

GEOGRAPHIC LEVELS

Data in NEO CANDO are available at several levels of aggregation including census geographies and locally defined geographies. Descriptions of each of the different aggregations are provided below. First, described are the census geographies included in NEO CANDO. Second, we describe locally defined geographies. For more detailed information about the census geographies [click here](#).

CENSUS GEOGRAPHIES

Census Block

Census blocks are the smallest census geography. Generally, a census block is a street block. Blocks are subdivisions of both census block groups and census tracts. Census blocks are bounded on all sides by visible features such as streets, roads, streams, railroad tracks and invisible features such as city boundaries or county boundaries. There are 14,775 census blocks in Cuyahoga County. Census blocks numbers consist of 10 digits, for example 1011.00-1000.

Census Block Group

Census block groups are clusters of census blocks and have the same first four digits of a census tract. Census block groups do not cross census tracts but may cross other geographic boundaries. Block groups contain between 600 and 3000 people. There are 1261 block groups in Cuyahoga County. Census block groups consist of 7 digits, for example 1011.00-1.

Census Tract

Census tracts are small statistical subdivisions of a county. They usually have between 2,500 and 8,000 persons and are designed to be homogeneous in terms of population characteristics, economic status, and living conditions. There are 505 census tracts in Cuyahoga County and 225 in the City of Cleveland. Census tracts are identified by a four-digit number and may have a two-digit suffix, for example, 1011.01.

All of the data in NEO CANDO is based on 2000 tract boundary definitions. For data we receive at the address level, we geo-coded the data into the 2000 census geography. For the Census data, we used GIS techniques to convert 1990 census data into the 2000 census geography. Data should be in the same geographic boundaries to allow for accurate comparison over time. Census tract level data are available for the following 17 counties: Ashland, Ashtabula, Columbiana, Cuyahoga, Erie, Geauga, Huron, Lake, Lorain, Mahoning, Medina, Portage, Richland, Stark, Summit, Trumbull, and Wayne.

Keep in mind that some census tracts have changed numbers, split, or changed physical boundaries over the decade. So a tract that existed in 1990 may not exist in 2000, the tract number may have changed or the physical boundaries may have changed. In order to accurately compare data over time the data should be in the same geographic boundaries. ***We ensure the user is comparing apples to apples by converting all of our data into the same geographic boundaries – 2000 geography.*** However, other sites may have 1990 data in the 1990 geography. We caution the user that counts based on 1990 geography will yield different counts than those based on 2000 geography. The user should not compare data in the 1990 geography to data in the 2000 geography.

If you have an address and need to determine a census block, block group or tract, [click here](#).

City, village and MCD (minor civil division)

This level of geography contains the data for the cities, villages and townships in each of the 17 counties. The Census Bureau defines cities/villages/townships as places and/or county subdivisions/ minor civil divisions (MCD). Minor civil divisions are generally townships and cities while places are either cities or villages. The place/MCD level has been split into cities, villages and townships in NEO CANDO. Particularly in more rural counties, townships consist of parts of different villages and/or cities.

County

This geographic level provides data for the County as a whole. There are 88 counties in Ohio. The [map](#) highlights the 17 counties for which we have data in NEO CANDO. The counties of Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake, Lorain, Medina, Portage, and Summit comprise the Cleveland-Akron Metropolitan Area.

LOCALLY DEFINED GEOGRAPHIES

Neighborhood

Neighborhoods in NEO CANDO refer to both the Statistical Planning Areas (SPAs) and the suburban municipalities. This geographic level is ONLY available for Cuyahoga County in NEO CANDO. The SPAs are geographic areas that were defined by the City of Cleveland Planning Commission in conjunction with community organizations and residents. The SPAs are a combination of contiguous census tracts within the City. The SPAs were defined based on generally accepted neighborhood boundaries within each area and compatibility with census tract boundaries. There are 36 SPAs in the City of Cleveland. These SPAs are NOT census geography; therefore, the user is unable to extract data from the Census Bureau's web site based on these areas. The user must extract data by census tract and aggregate to the SPA level. The suburban municipalities (i.e. Lakewood, East Cleveland) are census geography and can be extracted from the Census Bureau's web site. There are 58 suburban municipalities in Cuyahoga County.

Neighborhood by Census Tract

Neighborhood by census tract provides the user with a breakdown of data by census tract within the neighborhood (SPA) or municipality. All neighborhoods and municipalities consist of a number of census tracts. The number of census tracts will vary by neighborhood/municipality. To choose only the census tracts within the City of Cleveland, the user must use the census tract geographic level and choose all the tracts with tract numbers less than 1300.00. All tracts with numbers greater or equal to 1300.00 are within the suburban municipalities. The Neighborhood by Census Tract may be particularly useful for targeting program services to an area within a neighborhood that may benefit from the most.

There are some census tracts that cross municipality boundaries. We account for this in our counts. For example, tract 1939.00 crosses the city of Warrensville Heights and the city of Highland Hills. There is a population of 1,747 in tract 1939.00 – 129 of that population resides in Warrensville Heights while the remaining 1,618 resides in Highland Hills. When choosing the neighborhood by census tract for Warrensville Heights, the user will get only the portion of the

Descriptions of geographic levels available in NEO CANDO

census tract population that resides in Warrensville Heights. The other census tracts in Cuyahoga County that cross municipality boundaries are:

<u>2000 Tract</u>	<u>Neighborhood</u>	<u>Population</u>
1342.03	Berea	2,379
	Olmsted Falls	11
1905.04	Olmsted Falls	513
	Olmsted Township	5,924

To view the census blocks, block groups and census tracts within each neighborhoods, cities, villages and township within each county [click here](#).

DCFS Geo-districts

Cuyahoga County is divided into nine geographic districts for the purpose of assigning Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) staff to ongoing child welfare cases. Ongoing cases are cases that, following an investigation of child maltreatment report, included a determination that the family should receive some services while the children remain at home, or that the children should be placed in foster care. Under this system, a specific unit of DCFS staff is assigned to serve all the cases from each specific area. Geographic assignment of these cases helps the DCFS staff become more knowledgeable about the neighborhoods where they work and neighborhood residents benefit from getting to know the DCFS staff who serve their community. For the most part, the DCFS geographic districts are comprised of contiguous neighborhoods and suburban municipalities.

Cleveland Wards

Cleveland wards are the 21 political boundaries in the City of Cleveland updated in 2001. Each ward is represented by a council person.

Strategic Impact Areas

The Strategic Impacts Areas, or SIAs, are smaller target areas within the boundaries of six specific neighborhoods where the local CDC has joined with Neighborhood Progress Inc. to leverage a broad array of resources and investments designed to stimulate real estate market recovery.

Buckeye-Fairwood Zone

Zones delineated in the Buckeye and Fairwood Neighborhoods of Cleveland for a focused comprehensive planning effort jointly sponsored by Buckeye Area Development Corporation, Shaker Area Development Corporation, Neighborhood Progress, Inc. and the St. Luke's Foundation.

Descriptions of geographic levels available in NEO CANDO

CDC Service Areas

The community development corporation (CDC) service areas are the geographic areas served by the CDC. These areas are comprised of census blocks.

Cleveland Planning Districts

There are six planning districts in the City of Cleveland. These six districts are comprised of groups of contiguous neighborhoods.

Geographic reference maps

The Center has created geographic reference maps showing the cities, townships and villages within each of the 17 counties included in NEO CANDO. Within Cuyahoga County we also have maps for each of the 36 statistical planning areas in the City of Cleveland. The maps also include the census tracts that are within or cross the neighborhoods, cities, townships or villages. To view these geographic reference maps [click here](#).