CENSUS GEOGRAPHY FOR 2010 CENSUS

From smallest geography to largest: Census Block, Census Block Group, Census Tract, Census County Subdivisions, Counties, States

Only in Oklahoma: Oklahoma Tribal Statistical Area. Census uses this term rather than "Reservations".

Also available: Place, Census Designated Place, Congressional Districts, Metropolitan Statistical Areas, Tribal Census Tract, Tribal Block Group,

CENSUS BLOCKS - Are bounded on all sides by a. visible features such as streets, roads, streams, and railroad tracks, and b. invisible boundaries such as city, town, township, and county limits, and property lines. Census blocks are identified by 4-digit numbers. Census blocks are the smallest Census geography. However, census blocks in sparsely settled areas may contain many square miles of land.

CENSUS BLOCK GROUP- A cluster of census blocks that all have the same first digit of a 4-digit identification number within a census tract. Example: Block Group 3 within a census tract includes blocks that number 3000 to 3999. Census Block Groups usually contain between 600 and 3,000 people, with a preferred size of 1,500 people. The minimum number of people for a geography to qualify is 240; the maximum number of housing units it can contain are 1,200.

CENSUS TRACT - Are small, relatively permanent subdivisions of a county. Their limits are usually decided by local participants working with the Census. Census tracts are identified by 4-digit numbers, and *may* have two-digit suffixes. Example: Census Tract 6148.03. Census tracts usually contain between 1,200 and 8,000 people, with a preferred size of 4,000 people. The minimum number of people for a geography to qualify is 1,200; the maximum number of housing units it can contain are 3,200.

OKLAHOMA TRIBAL STATISTICAL AREA (OTSA) - These are the approximate historic boundaries of the former tribal reservations. They may be modified by agreements with neighboring tribes for ease of gathering and presenting data.

Steve Beleu, February 24, 2011, Oklahoma Department of Libraries/Oklahoma State Data Center Coordinating Agency