



Metropolitan Area Oversample Histories: 2015 to 2023

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
U.S. CENSUS BUREAU
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1. Overview

The history of the American Housing Survey (AHS) is about four distinct samples or groups of samples:

- The 1973–1983 national longitudinal sample
- The 1985–2013 national longitudinal sample
- The 1974–2013 metropolitan area longitudinal oversamples
- The 2015–2023 integrated national longitudinal sample and the metropolitan area longitudinal oversamples

The 1973–1983 and 1985–2013 national longitudinal samples are fairly straightforward; however, the 1974–2013 metropolitan area longitudinal oversamples have a complex history. Some metropolitan area longitudinal oversamples spanned the entire period from 1974–2013, others spanned shorter periods within that longer period. Within this 40-year period, the definitions of the metropolitan areas (i.e., the counties designated as part of a specific metropolitan area) often changed.

Due to the long time period (1974–2013), the number of metropolitan areas oversampled (more than 60), the various breaks in longitudinality, and the changes in metropolitan area definitions, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the Census Bureau created the *Metropolitan Area Histories, 1974–2013* help guide. This help guide allows AHS users to understand when metropolitan areas were surveyed, which metropolitan area oversamples were longitudinal, and what geographic definition was used to define the metropolitan area.

The metropolitan area longitudinal oversamples for 2015–2023 are considerably easier to understand. There are a total of 35 metropolitan area longitudinal oversamples. They are as follows:

- The fifteen largest metropolitan areas oversamples were integrated into the national longitudinal sample and were surveyed every two years.
- The first ten of the Next 20 group of metropolitan area longitudinal oversamples were surveyed in 2015 and 2019, with 2023 surveying only five of the first ten due to a sample reduction for budget reasons.
- The second ten of the Next 20 group of metropolitan area longitudinal oversamples were surveyed in 2017 and 2021.



2. 2015 to 2023: The 15 Largest Metropolitan Areas Oversamples

- The 15 largest metropolitan areas were integrated into the national longitudinal sample, meaning they were surveyed every two years.
- The sample size was approximately 3,000 each survey year.
- The geographic definition for each of the 15 metropolitan areas was the 2013 OMB's core based statistical area (CBSA), circa February 2013.
- The geographic definition remained consistent from 2015 to 2023. Until a new AHS sample is drawn, HUD and the Census Bureau have no plans to update the metropolitan area definition, even if OMB updates the definition.
- Each of the 15 metropolitan areas can be identified on the national public use file (PUF) using the code in the variable *OMB13CBSA*. The codes are:

Values

12060–Atlanta-Sandy Springs-Roswell, GA
14460–Boston-Cambridge-Newton, MA-NH
16980–Chicago-Naperville-Elgin, IL-IN-WI
19100–Dallas-Fort Worth-Arlington, TX
19820–Detroit-Warren-Dearborn, MI
26420–Houston-The Woodlands-Sugar Land, TX
31080–Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim, CA
33100–Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach, FL
35620–New York-Newark-Jersey City, NY-NJ-PA
37980–Philadelphia-Camden-Wilmington, PA-NJ-DE-MD
38060–Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale, AZ
40140–Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario, CA
41860–San Francisco-Oakland-Hayward, CA
42660–Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA
47900–Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV
99998–All other metropolitan areas
99999–Not in a metropolitan area



3. 2015 to 2023: The Next 20 Group of Metropolitan Area Longitudinal Oversamples

In 2015, HUD and the Census Bureau identified a “Next 20” group of metropolitan areas to be surveyed from 2015 to 2023. This Next 20 group is described as independent so as not to be confused with the Top 15 metropolitan areas that are part of the integrated national longitudinal sample. The Next 20 group is a set of metropolitan areas ranging from the 16th to 51st largest by population. Characteristics of the Next 20 group include: ¹

- The first ten of the Next 20 group were surveyed in 2015, and 2019, with 2023 having only five of the first ten due to a sample reduction for budget reasons.
- The second ten of the Next 20 group of metropolitan area longitudinal oversamples were surveyed in 2017 and 2021.
- The sample size was approximately 3,000 each survey year.
- The geographic definition for each of the Next 20 group of metropolitan areas is the 2013 OMB’s core based statistical area (CBSA), circa February 2013.
- The definition remained consistent from 2015 to 2023. Until a new AHS sample is drawn, HUD and the Census Bureau have no plans to update the metropolitan area definition, even if OMB updates the definition.
- Each of the Next 20 group metropolitan areas can be identified on the metropolitan area public use file (PUF) using the code in the variable *OMB13CBSA*. The codes are:

Values

First Half Surveyed in 2015, 2019

17140—Cincinnati, OH-KY-IN
17460—Cleveland-Elyria, OH
19740—Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO
28140—Kansas City, MO-KS
32820—Memphis, TN-MS-AR
33340—Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis, WI
35380—New Orleans-Metairie, LA
38300—Pittsburgh, PA
38900—Portland-Vancouver-Hillsboro, OR-WA

¹ For more information about how the Next 20 group of metropolitan areas was selected, see *Metropolitan Area Selection Strategy: 2015 and Beyond* on the Census Bureau’s AHS website (“2015 Redesign” portion of the “Operations and Administration” page).



39580–Raleigh, NC

First Half Surveyed in 2023²

17140–Cincinnati, OH-KY-IN

17460–Cleveland-Elyria, OH

19740–Denver-Aurora-Lakewood, CO

33340–Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis, WI

35380–New Orleans-Metairie, LA

Second Half Surveyed in 2017, 2021

12580–Baltimore-Columbia-Towson, MD

13820–Birmingham-Hoover, AL

29820–Las Vegas-Henderson-Paradise, NV

33460–Minneapolis-St. Paul-Bloomington, MN-WI

36420–Oklahoma City, OK

40060–Richmond, VA

40380–Rochester, NY

41700–San Antonio-New Braunfels, TX

41940–San Jose-Sunnyvale-Santa Clara, CA

45300–Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, FL

² Kansas City, Memphis, Pittsburgh, Portland, and Raleigh would have been included in 2023 AHS metro sample, but were cut due to budget constraints.

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