

The American Community Survey

October 25, 2023

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Training Branch

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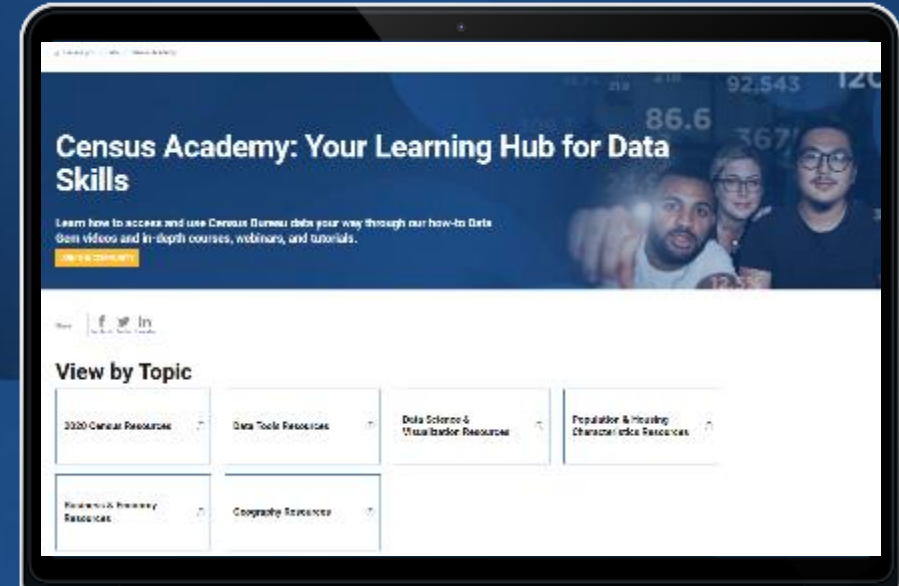


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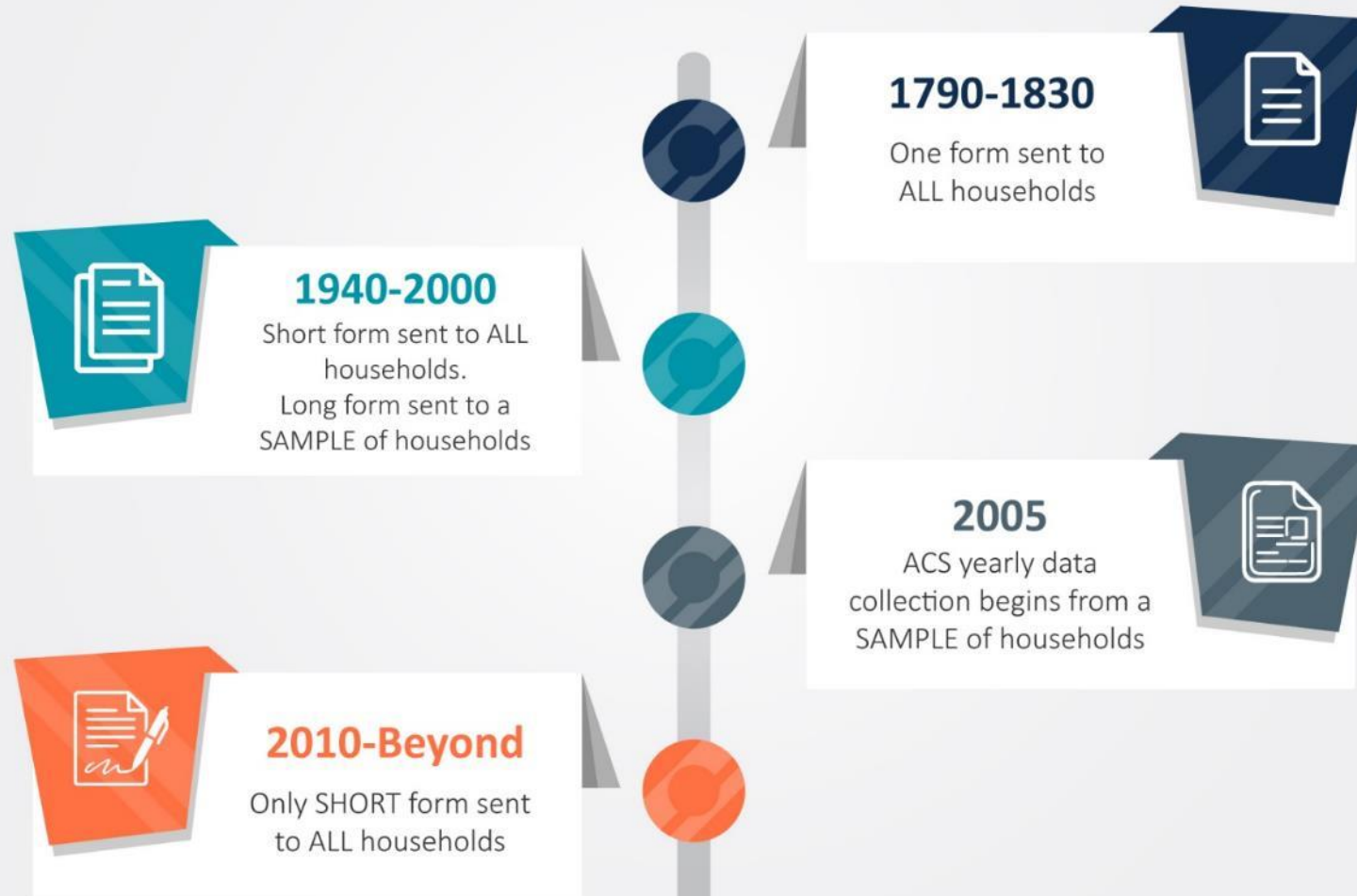
Outline

- ✓ History of the ACS and the Decennial Census
- ✓ Topics
- ✓ Data Collection
- ✓ Data Sets and Releases
- ✓ Geography
- ✓ [Data.census.gov](https://data.census.gov)



Replace with
your photo

EVOLUTION OF THE DECENNIAL CENSUS



- **Economic Characteristics
(DP03)**

- **Income & Earnings**
- **Class of Worker**
- **Employment Status**
- **Occupation**
- **Industry**
- **Commute**
- **Place of Work**
- **Health Insurance**
- **Food stamps/SNAP**

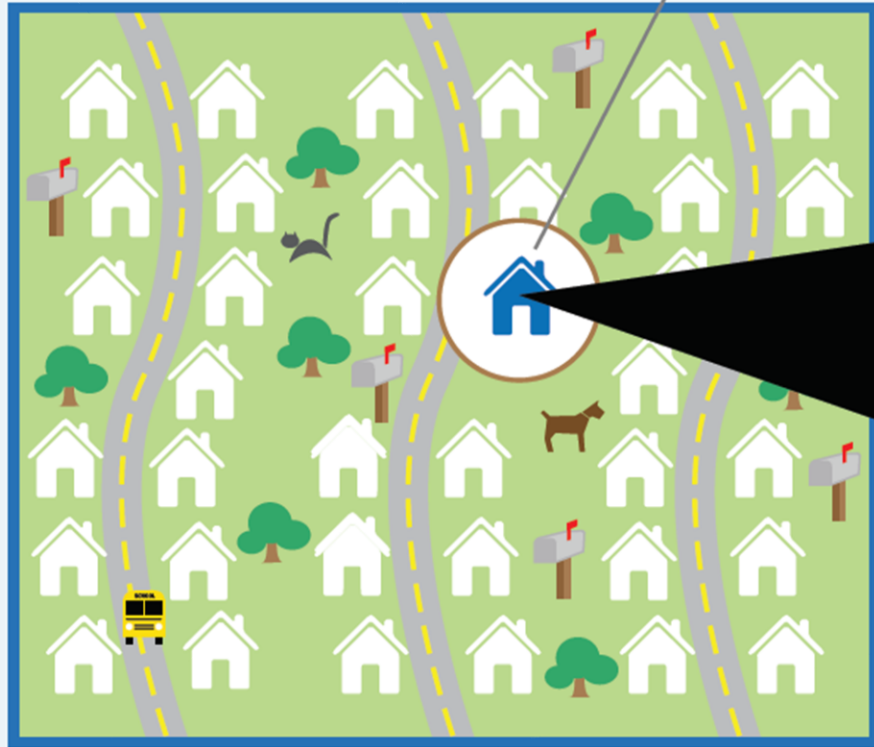
- **Social Characteristics
(DP02)**

- **Educational Attainment**
- **Marital Status**
- **Fertility**
- **Grandparents/Caregivers**
- **Veterans**
- **Disability**
- **Place of Birth**
- **Citizenship Status**
- **Language**
- **Ancestry/Tribal**
- **School Enrollment**
- **Degree**

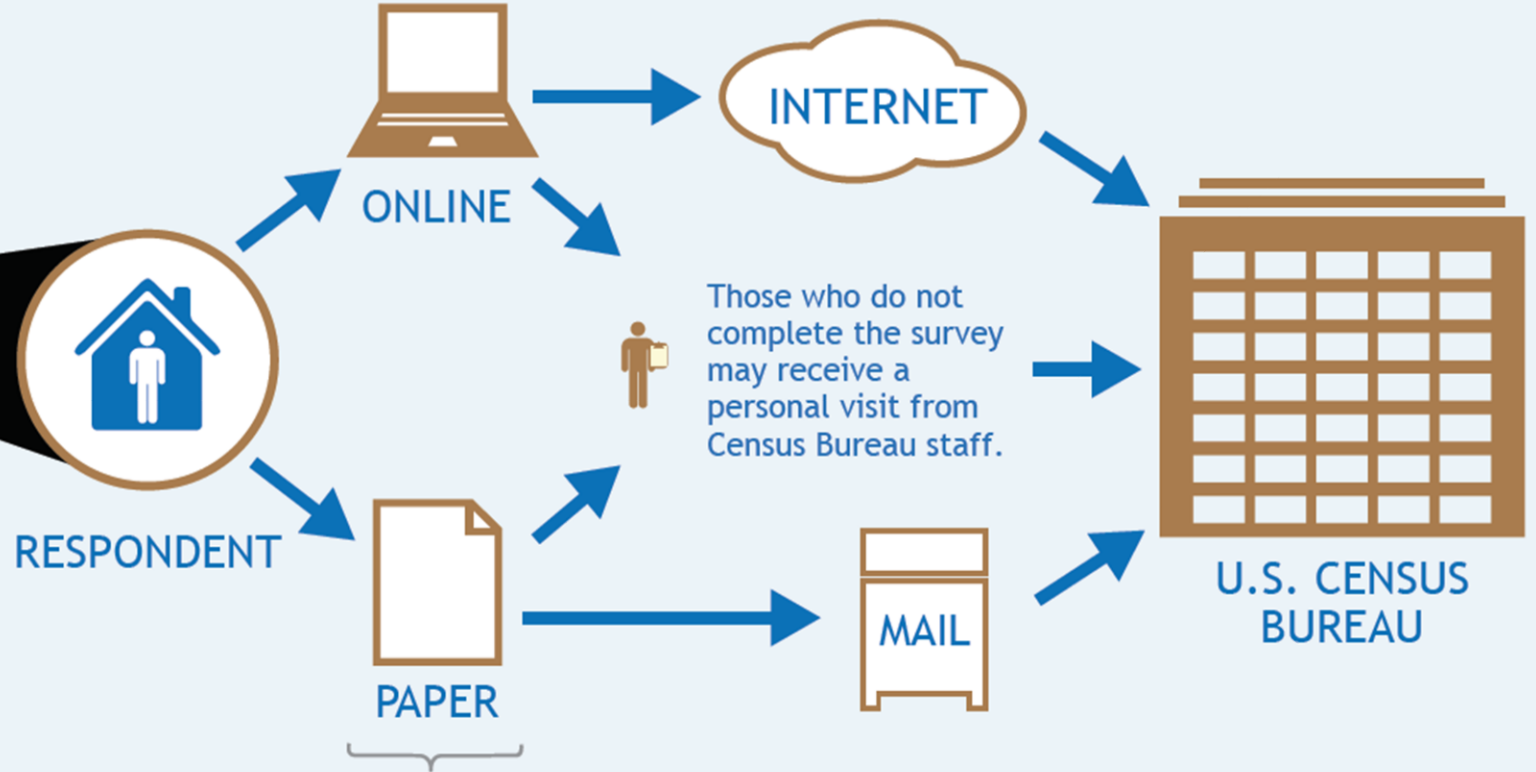
- **Housing Characteristics
(DP04)**

- **Tenure**
- **Occupancy & Structure**
- **Housing Value**
- **Taxes & Insurance**
- **Utilities**
- **Mortgage/Monthly Rent**
- **Year Structure Built**
- **Year Householder moved**
- **Vehicles**
- **Monthly costs**

About 1 in 38 U.S. households per year receives an invitation to participate in the American Community Survey (ACS).



YOUR COMMUNITY



RESPONDENT

ONLINE

INTERNET

Those who do not complete the survey may receive a personal visit from Census Bureau staff.

PAPER

MAIL

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

Individuals can complete the questionnaire for their household either online or on a paper form.

The American Community Survey

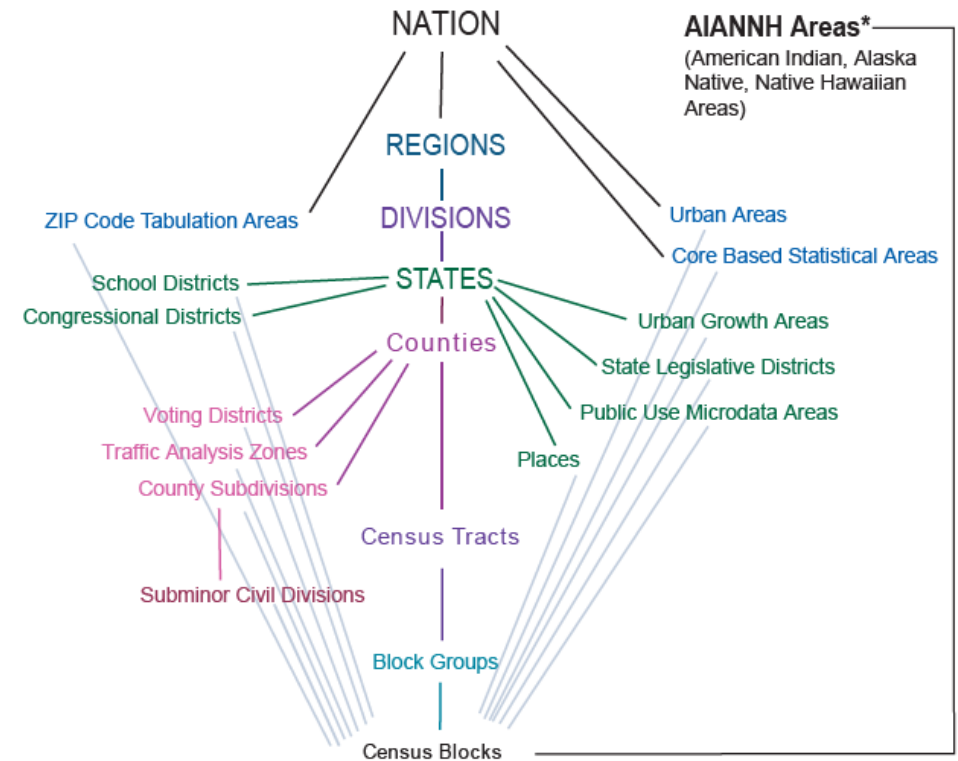
Availability of ACS Data Products

Estimated Population of Geographic Area	2022 1-Year Estimates	2022 1-Year Supplemental Estimates	2018-2022 5-Year Estimates
65,000 or more	X	X	X
20,000 to 64,999		X	X
Less than 20,000			X
Release Date	September 14, 2023	October 19, 2023	December 7, 2023

Overview of Census Geography

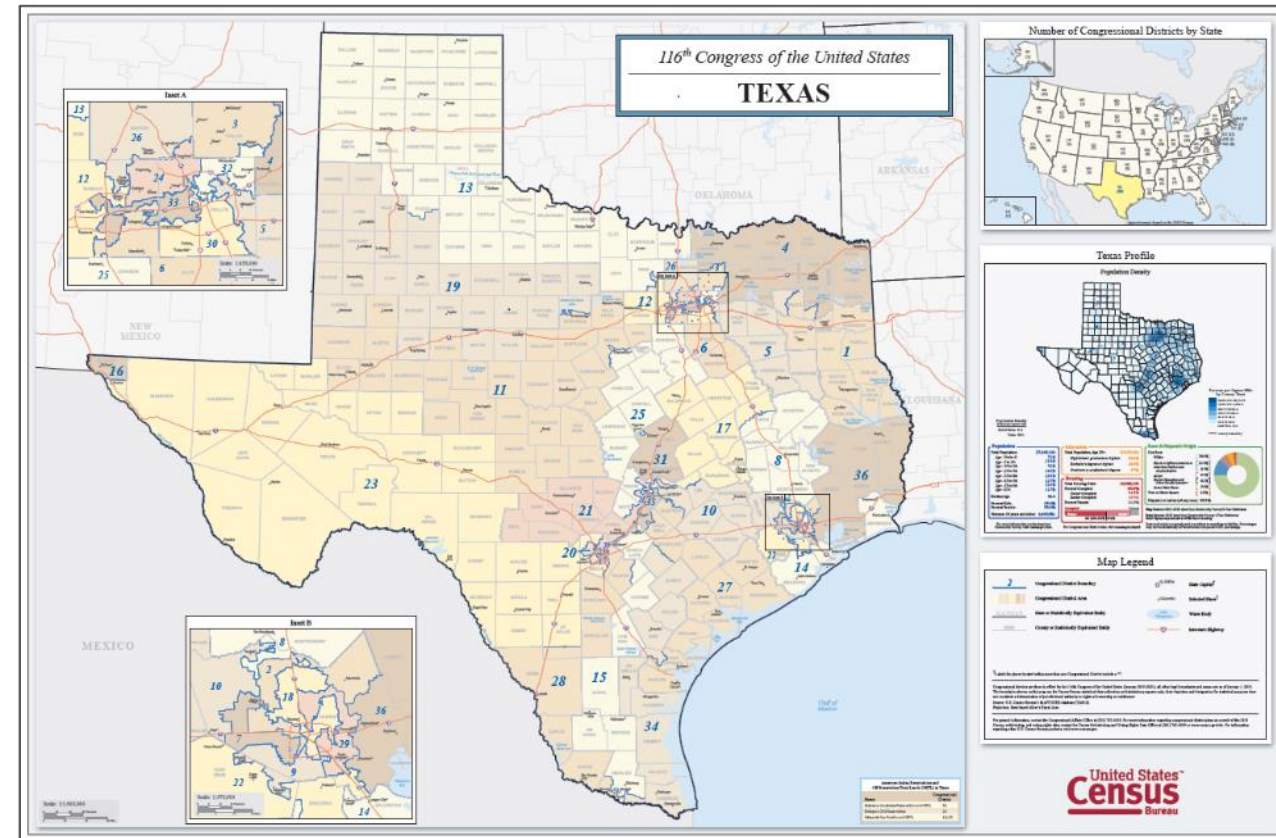
Two main types of Census geography:

- Legal or Administrative
- Statistical



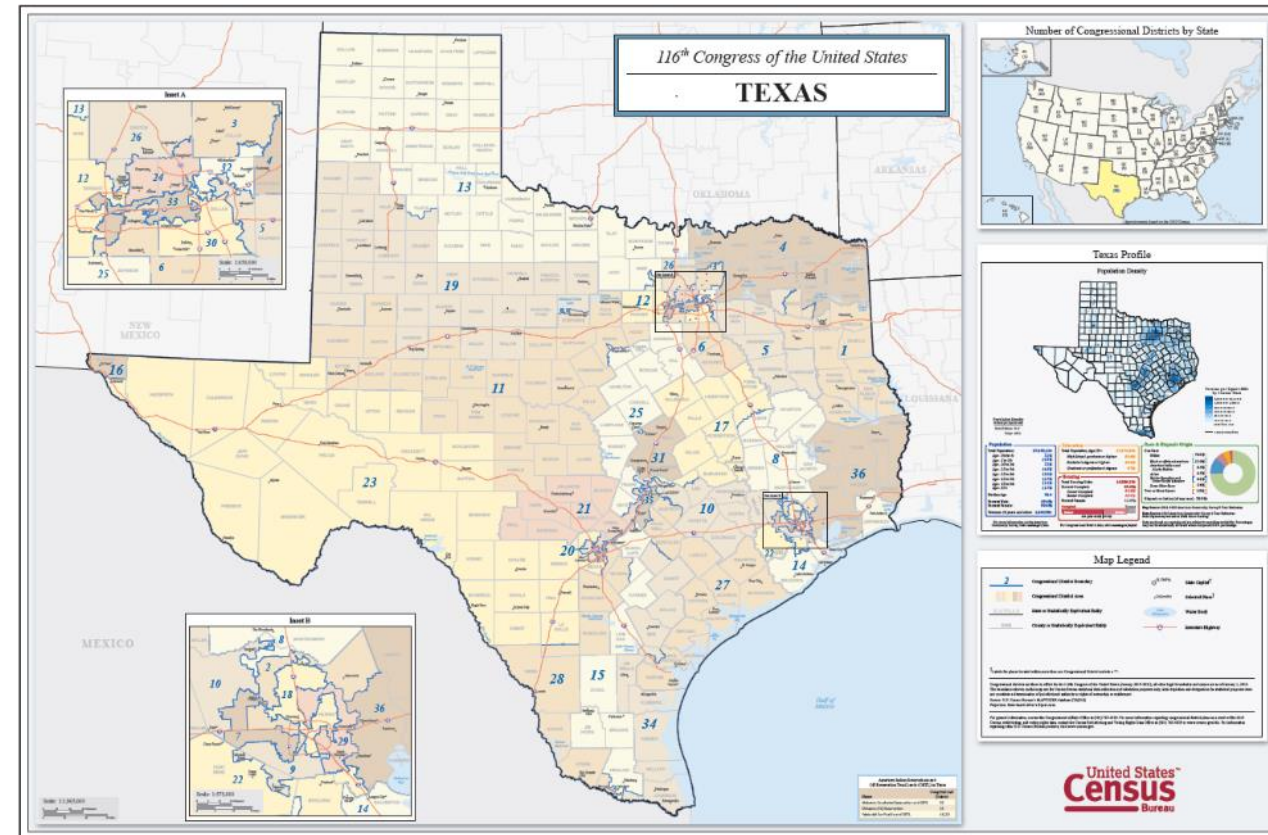
Basics of Legal or Administrative Geography

- Governing body
- Boundaries change at the will of the governing body
- New geographies can be formed by a new incorporation



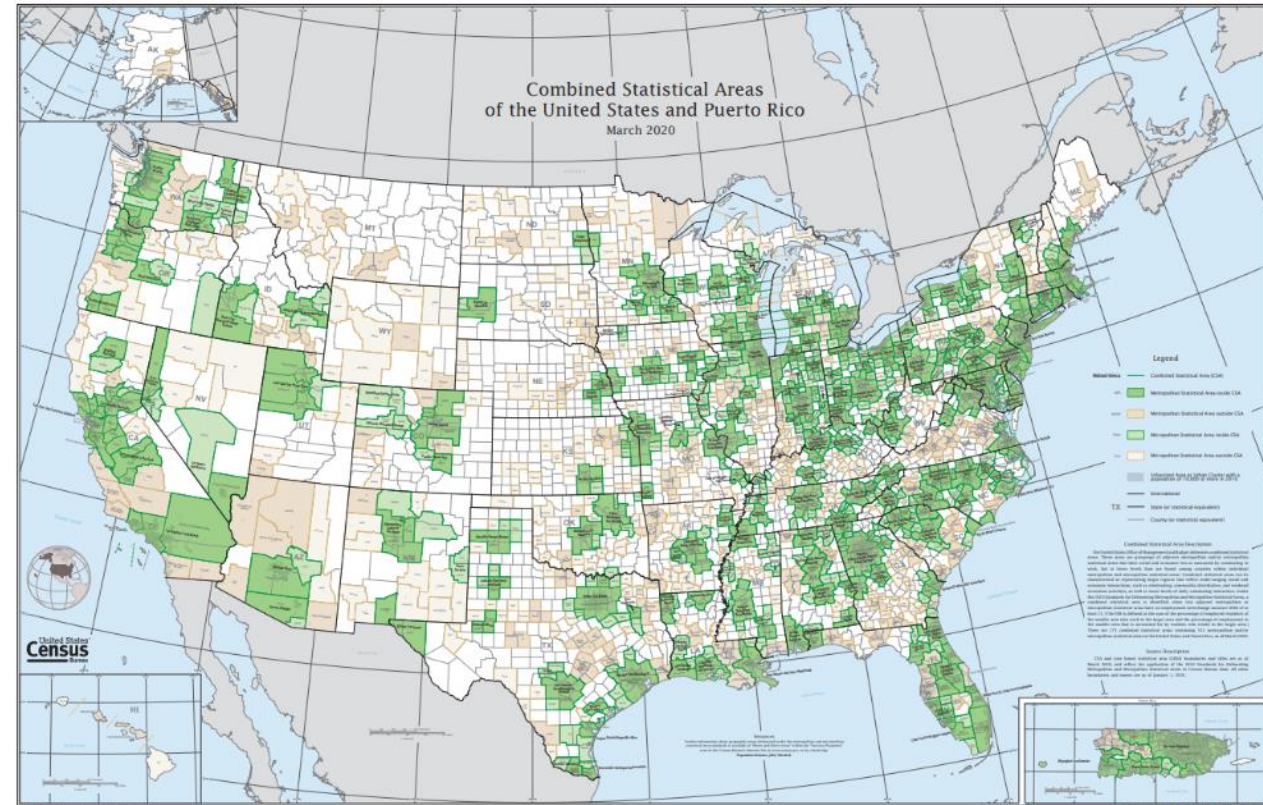
Examples of Legal or Administrative Geography

- States
- American Indian Reservations
- Counties
- Places
- Congressional Districts
- School Districts
- Voting Districts



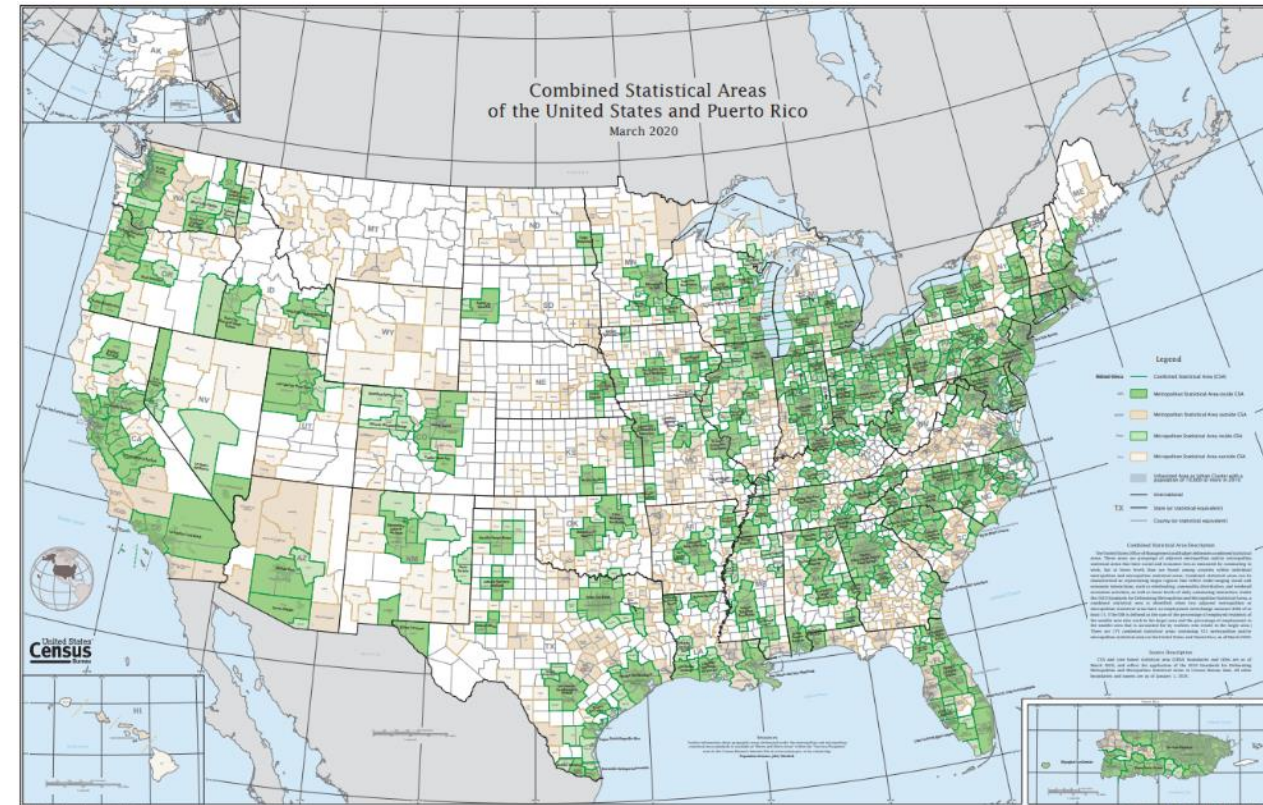
Basics of Statistical Geography

- No gaps and no overlaps
- Boundaries are created and maintained by the U.S. Census Bureau
- Are created and updated only for statistical purposes
- The U.S. Census Bureau is the geographical data steward for the U.S. Government



Examples of Statistical Geography

- Census Tract
- Census Block Group
- Census Block
- PUMS



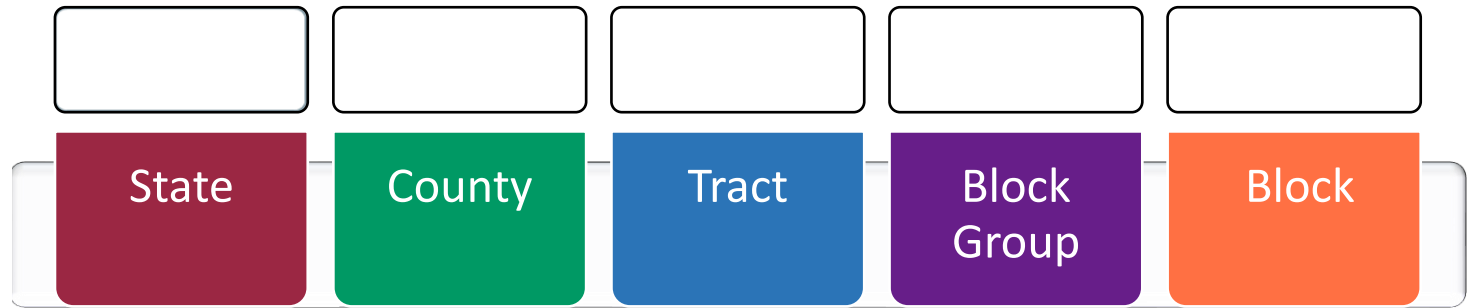
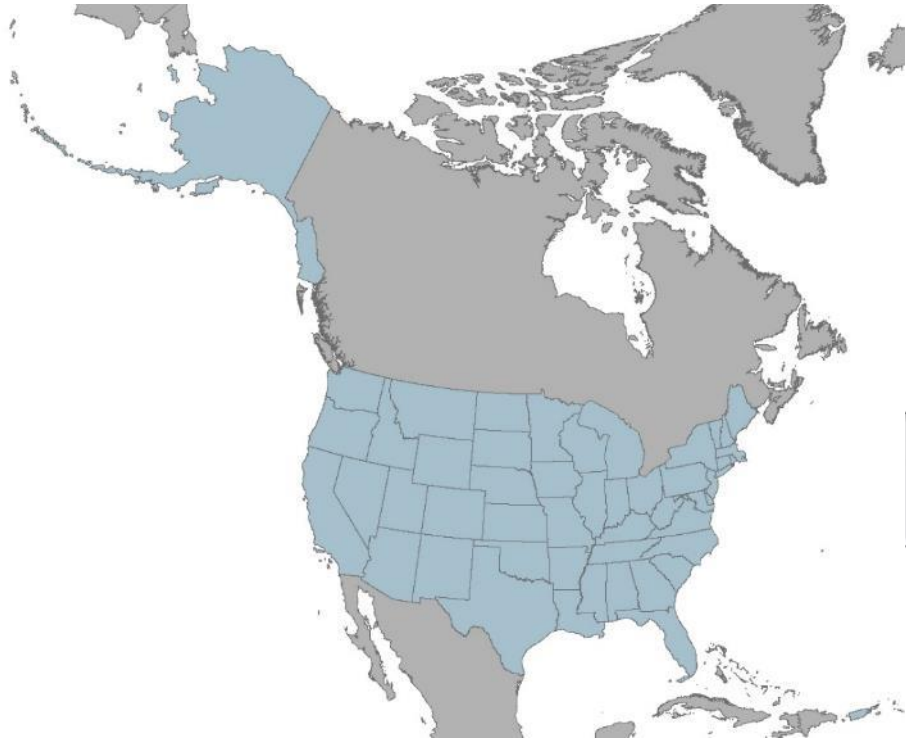
Census Tracts

Statistical area	Primary purpose	Nationwide wall-to-wall coverage	Geography nests within	2020 Census population criteria	2020 Census housing unit criteria
CENSUS TRACTS					
Standard census tract	Boundary continuity. Data comparability.	Yes	County	Optimum: 4,000 Minimum: 1,200 Maximum: 8,000	Optimum: 1,600 Minimum: 480 Maximum: 3,200
Special use	Distinguish areas of little or no population that have a specific type of land use. Large water bodies.	No	County	Population Threshold = Little/None or must be within the standard census tract threshold. Area Measurement Thresholds: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Within Urban Area = 1 sq. mile. ▪ Outside Urban Area = 10 sq. miles. ▪ Inland water body = 100 sq. miles. ▪ Water body not coextensive with a water only census tract = none. 	

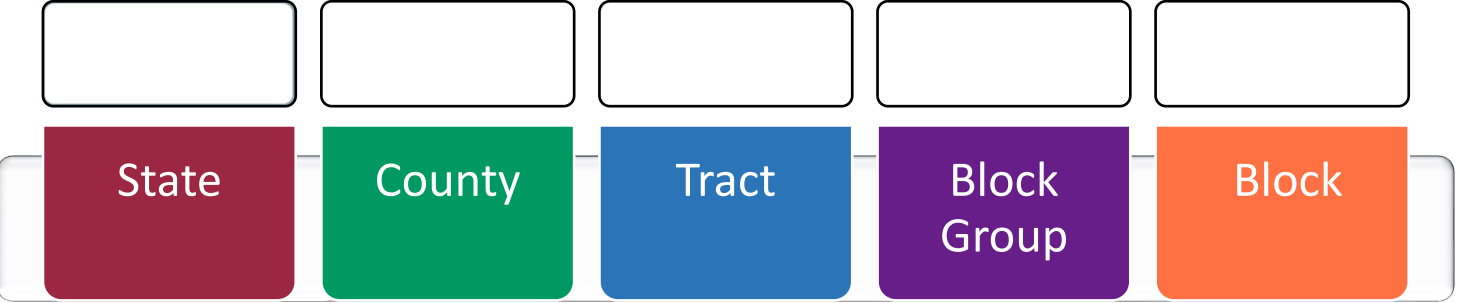
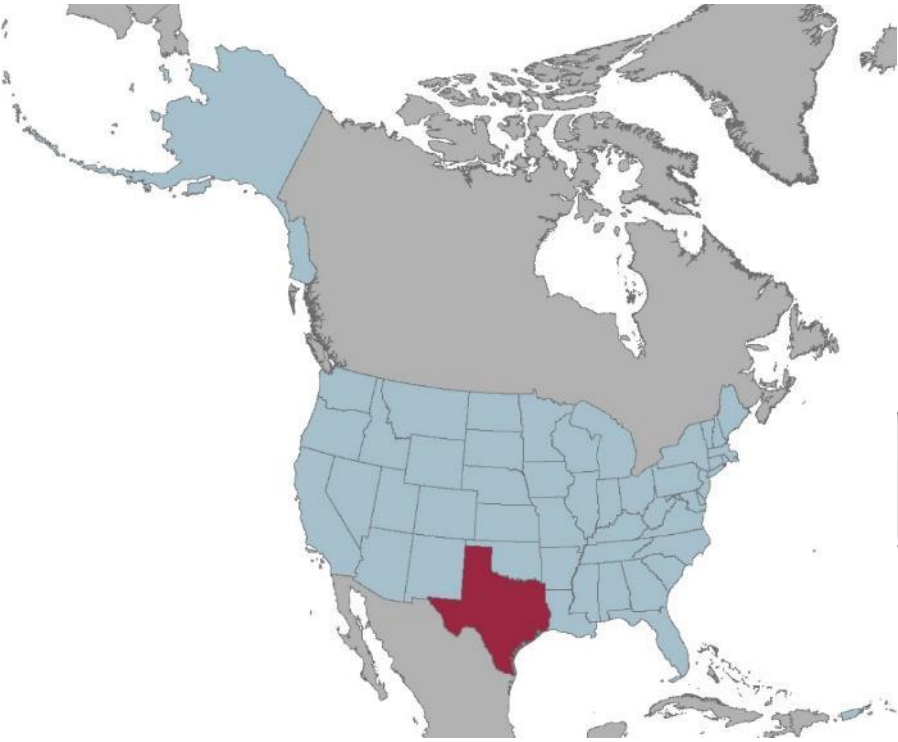
Block Groups

Statistical area	Primary purpose	Nationwide wall-to-wall coverage	Geography nests within	2020 Census population criteria	2020 Census housing unit criteria
BLOCK GROUPS					
Standard block group	<p>Form the geographic framework within which census blocks are numbered.</p> <p>Smallest area for which demographic characteristics are produced from the American Community Survey (ACS).</p>	Yes	Census Tract	Minimum: 600 Maximum: 3,000	Minimum: 240 Maximum: 1,200

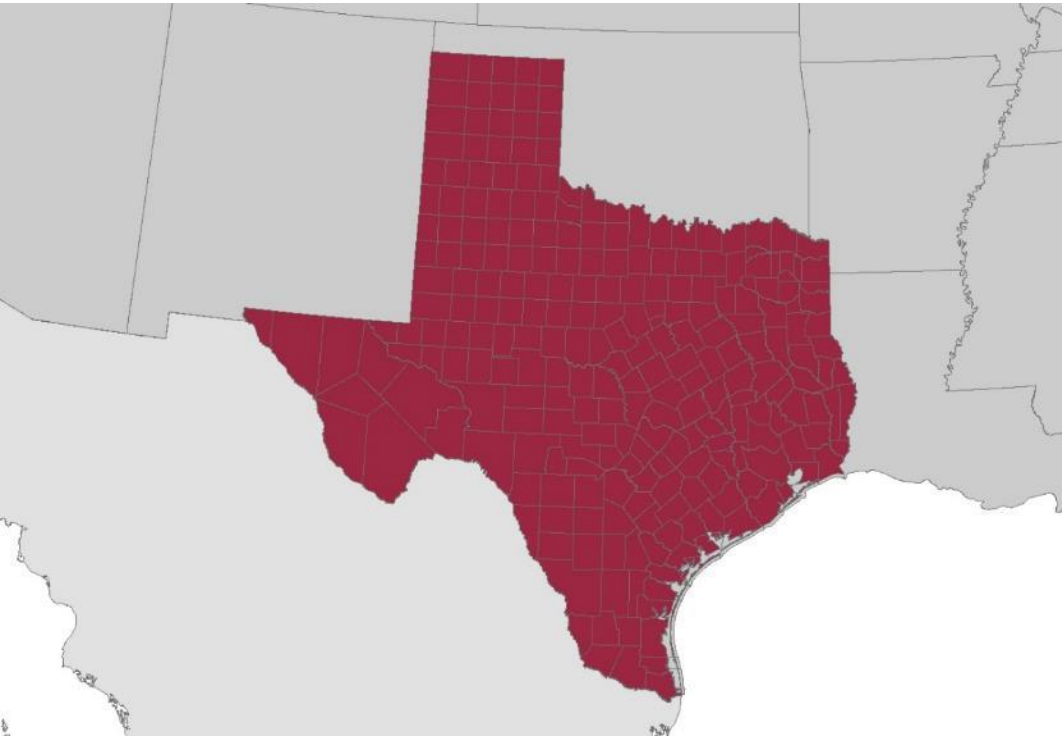
Country



State within the Country



State



48

State

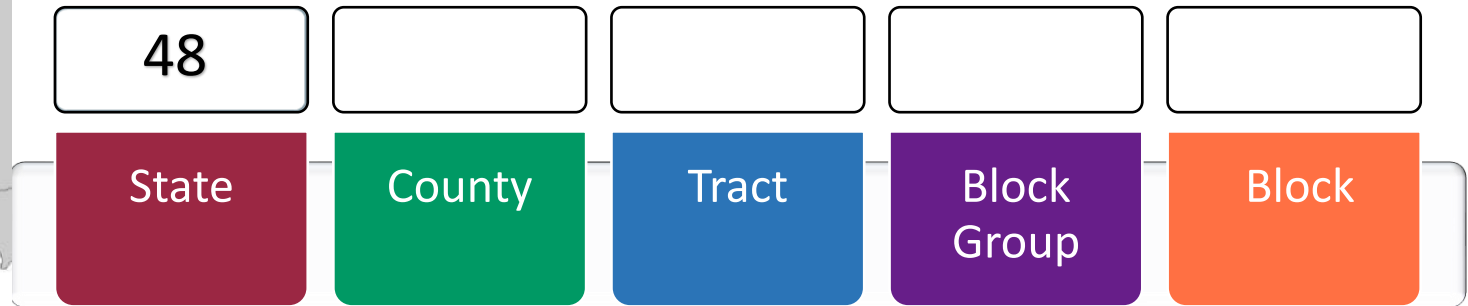
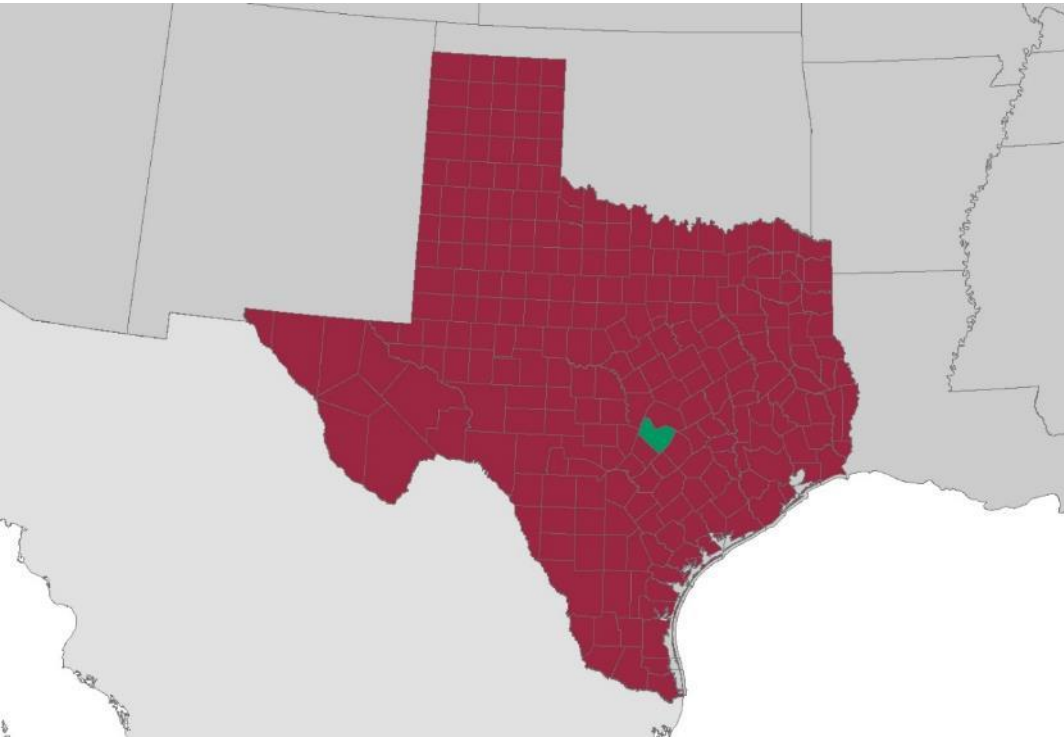
County

Tract

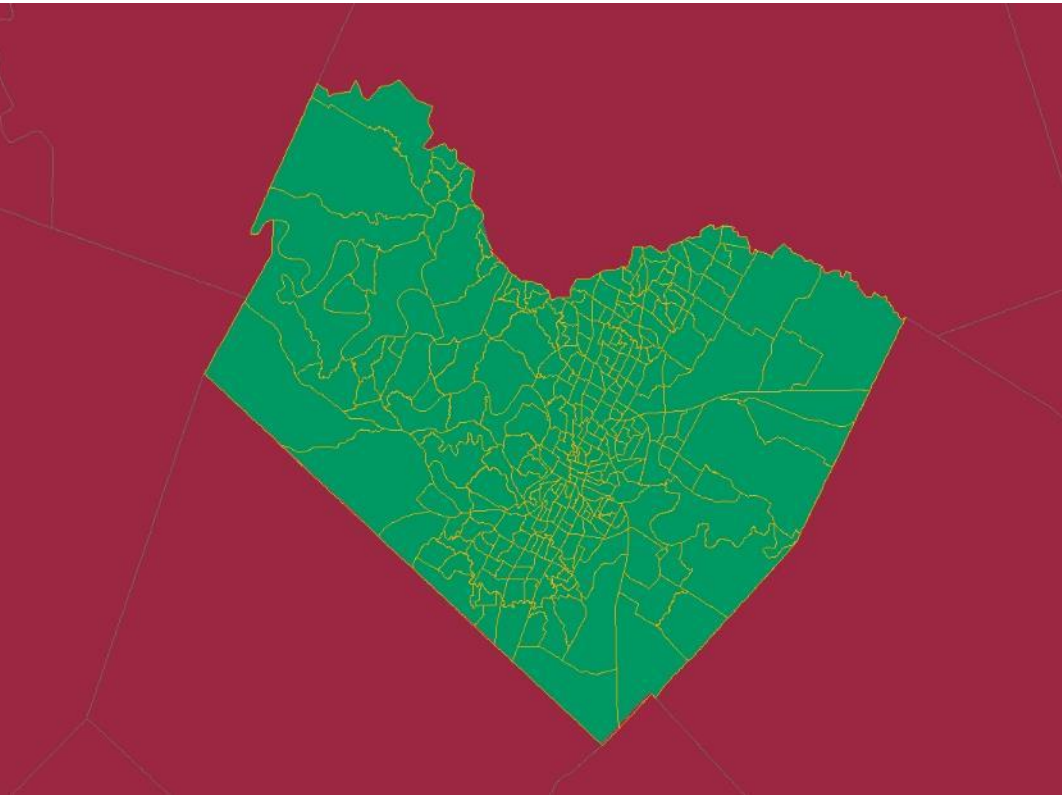
Block
Group

Block

County within the State



County



48

453

State

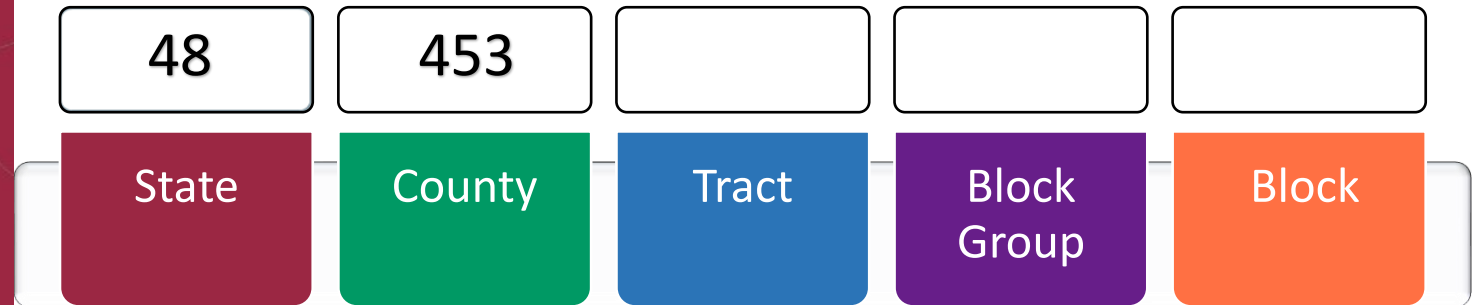
County

Tract

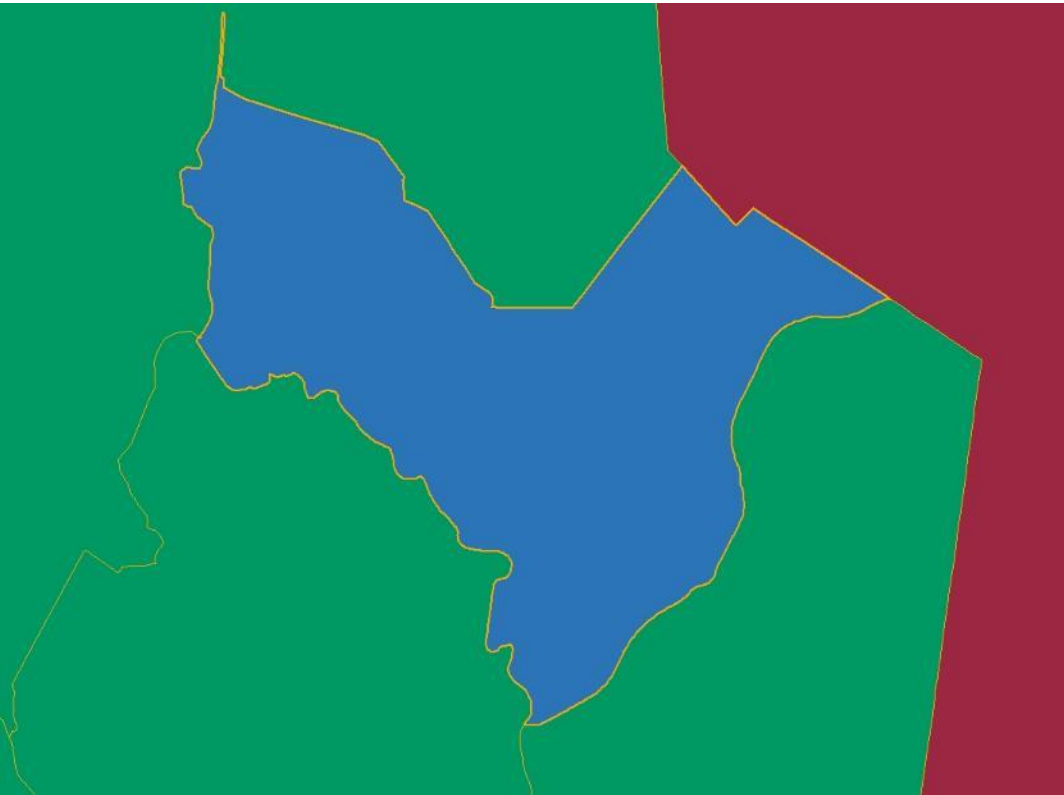
Block
Group

Block

Tract within the County



Tract



48

453

036000

State

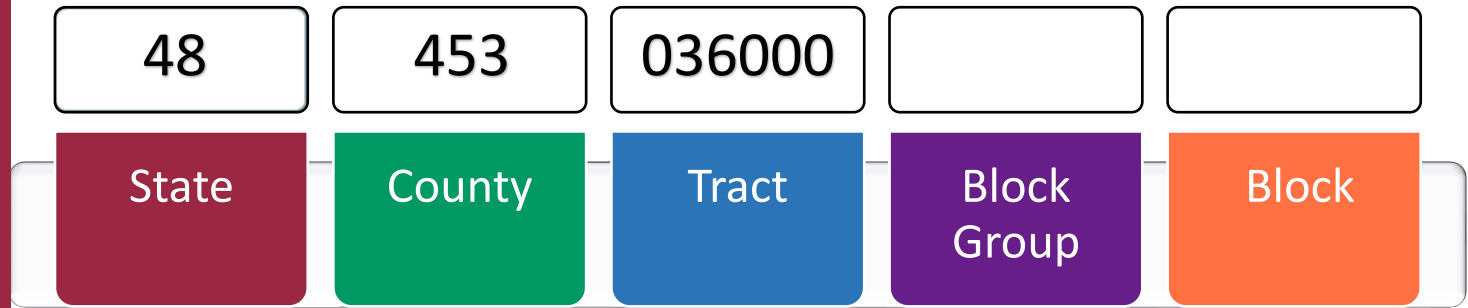
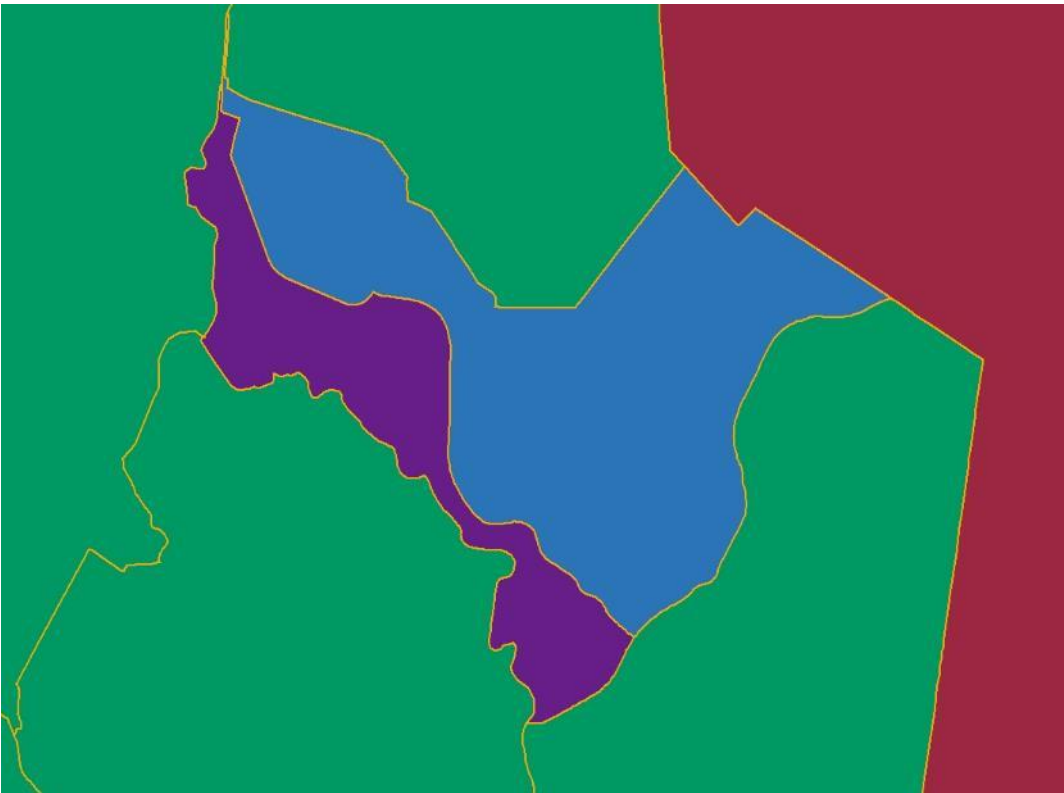
County

Tract

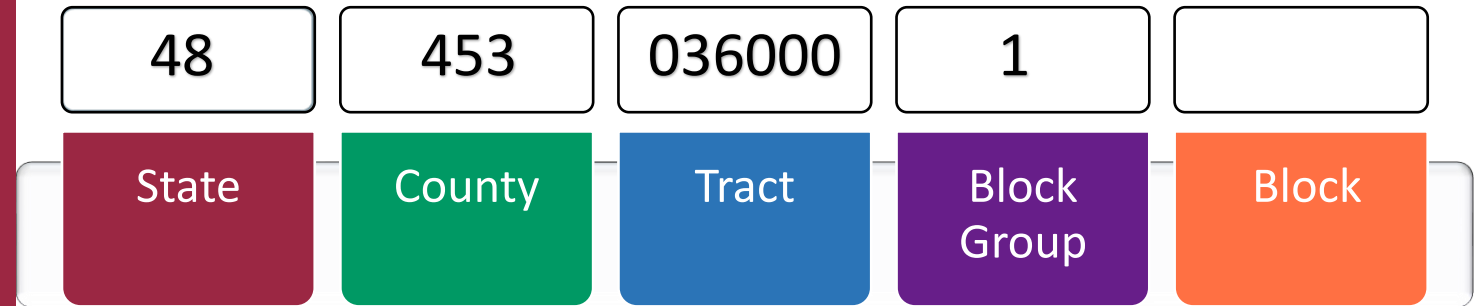
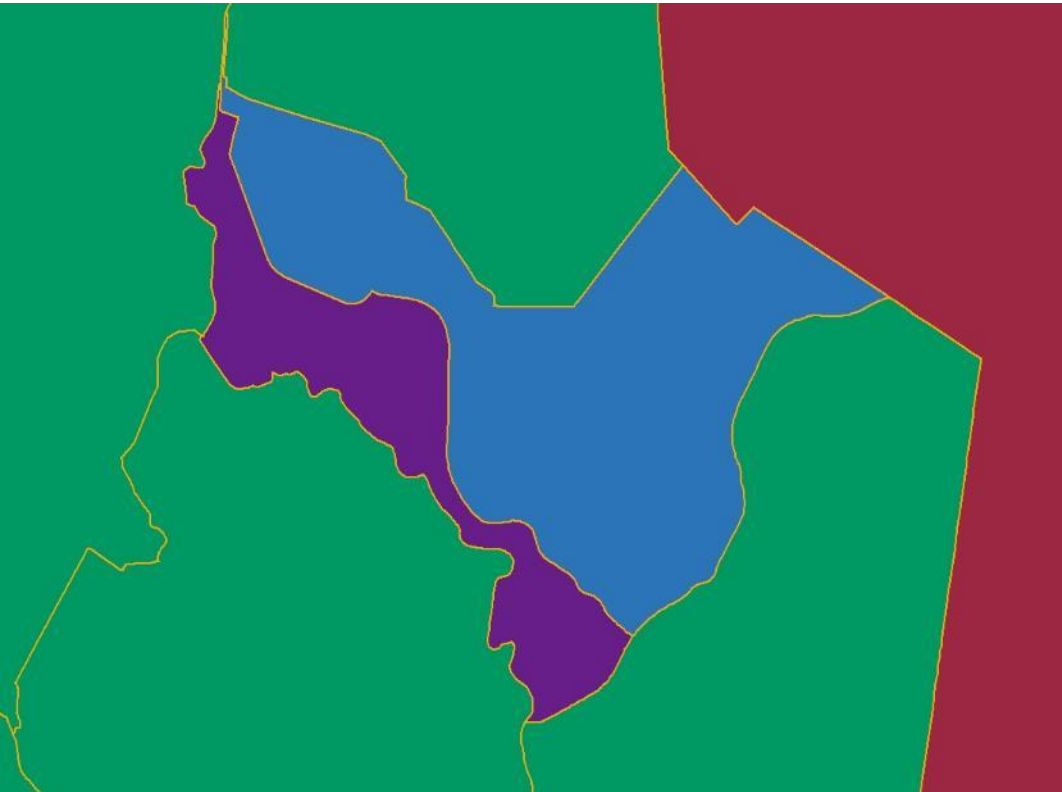
Block
Group

Block

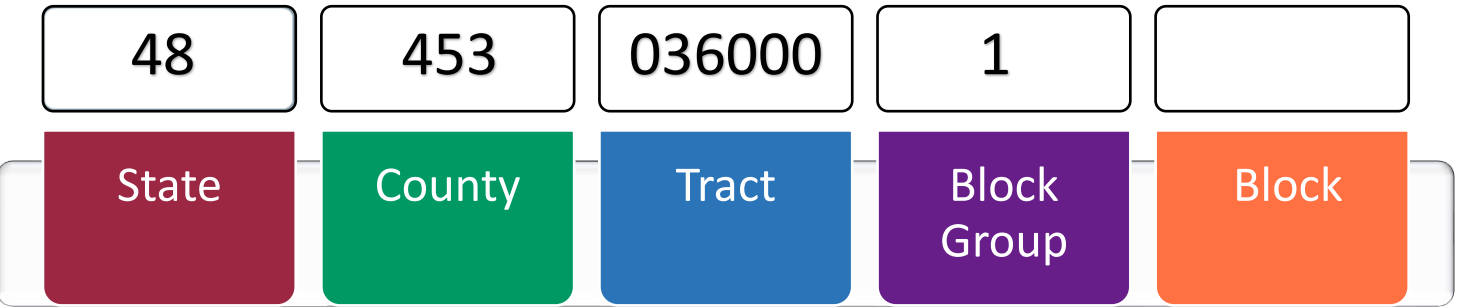
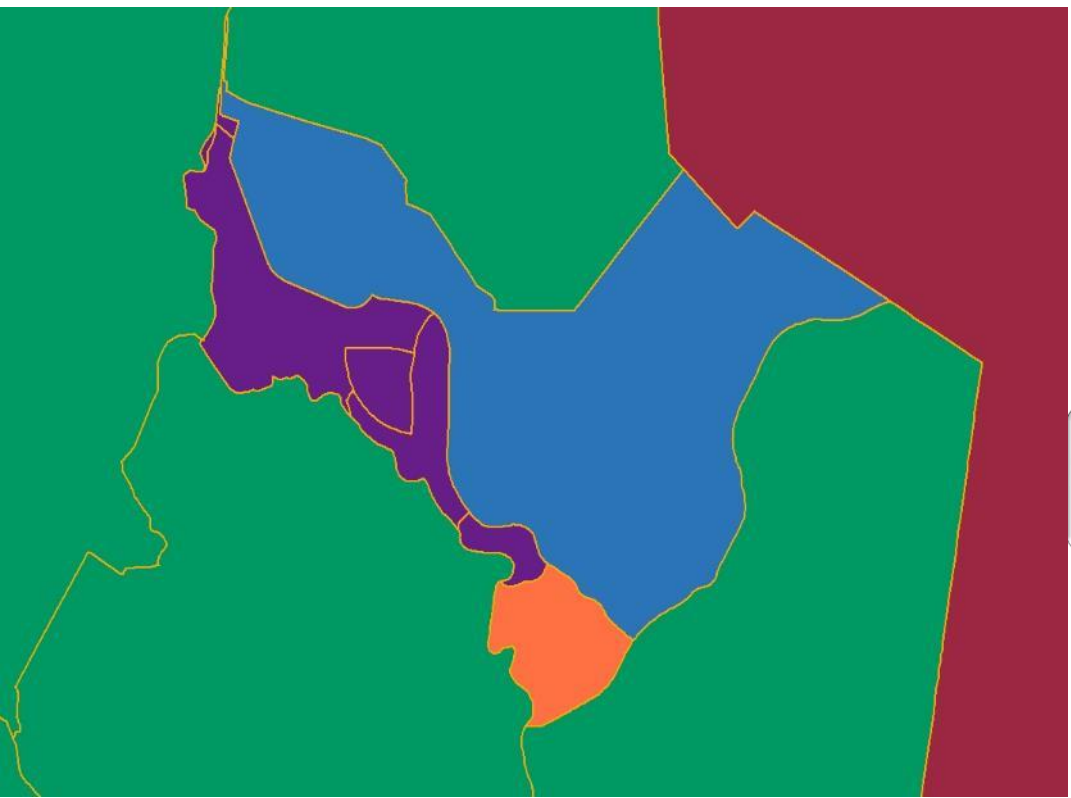
Block Group within the Tract



Block Group



Block within the Block Group



Block



48	453	036000	1	1006
State	County	Tract	Block Group	Block

Block



48

State

453

County

036000

Tract

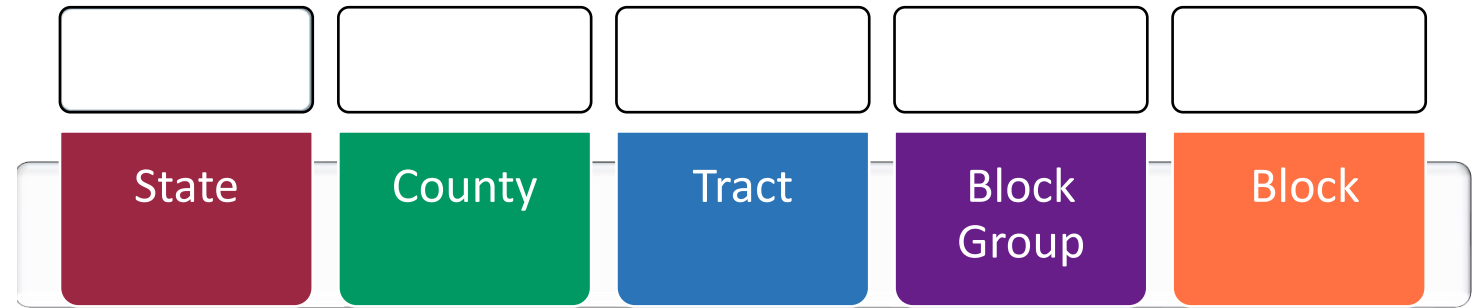
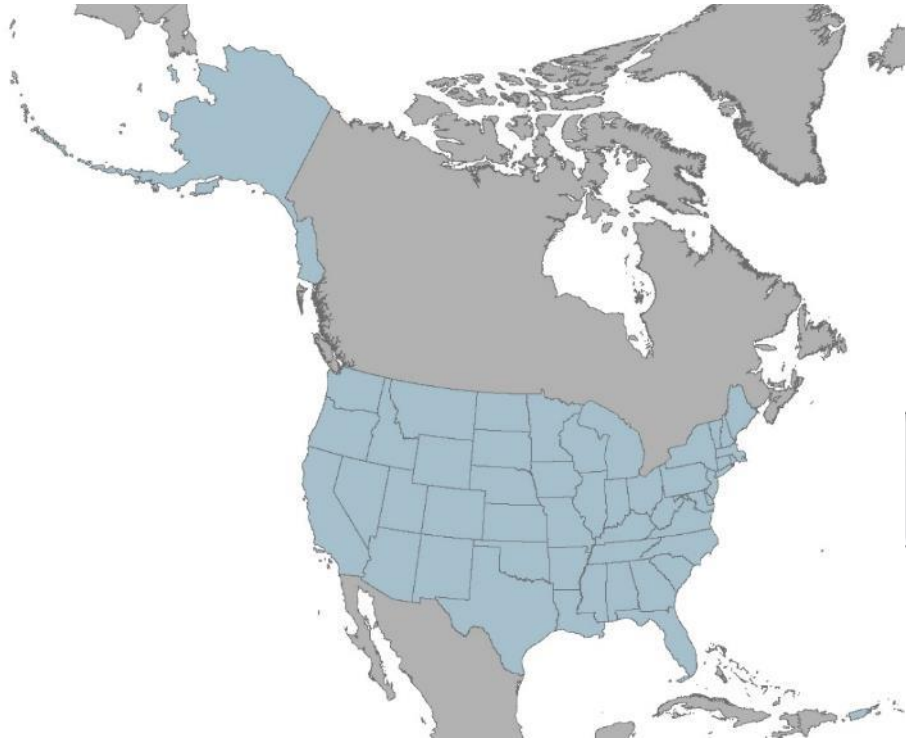
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Block
Group

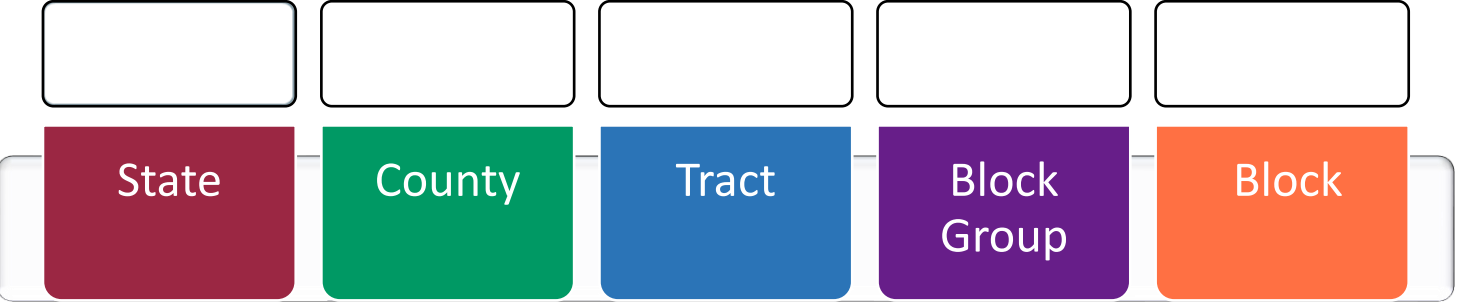
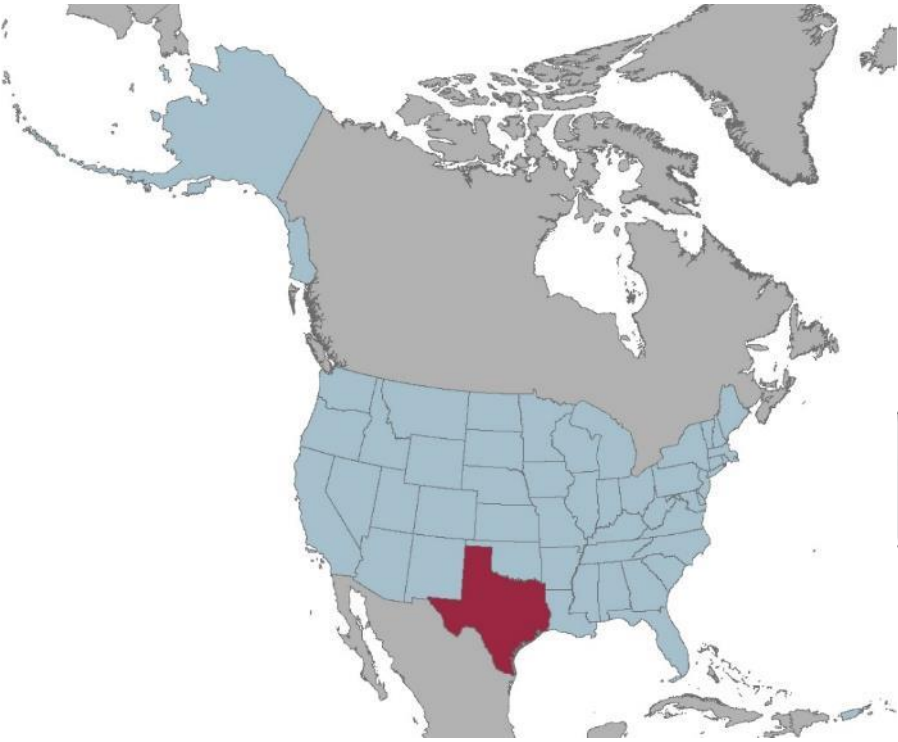
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Block

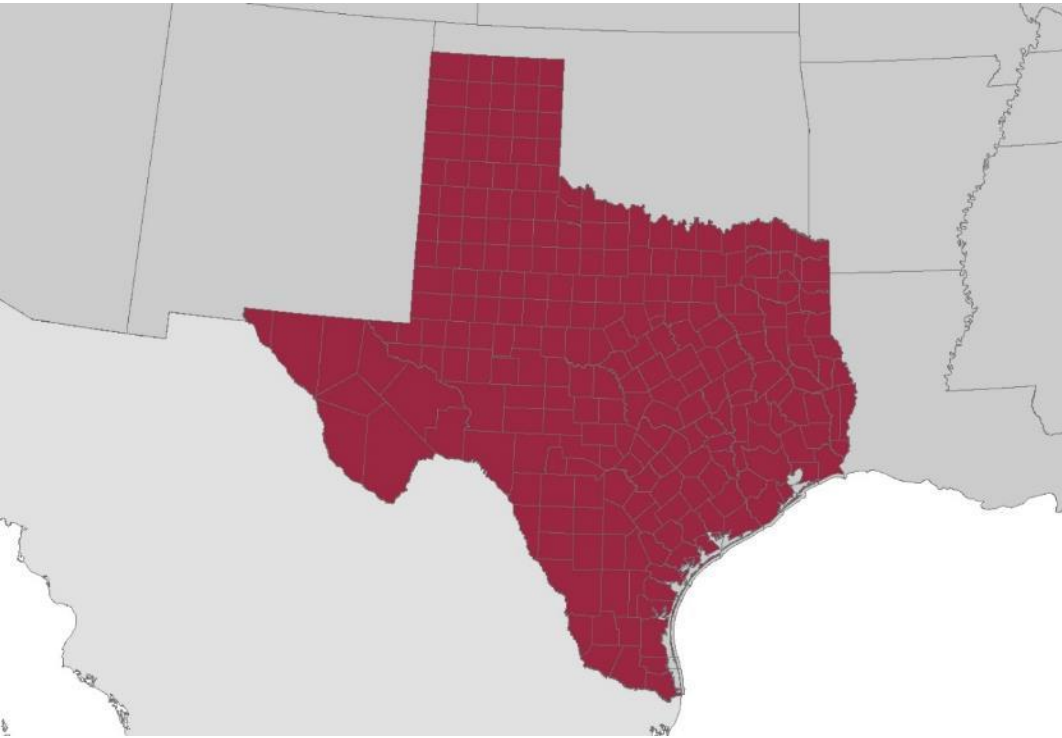
Country



State within the Country



State



48

State

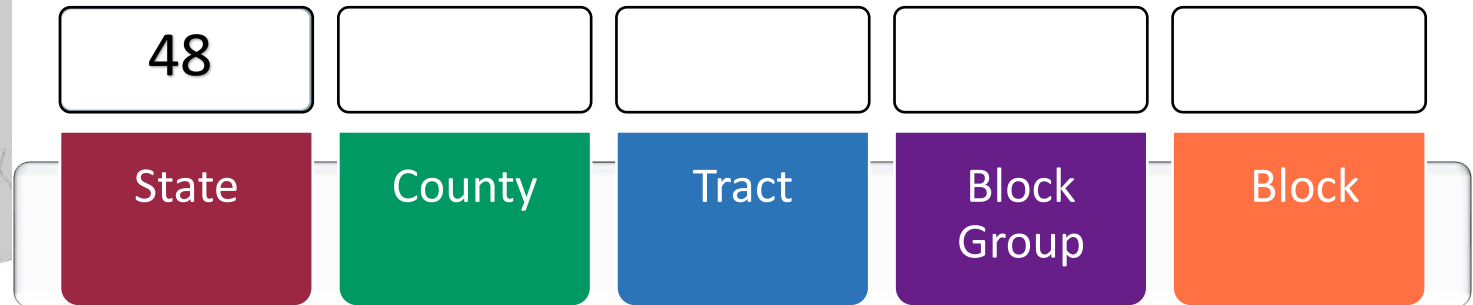
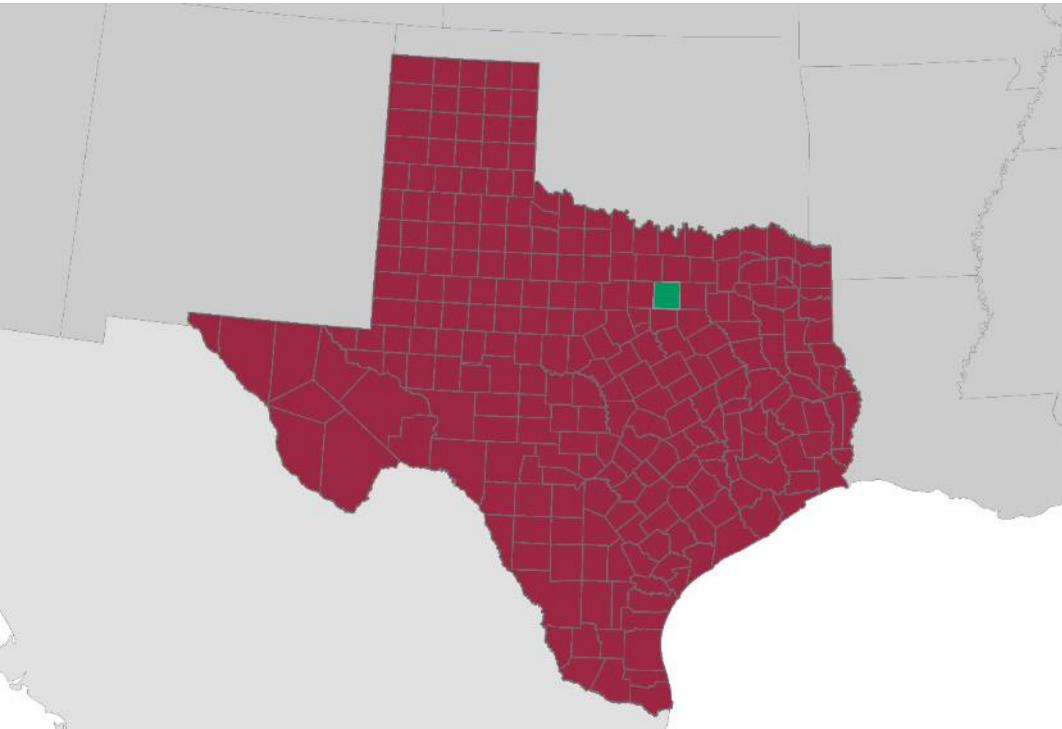
County

Tract

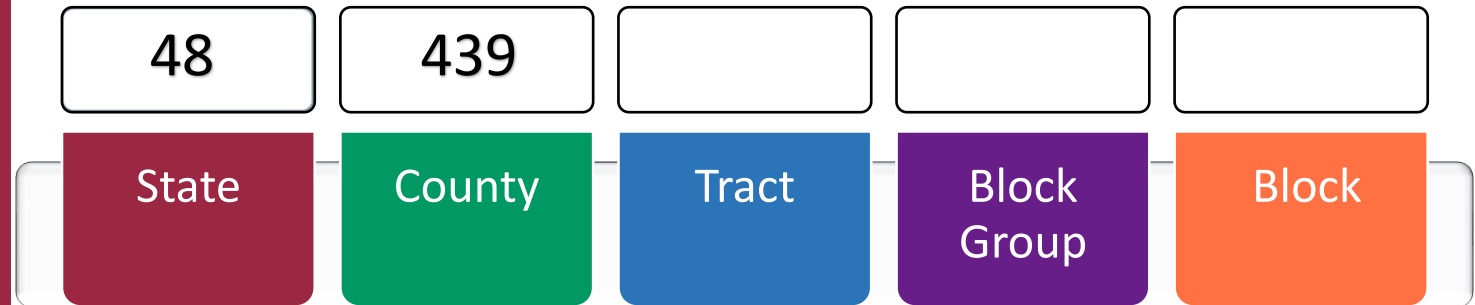
Block
Group

Block

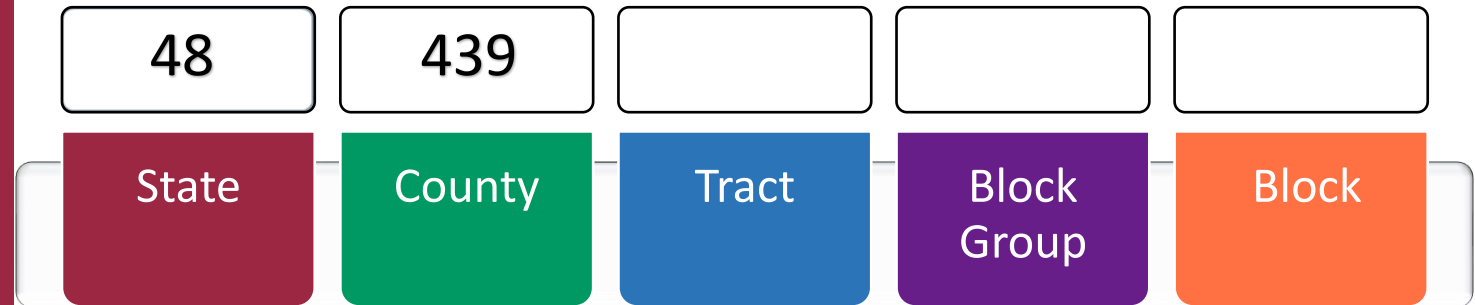
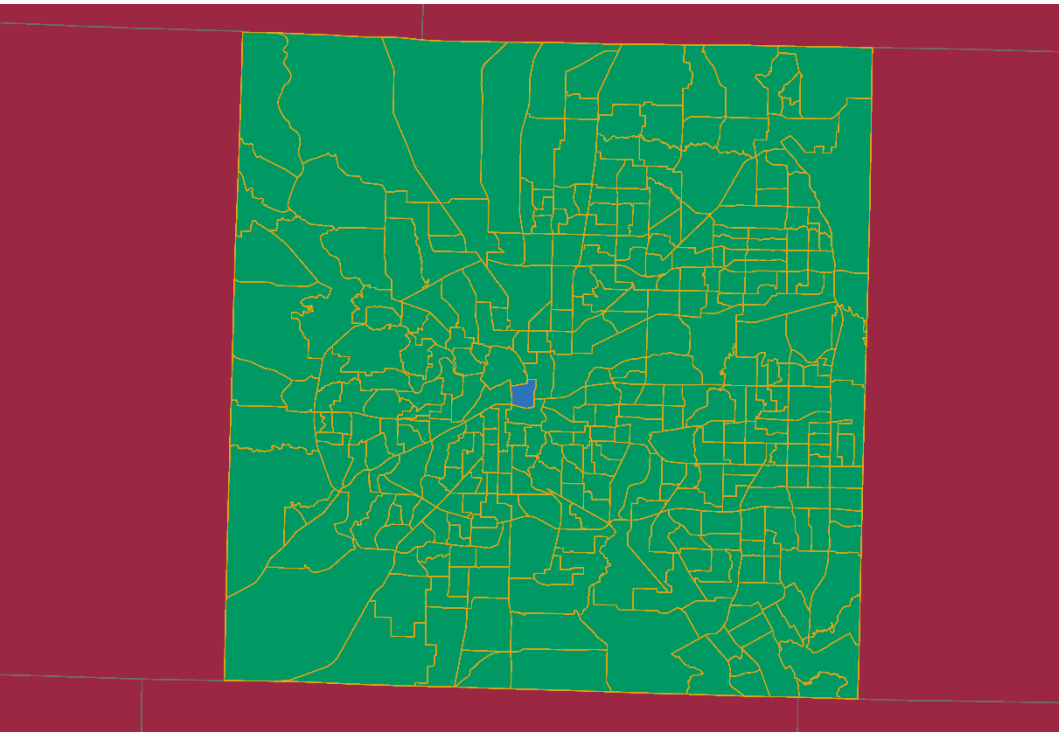
County within the State



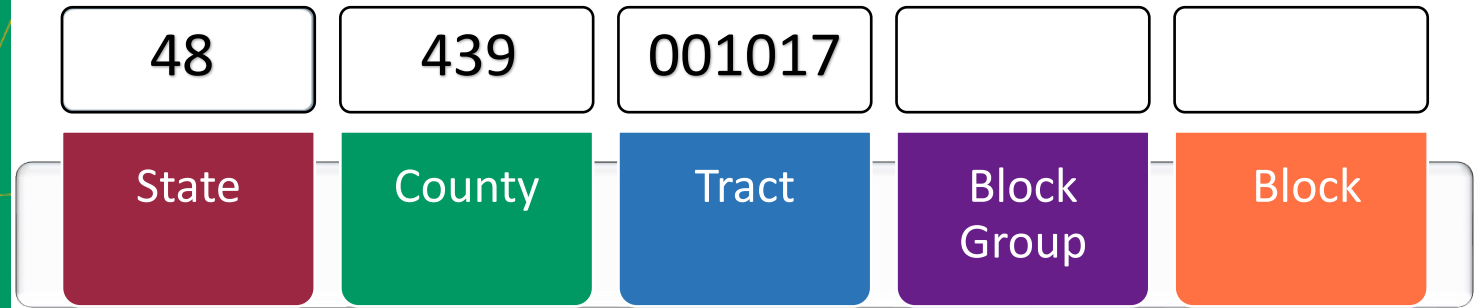
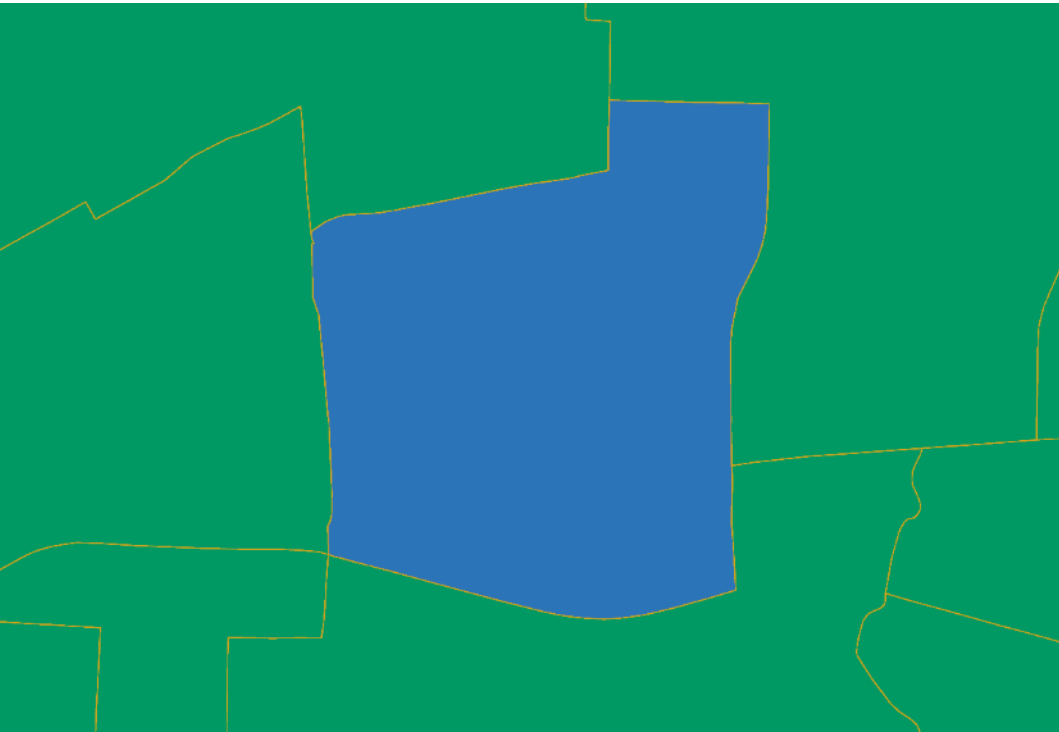
County



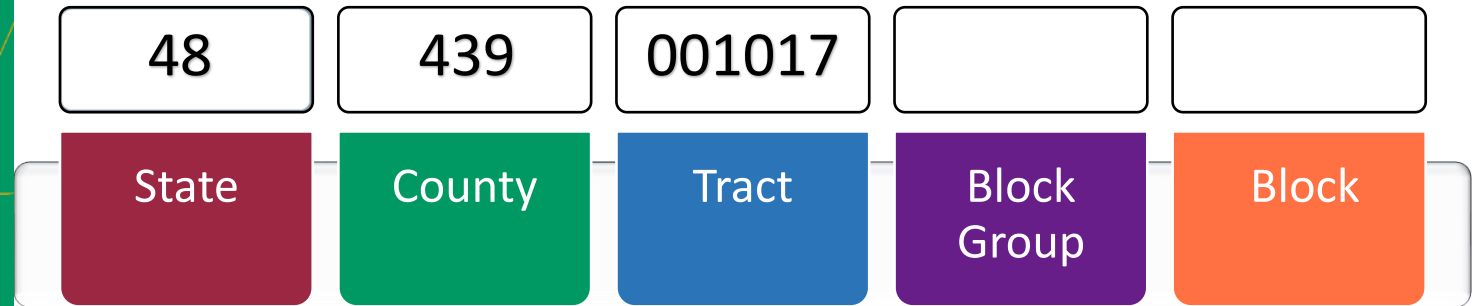
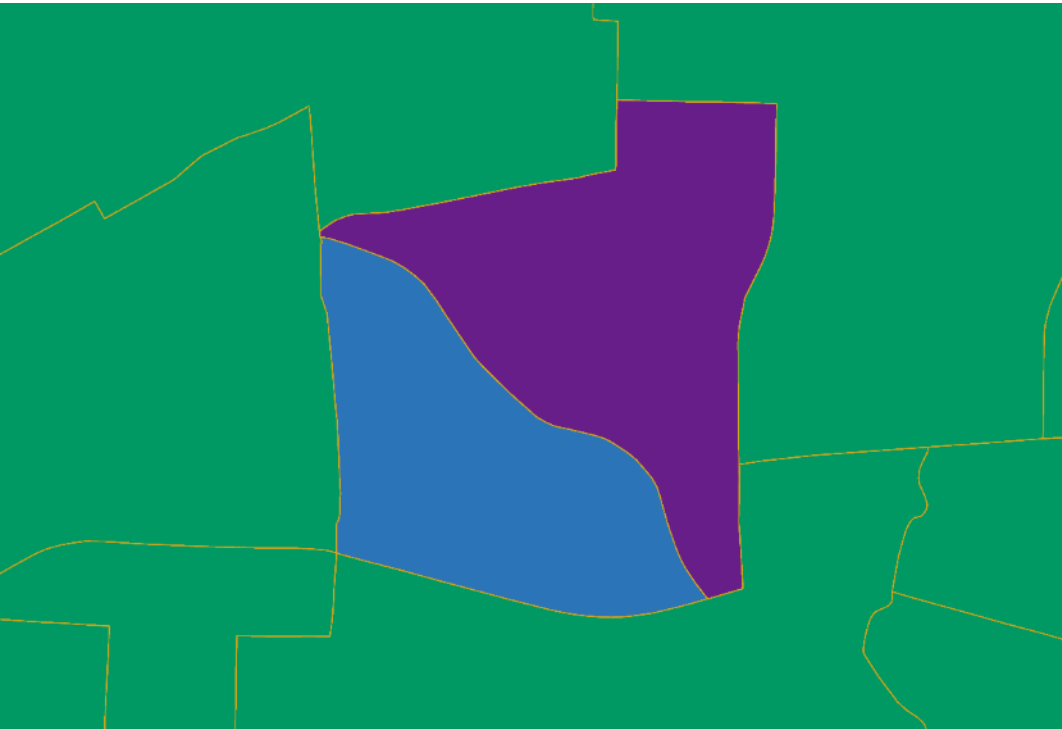
Tract within the County



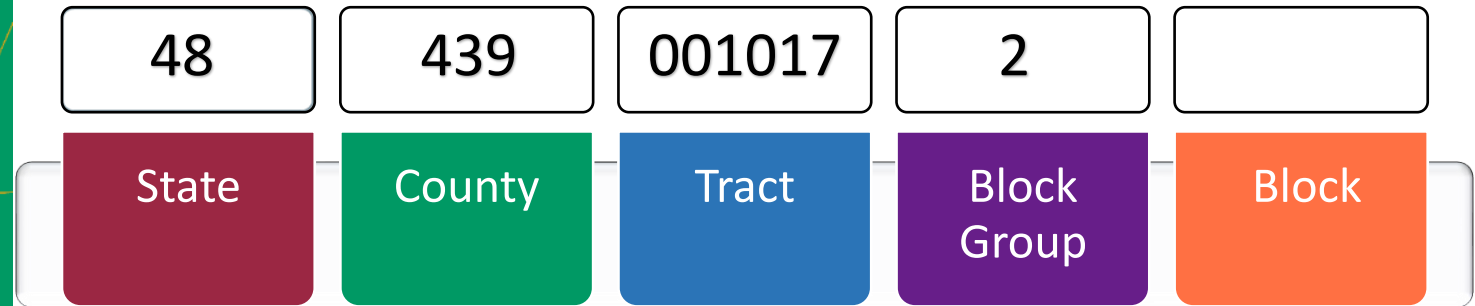
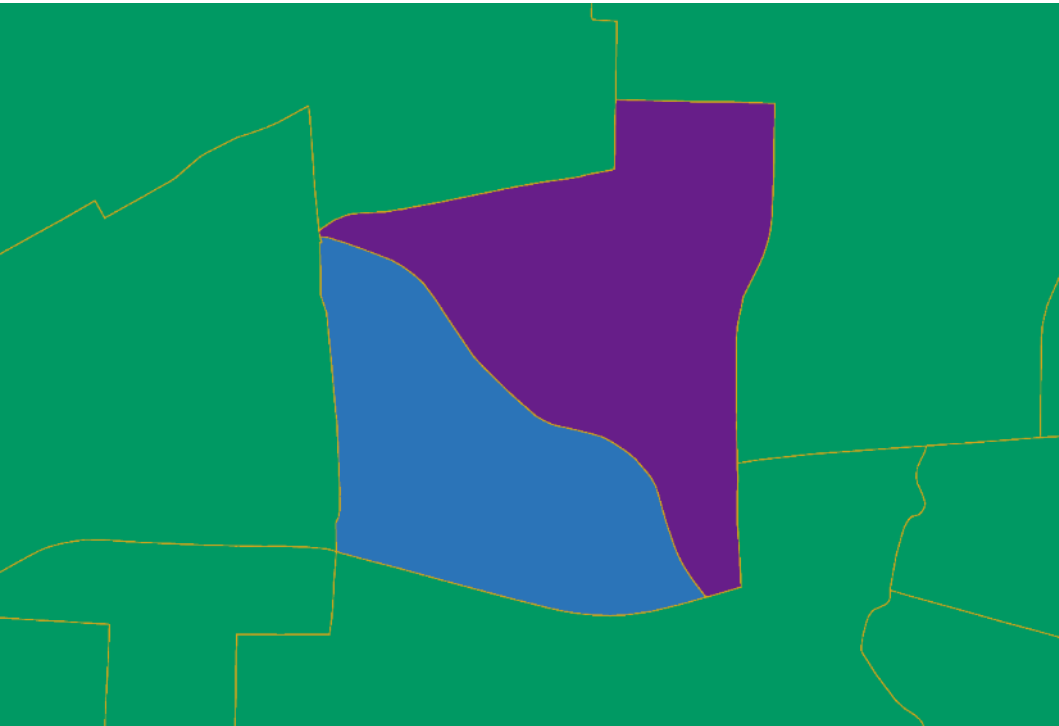
Tract



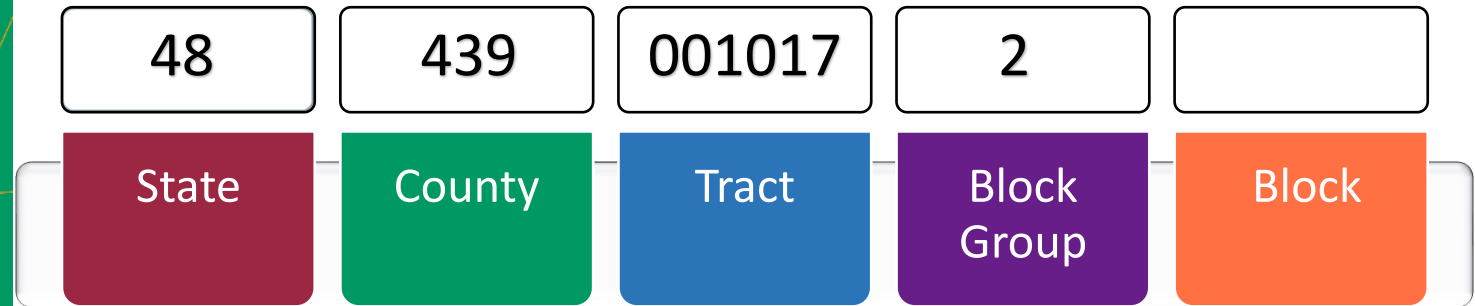
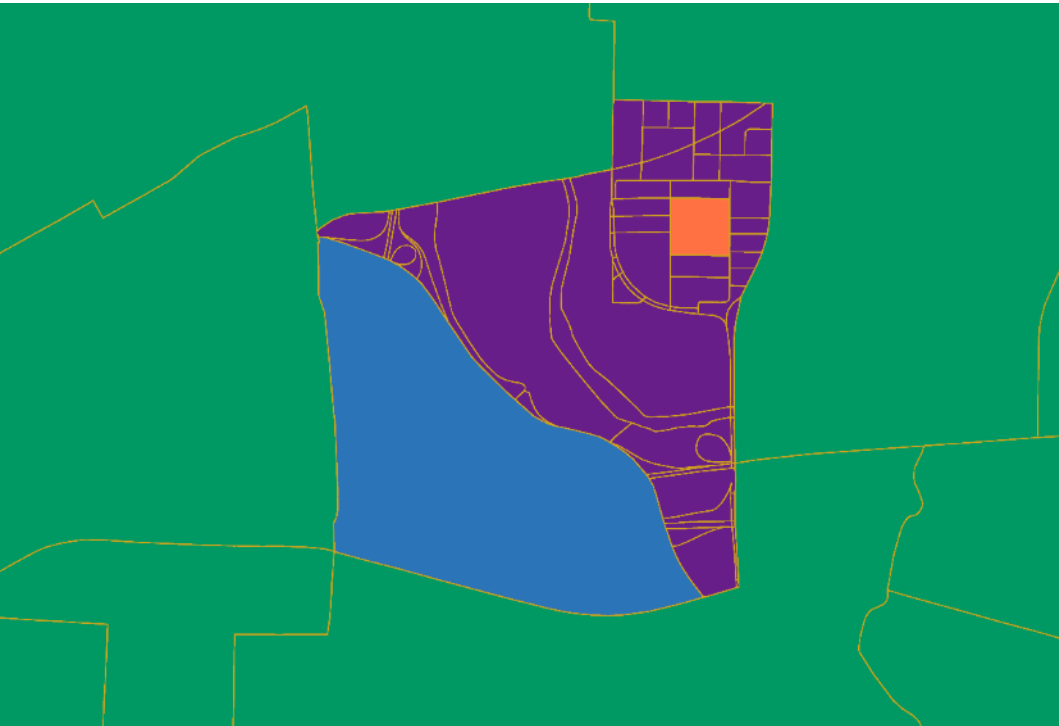
Block Group within the Tract



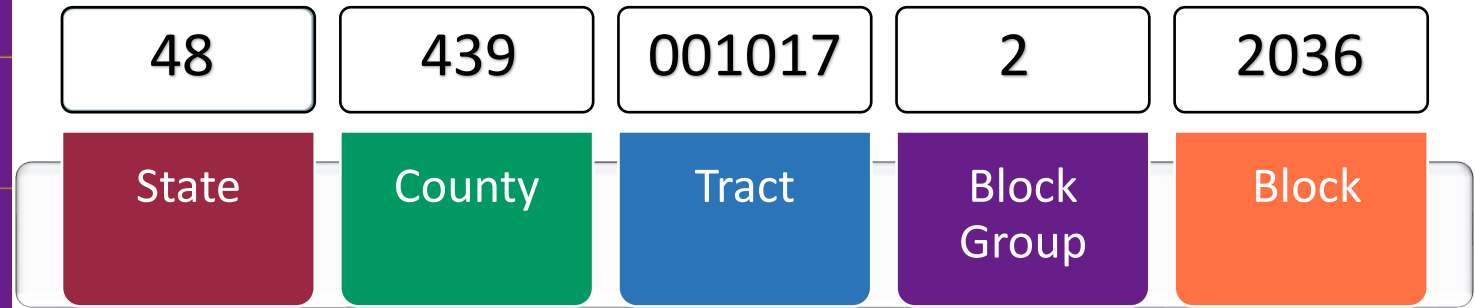
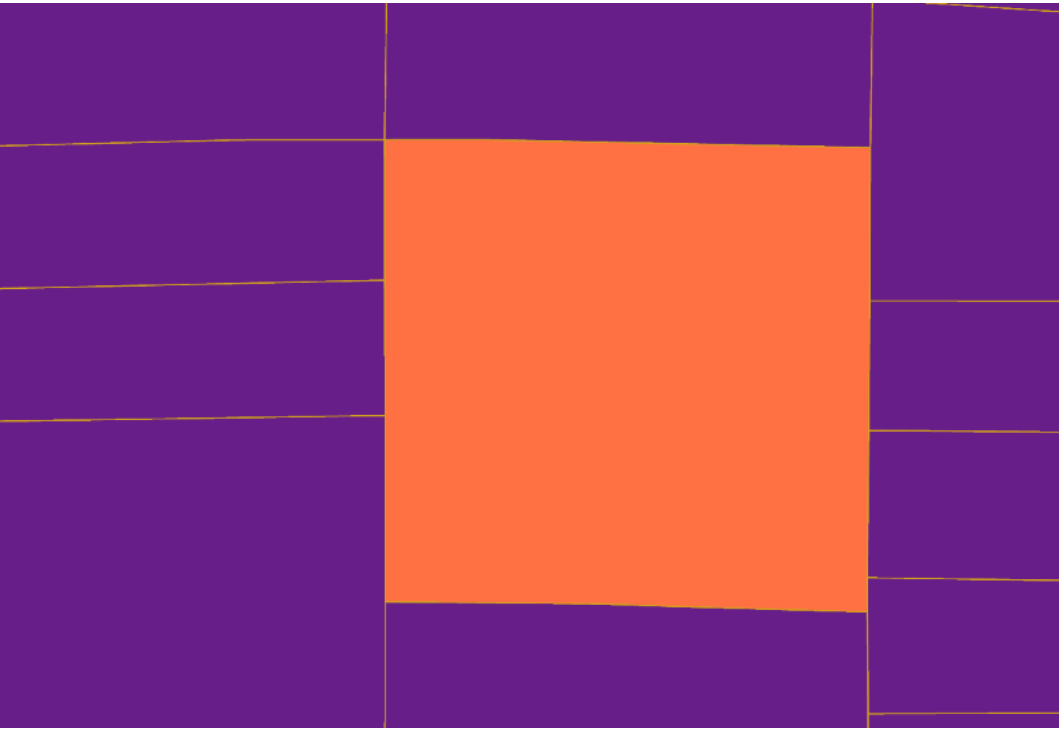
Block Group



Block within a Block Group



Block



Block



48

State

439

County

001017

Tract

2

Block
Group

2036

Block

Sources: Esri, DeLorme, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, Esri, Mapbox

Live Demonstration: [Data.census.gov](https://data.census.gov)

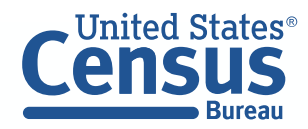
Get in Touch with Us

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