

# Census 2000 Update: Challenges and Retabulations; Defining Metro and Rural; and Data Dates



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## **Challenges and Retabulations—Two Ways to a Different Count**

Unhappy with the census count for your city or town or county or township? After every census, there will be those communities that find themselves surprised and dissatisfied with the count. There is a program in place that will provide a way for some to challenge the results of the 2000 census. This program doesn't allow for a general sense that the census was "wrong." Local governments will be required to provide specific evidence with maps and address lists. The *Census Question Resolution Program* (CQR) is scheduled to begin June 1, 2001. Through this program, the federal government will allow governmental units to challenge the census based on boundary disputes or other geographic displacement. The CQR does not allow for challenges directly to the population count. Quoting from the January 22, 2001 Federal Register Notice, "no additional data will be collected as part of the CQR program. We will only use those data that have already been collected."

Three criteria form the essential core of this program:

- (1) Boundary corrections—that is, correcting faulty jurisdictional boundaries.
- (2) Geocoding corrections—corrections within a jurisdiction. For example, if a nursing home was incorrectly tabulated on one side of town when it actually belongs on the other side. This won't result in a different count for the town.
- (3) Coverage corrections—specific housing units or group quarters that were identified during the Census 2000 process but were erroneously included or excluded due to processing errors; such corrections could be additions or deletions.

The bottom line—no recount. Essentially, the count will be shifted within a jurisdiction (criteria 2), between jurisdictions (criteria 1), or by combing through the data collected through a variety of processes to identify wrongly included or excluded housing units or group quarters (criteria 3).

Read the Federal Register notice online at [www.census.indiana.edu](http://www.census.indiana.edu) and click on "Challenges."

## **Retabulate to Capture Annexations**

When a city or town annexes territory with significant numbers of people, the State of Indiana will accept a Census 2000 Retabulation. That is, if the community submits its new boundaries to the Census Bureau, the Bureau can re-sum (or retabulate) to those new boundaries. This is not free. And it isn't necessarily easy. However, it is an acceptable method of obtaining

a Census 2000 count that reflects new territory. For more information, see the Challenges section of the Census in Indiana web site at [www.census.indiana.edu](http://www.census.indiana.edu).

## **A New Definition of Metro is Coming Our Way**

By 2003, the terms Consolidated and Primary Statistical Area will be no more. New terms will be added to the data gatherer's lexicon - Core Based and Micropolitan. The newly named classifications (with their incumbent new standards) will use the umbrella term Core Based Statistical Area. Two categories of metro areas will be defined: Metropolitan Statistical Areas (at least one urbanized area populated by 50,000 or more persons) and Micropolitan Statistical Areas (at least one urban cluster of 10,000 to 49,000 people). Counties will continue to be the building blocks of these areas (except in certain states in New England). A central city will continue to identify or title the area. There will also be a way of combining adjacent metro areas and those combinations will be called, not surprisingly, Combined Statistical Areas.

All very similar to the previous definitions. For the gritty details, see the Census in Indiana web site ([www.census.indiana.edu](http://www.census.indiana.edu)) and click on "Geography."

## **Urban and Rural Definitions**

What is urban and what is rural are important delineations in Indiana, with its more than 600 cities, towns and census designated places.

The criteria for determining urbanized areas and urban clusters have been published in the Federal Register (March 28, 2001) with a comment period running through April 27, 2001.

Based on the census results, an urbanized area will consist of a densely settled core of census block groups and census blocks that meet minimum population density requirements and have a population of at least 50,000 people.

An urban cluster also must have a core of densely settled block groups and blocks that together encompass a population of at least 2,500 people but fewer than 50,000.

Those areas in Indiana that don't meet the above criteria will be considered rural. For detailed specifications, please see the Federal Register notice online at [www.census.indiana.edu](http://www.census.indiana.edu) (click on "Geography").

### **Census 2000 Data Dates**

Anxious as many people and organizations are to see and use the results of the census, patience will be required. The data will be released on a flow basis, with the responses to the short form coming first in 2001 and data from the long form in 2002 and 2003. Highlights of the planned releases, with their date of release ranges, are provided here. As always, more detail can be found on the Census in Indiana web site ([www.census.indiana.edu](http://www.census.indiana.edu)).

### **100% Count Releases (based on short form)**

#### **Demographic Profile**

**Data:** Totals and selected characteristics of population and housing will be released in profile form for places (print) and census tracts (Internet).

**Dates:** May through July 2001

#### **Race & Hispanic Summary File**

**Data:** A special cd/rom with race and Hispanic totals down to the place level.

**Dates:** July 2001

#### **Summary File 1 (SF 1)**

**Data:** Population and housing characteristics, many tabulated by race. This file will include household relationships, age groupings, and whether housing is owned or rented. One file per state, released on a flow basis on the Internet and cd/rom.

**Dates:** June through September 2001

#### **Summary File 2 (SF 2)**

**Data:** Population and housing detailed for many race and Hispanic categories. One file per state, released on a flow basis via the Internet and Cd/rom, with data down to the census tract level.

**Dates:** September through December 2001

#### **Advanced Query Requests on the Internet**

**Data:** User specified tabulations from the full file. However, specifics on access and confidentiality (and possible fees) have not yet been decided by the Census Bureau.

**Dates:** September through December 2001

### **Sample Count Releases (based on long form)**

#### **Demographic Profile**

**Data:** Demographic, social, economic, and housing characteristics in print (places), cd/rom, and on the Internet.

**Dates:** March through May 2002

#### **Summary File 3 (SF 3)**

**Data:** Economic and social characteristics, such as education, occupation, poverty, income, ancestry groups, and more down to the block group level.

**Dates:** June through September 2002

#### **Summary File 4 (SF 4)**

**Data:** The data on SF3, but by race and Hispanic origin plus some more complicated cross tabulations helpful for social programs.

**Dates:** October 2002 through February 2003

#### **PUMS (Public Use Microdata Samples)**

**Data:** A 1-percent sample (for the nation, states, and sub-state areas where appropriate) and a 5-percent sample (for state and sub-state areas) that allow the user to create tabulations tailored to specific needs. Available on cd/rom and DVD.

**Dates:** 1-percent sample - 2002

5-percent sample - 2003

#### **Will anything be in print?**

A little, such as the Demographic Profiles and three other specific publications (with 1990 Census counterparts):

#### **Summary Population and Housing Characteristics (PHC-1)**

**Data:** General characteristics of population and housing from the short form, with some helpful percentages.

**Dates:** January through November 2002

#### **Summary Social, Economic and Housing Characteristics (PHC-2)**

**Data:** Educational attainment, travel time to work, occupations by sex, poverty and income, plumbing and selected other data from the long form tabulations.

**Dates:** 2003