



Quick Reference Guide

- **American FactFinder (AFF) Downloading**
- **Decennial Census**
 - Coverage, Product Types, Table ID Codes
- **Population Estimates Program (PEP)**
 - Coverage, Product Types, Table ID Codes
- **American Community Survey (ACS)**
 - Coverage, Caveats, Product Types, Table ID Codes
- **Demographic Program Comparisons**
- **Census Geography Hierarchy**

American Factfinder Downloading
What are the limits on downloads (AFF FAQs)?

Download from Search Results (without viewing table)

- Up to 10 tables at one time
- Up to 50,000 geographies for a table
- Up to 500,000 rows of data

Notes:

1. The sum of all cities and towns in the USA is less than 50,000 geographies.
2. For downloads larger than 50,000 geographies or 500,000 rows, please use the ftp site.
3. To download a table for only one geography or population group at a time, such as the Data Profiles or some SF2 or SF4 products, you can calculate the total number of rows in that table by multiplying the number of geographies or population groups by the number of rows in the table. For example, a table that has ten rows and ten geographies is equivalent to 100 total rows.

Download from Table View

- Tables can be downloaded in
 - Database-compatible (.csv) and
 - Presentation-ready (.pdf, .rtf & .xls) formats

Notes:

When using the .csv format your geographies will be on the “Y” axis, the left side of the table.

- Limits for .pdf and .rtf formats are
 - 5,000 columns and
 - 5,000 data rows
- Limits for .xls are
 - 230 columns and
 - 5,000 rows
 - If the table has more than 230 columns and fewer rows, select Modify Table to transpose rows and columns to conform to the .xls requirements
- Using the “View All” option, you can download up to 3 tables at one time in a .pdf format. The row and column limits are the same as above.
- Using the Download button, you can only download the table you are viewing. If the table is too large to download in a presentation-ready format, you will be prompted to download in a database-compatible (.csv) format.

Downloading Whole Datasets
File Transfer Protocol (FTP or download) sites

URL: www2.census.gov (all datasets), or
(Main tab – right column): Census Bureau’s FTP site

2010 Decennial Census (100% count of population & housing)

Data: Released down to the block level (richest geographic detail) every 10 years

Topics covered:

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 1. Age | 4. Hispanic origin |
| 2. Sex | 5. Relationship of each individual in household to first person listed on form |
| 3. Race | 6. Tenure (home ownership with /without mortgage, rented, or occupied without rent) |

Decennial Census Product Types (table and profile formats)

Data Product Type (Table Prefix)	Description
Demographic Profile (DP)	A profile includes tables that provide various demographic, social, economic, and housing characteristics for many geographic types. For the 2010 Census, it includes 100-percent data, and for Census 2000 it includes 100-percent and sample data from the decennial census.
Detailed Tables (P) (H) (PCT) (HCT) (PCO) (HCO) (PL)	The Detailed Tables provide the most detailed data from the decennial population and housing census. Tables often include totals and sub-totals. Table identification begins with a letter that refers to the type of data in the table: “P” are population tables “H” are housing tables “PCT” are population tables that cover geographies to the census tract level “HCT” are housing tables that cover geographies to the census tract level “PCO” are population tables that cover geographies to the county level “HCO” are housing tables that cover geographies to the county level “PL” are tables derived from the Redistricting Data (P.L. 94-171) SF (2000 only)
Geographic Comparison Tables (GCT)	Users can compare data across predefined geographic areas in the same table, for example, all counties in a state.
Quick Tables (QT)	Predefined tables with frequently requested information for a single geographic area. The information includes numerical data and derived measures, for example, percent distributions, means, or medians. Users may choose more than one geographic area and more than one table that display and print in a scrolling list..

Race / Ethnicity Table ID Suffix Codes

(Note: These are not the same codes as the ACS suffixes)

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| A = White | E = Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander |
| B = Black or African American | F = Some Other Race |
| C = American Indian or Alaska Native | G = Two or More Races |
| D = Asian | H = Hispanic or Latino |

Population Estimates Program (PEP)

(Derived from administrative records and net migration formulas in the intercensal years)

Data released annually on the following topics and geographic levels:

- **U.S., states, counties:** Housing and population totals, characteristics (age, sex, race, ethnicity)
- **Incorporated places:** Population totals only

Population Estimates Program Product Types
 Detailed tables and Geographic Comparison tables only
 (table IDs use abbreviations that denote content of tables)



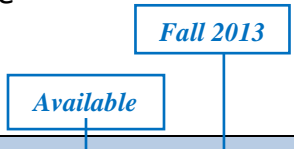
ID	Table, File or Document Title	Dataset
<input type="checkbox"/> PEPANNRES	Annual Estimates of the Resident Population: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2012	2012 Population Estimates
<input type="checkbox"/> PEPMONTHN	Monthly Population Estimates for the United States: April 1, 2010 to December 1, 2013	2012 Population Estimates
<input type="checkbox"/> PEPTCOMP	Estimates of the Components of Resident Population Change: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2012	2012 Population Estimates
<input type="checkbox"/> PEPAGESEX	Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Selected Age Groups by Sex: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2011	2011 Population Estimates
<input type="checkbox"/> PEPAGESEXN	Annual Estimates of the Resident Population for Selected Age Groups by Sex for the United States: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2011	2011 Population Estimates
<input type="checkbox"/> PEPALL5N	Estimates of the Resident Population by Sex, Single Year of Age, Race Alone or in Combination, and Hispanic Origin for the United States: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2011	2011 Population Estimates
<input type="checkbox"/> PEPALL6N	Estimates of the Resident Population by Sex, Single Year of Age, Race, and Hispanic Origin for the United States: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2011	2011 Population Estimates
<input type="checkbox"/> PEPANNHU	Annual Estimates of Housing Units: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2011	2011 Population Estimates
<input type="checkbox"/> PEPANNRES	Annual Estimates of the Resident Population: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2011	2011 Population Estimates
<input type="checkbox"/> PEPCCOMP	Estimates of the Components of Resident Population Change by Race and Hispanic Origin for the United States: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2011	2011 Population Estimates
<input type="checkbox"/> PEPMONTHN	Monthly Population Estimates for the United States: April 1, 2010 to December 1, 2012	2011 Population Estimates
<input type="checkbox"/> PEPYASEX	Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Single Year of Age and Sex: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2011	2011 Population Estimates
<input type="checkbox"/> PEPYASEXN	Annual Estimates of the Resident Population by Single Year of Age and Sex for the United States: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2011	2011 Population Estimates
<input type="checkbox"/> PEPTCOMP	Estimates of the Components of Resident Population Change: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2011	2011 Population Estimates
<input type="checkbox"/> GCT-PEPANNRES	Annual Estimates of the Resident Population: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2011 - United States -- Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Area; and for Puerto Rico	2011 Population Estimates
<input type="checkbox"/> GCT-PEPANNRES	Annual Estimates of the Resident Population: April 1, 2010 to July 1, 2011 - United States -- Metropolitan Statistical Area; and for Puerto Rico	2011 Population Estimates

American Community Survey (ACS)

Survey covering ~ 3.54 million housing units/year nationwide

Data Release Timetable

Data Product (next release)	Population Threshold of Statistical Area	Year of Data Release							
		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
		Year(s) of Data Collection							
1-Year Estimates (Sep 13)	65,000 +	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
3-Year Estimates (Oct 13)	20,000 +			2005 - 2007	2006 - 2008	2007 - 2009	2008 - 2010	2009 - 2011	2010 - 2012
5-Year Estimates (Dec 13)	All Areas*					2005 - 2009	2006 - 2010	2007 - 2011	2008 - 2012



- * All Areas = All legal, administrative, and statistical geographic areas down to the block group level.
- * Zip Code Tabulation Area (ZCTA) estimates first became available in 2012, with the 2007-2011 estimates.

The ACS is designed to measure the *characteristics* of the population, not *counts* of the population. The official estimates of the population still come from the previous census and from the Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program (or PEP).

The ACS estimates describe characteristics of a population over a *period*, while the Decennial Census and the Population Estimates Program are *point-in-time* (April 1 and July 1, respectively) estimates.

The ACS generally does a better job estimating percents, rates, means, and medians than it does totals.

ACS data products released every year.

Population thresholds (all surveyed addresses are unique within any 5-year period)

- 1-year estimates: 65,000 or more
- 3-year estimates: 20,000 or more
- 5-year estimates: All geographic areas below 20,000, including all census tracts and all block groups. ZCTAs were first released in 2012, with the 5-year ACS 2007-2011 estimates.

Population controls are from the Population Estimates Program

- One-year ACS estimates are controlled to the PEP estimates as of July 1 of the tabulated year
- Multiyear ACS population and housing estimates are controlled to the average of the individual year's population and housing estimates (from the PEP)

Constructing ACS estimates

- Data are pooled across 12 months, 36 months, or 60 months (1-year, 3-year, 5-year)
- Appropriate weights are assigned for housing and population estimates (from the PEP)

Comparing ACS estimates with Census data

- Comparisons can be made for most population and housing subjects
- Global differences (residence rules, universes, and reference periods) exist between the ACS and the decennial census, and some items cannot be compared at all
- For more information, see http://www.census.gov/acs/www/guidance_for_data_users/comparing_data/

Comparing two or more ACS estimates across different geographic areas

- Use the same length time period (1-year ACS estimate to other 1-year ACS estimate, and so on)
- Use the same time period when making comparisons (2008-2010 to 2008-2010, for instance)

Comparing two or more ACS estimates for one geographic area across time

- Use the same length time period
- Try to compare non-overlapping periods; statistical testing is more straightforward (See Compass Guide)
- Use caution if geographic boundaries have changed over time

Dollar-valued (or dollar-denominated) estimates in multiyear estimates

- Income
- Rent
- Home values
- Energy costs

Estimates are adjusted for inflation to the most recent year, using inflation factors based on the Consumer Price Index (or CPI). A similar adjustment is also done for individual months within a one-year estimate. Inflation adjustment is designed to put the collected data into dollars of equal value.

Geographic boundaries in multiyear estimates

- Based on geographic boundaries as of January 1 of the last year in the multi-year period.
- Census Bureau's annual Boundary Annexation Survey (or BAS) collects information about the following legally defined geographic areas:
 - Counties or county-equivalents
 - Incorporated places
 - Federally-recognized American Indian areas
- Boundaries of other statistical areas (such as census tracts, block groups, urbanized areas, PUMAs) are updated every decade in conjunction with the decennial census

ACS 5-year estimates

- Released every year, dropping the oldest year and adding the most recent
- For most areas, no population thresholds; there are some disclosure-related release restrictions, most of which apply only to block groups
- Data user must look at the margins of error (MOEs)!
- Are not filtered based on the reliability of the estimates; many published estimates are unreliable - - decision to release these data driven by the need to provide building blocks for users to aggregate and to be certain even the smallest areas receive data (see Oklahoma Department of Commerce ACS calculator)
- Excluded data products: Comparison Profiles and Ranking Tables
- First releases: (using 2006-2010 estimates) 5-year Selected Population Tables and 5-year AIAN Tables (similar to 2000 Summary File 4) and (using 2007-2011 estimates - - Dec 2012) Zip Code Tabulation Areas
- Census block group estimates:
 - Not displayed as tables in American FactFinder (AFF) for the casual data user
 - Released only in summary file format, accessible from the FTP site (AFF Main tab)

Topics Covered by the ACS

(with 2-digit table ID code)

01 = Age and Sex	15 = Educational Attainment
02 = Race	16 = Language Spoken at Home and Ability to Speak English
03 = Hispanic or Latino Origin	17 = Poverty
04 = Ancestry	18 = Disability
05 = Foreign Born, Citizenship; Year of Entry; Nativity	19 = Income (Households and Families)
06 = Place of Birth	20 = Earnings and Income (Individuals)
07 = Residence 1 Year Ago; Migration	21 = Veteran Status
08 = Journey to Work; Workers; Commuting	22 = Food Stamps
09 = Children; Household Relationship	23 = Employment Status; Work Experience; Labor Force
10 = Grandparents; Grandchildren	24 = Industry & Occupation; Class of Worker
11 = Household Type; Family Type; Subfamilies	25 = Housing
12 = Marital Status and History	26 = Group Quarters
13 = Fertility	27 = Health Insurance
14 = School Enrollment	99 = Imputation table for any topic

Wildcard Shortcut

Finding ACS tables by entering topic ID code in American FactFinder

Advanced Search tab: (left side—"topic or table name")

You may enter a wildcard ("") designation before and after the ID code to display search results for a particular topic. For example,*

****14****

*displays all tables (in all available formats and ACS datasets) relating to **School Enrollment***

Content Updates to the 2013 ACS Questionnaire

- Computer and internet usage
- Food stamps (Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program – SNAP)
- Parental place of birth
- Veteran's status
- Wages, salary, and property income

ACS Product Types

(table and profile formats)

Data Product Type (Table Prefix)	Description
American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) Tables	The four ACS Data Profiles and more than 250 Detailed Tables first produced for the AIAN population from the 5-year ACS 2006-2010 estimates. These will be updated every 5 years.
Comparison Profiles (CP)	Available for one-year estimates only. They currently compare data from 2007 through 2011, with an asterisk (“**”) in the statistical significance column if one estimate is significantly different from the next. A “c” indicates both estimates are controlled and thus a test of statistical significance is not appropriate. There are four types of Comparison Profile: social, economic, housing, and demographic, and they display the same characteristics as the data profiles.
Data Profiles (DP)	Provide broad social, economic, housing, and demographic profiles.
Detailed Tables (B) or (C)	The Detailed Tables provide the most detailed data on all topics and geographic areas and are the foundation upon which other data products are built. Due to the level of specificity of the Detailed Tables, many of the Base (or “B”) tables have a “collapsed” (or “C”) version, with fewer categories.
Geographic Comparison Tables (GCT)	Compare geographic areas other than states, for example, counties or congressional districts, for key variables.
Narrative Profiles (NP)	Summarize the information in the data profiles using concise, nontechnical text (1- and 3-year estimates only). These are due to be discontinued after 2013.
Ranking Tables (R)	Provide state rankings of estimates across 86 key variables. Available only for the 1-year ACS estimates and only to the State level.
Selected Population Profiles (S)	Provide broad social, economic, and housing profiles for a large number of (1) race, ethnic, (2) ancestry, and (3) country/region of birth groups. There are two thresholds used for Selected Population Profiles. First, the total population size of the geographic area must be at least 500,000. Then we look at the size of the population group of interest, which must meet the thresholds for 1-year and 3-year ACS estimates, that is, 65,000 and 20,000 respectively. This product type is not available for the 5-year ACS estimates.
Subject Tables (S)	Similar to Data Profiles but include more detailed ACS data, classified by subject. For information about a particular topic, such as employment, education, and origins and language, users should start with the Subject Tables. Subject Tables provide pre-tabulated numbers and percentages for a wide variety of topics, often available separately by age, sex, race or ethnicity.

ACS Table ID Numbers Deconstructed

Example: Table B14007B broken down into component parts . . . **B 14 007 B**

The **initial character(s)** (“**B**” in the example above) is always a letter (or more than one letter), designating the “product type” (or table format) in American FactFinder:

- **B** is used for Base (Detailed) Tables, which provide the most detailed estimates
- **C** is used for a Collapsed version of a Base (Detailed) Table. A C table is similar to a B table with the same number (e.g., C07001 and B07001), but two or more lines from the B table have been collapsed to a single line in the C table. Not every B table has a corresponding collapsed version
- **DP** is used for Data Profiles and **NP** for Narrative Profiles (1- and 3-year estimates only)
- **GCT** is used for Geographic Comparison Tables
- **R** is used for Ranking Tables (1-year estimates only, down to State level only)
- **S** is used for Selected Population Profiles (1- and 3-year estimates only) and Subject Tables

Note: As of the 5-year 2006-2010 estimates release, Selected Population Tables and AIAN Tables are available as separate ACS 5-year datasets

The **next two characters** are numbers (“**14**” in the example) designating the table topic (see reverse side of page for complete list of topics), in this case, School Enrollment.

The **next three characters** are a sequential number (“**007**” in the example) that uniquely identifies the table within a given topic.

For select tables, an **alphabetic suffix** follows (“**B**” in the example above) to indicate that a table is repeated for the nine major race and Hispanic or Latino groups:

- A = White Alone
- B = Black of African American Alone
- C = American Indian and Alaska Native Alone
- D = Asian Alone
- E = Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone
- F = Some Other Race Alone
- G = Two or More Races
- H = White Alone, not Hispanic
- I = Hispanic or Latino

Comparison: Census Bureau Demographic Programs

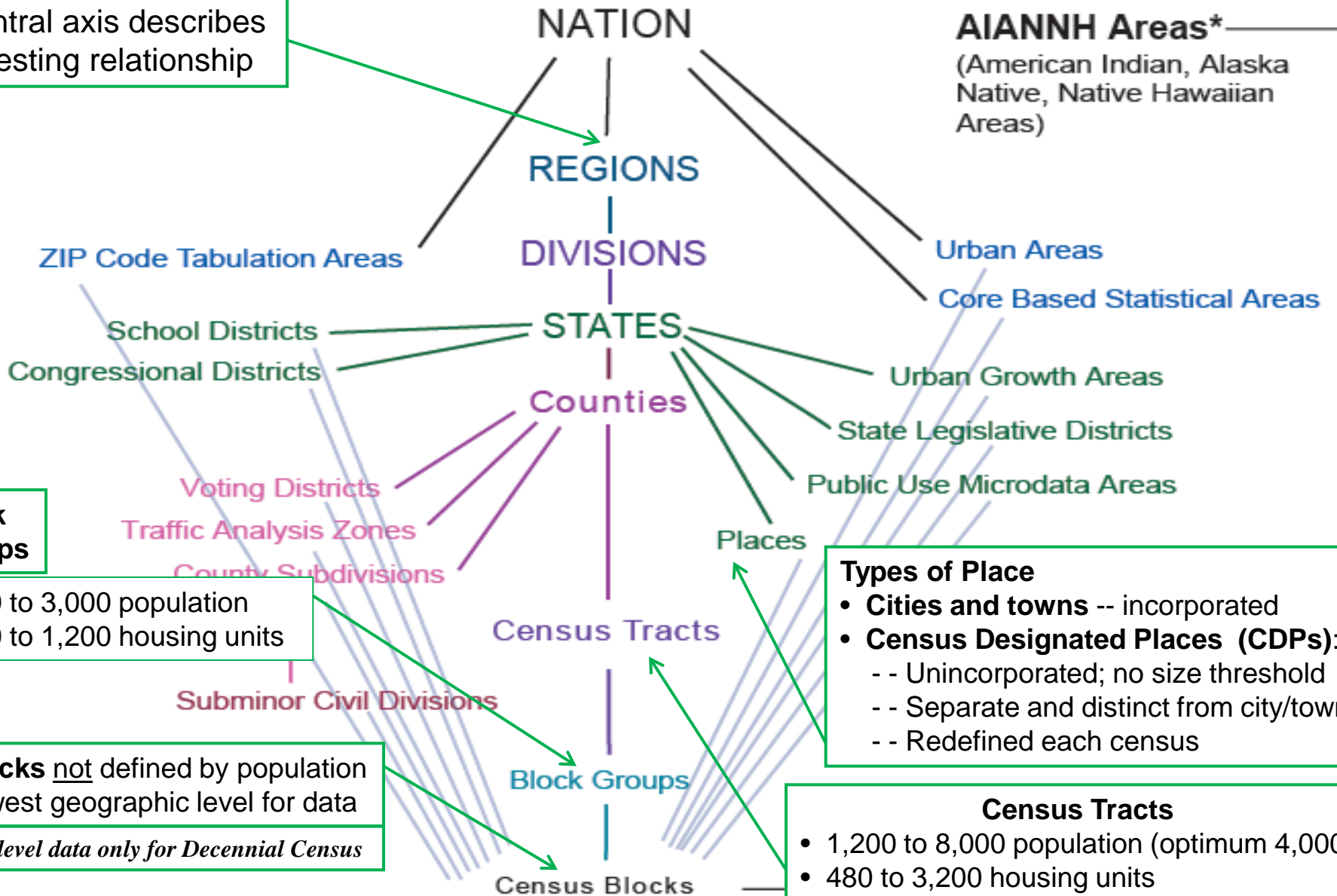
	Decennial Census	Population Estimates Program	American Community Survey
Purpose / Uses	Apportionment of seats in Congress Redistricting Allocation of Federal funding Planning at state and local levels	Survey controls Allocate Federal funding intercensal yrs Denominators for statistical rates Planning at state and local levels	Provide timely detailed demographic, social, economic, and housing data about the country's communities every year.
Temporal frame	Point-in-time	Point-in-time	Period estimate
Reference date	April 1 Year ending in zero	July 1 Intercensal years	None. Estimates describe entire period, which may be: 1-year (areas with 65,000 population plus) 3-year (areas with 20,000 population plus) 5-year period (all areas including ZCTAS, down to block group)
Periodicity	Every 10 years ("snapshot")	Annual	Ongoing survey Data collection every month ("video")
Burden on respondent	Mandatory	None	Mandatory
Authority	Article I, Section 2 Constitution U.S. Code Title 13, Sections 141 and 193	Title 13, Section 181	U.S. Code Title 13, Sections 141 and 193
Methodology	100% enumeration Every resident, every housing unit, and every group quarters	Vital records (from states) plus formulas for calculation of net migration	Random sample from Master Address File: 3.54 million HUs/year (295,000/month) Increase from 2.9 million--June 2011 mailout
Modes of Personal contact	Mail or drop off questionnaire; personal visit follow-up to non-responding addresses	No contact with residents. Census Bureau headquarters works with individual states	Mail Telephone Personal visit
Management hub(s)	Temporary Regional Census Centers	Census Headquarters	Census Regional Offices (6)
Data			
Output	Counts	Counts	Characteristics
Topics	Age Sex Race and ethnicity, Household relationships Tenure (own or rent home)	U.S., state, county totals: Age, sex race, ethnicity, housing Incorporated place totals: Population only	See Quick Reference Guide : "American Community Survey Data Release Timetable, Topics Covered by the ACS"
Lowest level of release	Block	Incorporated place	Block group

Census Geography Hierarchy

(with 2010 Statistical Area Criteria)

Revised 02-19-13

Central axis describes a nesting relationship



AIANNH Areas*

(American Indian, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian Areas)

Block Groups

- 600 to 3,000 population
- 240 to 1,200 housing units

- **Blocks** not defined by population
- Lowest geographic level for data

Block level data only for Decennial Census

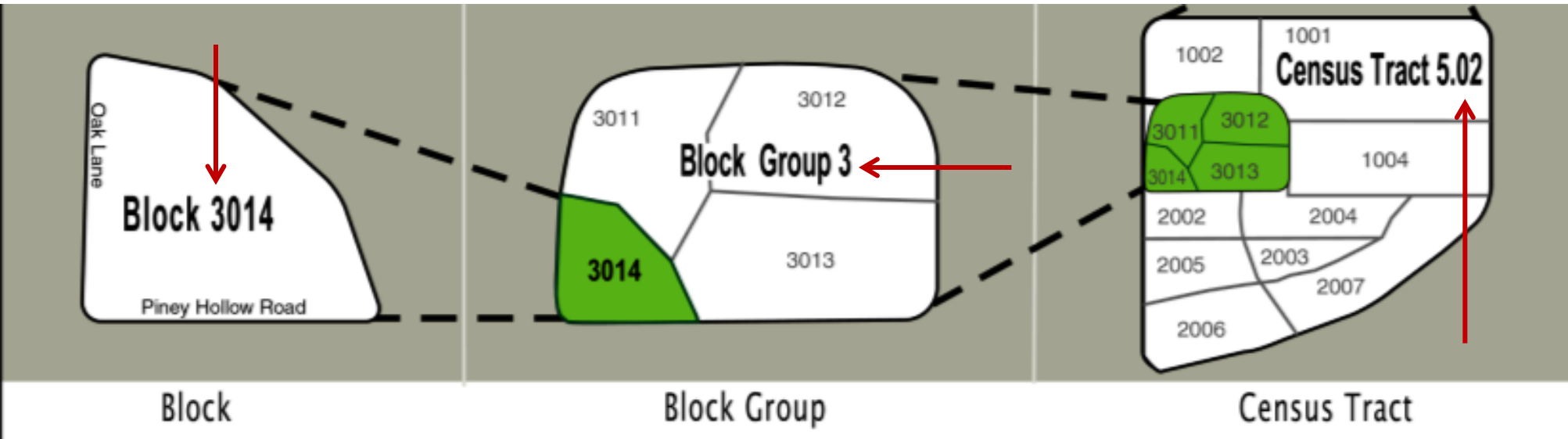
Types of Place

- **Cities and towns** -- incorporated
- **Census Designated Places (CDPs):**
 - Unincorporated; no size threshold
 - Separate and distinct from city/town
 - Redefined each census

Census Tracts

- 1,200 to 8,000 population (optimum 4,000)
- 480 to 3,200 housing units

Small Area Geography Hierarchy



Block number: Blocks have 4-digit numbers – their block group number (“3” in this illustration) is the first digit.

Block group number: Always a single digit (1 to 9).

Census tract number: A decimal indicates that a census tract has been split, usually because it has exceeded the optimum size (housing units or population).

This allows comparability to be retained from census to census.

Decennial Census: Most tables available down to the block level on American FactFinder (AFF).

American Community Survey: Tables available on AFF down to the census tract level and on the FTP (download) site down to the block group level.