

Vital Statistics Geographic Code Outline for the United States

The following pages show in detail the geographic codes used by the Division of Vital Statistics in the processing of vital event data occurring in the United States. When an event occurs to a nonresident of the United States, residence data are coded only to the "State" level; several western hemisphere countries or the remainder of the world are uniquely identified. Along with the Division of Vital Statistics codes the Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) codes are shown for several items. Both sets of codes appear on the vital event public-use files. The Metropolitan Statistical Area codes are effective with the 1996 data year and are based on the 1990 Census.

To aid the user in interpreting the geographic codes, a brief explanation of the codes and of the column headings/abbreviations shown on the following pages are:

State (St): Each State and the District of Columbia are numbered alphabetically. In addition, several unique codes are used to identify nonresidents of the U.S.

County (Cnty): Counties and county equivalents (independent and coextensive cities) are numbered alphabetically within each State.

P/MSA: Primary metropolitan statistical areas and metropolitan statistical areas are those established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) using 1990 Census population counts. For New England, the New England County Metropolitan Areas (NECMA) are used.

M/NM: Metropolitan counties (code 1) are component counties of P/MSA's. Nonmetropolitan counties (code 2) are not part of any P/MSA.

City or place: Cities/places are numbered alphabetically within each State and identify each city with a population of 10,000 or more in 1990.

P/S: Population size code for city of residence based on the 1990 Census. Refer to the code outline given earlier in this document for specific codes and meanings.

Name: Each State, county, and city name is listed along with its respective code. In addition, places used to identify nonresidents of the U.S. are also listed along with their codes.

FIPS: For an explanation of FIPS codes, reference should be made to various National Institute of Standards & Technology (NITS) publications.

So! How do I find Yavapai county, Arizona; or Tupelo city, Mississippi?

Since counties and cities/places are numbered within State, the State and county or the State and city/places codes must be used to select these areas. It is most helpful if the county is known when looking for a particular city since areas are shown by State, county, and city.

Yavapai county, Arizona - State and county codes NCHS: 03 014; FIPS: 04 025.

Tupelo, Mississippi - State and city/place codes NCHS: 25 032; FIPS: 28 74840;
or State, county, city/place codes NCHS: 25 041 032; FIPS: 28 081 74840.