

2020 Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMA) Program Overview

Fall 2020



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What are Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMAs)?

- Non-overlapping, statistical geographic areas that partition each state or equivalent entity into geographic areas containing no fewer than 100,000 people.
- Cover entirety of United States, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.
- Defined every ten years for the tabulation and dissemination of the decennial census and American Community Survey (ACS) Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) data.
 - Also used in the publication of the ACS and Puerto Rico Community Survey period estimates.

What is the 2020 Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMA) Program?

- Occurs after the decennial census completes and data released to delineate PUMAs.
 - Decennial census population counts and updated census tracts are critical inputs.
- State Data Centers (SDCs) primary participants for 2020 PUMA.
 - SDCs encouraged to involve interested data users (e.g., tribal, state, and local governments, as well as regional planning agencies/organizations) with delineation to ensure PUMAs meet the needs of all stakeholders.
- Provides a 90-day period to prepare the 2020 PUMA submission.

What are the criteria for PUMAs?

The concept and criteria remain largely unchanged from 2010 Census:

- Only one level of PUMA delineation.
- Each PUMA must have a minimum population of 100,000 people and must maintain that population throughout the decade.
- PUMAs nest within states and may not cross state boundaries.
- Counties and census tracts are the PUMA building block geography.
- Though some exceptions exist, PUMAs should be geographically contiguous.
- Descriptive PUMA names have 85 character maximum length and should identify the area or region encompassed within the PUMA.

What is the schedule for the 2020 PUMA?

Date	Activity/Event
July 2020	Publish 60-day Federal Register Notice (FRN). ✓ < 2020 PUMA 60-day FRN >
November 2020	Publish proposed PUMA criteria on the PUMA website.
Winter 2020 – Spring 2021	Publish 30-day FRN.
March 2021	Publish final PUMA criteria on the PUMA website.
September 2021	Email SDCs instructions to download materials from PUMA website.
Fall 2021	Conduct training webinars.
November 2021 – January 2022	Define and return PUMAs.
November 2021 – May 2022	Process PUMA spatial updates.
Summer 2022	Release PUMA spatial products.

How to prepare for the 2020 PUMA?

- Establish a plan to facilitate work with interested data users.
 - Only one PUMA delineation submission accepted from each state's respective SDC, even though multiple parties may be involved in delineation.
- Download the GUPS, PUMA criteria, delineation materials, and other information from the 2020 PUMA website.
 - Use of Geographic Update Partnership Software (GUPS) required to participate in 2020 PUMA.
- Review participant guide for instructions on GUPS installation and the PUMA delineation process.
- Attend an online training webinar in fall/winter 2021.

Who are the 2020 PUMA contacts for your SDC?

- Provide primary and secondary contact information to Census Bureau to expedite communication during 2020 PUMA.
 - First and Last Name.
 - Position Title.
 - Complete Mailing Address.
 - Email Address and Phone Number.
- Do either have a Secure Web Incoming Module (SWIM) account?
- Do either wish to test the Geographic Update Partnership Software (GUPS) used for 2020 PUMA?

Who are the 2020 PUMA contacts for the Census Bureau?

- Communicate with the Census Bureau about 2020 PUMA using [<geo.puma@census.gov>](mailto:geo.puma@census.gov).
- PUMA team members include:
 - Spatial Data Collection and Products Branch:
 - Muhammad Samamreh [<muhammad.samamreh@census.gov>](mailto:muhammad.samamreh@census.gov).
 - Geographic Standards, Criteria, and Quality Branch:
 - Joshua J. Coutts [<joshua.j.coutts@census.gov>](mailto:joshua.j.coutts@census.gov).
 - Aaron Basler [<aaron.basler@census.gov>](mailto:aaron.basler@census.gov).

Note: Preferred communication is through [<geo.puma@census.gov>](mailto:geo.puma@census.gov) rather than individual contact emails.