

## **Census 2000 Special EEO Tabulation Technical Documentation for ASCII Files**

### **Appendix 10.1: Geographic Classifications – County Sets**

Residence ASCII Files 1 and 2 on the Census 2000 Special EEO Tabulation provide data only for counties of 50,000 or more. Counties of less than 50,000 were merged with other counties into County Sets. These are the guidelines used to create and name these county sets.

For a listing of all County Sets in the United States go to  
[www.census.gov/hhes/www/eoindex/fanewcsareas2.xls](http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/eoindex/fanewcsareas2.xls)

### **General Rules for Creating and Naming County Sets**

1. All counties are accounted for within each state and the total Census 2000 population count within each state is maintained.
2. All counties with population of 50,000 or more stand alone unless they are aggregated with a county of less than population of 50,000 or with another county if needed to show a Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA).
3. Groups of small counties were aggregated to create county sets of 50,000 or more.
4. The counties within each county set are contiguous.
5. No county set crosses state lines. All counties within any county set are within the same state.
6. Counties are grouped within MSAs if possible.
7. The counties and county sets are listed alphabetically by county set name.
8. The words "County Set" are not included in the county set name.
9. The counties and county sets are numbered consecutively starting with the state FIPS code followed by "CS" and the consecutive number of the alphabetized county sets within each state starting at 001.
10. The state name is not included in the area name unless it is preceded by a directional description; in this case the name is abbreviated. For example: "NW KS" (Northwest Kansas).
11. If the county set is composed of four or fewer counties, the county set name is the same as all the counties themselves in alphabetical order. For example: "Covington+Simpson+Smith."

12. For large groupings of small counties, the county set may be named using a general description that fits the part of the state in which it is found. For example, "NW Panhandle" (of Texas).
13. If a general geographic definition cannot be used, the most centrally located county is picked and "and surrounding cos." is added. If more than one county is centrally located, the county with the largest Census 2000 Population Count is used. For example: "Gaines and surrounding cos."

**Note:** In some instances not all the counties included in the county set actually surround the named county. Some of these counties may actually form a "C" shape around the named county. Or, some counties that are geographically located adjacent to the named county in the county set name may not be included in the designated county set. The county named in the county set name is picked based on the number of counties it is adjacent to within the county set designated geography. In some cases, the named county is the smallest, but touches the most other counties within the group. For example: In Iowa, "Audubon and surrounding cos." (19CS002) is made up of five counties and Audubon County is the smallest, but is the most centrally located.

14. Some county sets caused a disclosure problem with an MSA/PMSA. When a problem existed, a decision was made whether to eliminate an MSA/PMSA or reaggregate counties. Most MSA/PMSAs were kept and are shown in the file; however, there are seven that were eliminated due to disclosure concerns.

Following are the seven MSA/PMSAs that are not shown on the EEO File:

Arizona: Flagstaff AZ-UT MSA - FIPS MSA Code #2620  
Arkansas: Fort Smith AR-OK MSA - FIPS MSA Code #2720  
Maryland: Baltimore MD PMSA - FIPS PMSA Code #0720  
New York: Newburgh NY-PA PMSA - FIPS PMSA Code #5660  
North Dakota: Grand Forks ND-MN MSA - FIPS MSA Code #2985  
Pennsylvania: Pittsburgh PA MSA - FIPS MSA Code #6280  
Wisconsin: La Crosse WI-MN MSA - FIPS MSA Code #3870

### **Syntax and Abbreviations**

15. Multiple names are separated by pluses in the name. For example: "Floyd+Hale+Swisher."
16. If the county set title requires the state name, it is abbreviated and in all capitals. For example: "Northern AK" (Northern Alaska).

17. Directional descriptions are abbreviated if they are nouns, and written out in full if they are adjectives. For example: "SW GA" (Southwest Georgia) "Southern ID" (Southern Idaho).
18. County/counties are abbreviated as Co/cos. Except is abbreviated as exc.

**Other Notes**

In Alaska: Borough = County

In Louisiana: Parish = County