

<u>DEFINITION</u>	<u>DEFINITION DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>% CLASSIFIED AS RURAL/NONMETROPOLITAN</u>		<u>GEOGRAPHIC UNIT USED</u>
		<i>Land</i>	<i>Population</i>	
<b>U.S. Census Bureau:</b> Urban and Rural Areas	The Census Bureau's classification of rural consists of all territory, population, and housing units located outside of urbanized areas and urban clusters. Urbanized areas include populations of at least 50,000, and urban clusters include populations between 2,500 and 50,000. The core areas of both urbanized areas and urban clusters are defined based on population density of 1,000 per square mile and then certain blocks adjacent to them are added that have at least 500 persons per square mile.	97.4%	19.7%	Census Block and Block Groups
<b>Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture &amp; WWAMI Rural Health Research Center:</b> Rural-Urban Commuting Areas (RUCAs)	This classification scheme utilizes the U.S. Census Bureau's urbanized area and cluster definitions and work commuting information. The RUCA categories are based on the size of settlements and towns as delineated by the Census Bureau and the functional relationships between places as measured by tract-level work commuting data. This taxonomy defines 33 categories of rural and urban census tracts.	First Cut: <sup>1</sup> 78.8%  Second Cut: <sup>2</sup> 66.1%	First Cut: <sup>1</sup> 19.6%  Second Cut: <sup>2</sup> 9.8%	Census Tract, ZIP Code approximation available
<b>U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB):</b> Core Based Statistical Areas (i.e., metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas)	A metropolitan area must contain one or more central counties with urbanized areas. Nonmetropolitan counties are outside the boundaries of metropolitan areas and are subdivided into two types, micropolitan areas and non-core counties. Micropolitan areas are urban clusters of 10,000 more persons.	74.5%	17.4%	County
<b>Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture:</b> Rural-Urban Continuum Codes (Beale Codes)	This classification scheme distinguishes metropolitan counties by the population size of their metropolitan area, and non-metropolitan counties by degree of urbanization and adjacency to a metropolitan area or areas. All counties and county equivalents are grouped according to their official OMB metropolitan-nonmetropolitan status and further subdivided into three metropolitan and six nonmetropolitan groupings.	74.5%	17.4%	County
<b>Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture:</b> Urban Influence Codes	This classification scheme subdivides the OMB metropolitan and nonmetropolitan categories into 2 metropolitan and 10 nonmetropolitan categories. Metropolitan counties are divided into two groups by the size of the metropolitan area. Nonmetropolitan-micropolitan counties are divided into three groups by their adjacency to metropolitan areas. Nonmetropolitan-noncore counties are divided into seven groups by their adjacency to metropolitan or micropolitan areas and whether they have their "own town" of at least 2,500 residents.	74.5%	17.4%	County

<b>Office of Rural Health Policy, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services:</b> RUCA Adjustment to OMB Metropolitan and Nonmetropolitan Definition	This method uses RUCAs 4-10 to identify small towns and rural areas within large metropolitan counties. In addition, census tracts within metropolitan areas with RUCA codes 2 and 3 that are larger than 400 square miles and have population density of less than 30 people per square mile are also considered rural.	8.0% <sup>3</sup>	4.1% <sup>3</sup>	Census Tract within OMB Metro Counties
<b>Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture:</b> Commuting Zones (CZs) and Labor Market Areas (LMAs)	This classification scheme categorizes CZs and LMAs based on the size of the largest city, town, or census-designated place within the CZ and LMA. CZs and LMAs were developed as a means to capture the variations of local economic and labor force activities, as county boundaries are not adequate confines for an area's economy. Nonmetropolitan CZs and LMAs are broken down into three categories, classified by size: small town/rural (population of the largest town <5,000), small urban center (population of the largest town between 5,000 and 19,999), and larger urban center (population of largest town ≥20,000).	61.2%	11.2%	Commuting Zones and Labor Market Areas
<b>Federal Communications Commission:</b> Universal Service Fund – Rural Definition	This classification scheme utilizes the OMB's Core Based Statistical Areas (CBSAs). An area is classified as rural if it meets one of the following criteria: (1) area is outside of any CBSAs; (2) if considered a small CBSA, the area does not contain an urban area >25,000 residents; (3) if considered a large CBSA (>25,000 residents), census tract can be classified as rural if the individual tract within large CBSAs does not contain urban areas >25,000 residents.	87.1%	22.2%	Census Tract
<b>Administration on Aging</b>	This classification combines U.S. Census Bureau-defined urbanized areas with ZIP code postal boundaries to classify all ZIP codes as urban or rural. A ZIP area is designated urban by two criteria: (1) if 1% or more of the ZIP area falls within an urbanized area, and (2) if a ZIP area is affiliated within place of 20,000 to 49,000 residents outside urbanized area. All other ZIP code areas classified as rural.	86.5%	19.9%	ZIP code (area)
<b>Department of Housing and Urban Development:</b> Rural Housing and Economic Development – Rural Definition	This classification defines rural in five ways: (1) a place having fewer than 2,500 inhabitants, (2) a county or parish with an urban population of ≤20,000 inhabitants, (3) territory, person, and housing units in the rural portion of an "extended city," (4) open country that is not a part of or associated with an urban area, and (5) any place with a population not in excess of 20,000 inhabitants and not located in a metropolitan statistical area.	69.9%	13.0%	Counties

<b>National Center for Education Statistics:</b> Urban-Centric Locale Codes	This classification scheme is based on an address's proximity to an urbanized area (a densely settled cored with densely settled surrounding areas). Territories are classified into four major types: city, suburban, town, and rural. Cities and suburbs are gradations of size—small, midsize, or large. Towns and rural areas are further distinguished by their proximity to an urbanized area. They are characterized as fringe, distant, or remote. ( <i>Note: In March 2006, NCES revised its system of local codes.</i> )	62.4%	17.0%	School level
<b>Department of Defense:</b> TRICARE Definition	This classification scheme categorizes areas by ZIP codes. Rural is defined as a ZIP code with a population density less than 1,000 persons per square mile.	98.0%	46.7%	ZIP Code
<b>National Center For Health Statistics:</b> Urban-Rural Classification Scheme	This classification scheme divides counties into four metropolitan and two nonmetropolitan categories. Classification is based on information from the 2003 OMB's metropolitan-nonmetropolitan designations, the ERS' Rural-Urban Continuum Codes and the Urban Influence Codes classification, and county-level data on several variables from the 2000 census and 2004 postcensal population estimates. Counties in an area with an urban cluster of 10,000-49,999 population are classified as nonmetropolitan-micropolitan. All counties with population under 10,000 are classified as noncore-nonmicropolitan.	74.5%	17.4%	Counties
<b><u>Definitions designed to designate frontier areas</u></b>				
<b>Frontier Education Center (FEC):</b> Frontier Areas	Frontier areas are determined using the matrix established by FEC for scoring density and isolation/distance. An area receives points for ranges of population density and mile distant from a market. An area must receive a minimum of 50 points to be considered frontier.	55.9%	3.7%	Counties
<b>U.S. Census Bureau:</b> Frontier Areas	A frontier area is designated as an area with extremely low population density of fewer than six people per square mile.	57.1%	0.9%	Census Block and Block Groups

**Updated as of April 3, 2007**

<sup>1</sup> RUCA codes used to calculate for percent of land and people classified as rural as follows: [large rural/town, micropolitan] 4.0, 4.2, 5.0, 5.2, 6.0, 6.1, [small rural town focused] 7.0, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 8.0, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 9.0, 9.1, 9.2, [isolated small rural town focused] 10.0, 10.2, 10.3, 10.4, 10.5, and 10.6

<sup>2</sup> RUCA codes used to calculate for percent of land and people classified as rural as follows: [small rural town focused] 7.0, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 8.0, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 9.0, 9.1, 9.2, [isolated small rural town focused] 10.0, 10.2, 10.3, 10.4, 10.5, and 10.6

<sup>3</sup> Calculations for percent of land and people classified as rural are low compared to all other measures. RUCA adjustment to OMB metropolitan and nonmetropolitan definition refers only to areas within metropolitan counties and therefore was calculated as such.