

POSTAL AND CENSUS GEOGRAPHY

While the Bureau of the Census relies on an accurate postal address and the U.S. Postal Service to deliver the majority of questionnaires to households, the mailing address is not used to assign housing units to the proper political jurisdiction or census geography. The Bureau is aware that the Post Office name used in the mailing address is often different from the municipality in which the housing unit is actually located.

The Census Bureau has field verified and continues to refine its address list in certain areas for the 2010 Census. During the Address Canvassing operation, field staff physically located each housing unit on the ground and assigned the housing unit to a geocode and a map spot, often captured with GPS technology. This geocode includes the census block and other related geography, including the municipality name and code. The Census Bureau will tabulate data that result from the 2010 Census using the geocodes, not the postal name in the mailing address.

Therefore, we expect that each census tract, voting district, school district, municipality, and other legal/geographic areas will receive accurate results from the 2010 Census.

In addition, the Census Bureau provided local governments an opportunity to review and provide feedback on the address list we developed for their municipality through the Local Update of Census Addresses or LUCA Program. Participating municipalities verified that the Census Bureau accurately coded each address to the proper municipality, regardless of the address used by the United States Postal Service for delivering the mail.