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GEOSPATIAL FACT SHEET:

Participant Statistical Areas Program

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WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT 2020 Census Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP): “The 2020 Census Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP) allows invited participants to review and update selected statistical area boundaries for 2020 Census data tabulation following U.S. Census Bureau guidelines and criteria. The Census Bureau also will use the statistical areas defined for the 2020 Census to tabulate data for the annual American Community Survey (ACS) estimates and the Economic Census.”

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/about/psap.html>

The 2020 Census PSAP is the only opportunity prior to the 2020 Census for regional planning agencies (RPAs); councils of governments (COGs); Alaska Native Regional Associations (ANRAs); and tribal, state, county, and local governments (including the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico) to review and update the selected statistical areas. The Census Bureau uses the statistical areas defined for the 2020 Census to tabulate data for the ACS throughout the decade.

Did You Know?

- The former Tribal Statistical Areas Program (TSAP) is included as part of the 2020 Census PSAP. Federally recognized tribes and state tribal liaisons have the opportunity to update tribal statistical geographies in 2020 Census PSAP.
- To reduce participant burden, the Census Bureau anticipates creating 2020 Census statistical areas for review and update by 2020 Census PSAP participants. Participants may accept the Census Bureau’s 2020 Census proposed statistical areas, update the 2020 Census proposed statistical areas, or use the 2010 Census statistical area geography as a base to make updates.
- Participants reviewing standard statistical area geographies are required to use the Census Bureau’s Geographic Update Partnership Software (GUPS) to delineate updates. The GUPS runs in QGIS, which is an open source Geographic Information System (GIS), and it contains all functionality required to make 2020 Census PSAP updates, execute automated checks for program criteria compliance, and create standardized data output files for Census Bureau processing. The GUPS will be available for download from the Census Bureau’s website or available on DVD. Participants using the GUPS to update their statistical areas must use the [Secure Web Incoming Module \(SWIM\)](#) to send their updates. The SWIM is the official web portal for uploading partnership materials to the Census Bureau.

2020 Census PSAP Schedule:

- **Fall 2018:** Final criteria for standard statistical areas published.
- **January 2019:** Delineation phase begins. Participants have 120 calendar days to submit updates. (Webinar trainings begin.)
- **July 2019:** 2020 Census PSAP participants notified of delineation phase closeout.
- **January 2020:** Verification phase begins. Participants have 90 calendar days to review updates.

Did You Know?

- Census data for updated statistical areas are used to prepare grant applications to fund community and regional development, education, agriculture, energy, and environmental programs, as well as other needed community improvements and enhancements and to plan for future community needs.
- The next opportunity to review and delineate statistical areas is planned for the 2030 Census.
- Training Webinars will offer “hands-on” experience using the 2020 Census PSAP materials. Self-training aids and Webinars will be available online on the 2020 Census PSAP Web site. In addition, the 2020 Census PSAP Respondent Guides will contain detailed instructions and examples for conducting your statistical area review.
- You have 120 calendar days from receipt of materials to conduct your 2020 Census PSAP review and return updates to the Census Bureau. The time it will take to complete your 2020 Census PSAP review and submit your updates depends on the geographic territory and number of changes.
- After updating statistical areas based on 2020 Census PSAP participants’ submissions, the Census Bureau will provide verification products to participants. You have 90 calendar days from the receipt of your verification materials to conduct the 2020 Census PSAP verification review and respond to the Census Bureau.



Where can I find more information about PSAP and Census 2020?

[About PSAP Link](#)

[Information Guide Link](#)

Contact Info:

Contact the U.S. Census Bureau with questions about 2020 Census PSAP.

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