

Geographic Levels in NEO CANDO 2010+

Data in NEO CANDO 2010+ are available at several levels of aggregation including census geographies and locally defined geographies. Descriptions of each of the different aggregations are provided below. For more detailed information about the census geographies [click here](#).

All of the data in NEO CANDO 2010+ are based on 2010 tract boundary definitions. In addition to the 2010 Census and estimates from the American Community Survey (ACS), NEO CANDO 2010+ provides estimates of the 2000 census data in 2010 census geography. Because of changes in boundaries between 2000 and 2010, we have estimated the 2000 data using apportionment methods.

We also geocode data we receive at the address level and assign and aggregate it to the 2010 census geography. Census tract level data are available for the following 17 counties: Ashland, Ashtabula, Columbiana, Cuyahoga, Erie, Geauga, Huron, Lake, Lorain, Mahoning, Medina, Portage, Richland, Stark, Summit, Trumbull, and Wayne.

Keep in mind that some census tracts have changed numbers, been split, or changed physical boundaries over the last decade. Analysis of trends over time requires that data be based on the same geographic boundaries. A tract that existed in 2000 may not exist in 2010; the tract number may have changed, or the physical boundaries may have changed. We ensure the user is comparing apples to apples by converting all of our data in NEO CANDO 2010+ into the same geographic boundaries -- 2010 geography. The user should not compare data in the 2000 geography to data in the 2010 geography.

CENSUS GEOGRAPHIES¹

Census Block

Census blocks are the smallest census geography. Generally, a census block is a street block, bounded on all sides by streets. Some blocks may be at least partially bounded by other features, such streams or lakes, highways, rail lines, or municipal, school district, voting district, county, or other administrative boundaries. Blocks are subdivisions of both census block groups which are subdivisions of census tracts. There are 101,907 census blocks in the 17-county NEO CANDO 2010+ region some of which have no housing units or population. The average population in 2010 was 41.6. Cuyahoga County alone has 15,396 census blocks, averaging 84.1 persons. See the table below for counts of blocks, block groups, and tracts by county in the NEO CANDO 2010+ region.

Only decennial census data are reported at the block level. ACS estimates are available for block groups and most other higher level geographies used by the Census Bureau.

Table 1: Census Feature Counts in NEO CANDO 2010+ Region

¹ The user is also referred to the Census bureau's web page at

<http://www.census.gov/geo/reference/garm.html>

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County	Number	Tracts	Groups	Blocks
ASHLAND	005	11	44	4,140
ASHTABULA	007	26	94	3,880
COLUMBIANA	029	24	94	5,312
CUYAHOGA	035	447	1,162	15,396
ERIE	043	19	70	3,061
GEAUGA	055	21	65	1,606
HURON	077	13	48	4,141
LAKE	085	59	155	3,633
LORAIN	093	74	202	6,353
MAHONING	099	70	216	6,247
MEDINA	103	37	110	2,649
PORTAGE	133	35	101	5,671
RICHLAND	139	30	95	6,337
STARK	151	86	276	12,218
SUMMIT	153	135	452	11,076
TRUMBULL	155	55	193	5,949
WAYNE	169	32	83	4,238
Total		1,174	3,460	101,907

Note: Five census tracts and the block groups and blocks within them are in Lake Erie and have no housing units or population.

Census Block Group

Census block groups are clusters of census blocks and are unique within census tract. Census block groups may cross some geographic boundaries, such as school districts and municipalities. Generally, block groups contain between 600 and 3,000 people, averaging 1,226 in 2010.

Census Tract

Census tracts are small statistical subdivisions of a county. They usually have between 2,500 and 8,000 persons (averaging 3,614 in 2010) and are designed to be relatively homogeneous in terms of population characteristics, economic status, and living conditions. There are 1,174 census tracts in the NEO CANDO 2010+ region; Cuyahoga County has 447 and there are 177 in the City of Cleveland.²

Census Block, Block Group, and Tract Numbers

Census blocks numbers have 3 digits and are unique within block group. Block groups are one-digit numbers and are unique within census tracts. Block group and block numbers taken together are thus four digits with the leading digit representing the block group. For example, block 014 in block group 2 has a combined number of 2014. One often refers to a block number as this 4-digit number. However, these numbers are only unique within a census tract and thus more specific reference numbering is required when one is using blocks from more than one census tract. Census tracts are 6 digits in length and are unique within county. The Census Bureau also assigns counties a three digit number and states a two digit number. Therefore, the Census Bureau identifies an individual block number as a concatenation of state, county, tract, block group, and block number – in order of largest geography to smallest. For example, block 014 in block group 2, tract 130103, county 035 (Cuyahoga), and state 39 (Ohio) is 390351301032014. If you have an address and need to determine a census block, block group or tract, [click here](#).

² Census tract 39035196400 also includes Linndale Village.

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Cities, Villages, and Townships

The Census Bureau provides two separate summary levels concerning cities, villages, and townships.

The “place” level includes incorporated cities and villages.³ It also includes “census designated places” (CDPs), which have no legal definition (are not incorporated) but which the Census Bureau has determined constitute “...settled concentrations of population that are identifiable by name but are not legally incorporated under the laws of the state.” Township data are not available for this summary level. Thus not all persons and housing units are included in a place and summing data for places does not yield total population in counties in which there are townships.

The Census Bureau also provides a “county subdivision” summary level which includes incorporated cities and villages and townships.⁴ In Ohio these are also referred to as Minor Civil Divisions or MCDs.⁵ All population and housing data are assigned to a county subdivision and summing these counts for all county subdivisions in a county yield the county totals. However, data for some villages (that are found in the place summary level) are included with the township(s) in which they are located, i.e., they are not broken-out from their townships. Choosing places as a unit of analysis excludes township population and housing. It also includes CDPs, which may not be useful for the analysis. On the other hand, choosing county subdivision as the unit of analysis excludes some villages from the analysis.

Therefore we feel that neither Census Bureau summary level for cities, villages, and townships (place or county subdivisions) satisfies a preference to include all population and housing data, while including all cities, villages, and townships in the analysis. Therefore, we constructed the MCDPlace summary level. In the MCDPlace summary level we include data for all cities and villages and the balance of the township in which they may be located. Also we have added the population and housing data for CDPs into the township in which they are located.

County

This geographic level provides data for the county as a whole. There are 88 counties in Ohio. The [map](#) highlights the 17 counties for which we have data in NEO CANDO 2010+.

ZIP Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTAs)

To accommodate the data needs of the business community and others the Census Bureau tabulates and reports decennial census data by areas that approximate postal ZIP code areas.⁶ They are based on whole census blocks, where as true ZIP code areas often split blocks into two or more ZIP code areas. ACS data by ZCTA have not been provided by the Census Bureau.

LOCALLY DEFINED GEOGRAPHIES

Cuyahoga County Neighborhoods

Neighborhoods in NEO CANDO 2010+ refer to both the City of Cleveland’s Statistical Planning Areas (SPAs) and the suburban municipalities of Cuyahoga County. Thus this geographic level is ONLY available for Cuyahoga County in NEO CANDO 2010+. However, we also provide Summit

³ See http://www.census.gov/geo/www/2010census/gtc/gtc_place.html

⁴ See http://www.census.gov/geo/www/2010census/gtc/gtc_cousub.html

⁵ Some other states include other, Census Bureau delineated county subdivisions.

⁶ See <http://www.census.gov/geo/ZCTA/zcta.html>

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County “clusters” that are census tract based planning and analysis areas used in that county. See [maps](#) to see these and other boundary delineations.

The current 34 SPAs were defined by the City of Cleveland in 2012 and are intended to generally recognize local neighborhood boundaries. Unlike SPAs in previous decades, current SPAs do NOT follow census tract boundaries. NEO CANDO 2010+ includes estimated 2010 Census and American Community Survey (ACS) data for these neighborhoods based on combining tract, block group, and block level data as appropriate. See “[How Estimates and MOEs for Local Geographies Were Calculated](#)” in [About ACS](#) for more information about estimations based on the ACS data.

To view the census blocks, block groups and census tracts within each neighborhoods, cities, villages and township within each county [click here](#).

Cuyahoga County DCFS Geo-districts

Cuyahoga County is divided into nine geographic districts for the purpose of assigning Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) staff to ongoing child welfare cases. Ongoing cases are cases that, following an investigation of child maltreatment report, included a determination that the family should receive some services while the children remain at home, or that the children should be placed in foster care. Under this system, a specific unit of DCFS staff is assigned to serve all the cases from each specific area. Geographic assignment of these cases helps the DCFS staff become more knowledgeable about the neighborhoods where they work and neighborhood residents benefit from getting to know the DCFS staff who serve their community. For the most part, the DCFS geographic districts are comprised of contiguous neighborhoods and suburban municipalities.

Cleveland Wards

Cleveland wards are the 19 city council boundaries revised in 2010. NEO CANDO 2010+ includes estimated data from the 2010 Census and American Community Survey (ACS) data by ward based on combining tract, block group, and block level data as appropriate. See “[How Estimates and MOEs for Local Geographies Were Calculated](#)” in [About ACS](#) for more information about estimations based on the ACS data.

Cleveland CDC Service Areas *(Not available yet; CDC service areas are being revised.)*

The community development corporation (CDC) service areas are the geographic areas served by the CDC. These areas are comprised of census blocks.

Cleveland Planning Districts

There are six planning districts in the City of Cleveland. These six districts are comprised of groups of contiguous neighborhoods (SPAs).

Cuyahoga County Council Districts

The Cuyahoga County Council was established in 2011 with 11 geographic districts.⁷ Districts are built from whole municipalities to the extent possible, and also use municipal ward and precinct boundaries when needed to achieve population and representational balance.

⁷ <http://council.cuyahogacounty.us/en-US/about-council.aspx>

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Cuyahoga Region

Cuyahoga County is divided into 5 regions -- East Side of Cleveland, West Side of Cleveland, East Inner Ring Suburbs, West Inner Ring Suburbs and Outer Ring Suburbs. An inner ring suburb is defined as any suburb sharing a border with the City of Cleveland. The remaining suburbs in the county are classified as outer ring.

Summit County Tract Clusters

Akron and Summit County service departments recognize 20 areas of the county that help to plan for and analyze a variety of populations and services in the county. These “clusters” are based on aggregations of 2010 census tracts.

GEOGRAPHIC REFERENCE MAPS

The Northeast Ohio Data Collaborative has created geographic reference maps for various geographies for which data are provided in NEO CANDO 2010+. Maps include each of the 34 statistical planning areas in the City of Cleveland. To view these geographic reference maps [click here](#).