

Summary of the Differences between the 2015 and 2013 AHS Metro Areas

Maintaining the American Housing Survey (AHS) longitudinal sample for nearly thirty years presented many challenges, including attrition of housing units, response burden, changes in geography, and disclosure avoidance and mitigation. As a result, the 2015 AHS underwent a major redesign. For the first time since 1985, the survey selected a new national and metropolitan area longitudinal sample. This allowed us to update Metropolitan Area definitions to the most current OMB delineations, which at the time 2015 AHS sample design took place, was February 2013. These changes in metro definitions, along with changes in the survey questionnaire and the imputation processes for certain variables, may have made some data incomparable to previous years. Each metro that was sampled in both 2013 and 2015 are listed below, with a description of why each metro area may or may not be comparable between these two years. For more detailed information on 2015 AHS metro areas, see the February 2013 [OMB definitions](#) and the [Metropolitan Area Oversample Histories: 2015 and Beyond](#). Documentation on all other AHS survey years can be found in the [Metropolitan Area Oversample Histories: 1973 - 2013](#) document.

Boston:

2015 AHS data are not comparable to 2013 AHS data because 1) 2015 includes Rockingham County, NH and Strafford County, NH, which were not included in 2013; 2) 2013 includes Bristol County, MA and Worcester County, MA, which were not included in 2015; and 3) 2013 includes only parts of Norfolk County, MA, Plymouth County, MA, Essex County, MA, and Middlesex County, MA, where 2015 included these counties in their entirety.

Chicago:

2015 AHS data are not comparable to 2013 AHS data because 2015 includes DeKalb County, IL, Jasper County, IN, Lake County, IN, Newton County, IN, Porter County, IN, and Kenosha County, WI, which were not included in 2013.

Detroit:

2015 AHS data are not comparable to 2013 AHS data because 2013 includes Monroe County, MI, which was not included in 2015.

Houston:

2015 AHS data are not comparable to 2013 AHS data because 2013 includes San Jacinto County, TX, which was not included in 2015.

Miami:

2015 AHS data are comparable to 2013 AHS data.

New York:

2015 AHS data are not comparable to 2013 AHS data because 2015 includes Essex County, NJ, Hunterdon County, NJ, Morris County, NJ, Somerset County, NJ, Sussex County, NJ, Union County, NJ, Bergen County, NJ, Hudson County, NJ, Middlesex County, NJ, Monmouth County, NJ, Ocean County, NJ, Passaic County, NJ, Dutchess County, NY, and Pike County, PA, which were not included in 2013.

Note: The Northern New Jersey metro area has been discontinued. In 2015, parts of what the AHS formerly included in Northern New Jersey are now included in the New York metro area. The only

former Northern New Jersey county not included in the 2015 AHS definition of the New York metro area is Mercer County, NJ.

Philadelphia:

2015 AHS data are not comparable to 2013 AHS data because 2015 includes New Castle County, DE, Cecil County, MD, and Salem County, NJ, which were not included in 2013.

Seattle:

2015 AHS data are comparable to 2013 AHS data.

Washington:

2015 AHS data are not comparable to 2013 AHS data because 2015 includes Culpeper County, VA and Rappahannock County, VA, which were not included in 2013.