The 2020 Standards for Delineating Core Based Statistical Areas

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U.S. Census Bureau

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Core Based Statistical Area (CBSA) Classification

A CBSA consists of the central county or counties (or equivalents) associated with at least one core of 10,000 population or greater, plus adjacent counties having a high degree of social and economic integration with the central county or counties as measured by commuting ties.

Core Based Statistical Areas	Population in a Core
Metropolitan Statistical Area	50,000 or more
Micropolitan Statistical Area	10,000 to 49,999
Territory not included in a CBSA is designated as Outside Core Based Statistical Areas	

Representative Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas with Urban Areas

Commuting Thresholds

A county qualifies as an outlying county if:

- At least 25 percent of the employed residents of the county work in the CBSA's central county or counties, or
- At least 25 percent of the employment in the county is accounted for by workers residing in the CBSA's central county or counties.

Adjacent CBSAs merge to form a single CBSA when the central county or counties of one area qualify as outlying to the central county or counties of another.

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Metropolitan Divisions

- Metropolitan statistical areas containing a core with a population of 2.5 million or greater may be subdivided to form metropolitan divisions.

Combined Statistical Areas

A combination reflects social and economic ties between adjacent CBSAs as measured by commuting that are lower than ties required for merging (that is, for becoming a single metropolitan or micropolitan statistical area).

Adjacent CBSAs may form a combined statistical area (CSA) based on commuting ties between whole areas.

CBSAs that combine also retain separate identities as metropolitan statistical areas or micropolitan statistical areas within the larger CSA.
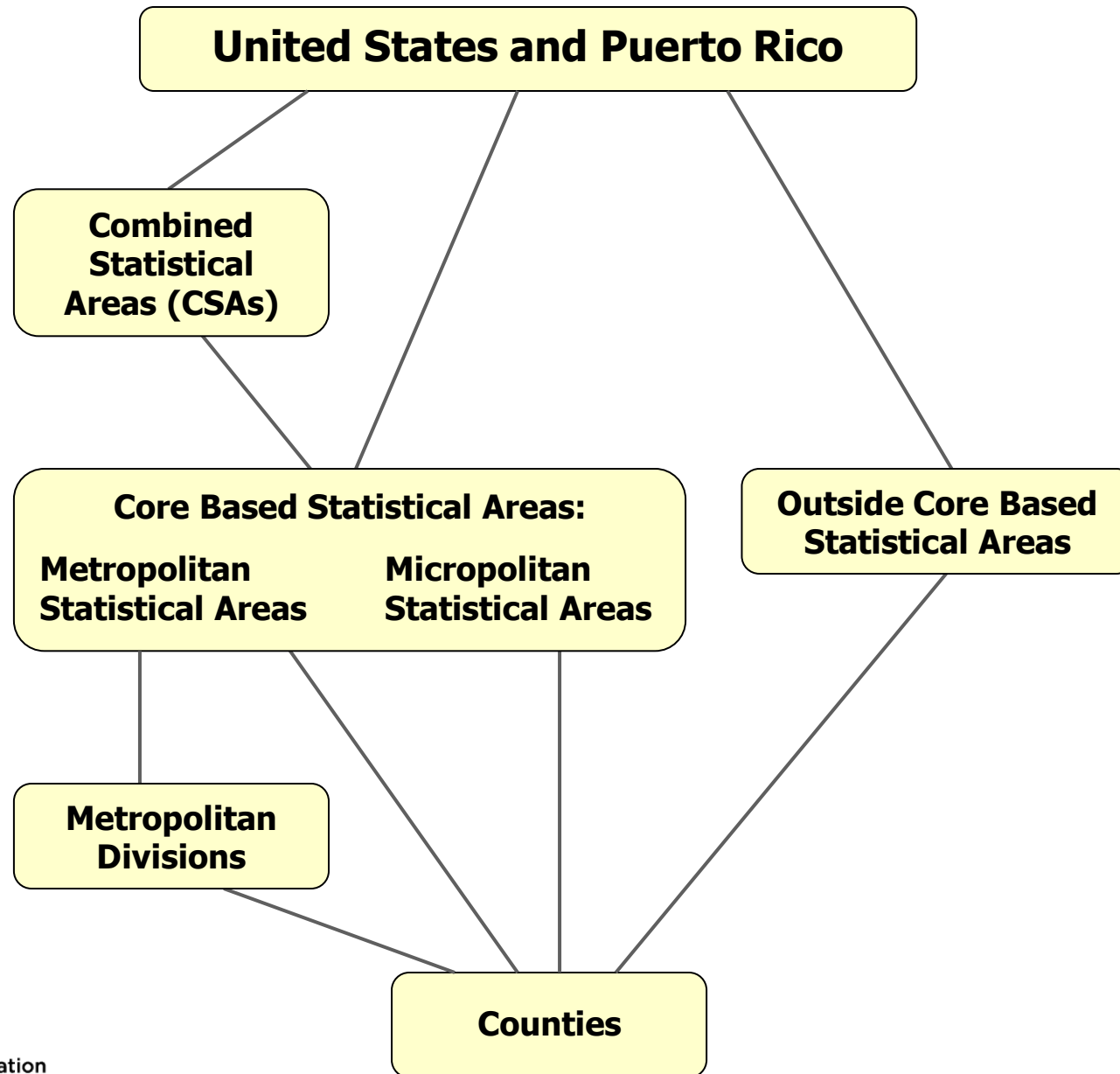
Counts of Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas

- **392** metropolitan statistical areas (384 in the United States and 8 in Puerto Rico)

- **547** micropolitan statistical areas (543 in the United States and 4 in Puerto Rico)

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Counts of CSAs

- **175** CSAs (172 in the United States and 3 in Puerto Rico)

- **551** component metropolitan and/or micropolitan statistical areas (541 in the United States and 10 in Puerto Rico)

  - **270** component metropolitan statistical areas (263 in the United States and 7 in Puerto Rico)
  - **281** component micropolitan statistical areas (278 in the United States and 3 in Puerto Rico)

Core Based Statistical Areas (CBSAs)

United States and Puerto Rico

Combined Statistical Areas (CSAs)

Core Based Statistical Areas:
Metropolitan Statistical Areas
Micropolitan Statistical Areas

Outside Core Based Statistical Areas

Metropolitan Divisions

Counties

Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas of the United States and Puerto Rico
March 2020

Combined Statistical Areas
of the United States and Puerto Rico
March 2020

Standards Review

- Review of the 2010 standards

- Recommended changes to the 2010 standards and final 2020 standards

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Recommendations accepted by OMB

OMB accepted the Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Area Standards Review Committee recommendations that:

1. OMB discontinue delineation of New England city and town areas (NECTAs), NECTA divisions, and combined NECTAs.

2. OMB launch a research effort into delineating territorially exhaustive areas.

3. OMB incorporate the results of the decade's first annual update review into the results of the decade's decennial census-based update.

4. OMB provide an update schedule.

5. OMB continue use of American Community Survey commuting data to measure intercounty connectivity.

Guidance on General Uses

- The classification provides a nationally consistent set of delineations for collecting, tabulating, and publishing federal statistics for geographic areas.

Nonstatistical Uses of Statistical Areas

- In reviewing and revising these areas, OMB does <u>not</u> take into account, or attempt to anticipate, any public or private sector nonstatistical uses of the delineations.

- These areas are <u>not</u> designed for the purpose of serving as a general-purpose geographic framework applicable for use in program administration or funding formulas.

More Information

- More information on metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas is available on the Census Bureau's metro/micro webpage, at: www.census.gov/programs-surveys/metro-micro.html

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