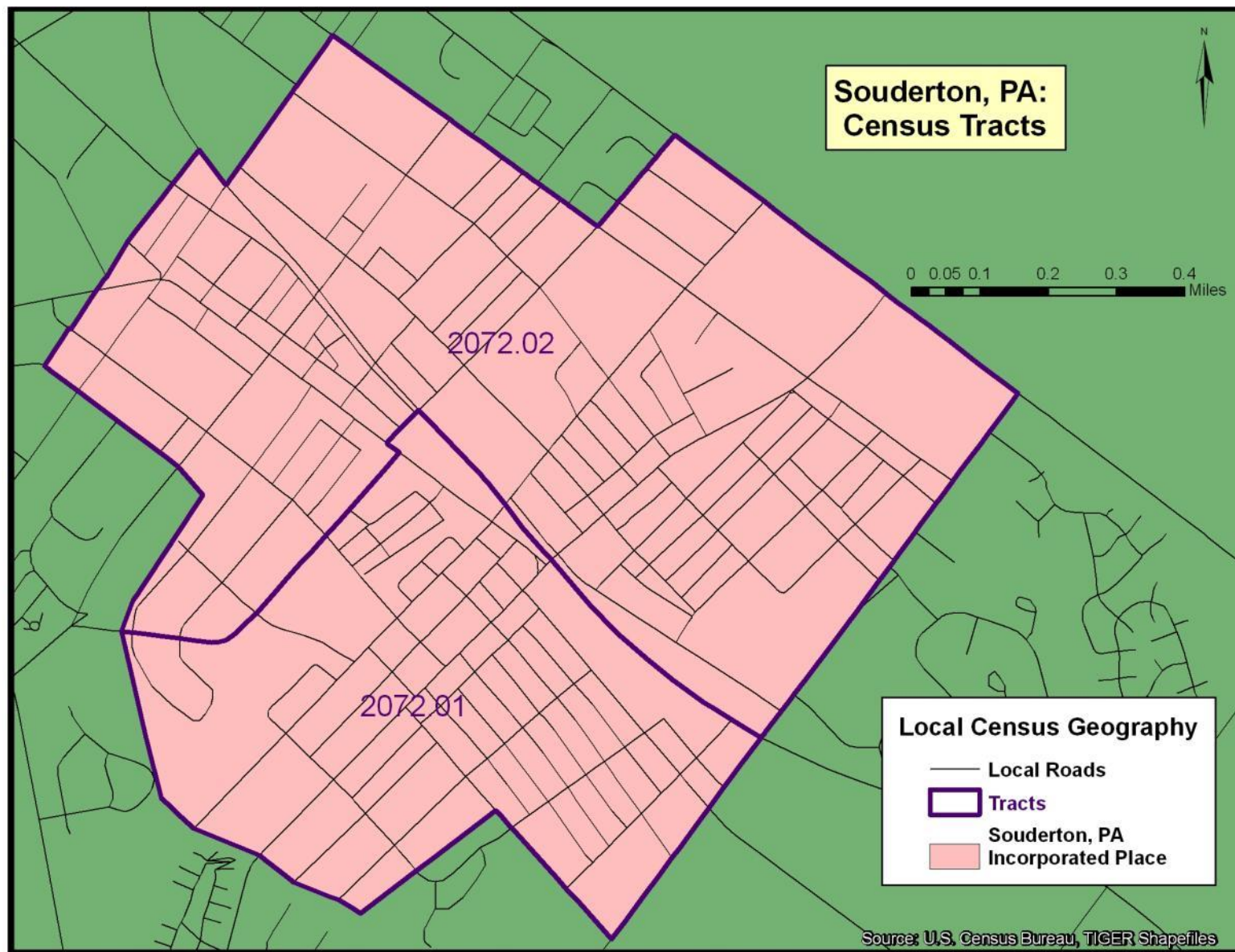
- Standard statistical geographies include:
  - Census tracts.
  - Block groups.
  - Census designated places (CDPs).
  - Census county divisions (CCDs), in selected states.
- Tribal statistical geographies include:
  - Tribal census tracts (TCTs).
  - Tribal block groups (TBGs).
  - Census designated places (CDPs).
  - Tribal Designated Statistical Areas (TDSAs).
  - State Designated Tribal Statistical Areas (SDTSAs).
  - Alaska Native village statistical areas (ANVSAs).
  - State reservations (legal entities).
  - Oklahoma tribal statistical areas (OTSAs) and associated tribal subdivisions.

# General Characteristics of PSAP Entities

Type of Entity	Primary Purpose	Nationwide wall-to-wall coverage	Nest within
Census Tract	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reliable small area data</li> <li>Data comparability</li> </ul>	Yes	County
Block Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Spatial resolution</li> <li>Demographic characteristics</li> </ul>	Yes	Census Tract
Census Designated Place (CDP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demographic and economic data for unincorporated places</li> </ul>	No-CDPs represent distinct communities	None
Census County Division (CCD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Subcounty units that have stable boundaries</li> </ul>	21 states (nationwide coverage with MCDs)	County

# Census Tract Thresholds

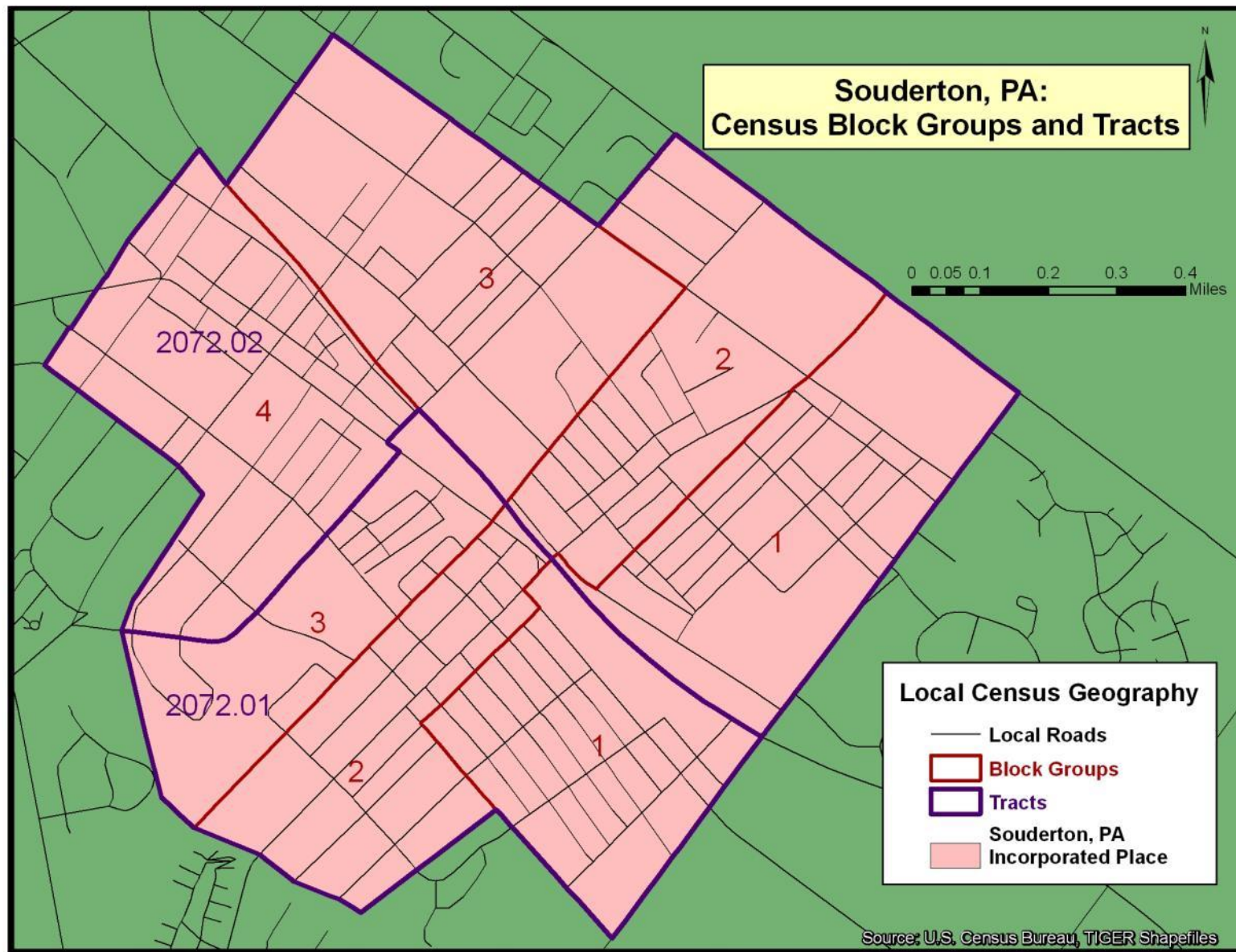
Tract Type	Threshold Type	Optimum	Minimum	Maximum
Standard and Tribal Tracts	Population	4,000	1,200	8,000
	Housing Units	1,600	480	3,200
Special Land Use Census Tracts	Land Area	>= 1 sq. mi. in urban area and >= 10 sq. mi. outside urban area		
	Population	Little or none, or within standard tract thresholds		





# Block Group Thresholds

BG Type	Threshold Type	Optimum	Minimum	Maximum
Standard and Tribal Block Groups	Population		600	3,000
	Housing unit		240	1,800
Special Land Use Block Groups	Land Area	>= 1 sq. mi. in urban area and >= 10 sq. mi. outside urban area		
	Population	Little or none, or within standard tract thresholds		



# Census Bureau Places

## Incorporated Places

- Legally bounded entity
- Cities, boroughs, towns, or villages, depending on the state

## Census Designated Places (CDPs)

- Statistical entity
- Unincorporated community, concentration of population, housing, and commercial structures, identifiable by name

# U.S. Census Bureau's place concepts

- **Places are mutually exclusive**  
that is, a place cannot exist entirely or partially within another place.
- **Places are “organic”**  
they can expand (or contract) in spatial extent over time as population and commercial activity increases (or decreases).
- **Places represent communities**  
they can be incorporated or unincorporated, but represent an organized settlement of people living in close proximity

# CDPs represent a variety of places:

- Places with same range of social and economic activities as incorporated places, but lack governments: Towson, MD; Tyson's Corner, VA; King of Prussia, PA
- Special taxation areas: Paradise, NV and other "unincorporated towns" in Nevada
- Towns/townships in the Northeast and Midwest that were defined as "whole town" CDPs: Framingham, MA; Westport, CT; Darien, CT
- Village centers within towns/townships: Cranbury CDP, NJ
- Administrative centers/county seats (zona urbanas in PR)
- Communities with unique characteristics and needs for data: colonias in TX, NM, AZ, and CA
- Some CDPs (for example, Columbia, MD; Reston, VA) are defined around large associations, incorporated under state law.



# New for 2020 Census PSAP

---

- Tribal Statistical Areas Program (TSAP) now part of 2020 PSAP.
- Participants receive ***proposed*** 2020 Census statistical areas.
- Geographic Update Partnership Software (GUPS).
- Secure Web Incoming Module (SWIM).

# 2020 PSAP Delineation

- Substantial changes to the delineation of statistical geography boundaries.
- 2010 Statistical geographies reviewed and updated by Census Bureau (Pre-SAP) for adherence to:
  - Published criteria and guidelines.
  - Coding and naming conventions.
  - Optimal boundary feature use.
- Invited participants will have the following options:
  - Accept the Census Bureau's 2020 Census proposed statistical areas.
  - Update the 2020 Census proposed statistical areas.
  - Use the 2010 Census statistical area geography as a base to make updates.

# 2020 Pre-SAP Process

- Census Bureau staff are conducting an internal review of:
  - Census tracts.
  - Block groups.
  - CCDs, CDPs, and tribal statistical geographies.
- Planned Pre-SAP updates are reviewed and implemented prior to 2020 PSAP product creation.



# 2020 PSAP Process

- Census Bureau creates and distributes materials to participants.
- Participants review and update statistical boundaries.
- Census Bureau reviews and implements participant updates by:
  - Reviewing updates and enforcing thresholds for census tracts and block groups.
  - Reviewing and maintaining boundaries for CCDs.
  - Reviewing and updating CDP and tribal statistical boundaries.

# PSAP Contacts

There are two types of contacts to identify for PSAP participation.

- Primary PSAP Contact
  - Coordinates the PSAP review and update activities.
  - Regional planning directors, executive directors, councils of governments, etc.
- Technical PSAP Contact
  - Conducts the PSAP review for the delineation and verification phases.
  - Submits updates to the Census Bureau.



# 2020 Census PSAP Schedule

Timeframe	Activity
July 2018	Census Bureau sends official invitation letters/e-mails.
January 2019	PSAP delineation phase begins. Participants have 120 calendar days to submit updates.
January 2020	PSAP verification phase begins. Participants have 90 calendar days to review updates.
April 1, 2020	<b>CENSUS DAY.</b>

# Still Have Questions?

---

- Contact the Geographic Programs Support Desk.
  - PSAP.....1-844-788-4921 or [geo.psap@census.gov](mailto:geo.psap@census.gov)
- Review the Census Bureau's website.
  - <https://www.census.gov/>
  - <https://www.census.gov/geography.html>
- General Geography Questions.
  - (301) 763-1128 or [geo.geography@census.gov](mailto:geo.geography@census.gov)

# Philadelphia Geography Contact

- Email:  
[Philadelphia.rcc.geography@2020Census.gov](mailto:Philadelphia.rcc.geography@2020Census.gov)
- Phone: 267-780-2550