

CPAR Presents:



UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AT OMAHA
CENTER FOR PUBLIC
AFFAIRS RESEARCH

A Data and Research Series for Community Impact

September 28, 2023 | #NebraskaByTheNumbers



Decoding Nebraska:

State and Local Trends in Demographics,
Workforce, and Socio-Economics

Allison Shafer

Supervisory Geographer

Geography Division, U.S. Census Bureau

2020 Census Urban Areas and Related Geographies



Urban Areas Team
Geography Division
U.S. Census Bureau

Urban Areas

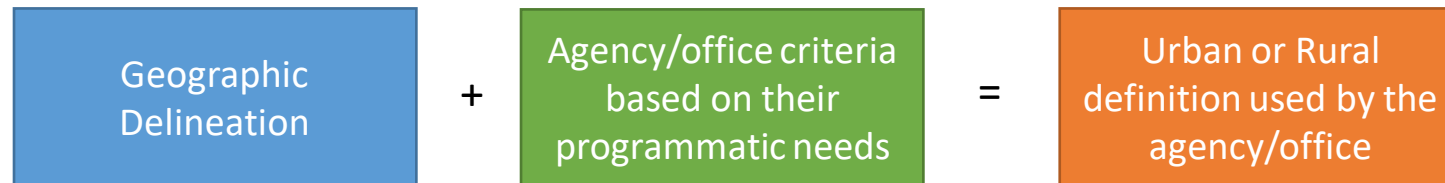
How does the Federal Government Define Urban and Rural?



It varies. There is no single “urban” or “rural” definition.

Tribal, federal, state, and local agencies and offices develop different urban and rural definitions depending on their programmatic needs and uses, including:

- allocating program funds,
- setting program standards, and
- implementing and measuring aspects of their programs.



How does the Federal Government Define Urban and Rural?



U.S. Small Business
Administration






U.S. Department of Transportation



How does the Federal Government Define Urban and Rural?

Commonly used federal geographic delineation sources used by federal agencies in defining urban and rural:

Geographic Delineation	Unit of Geography	Primarily based on...
Census UAs and Rural Territory 	Census Blocks	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Housing unit and population counts and densities.• Land use.• Commuting.
Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas (Core Based Statistical Areas) 	Counties	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Census UAs.• Commuting.
Rural-Urban Commuting Areas (RUCA) 	Census Tracts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Census UAs.• Commuting.

What are Census UAs?

- Census Bureau UAs:
 - Represent densely developed territory.
 - Encompass residential, commercial, and other non-residential urban land uses.



Why does the Census Bureau delineate UAs?

The Census Bureau delineates UAs for statistical data tabulation, publication, and analysis.

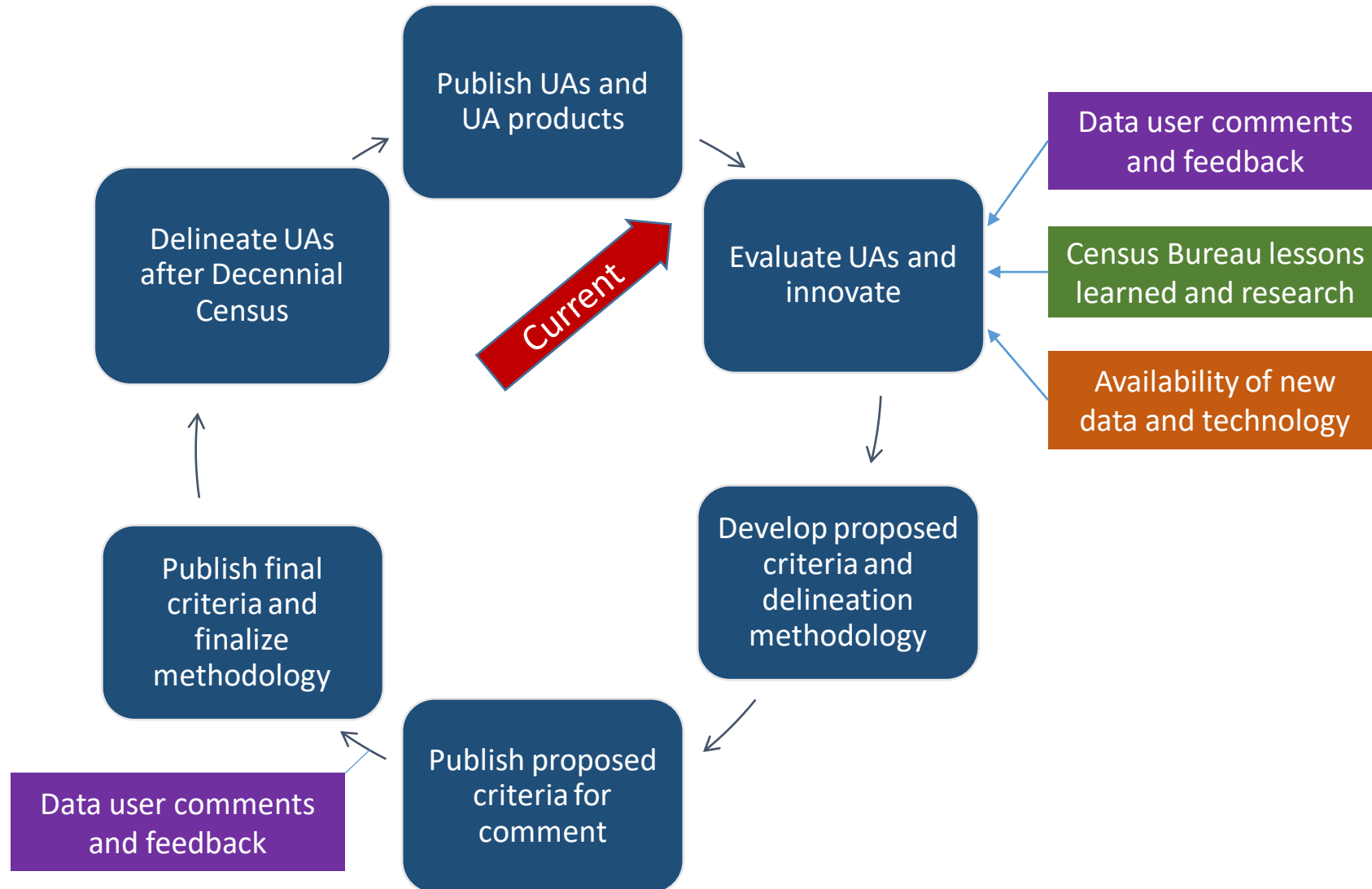
However, the Census Bureau recognizes that many tribal, federal, state, and local governments define their program requirements based on the urban and rural delineation.

For this reason, the Census Bureau:

- Invites all stakeholders to actively participate in reviewing and commenting on proposed updates to the UA criteria via the *Federal Register* Notice leading up to the Decennial Census.
- Invites all stakeholders to ask questions. The Census Bureau works with tribal, federal, state, and local agencies as well as other stakeholders to ensure understanding of our classification.



UA Program Cycle



UA Delineation: Evolution Over Time

- The Census Bureau has delineated UAs since the late 1800s.
- The history of UA delineation is marked by change and re-evaluation of the thresholds and criteria for delineating UAs after each decennial census.
- Modern UA concepts began with the 1950 Census to capture growing suburban development.
- Census 2000 moved from primarily interactive to primarily automated process.
- Concepts have been refined each decade as technology and data availability has improved our ability to evaluate the nature of “urban” and "rural" settlement.



How are UAs Delineated?

The Census Bureau uses a nationally-consistent, objective approach, to create UAs and rural territory. These areas are designed to meet the needs of a broad range of analysts and users interested in the definition of and data for urban and rural communities for statistical purposes.

In 2020, the final delineation criteria were implemented using:

- Python-based delineation software.
- Census blocks and Decennial Census block-level housing unit and population data.
- Impervious surface, hydrography, and wetlands data.
 - Sources: Census MAF/TIGER System, National Land Cover Dataset, and Coastal Change Analysis Program.
- Commuting data.
 - Source: Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics Origin-Destination Employment Statistics (LODES).

Key 2020 UA Trends, As Compared to 2010 UAs

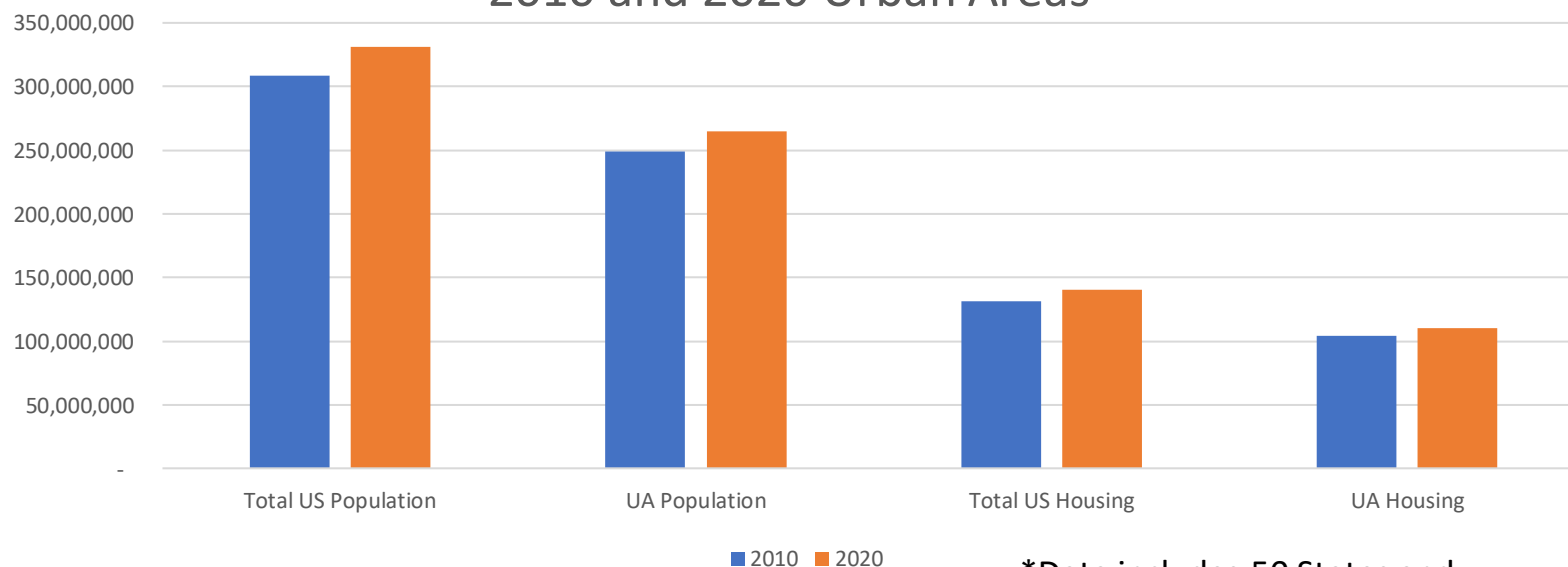
- Similar percent of population and housing units urban vs. rural.
- Decrease in total number of UAs; but an increase in the number of UAs $\geq 5,000$ population.
- Decrease in many UAs' size/land area; increase in population and housing density of UAs.
- Some 2010 UAs became two UAs in 2020.
- Some 2020 UAs include areas with of densely developed seasonal housing.

Note: These are national-level trends, and trends vary by region and state.

2010 and 2020 Census UAs

	2010				2020			
	Total Population	UA Population Percent	Total Housing	UA Housing Percent	Total Population	UA Population Percent	Total Housing	UA Housing Percent
Total*	308,745,538		131,704,730		331,449,281		140,498,763	
Urban	249,253,271	81%	104,019,731	79%	265,149,027	80%	110,692,318	79%
Rural	59,492,267	19%	27,684,999	21%	43,596,511	20%	29,806,418	21%

2010 and 2020 Urban Areas



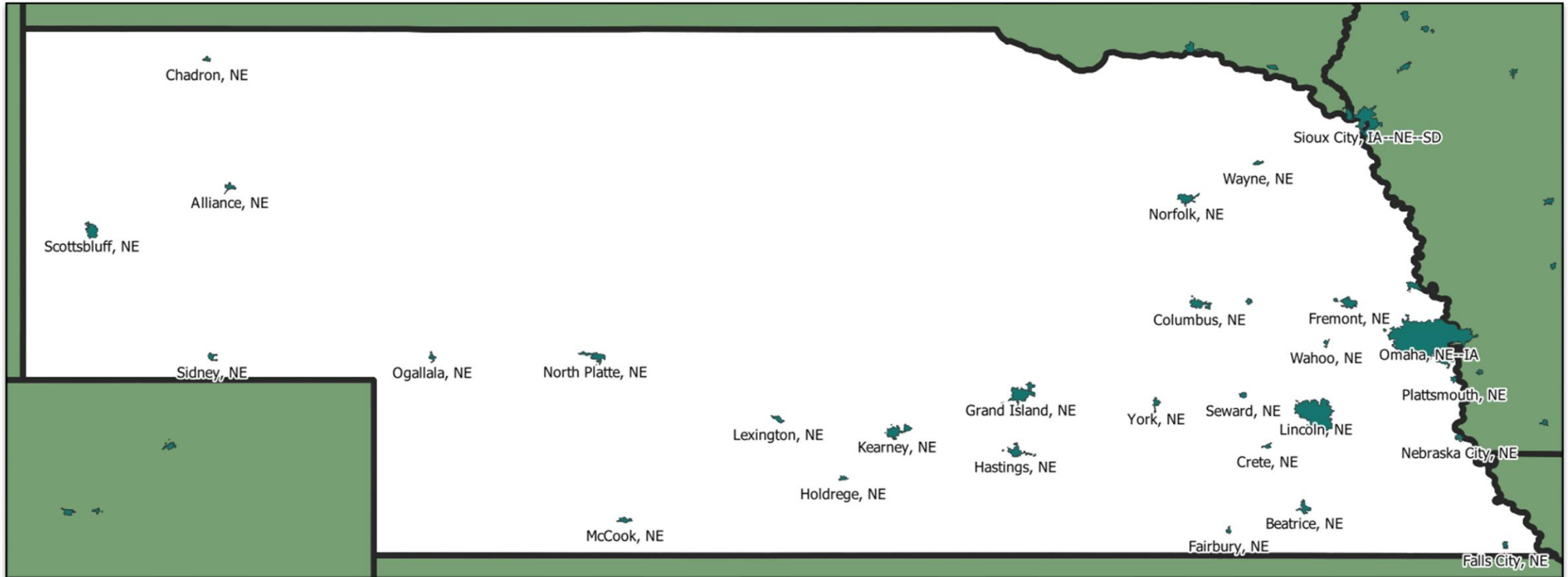
2010 and 2020 Census UAs - Nebraska

	2010		2020	
	Total Population	UA Population Percent	Total Population	UA Population Percent
Total	1,826,341		1,961,504	
Urban	1,335,686	73%	1,432,003	73%
Rural	490,655	27%	529,501	27%

Urban Area Count

2010	2020
43	30

Nebraska 2020 Census Urban Areas



2020 Census Urban Area

2020 Census UA Products

**Urban and Rural Classification
website:**

[Urban and Rural \(census.gov\)](https://www.census.gov/urban-rural-classification)

TIGER/Line Shapefiles:

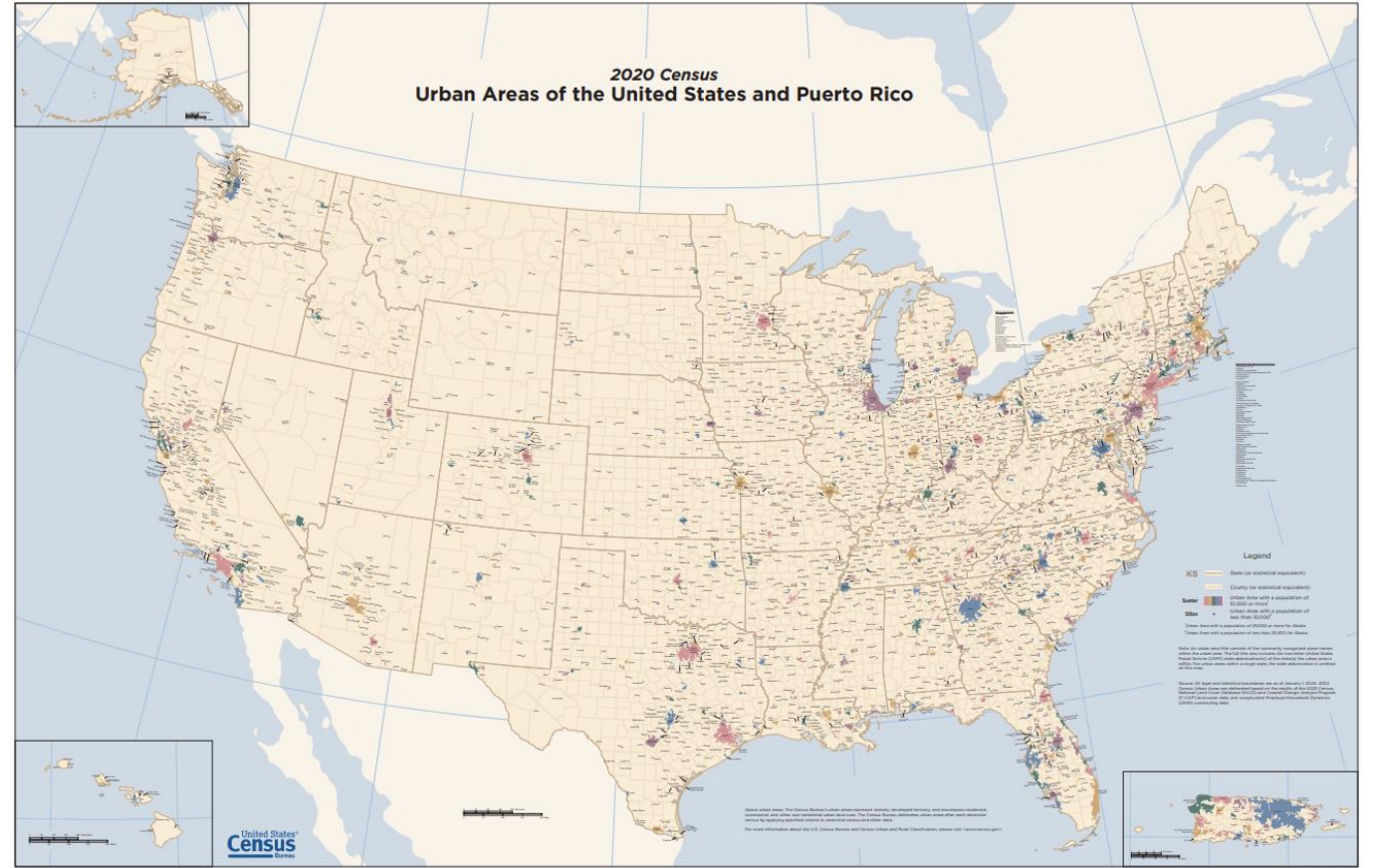
[TIGER/Line Shapefiles \(census.gov\)](https://www.census.gov/tiger/line-shapefiles)

TIGERweb:

[TIGERweb \(census.gov\)](https://tigerweb.census.gov)

Census Geocoder:

[Census Geocoder](https://geocoder.census.gov)



Core Based Statistical Areas

Core Based Statistical Areas (CBSAs)

- Established and maintained by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for statistical purposes.
- Provide nationally consistent set of delineations for collecting, tabulating, and publishing Federal statistics for geographic areas.
- Defined as an area containing a large population nucleus, or urban area, and adjacent communities that have a high degree of integration with that nucleus.
 - Must have Census Bureau urban area of at least 10,000 population

Census Bureau Geography Division's Role

- Provide **urban area** delineations to OMB.
- Update our MAF/TIGER System with the OMB-delineated CBSAs.
- Produce spatial products depicting CBSAs.
 - Shapefiles.
 - Web services.

Current Types of CBSAs

- Metropolitan Areas.
- Micropolitan Areas.
- Metropolitan Divisions.
- Combined Statistical Areas.

Discontinued Types of CBSAs

- New England city and town areas (NECTAs).
- NECTA Divisions.
- Combined NECTAs.

Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas

- Conceptually similar.
- Micropolitan Statistical Areas feature smaller nucleus.
- Composed of entire counties.
- Central counties and outlying counties.
- Nuclei identified by Census Bureau's urban areas program.
 - 50,000+ in population to be Metropolitan Statistical Area.
 - 10,000+ in population to be Micropolitan Statistical Area.




Combined Statistical Areas (CSAs)

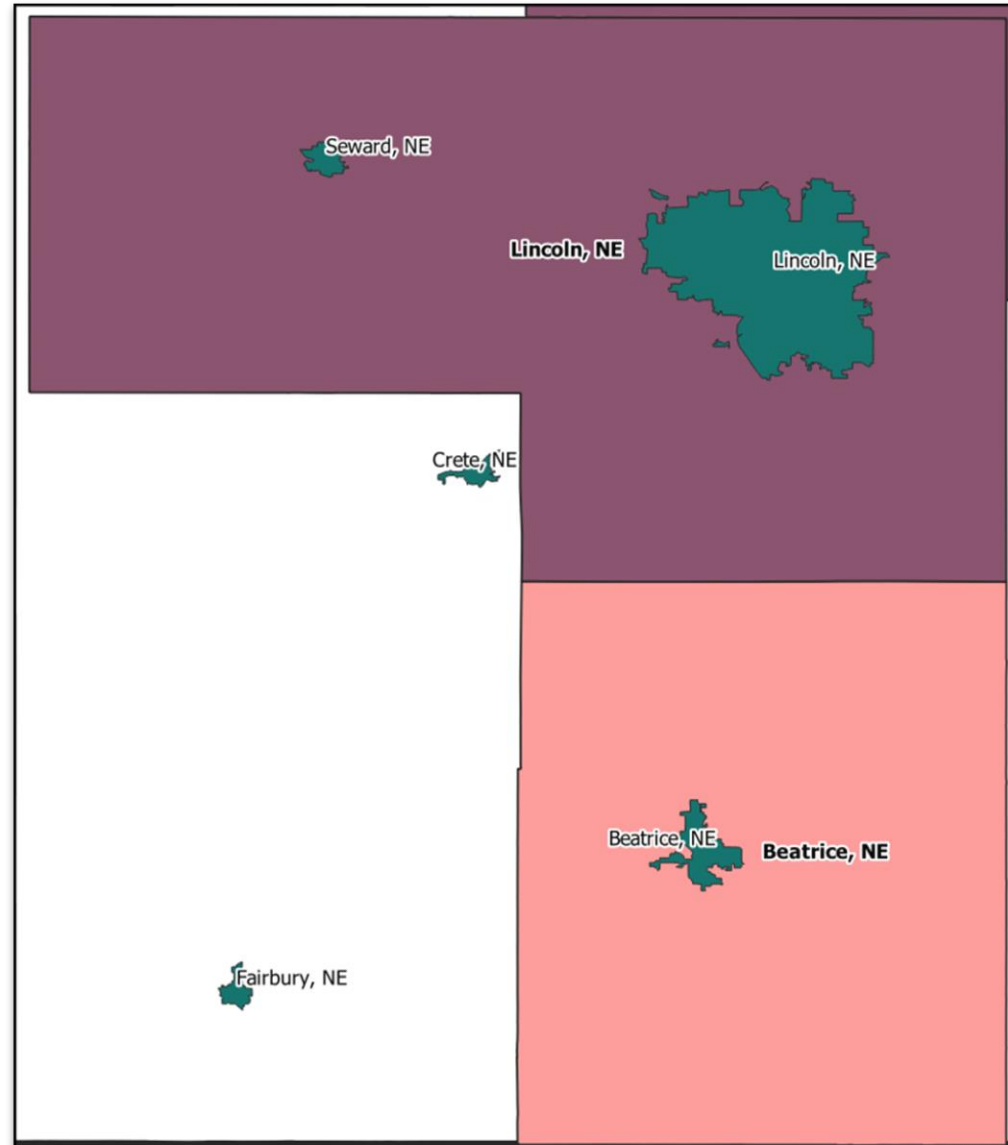
- Geographic entity consisting of two or more adjacent CBSAs with employment interchange measures of at least 15.

Metropolitan Divisions

- County or group of counties within a CBSA that contains an urban area with a population of at least 2.5 million.
- Consists of one or more counties that represent employment center or centers plus adjacent counties associated through commuting ties.

CBSA and Urban Area Relationship Example

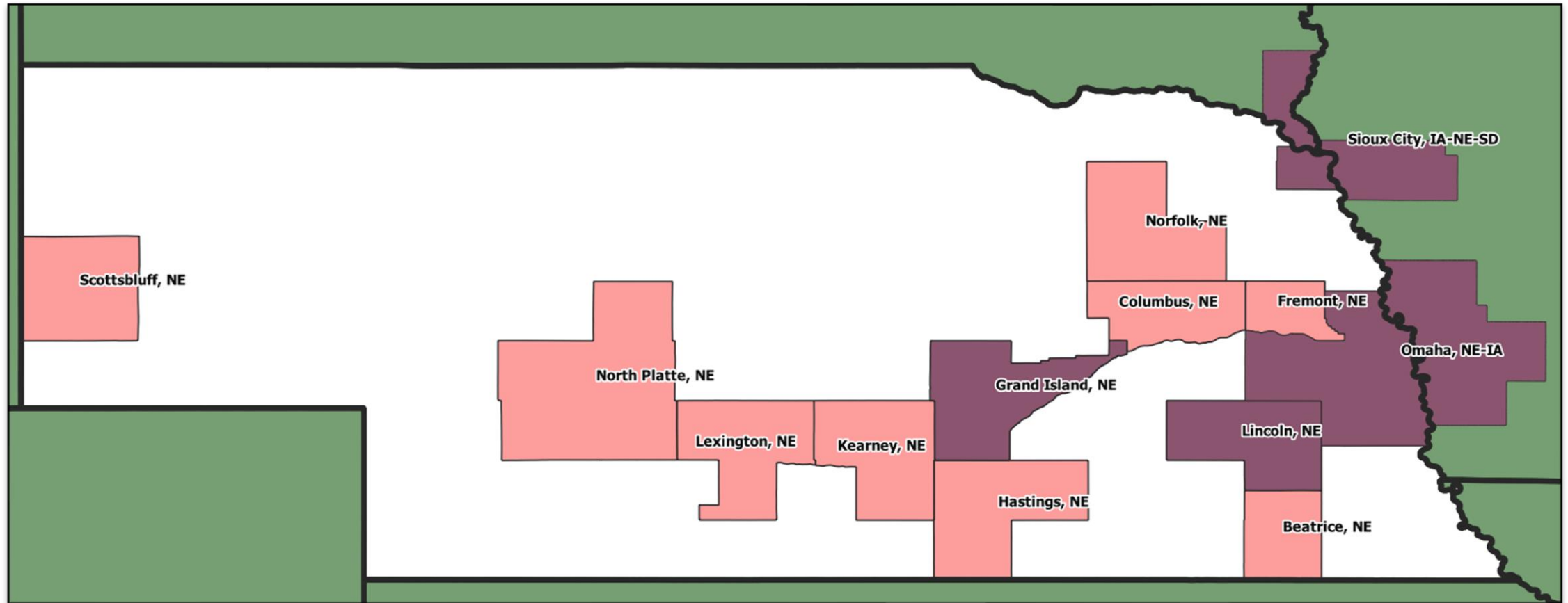
-  2020 Census Urban Area
-  Metropolitan Statistical Area
-  Micropolitan Statistical Area



Lincoln, NE Urban Area Population
291,217

Beatrice, NE Urban Area Population
12,142

Nebraska CBSAs



CBSA Products

TIGER/Line Shapefiles:

[TIGER/Line Shapefiles \(census.gov\)](https://www.census.gov/tiger/line-shapefiles)

(Available October 2023)

TIGERweb:

[TIGERweb \(census.gov\)](https://tigerweb.census.gov)

(Available October 2023)

Delineation files:

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/metro-micro/about/delineation-files.html>

Questions?

Urban Areas

U.S. Census Bureau
Geography Division

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/guidance/geo-areas/urban-rural.html>

2020 Census UA Team:
<geo.urban@census.gov>

CBSAs

U.S. Census Bureau
Population Division

<https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/metro-micro.html>

Contact:

Paul Mackun, Population Estimates
Branch, Population Division
<paul.j.mackun@census.gov>

THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING THE
2023 A DATA AND RESEARCH SERIES
FOR COMMUNITY IMPACT!

[**C P A R . U N O M A H A . E D U**]

Follow CPAR:  @unocpar  cpar.unomaha.edu/youtube

#NebraskaByTheNumbers

UNIVERSITY OF
Nebraska
Omaha



The University of Nebraska does not discriminate based on race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, disability, age, genetic information, veteran status, marital status, and/or political affiliation in its education programs or activities, including admissions and employment. The University prohibits any form of retaliation taken against anyone for reporting discrimination, harassment, or retaliation for otherwise engaging in protected activity. UNO is an AA/EEO/ADA institution. For Title IX concerns, please contact the Title IX Coordinator (phone: 402.554.2120). For ADA/504 accommodations or assistance, please call/contact the ADA/504 Coordinator (phone 402.554.2463) or the Accessibility Services Center (phone: 402.554.2872).