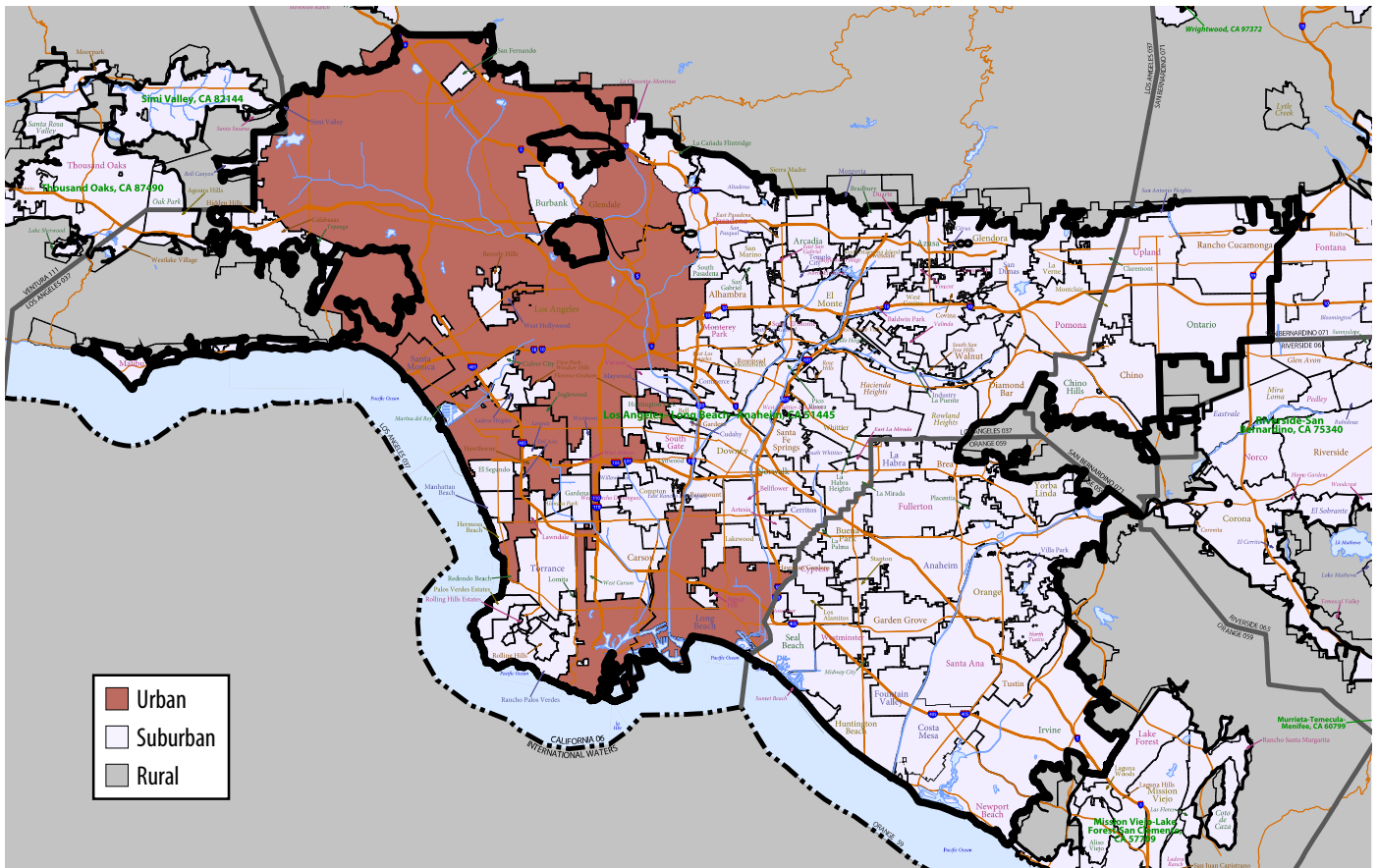




Classification of Urban, Suburban, and Rural Areas in the National Crime Victimization Survey

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Note: Map designed in Adobe Illustrator.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2019; and 2010 Census of Population and Housing and Census designations of urbanized areas and urban clusters.

Earlier this year, the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) provided new classifications of urban, suburban, and rural areas for use in the 2019 version and future versions of the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS), with the goal of presenting a more accurate picture of where criminal victimizations occur.

Historically, the NCVS has classified areas as urban, suburban, or rural based on the following definitions:

- Urban: within a principal city of a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)
- Suburban: within an MSA but not within a principal city of the MSA
- Rural: outside of an MSA

These definitions are straightforward, but they suffer from two main shortcomings:

1. Metropolitan statistical areas are based on entire counties, and counties almost always contain both rural and non-rural areas. Yet the NCVS's historical definitions classify each county as being either entirely rural (if not part of an MSA) or entirely non-rural (if part of an MSA).

For example, California's San Bernardino County, which includes much of the Mojave Desert and covers more than twice as much land as the state of Maryland, is classified as containing no rural areas under the NCVS's historical definitions. This is because San Bernardino County is part of the Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario MSA, and the NCVS's historical definitions do not classify any part of an MSA as being rural. On the other hand, Colorado's La Plata County, home of Durango, is classified under the historical definitions as being entirely rural, because it is not part of an MSA. This is true even though the Census Bureau says that, as of 2010, 40% of La Plata County's population lived in non-rural areas.

Similarly, Casmalia, Calif. had a 2010 population of 138 people and is surrounded by undeveloped land. Because it is located within a county (Santa Barbara) that is designated as an MSA (the Santa Maria-Santa Barbara MSA), the NCVS's historical definitions classify Casmalia as suburban. Meanwhile, Bozeman, Mont., with a 2010 population of 37,280—270 times that of Casmalia—is classified by the NCVS's historical definitions as rural, because it is located in a county that is not part of an MSA.

2. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) designates principal cities (of which there are anywhere from 1 to nearly 20 in a given MSA) as being among

“the more significant places in each Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Area...in terms of population and employment.” The principal city designation is not necessarily indicative of urban status, nor is it intended to be. Yet the NCVS's historical definitions classify all principal cities of MSAs as urban, and all other places as not urban.

As a result, Union City, N.J., located just across the Hudson River from Midtown Manhattan, is classified by the NCVS's historical definitions as suburban, due to its not being defined as a principal city. Union City had a 2010 population density of 51,918 people per square mile, more than three times the population density of San Francisco (17,180). Meanwhile, Rome, N.Y., which had a 2010 population density of 451 people per square mile—less than 1% that of Union City—is classified by the historical definitions as urban. The same is true for Yuma, Ariz., Hilton Head Island, S.C., and Foley, Ala. None of these had a population density in 2010 that was even 2% that of Union City, yet all are classified as urban under the NCVS's historical definitions, while Union City is classified as suburban.

These are not isolated examples. Weighted housing-unit density (discussed more below) is essentially a measure of how closely people live to one another. Based on the 2010 Census of Population and Housing and the 2013 OMB principal-city designations, 506 of the 674 principal cities in the United States (75%) had weighted housing-unit densities below that of the U.S. as a whole. In other words, three-quarters of the places classified by the historical definitions as urban were *less* densely developed than the areas where most U.S. residents lived.

A new definition:

BJS's new NCVS definition of urban is based on the notion that urban places are those that are densely populated, are at the center of a major metropolitan area, or some combination of these. BJS's specific criteria are that a place is urban if it is—

- The main city or Census-designated place (i.e., the first place listed) in a 500,000-person (Census-designated) “urbanized area,” with a weighted housing-unit density within its city limits of at least 3,000 housing units per square mile. In other words, the primary city in a large “urbanized area” qualifies as urban if it meets the weighted-housing-unit-density threshold of 3,000 housing units per square mile. (The overall weighted housing-unit density for the U.S. is 2,396, based on the 2010 Census.)

- A named city or Census-designated place in a 500,000-person (Census-designated) “urbanized area,” with a weighted housing-unit density of at least 4,000 housing units per square mile within its city limits. In other words, a city that is prominent enough to be included by the Census Bureau in the name of a large “urbanized area” (for example, Long Beach in the Los Angeles-Long Beach-Anaheim urbanized area) qualifies as urban if it meets the weighted-housing-unit-density threshold of 4,000 housing units per square mile.
- Any city or Census-designated place with a population of at least 50,000 and a weighted housing-unit density of at least 5,000 housing units per square mile.
- Any city or Census-designated place with a population of at least 10,000 and a weighted housing-unit density of at least 10,000 housing units per square mile.

The Census Bureau’s “urbanized areas” referenced in this definition are similar to OMB’s metropolitan areas, but they delineate areas of substantial population rather than utilizing entire counties. The weighted housing-unit density referenced in this definition is discussed in greater detail below.

In addition to developing this definition of urban, BJS has adopted (with one exception, noted below) the Census Bureau’s definition of rural to replace the historical NCVS definition of rural. The Census Bureau provides specific, carefully drawn boundaries around “urban areas” (both larger “urbanized areas” and smaller “urban clusters”) using set criteria, classifying everything outside of those boundaries as rural. The only way in which BJS’s definition of rural differs from the Census Bureau’s is that BJS classifies as urban all parts of cities that meets BJS’s definition of urban, including the parts of those cities that Census designates as rural (such as Griffith Park in Los Angeles and Alcatraz in San Francisco).

BJS classifies areas that are neither urban nor rural as suburban. In comparison to places that are urban, suburban areas are characterized by lower density, a larger ratio of single-family homes to apartments, and layouts based principally on automobile transportation. Some suburban areas, those that might be thought of as “suburbia proper,” do not have their own urban centers but are located near a separate urban city. Other suburban areas are cities or towns that have urban centers, but those centers have smaller populations than their surrounding suburban areas, so the bulk of the city’s population lives in suburban areas. (Cities are the smallest geographical designations that can realistically be used in classifying areas as urban.) In short, suburban areas are a mix of “suburbia proper,” towns, and

some generally smaller cities that are more suburban than urban.

BJS uses weighted housing-unit density in its new NCVS definitions because that measure provides a better indication of the degree of urban density than conventional population density does. Conventional population density is derived by dividing population by land area, and it measures how densely populated a given area of land is. As of the 2010 Census, the U.S. as a whole had a conventional population density of 87 people per square mile; however, most U.S. residents do not live in areas where there are only 87 people per square mile. The experience of most U.S. residents is more fully captured by weighted population density, which is essentially a measure of how densely populated an area is from the perspective of those who live in it.

Weighted housing-unit density is similar to weighted population density, with the difference being that the latter focuses on population and the former on housing units. In comparing weighted housing-unit density to weighted population density, John R. Ottensmann writes, “Housing units better represent the physical pattern of urban development, as they are relatively fixed.”¹

Housing-unit density is the number of housing units per square mile in a given area. Weighted housing-unit density, under BJS’s approach, is the weighted average of the housing densities for all census tracts in an area, with the tracts weighted by their number of housing units.

For ease of explanation, imagine an area with only two census tracts. One tract has 2,000 housing units, covers 2 square miles, and thus has a housing-unit density of 1,000 housing units per square mile. The other tract has 6,000 housing units, covers 1 square mile, and thus has a housing-unit density of 6,000 housing units per square mile. The area’s weighted housing-unit density is the weighted average of these two tract-level housing-unit densities, or $(1,000 \times 2,000 + 6,000 \times 6,000) / 8,000 = 4,750$. Otherwise put, the weighted housing-unit density is based one-quarter on the first tract’s density (because it contains one-quarter of the housing units) and three-quarters on the second tract’s density.

Weighted housing-unit density identifies urban places much more clearly than conventional population density does. Among places with populations of at least 10,000 people in 2010, Chicago rises from #71 in conventional population density to #16 in weighted housing-unit density, New Orleans from #2,212 to #190, and Urban Honolulu from #474 to #13. Meanwhile, Passaic, N.J.

¹John R. Ottensmann. “On Population-Weighted Density.” February 2018. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/322992771_On_Population-Weighted_Density.

falls from #7 in conventional population density to #45 in weighted housing-unit density, while Santa Ana, Calif. falls from #67 to #237 (moving from 4 places above Chicago to 221 places below).

Comparing the old and new definitions:

Within the New York MSA, both the old and new NCVS definitions, as would be expected, classify New York’s five boroughs as urban. (New York City’s weighted housing-unit density is a nation-leading 29,345 housing units per square mile.) Both definitions add Jersey City, N.J. (weighted housing-unit density of 13,837 housing units per square mile), Newark, N.J. (8,788), and White Plains, N.Y. (5,671) as urban as well. The old definition also

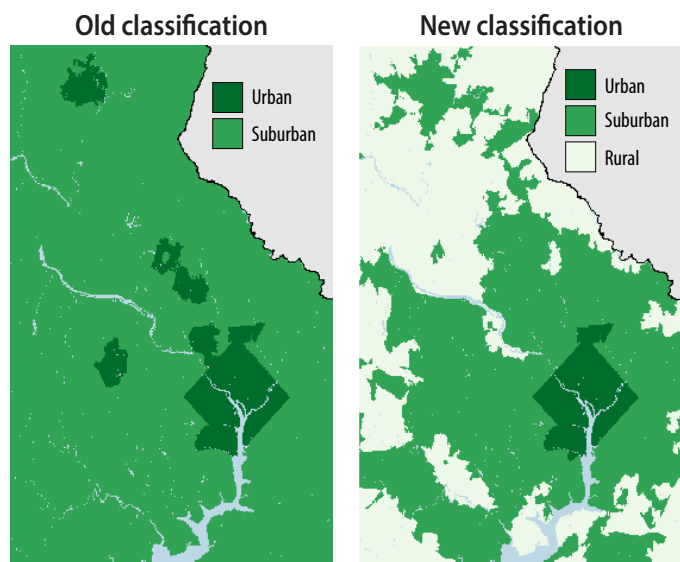
includes New Brunswick, N.J. (4,908) and Lakewood, N.J. (2,106) as urban.

The new definition reclassifies Lakewood and New Brunswick as suburban (although just a 2% increase in New Brunswick’s weighted housing-unit density would qualify it as urban) and adds the following places as urban: Guttenberg, N.J. (weighted housing-unit density of 29,171 housing units per square mile); Hoboken, N.J. (25,870); West New York (21,763); Union City, N.J. (20,477); Cliffside Park, N.J. (12,001); Mount Vernon, N.Y. (8,811); East Orange, N.J. (8,763); Bayonne, N.J. (8,263); Yonkers, N.Y. (7,930); Elizabeth, N.J. (7,468); Passaic, N.J. (7,424); and Paterson, N.J. (6,739).

As the accompanying map of the Washington, D.C. area (**figure 1**) shows, both the old and new definitions include Washington, D.C. (weighted housing-unit density of 10,115 housing units per square mile), Arlington, Va. (10,485), Alexandria, Va. (7,714), and Silver Spring, Md. (6,135), as urban places. The new definition also classifies Huntington, Va. (10,430) as urban. The old definitions added as urban Bethesda, Md. (4,325), Gaithersburg, Md. (2,836), Reston, Va. (2,543), Rockville, Md. (2,534), and Frederick, Md. (2,235), all of which the new definition classifies as suburban (except for 4% of Frederick, which is rural).

The new NCVS definitions of urban, suburban, and rural more closely fit U.S. residents’ own sense of where they live, as reflected in the American Housing Survey (AHS). For each of five metropolitan or micropolitan area designations, the following table and figure show how most AHS respondents in 2017 classified where they lived (and what percentage of respondents gave that classification), what percentage of people would be classified that same way by the new and old NCVS definitions, and the difference between the AHS result and the new and old NCVS results (**table 1, figure 2**).

FIGURE 1
Washington, D.C. MSA, by old and new classification



Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2019; and 2010 Census of Population and Housing and Census designations of urbanized areas and urban clusters; and 2013 OMB Metropolitan Statistical Area designations.

TABLE 1
U.S. residents’ sense of where they live, per the American Housing Survey

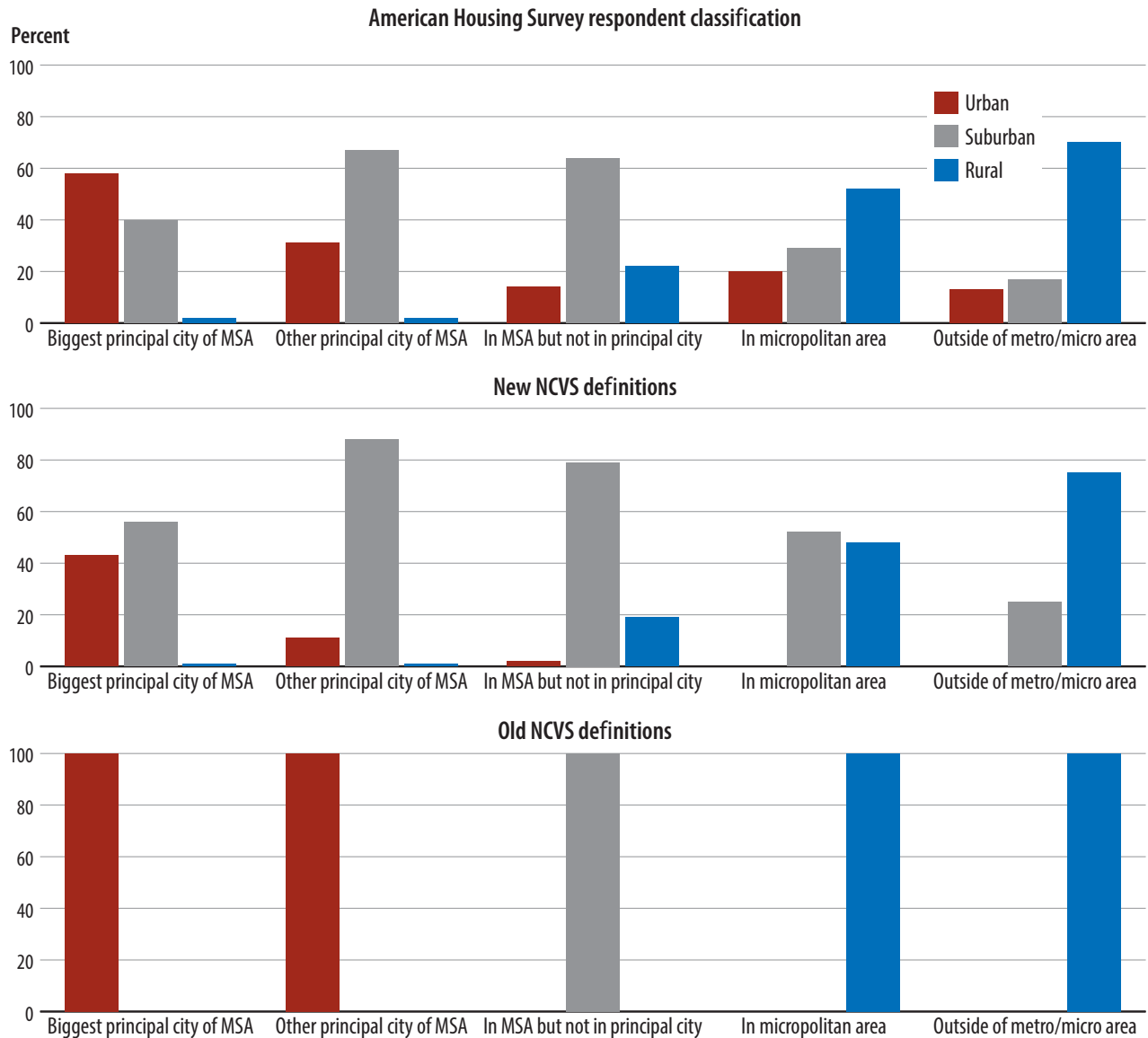
Part of MSA/micro area lived in	Most common classification by AHS respondents and percent ^a	Percent classified same way as most common AHS classification		Difference (in percentage points)	
		New NCVS definitions	Old NCVS definitions	New NCVS vs. AHS	Old NCVS vs. AHS
Biggest principal city of MSA	Urban, 58%	43%	100%	15	42
Other principal city of MSA	Suburban, 67%	88	0	21	67
In MSA but not in principal city	Suburban, 64%	79	100	15	36
In micropolitan area	Rural, 52%	48	100	4	48
Outside of metro/micro area	Rural, 70%	75	100	5	30
Average	~	~	~	12	45

^aAmerican Housing Survey.

~Not applicable.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2019; 2010 Census of Population and Housing and Census designations of urbanized areas and urban clusters; 2013 OMB Metropolitan Statistical Area designations; and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, American Housing Survey, 2017.

FIGURE 2
Location-of-residence classification, by source of classification



Note: See table 2 for estimates.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2019; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, American Housing Survey, 2017; 2010 Census of Population and Housing and Census designations of urbanized areas and urban clusters; and 2013 OMB Metropolitan Statistical Area designations.

TABLE 2
Estimates for figure 2: Location of residence classification, by source of classification

Location of residence	AHS respondent classification			New NCVS definition			Old NCVS definition		
	Urban	Suburban	Rural	Urban	Suburban	Rural	Urban	Suburban	Rural
Biggest principal city of MSA	58%	40%	2%	43%	56%	1%	100%	0%	0%
Other principal city of MSA	31	67	2	11	88	1	100	0	0
In MSA but not in principal city	14	64	22	2	79	19	0	100	0
In micropolitan area	20	29	52	0	52	48	0	0	100
Outside of metro/micro area	13	17	70	0	25	75	0	0	100

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2019; Housing and Urban Development, American Housing Survey, 2017; 2010 Census of Population and Housing and Census designations of urbanized areas and urban clusters; and 2013 OMB Metropolitan Statistical Area designations.

As table 1 shows, 58% of AHS respondents who lived in the biggest principal city of an MSA said that they lived in an urban place. Forty-three percent of them would be classified as living in an urban place by the new NCVS definitions, a difference of 15 percentage points (58% versus 43%) from the portion of AHS respondents who gave that answer. In comparison, 100% of those respondents would be classified as living in an urban place by the old NCVS definitions, a difference of 42 percentage points (58% vs. 100%) from the portion of AHS respondents who gave that answer. While AHS respondents' answers about where they live are not necessarily dispositive, the new NCVS definitions fare far better than the old ones versus the AHS in every category, by a margin of at least 21 percentage points per category and an average margin of 33 points per category.

Under the new definitions, 12% of the population lives in urban areas, 69% in suburban areas, and 19% in rural areas, compared to 33% in urban areas, 53% in suburban areas, and 14% in rural areas under the old definitions (table 3). Of the main cities in the 15 largest MSAs in the U.S., the new definitions classify 13 as urban. The two not classified as urban—Phoenix, Ariz. and Riverside, Calif.—had 2010 weighted housing unit densities below that of the U.S. as a whole. Riverside is classified as 99% suburban and Phoenix as 72% suburban under the new definitions, with the remainder of each being rural. (All cities are classified as either 100% urban or 100% not urban, because—as is noted above—cities are the smallest geographical designations that can realistically be used in classifying areas as urban. Cities can be split between suburban and rural, however, based on the Census Bureau's designations of rural and non-rural areas, which cut across city limits.)

According to the historical NCVS definitions, by far the most urban region in the country is the West, followed by the South (using the Census Bureau's regional classifications). Under the new definitions, the Northeast is by far the most urban region, followed in order by the West, Midwest, and South. The most suburban region according to the old definitions is the Northeast. Under the new definitions, the West is the most suburban region, with the Northeast being the least suburban region.

A complete list of places classified as urban under the new NCVS definitions is provided at the back of this report (appendix table 1).

TABLE 3
Population and number of households, by old and new definition of location of residence, 2019

Location of residence	Old definition		New definition	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Total U.S. resident population age 12 or older	276,900,000	100%	276,900,000	100%
Urban	92,450,000	33	33,910,000	12
Suburban	146,700,000	53	190,800,000	69
Rural	37,720,000	14	52,160,000	19
Number of households	126,400,000	100%	126,400,000	100%
Urban	43,770,000	35	15,900,000	13
Suburban	65,000,000	51	87,410,000	69
Rural	17,660,000	14	23,130,000	18

Note: Details may not sum to totals due to rounding.
Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2019; 2010 Census of Population and Housing and Census designations of urbanized areas and urban clusters; and 2013 OMB Metropolitan Statistical Area designations.

Methodology

Under the NCVS's new method for classifying geographical areas, census blocks within cities or Census-designated places that meet certain criteria based on population and density are classified as urban (see appendix table 1), while all other census blocks in urbanized areas or urban clusters are classified as suburban. Aside from census blocks in cities classified as urban, all census blocks not in urbanized areas or urban clusters (as defined by the Census Bureau) are classified as rural, consistent with the Census Bureau's definition of rural.

Classifications of urban places are based on population size, weighted housing-unit density, and the Census Bureau's designations of urbanized areas and urban clusters, using data from the 2010 Census. Housing-unit density is the number of housing units per square mile in a given area. Weighted housing-unit density, under BJS's approach, is the weighted average of the housing-unit densities for all census tracts in an area, with the tracts weighted by their number of housing units. Housing-unit addresses are converted into geographical coordinates through a process called geocoding. Housing units that cannot be geocoded are imputed. For more information on imputation procedures, see *National Crime Victimization Survey, 2016 Technical Documentation* (NCJ 251442, BJS, December 2017).

APPENDIX TABLE 1 A AND B
Urban places under new NCVS definition

Table 1A: Urban places under the new NCVS definition that are listed in the name of a 500,000-person, Census-designated urbanized area

City or Census-designated place (CDP)	Weighted housing-unit density per square mile	2010 population	Land area (square miles)	Urbanized area	Urbanized area population				
New York, N.Y.	29,345	8,175,133	303	New York–Newark, N.Y.–N.J.–Conn.	18,351,295	■	■	■	■
San Francisco, Calif.	17,316	805,235	47	San Francisco–Oakland, Calif.	3,281,212	■	■	■	■
Urban Honolulu CDP, Hawaii	13,756	337,256	61	Urban Honolulu, Hawaii	802,459	■	■	■	■
Boston, Mass.	12,708	617,594	48	Boston, Mass.–N.H.–R.I.	4,181,019	■	■	■	■
Chicago, Ill.	11,429	2,695,598	228	Chicago, Ill.–Ind.	8,608,208	■	■	■	■
Washington, D.C.	10,115	601,723	61	Washington, D.C.–Va.–Md.	4,586,770	■	■	■	■
Miami, Fla.	9,887	399,457	36	Miami, Fla.	5,502,379	■	■	■	■
Philadelphia, Pa.	9,706	1,526,006	134	Philadelphia, Pa.–N.J.–Del.–Md.	5,441,567	■	■	■	■
Newark, N.J.	8,788	277,140	24	New York–Newark, N.Y.–N.J.–Conn.	18,351,295	■	■	■	■
Los Angeles, Calif.	6,961	3,792,621	469	Los Angeles–Long Beach–Anaheim, Calif.	12,150,996	■	■	■	■
Long Beach, Calif.	6,882	462,257	50	Los Angeles–Long Beach–Anaheim, Calif.	12,150,996	■	■	■	■
Seattle, Wash.	6,798	608,660	84	Seattle, Wash.	3,059,393	■	■	■	■
Oakland, Calif.	6,778	390,724	56	San Francisco–Oakland, Calif.	3,281,212	■	■	■	■
Baltimore, Md.	6,251	620,961	81	Baltimore, Md.	2,203,663	■	■	■	■
Hartford, Conn.	5,304	124,775	17	Hartford, Conn.	924,859	■	■	■	■
Minneapolis, Minn.	4,942	382,578	54	Minneapolis–St. Paul, Minn.–Wis.	2,650,890	■	■	■	■
Bridgeport, Conn.	4,874	144,229	16	Bridgeport–Stamford, Conn.–N.Y.	923,311	■	■	■	■
Providence, R.I.	4,790	178,042	18	Providence, R.I.–Mass.	1,190,956	■	■	■	■
Buffalo, N.Y.	4,658	261,310	40	Buffalo, N.Y.	935,906	■	■	■	■
Albany, N.Y.	4,584	97,856	21	Albany–Schenectady, N.Y.	594,962	■	■	■	■
Pittsburgh, Pa.	4,560	305,704	55	Pittsburgh, Pa.	1,733,853	■	■	■	■
Milwaukee, Wis.	4,503	594,833	96	Milwaukee, Wis.	1,376,476	■	■	■	■
Denver, Colo.	4,457	600,158	153	Denver–Aurora, Colo.	2,374,203	■	■	■	■
Stamford, Conn.	4,444	122,643	38	Bridgeport–Stamford, Conn.–N.Y.	923,311	■	■	■	■
Allentown, Pa.	4,397	118,032	18	Allentown, Pa.–N.J.	664,651	■	■	■	■
New Haven, Conn.	4,331	129,779	19	New Haven, Conn.	562,839	■	■	■	■
New Orleans, La.	4,139	343,829	169	New Orleans, La.	899,703	■	■	■	■
San Diego, Calif.	4,091	1,307,402	325	San Diego, Calif.	2,956,746	■	■	■	■
Portland, Ore.	3,924	583,776	133	Portland, Ore.–Wash.	1,849,898	■	■	■	■
St. Louis, Mo.	3,909	319,294	62	St. Louis, Mo.–Ill.	2,150,706	■	■	■	■
Rochester, N.Y.	3,891	210,565	36	Rochester, N.Y.	720,572	■	■	■	■
Cleveland, Ohio	3,726	396,815	78	Cleveland, Ohio	1,780,673	■	■	■	■
Dallas, Texas	3,628	1,197,816	341	Dallas–Fort Worth–Arlington, Texas	5,121,892	■	■	■	■
Salt Lake City, Utah	3,351	186,440	111	Salt Lake City–West Valley City, Utah	1,021,243	■	■	■	■
San Jose, Calif.	3,261	945,942	177	San Jose, Calif.	1,664,496	■	■	■	■
Detroit, Mich.	3,223	713,777	139	Detroit, Mich.	3,734,090	■	■	■	■
Atlanta, Ga.	3,166	420,003	133	Atlanta, Ga.	4,515,419	■	■	■	■
Cincinnati, Ohio	3,120	296,943	78	Cincinnati, Ohio–Ky.–Ind.	1,624,827	■	■	■	■
Concord, Calif.	3,068	122,067	31	Concord, Calif.	615,968	■	■	■	■
Houston, Texas	3,006	2,099,451	600	Houston, Texas	4,944,332	■	■	■	■

Criteria by which a place is classified as urban (coding at right):

- The main city (or Census-designated place) in a 500,000-person urbanized area, with a weighted housing-unit density of 3,000+ per square mile within the city limits.
- A named city (or Census-designated place) in a 500,000-person urbanized area, with a weighted housing-unit density of 4,000+ per square mile within the city limits.
- A city (or Census-designated place) with a population of 50,000+ and a weighted housing-unit density of 5,000+ per square mile within the city limits.
- A city (or Census-designated place) with a population of 10,000+ and a weighted housing-unit density of 10,000+ per square mile within the city limits.

Note: A place's boundaries may not be entirely contained within the urbanized area listed.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2019; and 2010 Census of Population and Housing and Census designations of urbanized areas.

Table 1B: Other urban places under the new NCVS definition, by Census-designated urbanized area

City or Census-designated place (CDP)	Weighted housing-unit density per square mile	2010 population	Land area (square miles)	Urbanized area	Urbanized area population
Guttenberg, N.J.	29,171	11,176	0.2	New York–Newark, N.Y.–N.J.–Conn.	18,351,295
Hoboken, N.J.	25,870	50,005	1	New York–Newark, N.Y.–N.J.–Conn.	18,351,295
West New York, N.J.	21,763	49,708	1	New York–Newark, N.Y.–N.J.–Conn.	18,351,295
Union City, N.J.	20,477	66,455	1	New York–Newark, N.Y.–N.J.–Conn.	18,351,295
Jersey City, N.J.	13,837	247,597	15	New York–Newark, N.Y.–N.J.–Conn.	18,351,295
Cliffside Park, N.J.	12,001	23,594	1	New York–Newark, N.Y.–N.J.–Conn.	18,351,295
Mount Vernon, N.Y.	8,811	67,292	4	New York–Newark, N.Y.–N.J.–Conn.	18,351,295
East Orange, N.J.	8,763	64,270	4	New York–Newark, N.Y.–N.J.–Conn.	18,351,295
Bayonne, N.J.	8,263	63,024	6	New York–Newark, N.Y.–N.J.–Conn.	18,351,295
Yonkers, N.Y.	7,930	195,976	18	New York–Newark, N.Y.–N.J.–Conn.	18,351,295
Elizabeth, N.J.	7,468	124,969	12	New York–Newark, N.Y.–N.J.–Conn.	18,351,295
Passaic, N.J.	7,424	69,781	3	New York–Newark, N.Y.–N.J.–Conn.	18,351,295
Paterson, N.J.	6,739	146,199	8	New York–Newark, N.Y.–N.J.–Conn.	18,351,295
White Plains, N.Y.	5,671	56,853	10	New York–Newark, N.Y.–N.J.–Conn.	18,351,295
West Hollywood, Calif.	14,343	34,399	2	Los Angeles–Long Beach–Anaheim, Calif.	12,150,996
Santa Monica, Calif.	8,296	89,736	8	Los Angeles–Long Beach–Anaheim, Calif.	12,150,996
Hawthorne, Calif.	7,930	84,293	6	Los Angeles–Long Beach–Anaheim, Calif.	12,150,996
Huntington Park, Calif.	6,260	58,114	3	Los Angeles–Long Beach–Anaheim, Calif.	12,150,996
Glendale, Calif.	6,103	191,719	30	Los Angeles–Long Beach–Anaheim, Calif.	12,150,996
Inglewood, Calif.	5,640	109,673	9	Los Angeles–Long Beach–Anaheim, Calif.	12,150,996
Redondo Beach, Calif.	5,583	66,748	6	Los Angeles–Long Beach–Anaheim, Calif.	12,150,996
Oak Park, Ill.	6,920	51,878	5	Chicago, Ill.–Ind.	8,608,208
Berwyn, Ill.	5,863	56,657	4	Chicago, Ill.–Ind.	8,608,208
Evanston, Ill.	5,553	74,486	8	Chicago, Ill.–Ind.	8,608,208
Sunny Isles Beach, Fla.	22,233	20,832	1	Miami, Fla.	5,502,379
Miami Beach, Fla.	17,063	87,779	8	Miami, Fla.	5,502,379
Hallandale Beach, Fla.	15,332	37,113	4	Miami, Fla.	5,502,379
Aventura, Fla.	14,553	35,762	3	Miami, Fla.	5,502,379
Key Biscayne, Fla.	11,252	12,344	1	Miami, Fla.	5,502,379
Fountainebleau CDP, Fla.	7,023	59,764	4	Miami, Fla.	5,502,379
Hialeah, Fla.	5,267	224,669	21	Miami, Fla.	5,502,379
Hollywood, Fla.	5,009	140,768	27	Miami, Fla.	5,502,379
Wilmington, Del.	5,919	70,851	11	Philadelphia, Pa.–N.J.–Del.–Md.	5,441,567
Arlington CDP, Va.	10,485	207,627	26	Washington, D.C.–Va.–Md.	4,586,770
Huntington CDP, Va.	10,430	11,267	1	Washington, D.C.–Va.–Md.	4,586,770
Alexandria, Va.	7,714	139,966	15	Washington, D.C.–Va.–Md.	4,586,770
Silver Spring CDP, Md.	6,135	71,452	8	Washington, D.C.–Va.–Md.	4,586,770
Cambridge, Mass.	10,377	105,162	6	Boston, Mass.–N.H.–R.I.	4,181,019
Somerville, Mass.	9,770	75,754	4	Boston, Mass.–N.H.–R.I.	4,181,019
Brookline CDP, Mass.	8,403	58,732	7	Boston, Mass.–N.H.–R.I.	4,181,019
Lynn, Mass.	5,985	90,329	11	Boston, Mass.–N.H.–R.I.	4,181,019
Malden, Mass.	5,432	59,450	5	Boston, Mass.–N.H.–R.I.	4,181,019
Berkeley, Calif.	7,377	112,580	10	San Francisco–Oakland, Calif.	3,281,212
Daly City, Calif.	5,435	101,123	8	San Francisco–Oakland, Calif.	3,281,212
Lakewood, Ohio	7,079	52,131	6	Cleveland, Ohio	1,780,673
Waimalu CDP, Hawaii	11,402	13,730	2	Urban Honolulu, Hawaii	802,459
Lancaster, Pa.	6,078	59,322	7	Lancaster, Pa.	402,004
Trenton, N.J.	5,264	84,913	8	Trenton, N.J.	296,668
Reading, Pa.	6,326	88,082	10	Reading, Pa.	266,254

Criteria by which a place is classified as urban (coding at right):

- The main city (or Census-designated place) in a 500,000-person urbanized area, with a weighted housing-unit density of 3,000+ per square mile within the city limits.
- A named city (or Census-designated place) in a 500,000-person urbanized area, with a weighted housing-unit density of 4,000+ per square mile within the city limits.
- A city (or Census-designated place) with a population of 50,000+ and a weighted housing-unit density of 5,000+ per square mile within the city limits.
- A city (or Census-designated place) with a population of 10,000+ and a weighted housing-unit density of 10,000+ per square mile within the city limits.

Note: A place's boundaries may not be entirely contained within the urbanized area listed.

Source: Bureau of Justice Statistics, National Crime Victimization Survey, 2019; and 2010 Census of Population and Housing and Census designations of urbanized areas.



The Bureau of Justice Statistics of the U.S. Department of Justice is the principal federal agency responsible for measuring crime, criminal victimization, criminal offenders, victims of crime, correlates of crime, and the operation of criminal and civil justice systems at the federal, state, tribal, and local levels. BJS collects, analyzes, and disseminates reliable statistics on crime and justice systems in the United States, supports improvements to state and local criminal justice information systems, and participates with national and international organizations to develop and recommend national standards for justice statistics. Jeffrey H. Anderson is the director.

This report was written by Jeffrey H. Anderson. Erika Harrell and Alexandra Thompson verified the report. Amy Lauger also contributed to verification.

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