

County Geography

The 2023 NCHS Urban-Rural Classification Scheme is the most recent version, following releases of the 2013, 2006, and 1990 (released in 2001) schemes. The NCHS Urban-Rural Classification Scheme is a county-level file that includes the urban-rural classification codes for each of the four versions.

The data file has 3,160 records and because county geography changes over time – names may change, boundaries may shift, new counties are created, or old counties are deleted – the number of counties or county-equivalents in each version of the NCHS Urban-Rural Scheme are not always the same. For more information on substantial changes to counties and county-equivalent entities, see: <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/technical-documentation/county-changes.2020.html>.

To facilitate use of the NCHS Urban-Rural Classification Scheme data file, which includes all four scheme versions, the tables below list the newly created and deleted counties for the 2023 update as well as for the previously released 2013 version.

Table 1. New and deleted counties and county-equivalent entities: 2023 NCHS Urban-Rural Classification Scheme

New counties and county-equivalent entities	FIPS Code	Deleted counties and county-equivalent entities	FIPS Code
Chugach Census Area, AK	02063	Valdez-Cordova Census Area, AK	02261
Copper River Census Area, AK	02066	Wade Hampton Census Area, AK	02270
Capitol Planning Region, CT	09110	Fairfield County, CT	09001
Greater Bridgeport Planning Region, CT	09120	Hartford County, CT	09003
Lower Connecticut River Valley Planning Region, CT	09130	Litchfield County, CT	09005
Naugatuck Valley Planning Region, CT	09140	Middlesex County, CT	09007
Northeastern Connecticut Planning Region, CT	09150	New Haven County, CT	09009
Northwest Hills Planning Region, CT	09160	New London County, CT	09011
South Central Connecticut Planning Region, CT	09170	Tolland County, CT	09013
Southeastern Connecticut Planning Region, CT	09180	Windham County, CT	09015
Western Connecticut Planning Region, CT	09190	Shannon County, SD	46113
		Bedford City, VA	51515

Specific details for 2023 changes

Chugach Census Area, AK (FIPS code = 02063). In 2019, Chugach Census Area, AK (FIPS code = 02063) was created from part of the former Valdez-Cordova Census Area, AK (FIPS code = 02261).

Copper River Census Area, AK (FIPS code = 02066). In 2019, Copper River Census Area, AK (FIPS code = 02066) was created from part of the former Valdez-Cordova Census Area, AK (FIPS code = 02261).

Capitol Planning Region, CT (FIPS code = 09110). The Capitol Planning Region, CT (FIPS code = 09110) was created from parts of several former counties including Hartford County, CT (FIPS code = 09003) and Tolland County, CT (FIPS code = 09013).

Greater Bridgeport Planning Region, CT (FIPS code = 09120). The Greater Bridgeport Planning Region, CT (FIPS code = 09120) was created from part of the former Fairfield County, CT (FIPS code = 09001).

Lower Connecticut River Valley Planning Region, CT (FIPS code = 09130). The Lower Connecticut River Valley Planning Region, CT (FIPS code = 09130) was created from parts of several former counties including Middlesex County, CT (FIPS code = 09007) and New London County (FIPS code = 09011).

Naugatuck Valley Planning Region, CT (FIPS code = 09140). The Naugatuck Valley Planning Region, CT (FIPS code = 09140) was created from parts of several former counties including Fairfield County, CT (FIPS code = 09001), Hartford County, CT (FIPS code = 09003), Litchfield County, CT (FIPS code = 09005), and New Haven County, CT (FIPS code = 09009).

Northeastern Connecticut Planning Region, CT (FIPS code = 09150). The Northeastern Connecticut Planning Region, CT (FIPS code = 09150) was created from parts of several former counties including New London County, CT (FIPS code = 09011), Tolland County, CT (FIPS code = 09013), and Windham County, CT (FIPS code = 09015).

Northwest Hills Planning Region, CT (FIPS code = 09160). The Northwest Hills Planning Region, CT (FIPS code = 09160) was created from parts of several former counties including Hartford County, CT (FIPS code = 09003) and Litchfield County, CT (FIPS code = 09005).

South Central Connecticut Planning Region, CT (FIPS code = 09170). The South Central Connecticut Planning Region, CT (FIPS code = 09170) was created from part of the former New Haven County, CT (FIPS code = 09009).

Southeastern Connecticut Planning Region, CT (FIPS code = 09180). The Southeastern Connecticut Planning Region, CT (FIPS code = 09180) was created from several former counties including New London County, CT (FIPS code = 09011) and Windham County, CT (FIPS code = 09015).

Western Connecticut Planning Region, CT (FIPS code = 09190). The Western Connecticut Planning Region, CT (FIPS code = 09190) was created from several former counties including Fairfield County, CT (FIPS code = 09001) and Litchfield County, CT (FIPS code = 09005).

Table 2. New and deleted counties and county-equivalent entities: 2013 NCHS Urban-Rural Classification Scheme

New counties and county-equivalent entities	FIPS Code	Deleted counties and county-equivalent entities	FIPS Code
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area, AK	02105	Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area, AK	02201
Kusilvak Census Area, AK	02158	Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area, AK	02232
Petersburg Census Area, AK	02195	Wade-Hampton Census Area, AK	02270
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area, AK	02198	Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area, AK	02280
Skagway Municipality, AK	02230	Shannon County, ID	46113
Wrangell City and Borough, AK	02275	Bedford City, VA	51515
Broomfield, CO	08014	Clifton Forge City, VA	51560
Oglala Lakota, SD	46102		

Specific details for 2013 changes

Hoonah-Angoon Census Area, AK (FIPS code = 02105). In 2007, Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area (FIPS code = 02232) was split into Hoonah-Angoon Census Area and Skagway Municipality (FIPS code = 02230)..

Kusilvak Census Area, AK (FIPS code = 02158). Wade-Hampton Census Area, AK (02270 was renamed Kusilvak, AK and assigned a new FIPS code (02158) effective in 2014.

Petersburg Census Area, AK (FIPS code=02195). Petersburg Census Area was created from part of the former Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area (FIPS code = 02280) in 2008.

Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area, AK (FIPS code = 02198). In 2008, Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area was created from the remainder of the former Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area (FIPS code = 02201) after part (Outer Ketchikan) was annexed by Ketchikan Gateway Borough (FIPS code = 02130 and another part was included in the new Wrangell city Borough (FIPS code = 02275).

Skagway Municipality, AK (FIPS code = 02230). In 2007, Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area (FIPS code=02232) was split into Skagway Municipality (FIPS code = 02230) and Hoonah-Angoon Census Area (FIPS code = 02105).

Wrangell City and Borough, AK (FIPS code = 02275). In 2008, Wrangell City and Borough was created from part of Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area (FIPS code = 02280) and part of Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area (FIPS code = 02201).

Broomfield County, CO (FIPS code = 08014) was created in 2001 from parts of four Colorado counties: Adams, Boulder, Jefferson, and Weld.

Oglala Lakota County, SD (FIPS code = 46102). Shannon County, SD (FIPS code = 46113) was renamed Oglala Lakota County effective in 2014.

Bedford City, VA (FIPS code = 51515). In 2013, Bedford City, an independent city, merged with Bedford County (FIPS code=51019).

Clifton Forge City, VA (FIPS code = 51560). In 2001, Clifton Forge City, formerly an independent city, merged with Alleghany County (FIPS code=51005).