Census Geographic Terminology

Standard Hierarchy of Census Geographic Entities

Census Small-Area Geography

Understanding the Relationships Among U.S. Census Bureau Geographic Entities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Minor Civil Division (MCD) or Census County Division (CCD)</th>
<th>Place</th>
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BlockAverage: 100 people
Group Average: 1,500 people
Tract Average: 4,000 people
Tract Range: 1,200 – 8,000
Census Process for Gathering Demographic Information

- **Decennial Census**
  - As stated in the Constitution, this is a 100% count of the population to determine representation in the US House of Representatives.
  - These snapshots historically provided both broad characteristics of population, but also provided in-depth information through the “long form” given to a subset of the population. Traditionally, information from the decennial census came out waves over many years (these are the Summary Files 1, 2, 3 & 4).
  - Now the decennial census only provide general characteristics for 100% of the population. Detailed characteristics are now captured in the Census product American Community Survey.

- **American Community Survey (ACS)**
  - In 2003, the American Community Survey replaced the SF3-SF4 “long form” due to the inability of the traditional 10-year cycle to keep up with the demand for demographic information.
  - We now have the ACS that collects data from monthly surveys of the American public and is aggregated: