

Evaluation of the Proposed 2020 Metropolitan Statistical Areas Criteria

- Core Based Statistical Areas – Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas

According to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), a Core Based Statistical Area (CBSA) is a geography with at least one core of 10,000 or more persons, combined with adjacent territory that has a high degree of social and economic integration with the core as measured by commuting patterns. CBSAs have two categories: Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas and these two types of CBSAs are designed as a general-purpose geographic framework for statistical analyses. CBSAs consist of counties and county-equivalent entities throughout the United States and Puerto Rico. The CBSA classification is not an urban-rural classification as Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Areas and many counties outside CBSAs contain both urban and rural populations.

- Evaluation on the Impacts of the Proposed 2020 Metropolitan Statistical Area Criteria

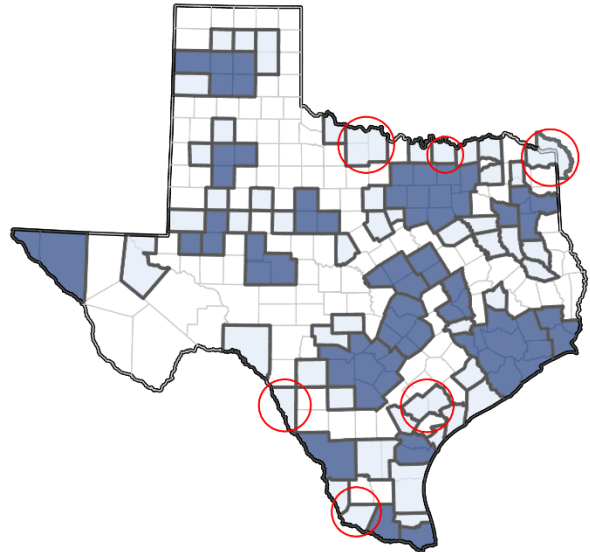
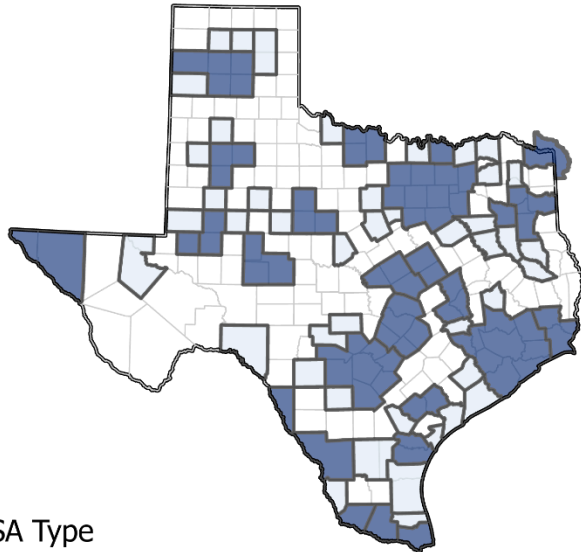
As described in the [Federal Register Notice Docket Number OMB-2021-0001](#), the OMB proposed to increase the minimum threshold of urban area population in metropolitan statistical areas from 50,000 to 100,000. The following evaluation for the State of Texas was based on a simplified scenario, meaning we assume the 2010 urban area delineation remains unchanged in 2020 and only focus on current CBSAs (delineated by OMB in 2018) without considering potential disqualified or newly added CBSAs in 2020. Currently, there are 71 CBSAs entirely or partially located in the Lone Star State. Based on the current CBSA delineation criteria, 25 of them are designated as metropolitan statistical areas and 46 of them are micropolitan statistical areas. According to Texas Demographic Center (TDC), Eagle Pass and Rio Grande City-Roma micropolitan statistical areas are both expected to have an urban population of over 50,000 in 2020 (see Table 1), indicating if the current urban population threshold of 50,000 remains unchanged, there would be 27 metropolitan statistical areas and 44 micropolitan statistical areas in Texas in 2020 (see the left map in Figure 1).

The OMB estimated the new proposed criteria are likely to have impacts on six Texas metropolitan statistical areas with an urban population between 50,000 and 99,999 in 2010 <https://www.regulations.gov/document/OMB-2021-0001-0004>. However, based on TDC population projections, Long View and San Angelo metropolitan statistical areas are expected to have an urban population of over 100,000 in 2020 (see Table 1), meaning they would maintain their metropolitan statistical area status under the new urban population threshold of 100,000. However, this proposed urban population threshold would disqualify six Texas metropolitan statistical areas (Eagle Pass, Rio Grande City-Roma, Sherman-Denison, Texarkana, Victoria, and Wichita Falls) in 2020, resulting in 21 metropolitan and 50 micropolitan statistical areas in 2020 for the State of Texas (see the right map in Figure 1).

Figure 1. Projected 2020 Texas CBSAs Based on Current Criteria and Proposed 2020 Criteria

Type of 2020 Texas CBSA with the Current Urban Population Threshold of 50,000

Type of 2020 Texas CBSA with the Proposed Urban Population Threshold of 100,000



CBSA Type
 ■ Metropolitan
 ■ Micropolitan
 ■ County
 □ State of Texas

Source: TDC Urban Area Population Projections
 Based on September 2018 OMB delineations

Table 1. Urban Area Population for Selected Texas Core Based Statistical Areas, 2010 - 2020

Core Based Statistical Area	2010 Census Urban Area Population	ACS (5-Year) 2019 Urban Area Population	TDC Projected 2020 Urban Area Population
Rio Grande City-Roma Micropolitan Area	46,344	48,099	50,246
Eagle Pass Micropolitan Area	49,236	52,752	54,903
Sherman-Denison Metropolitan Area	61,900	66,038	68,612
Victoria Metropolitan Area	63,683	67,172	69,733
Texarkana Metropolitan Area	78,162	79,327	80,797
Wichita Falls Metropolitan Area	99,437	98,327	93,925
Longview Metropolitan Area	98,884	100,534	104,740
San Angelo Metropolitan Area	92,984	99,269	105,445

Source: 2010 Census, 2019 5-Year ACS Data, & TDC Urban Area Population Projections