

Census Redistricting Data: Building Small Area Geography States Need

...for legislative redistricting

James Whitehorne
Chief - Census Redistricting & Voting Rights Data Office
U.S. Census Bureau

Agenda

- U.S. Census Bureau Redistricting Data Program
 - History
 - 2020 Redistricting Data Program Phases
 - Phase 1 – The Block Boundary Suggestion Project (BBSP)
 - Phase 2 – The Voting District Project (VTD)
 - Phase 3 – Data Delivery
 - Phase 4 – Congressional and State Legislative Districts
 - Phase 5 – Review, Evaluation, and Planning for the 2030 Census

Redistricting Data Program

1975

- Passage of Public Law 94-171
 - Requires the that the program is conducted in a non-partisan manner
 - Establishment of non-partisan liaisons
 - Notification of Governor and Legislative Leadership of each Phase
 - Requires data be delivered to:
 - Governor
 - Officers and public bodies of the State having responsibility for legislative redistricting
 - Requires data be delivered by 1 year from Census day
 - April 1st, 2021

Redistricting Data Program

1980

- Blocks created for all incorporated places of 10,000 or more population
- 5 States (GA, MS, NY, RI, VA) contracted for statewide block coverage resulting in 78% of population and 7% of land area

1990

- Nationwide Block Coverage
- Block Boundary Suggestion Project

2000

- Paper submissions and equivalency files for digitizing into Census's "TIGER" geographic database

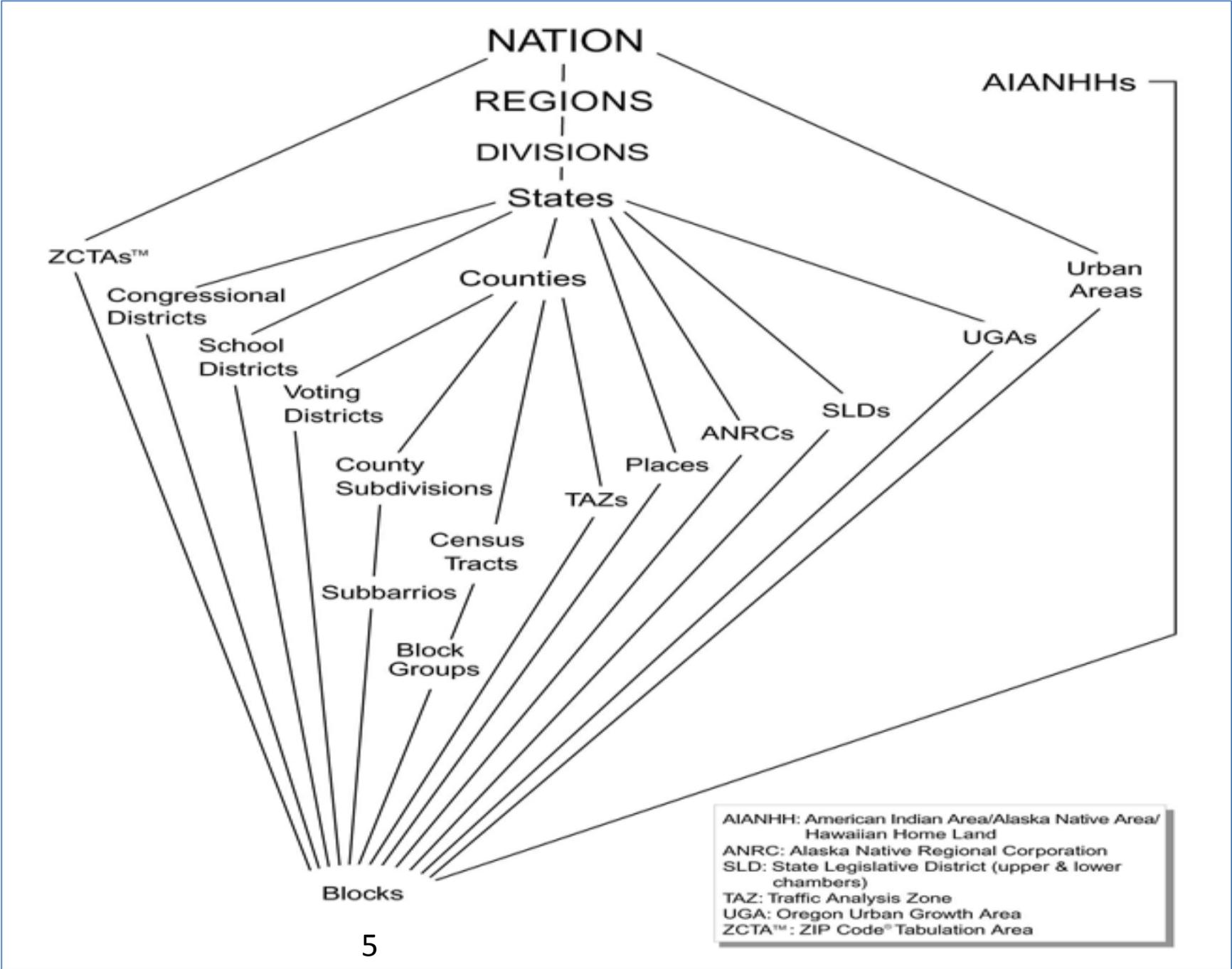
2010

- Digital submission using required Census supplied software

2020

- Digital with no software restrictions but with a supplied software option
- Centralized program and processing

Redistricting Data Program



Redistricting Data Program

Phase 1 Schedule – Block Boundary Suggestion Project

Activity	Date
Initial Delineation	December 2015 – May 2016
Verification	December 2016 – May 2017

Activities

States can review linear features

- Must Hold/ Do Not Hold
- Add/Delete features
- Correct misaligned features

Update Area Landmark (state parks, prisons, etc.) boundaries

Block size review - NEW for 2020

Suggest updates to legal boundaries – NEW for 2020







Redistricting Data Program

Phase 1 Participation – Block Boundary Suggestion Project

State	BBSP Initial	BBSP Verification
States Participating	36	34
States with changes for all counties	11	7
States with BAS Updates	17	19
County		
Participated – Submitted Updates	1150 (36% of nation)	966 (30% of nation)
Participated – No Updates	882 (27% of nation)	903 (28% of nation)
Did Not Participate	1188 (37% of nation)	1351 (42% of nation)
New States		7
States with no additional changes after BBSP Initial		3

Redistricting Data Program

Phase 2 Schedule – Voting District Project

Activity	Date
Initial Delineation	December 2017 – May 2018
Verification I	December 2018 – May 2019
Verification II (only open to states participating in the first two rounds of updates)	December 2019 – March 2020

Activities

States provide their Election Districts/Precincts/Wards

States can review linear features

- Add/Delete features
- Correct misaligned features

Update Area Landmark (state parks, prisons, etc.) boundaries

Suggest updates to legal boundaries

Redistricting Data Program

Phase 4 Schedule – Congressional and State Legislative Districts

Activity	Date
115 th Congress and 2016 State Legislative Districts	November 2015 – April 2016
116 th Congress and 2018 State Legislative Districts	November 2017 – April 2018
117 th Congress and 2020 State Legislative Districts	No Collection
118 th Congress and 2022 State Legislative Districts	November 2021 – April 2022

- Continuous collection of Congressional plans on a 2-year cycle
- Continuous collection of State Legislative District Plans on a 2-year cycle
- Two versions collected - official and tabulation

Census Tabulation Blocks

The Process

- Generate the base block layer of physical features
- Generate the base block layer of political and administrative features
- Merge the two base block layers
- Evaluate the blocks for size criteria
 - Merge blocks through edges based on priority codes
 - Re-evaluate blocks for size criteria
 - Repeat
- Evaluate the blocks for block numbering
 - Merge blocks through edges based on priority codes
 - Re-evaluate blocks for numbering criteria
 - Repeat

Contact

Thank you!

James Whitehorne

Chief – Census Redistricting & Voting Rights Data Office

www.census.gov/rdo

rdo@census.gov

1-301-763-4039

Redistricting Data Program

Back Up Slides

Redistricting Data Program

Phase 3 Schedule – Data Delivery

Activity	Date
Prototype Geographic support products	January 2019 – February 2019
Prototype P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data	NLT March 31, 2019
Geographic support products	November 2020 – February 2021
P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data	February 2021 – March 31, 2021

Geographic Support Products

- Shapefiles
- Maps (PDF only)
- Block Assignment Files
- Block to Block Relationship Files (New timing for 2020 and not in prototype)

P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data File

- Race and Race for the Population 18 Years and Over
- Hispanic or Latino, and not Hispanic or Latino by Race
- Hispanic or Latino, and not Hispanic or Latino by Race for the Population 18 Years and Over
- Occupancy Status (Housing)
- Group Quarters – NEW for 2020

Redistricting Data Program

Phase 5 Schedule – Review, Evaluation, and Plan

Generate, from the States' point of view, a report detailing:

- Successes of the 2020 Census Redistricting Data Program
- Areas for improvement from the 2020 Census Redistricting Data Program
- Recommendations for the 2030 Census Redistricting Data Program
- Publication date in 2025