

County Geography

County geography changes over time. Most changes involve minor boundary shifts, but some are more substantial – new counties are created and old counties are deleted or their boundaries substantially altered (1). For example, the Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area, AK ceased to exist when it was divided into two new entities, Petersburg Census Area and Wrangell City and Borough. Because of county geography changes, the counties/county equivalent entities for which data are available may vary across data files and over time. To facilitate use of the NCHS Urban-Rural Classification Scheme for Counties with data files that may not have the most current county geography, the urban-rural data file includes records for both newly created and newly deleted entities. For example, there are records on the file for Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area as well as for Petersburg Census Area and Wrangell City and Borough.

The table below lists the recently created and deleted counties and county equivalent entities that appear on the urban-rural data file and their NCHS urban-rural scheme codes..

County/County equivalent entity	2013 NCHS scheme code	2006 NCHS scheme code	1990 census-based NCHS scheme code
Recently created counties/equivalent entities			
Hoonah-Angoon Census Area, AK	6(noncore)	6(Noncore)	No code
Petersburg Census Area, AK	6(Noncore)	6(Noncore)	No code
Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area, AK	6(Noncore)	6(Noncore)	No code
Skagway Municipality, AK	6(Noncore)	6(Noncore)	No code
Wrangell city and Borough	6(Noncore)	6(Noncore)	No code
Broomfield, CO	2(Large fringe metro)	2(Large fringe metro)	No code
Recently deleted counties/equivalent entities			
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan Census Area, AK	6(noncore)	6(Noncore)	6(Without a city of 10,000 or more)
Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area, AK	6(Noncore)	6(Noncore)	6(Without a city of 10,000 or more)
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area, AK	6(Noncore)	6(Noncore)	6(Without a city of 10,000 or more)
Clifton Forge, VA	6(Noncore)	6(Noncore)	6(Without a city of 10,000 or more)

Specific details

Recently created counties and equivalent entities:

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). Hoonah-Angoon Census Area has a category code in the 2013 and 2006 NCHS schemes, but not in the 1990 census-based scheme.

Petersburg Census Area (FIPS code=02195). Petersburg Census Area was created from part of the former Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area (FIPS code = 02280) in 2008. This entity has a category code in the 2013 and 2006 NCHS schemes, but not in the 1990 census-based scheme.

Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area (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 Borough. This entity has a category code in the 2013 and 2006 NCHS schemes, but not in the 1990 census-based scheme.

Skagway Municipality, AK (FIPS code = 02230). In 2007, Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area (FIPS code=02232) was split into Skagway Municipality and Hoonah-Angoon Census Area (FIPS code = 02105). This entity has a category code in the 2013 and 2006 NCHS schemes, but not in the 1990 census-based scheme.

Wrangell City and Borough (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). This entity has a category code in the 2013 and 2006 NCHS schemes, but not on the 1990 census-based scheme.

Broomfield County, Colorado (FIPS code=08014) was created in 2001 from parts of four Colorado counties: Adams, Boulder, Jefferson, and Weld. This county has a category code in the 2013 and 2006 NCHS schemes, but not in the 1990 census-based scheme.

Recently deleted counties and equivalent entities:

Prince of Wales-Outer-Ketchikan Census Area (FIPS code = 02201). In 2008, part of this area (Outer Ketchikan) was annexed by Ketchikan Gateway Borough (FIPS code = 02130), part was included in the new Wrangell City and borough (FIPS code = 02275), and the remainder was renamed Prince of Wales-Hyder Census Area (FIPS code = 02198). Although it no longer exists, Prince of Wales –Outer Ketchikan Census Area has a category code in the 2013, 2006, and 1990 census-based NCHS schemes.

Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census Area, AK (FIPS code = 02232). In 2007, Skagway-Hoonah-Angoon Census area was split to create Skagway Municipality (FIPS = 02230) and Hoonah-Angoon Census Area (FIPS code = 02105). Although it no longer exists, this entity has a category code in the 2013, 2006, and 1990 census-based NCHS schemes.

Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area (FIPS code = 02280). In 2008, Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area was split to create part of Wrangell City and Borough (FIPS code = 02275) and all of Petersburg Census Area (FIPS code = 02195). Although it no longer exists, this entity has a category code in the 2013, 2006, and 1990 census-based NCHS schemes.

Clifton Forge County, Virginia (FIPS code = 51560). In 2001, Clifton Forge city, Virginia, formerly an independent city, merged with Alleghany County (FIPS code=51005). Although it no longer exists, this county has a category code in the 2013, 2006, and 1990 census-based NCHS schemes.

REFERENCES

1. U.S. Census Bureau. Substantial changes to counties and county equivalent entities: 1970-present. Available from: <http://www.census.gov/geo/reference/county-changes.html>.