

## **READING THE GEOGRAPHIC HEADER RECORD**

The geographic header record layout is below (Table 2.1). The information in each summary level column is a guide to the presence or absence of additional geographic information on that specific summary level. In each row of a particular geographic area code, there is a listing of the summary levels that contain the area code. For example, to uniquely identify a county (summary level 050) you need to know the state and county code. There are 9 Brown counties in the U.S. and in order to identify it uniquely you need to know the state.

**Table 2.1 Geographic Header Record Layout for the ACS Summary File**

<b>Data Dictionary Reference Name</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Field Size</b>	<b>Starting Position</b>	<b>Geographic Summary Levels For Single-Year Tables</b>
<b>RECORD CODES</b>				
FILEID	Always equal to ACS Summary File identification	6	1	All Summary Levels
STUSAB	State Postal Abbreviation	2	7	All Summary Levels
SUMLEVEL	Summary Level	3	9	All Summary Levels
COMPONENT	Geographic Component	2	12	All Summary Levels
LOGRECNO	Logical Record Number	7	14	All Summary Levels
<b>GEOGRAPHIC AREA CODES</b>				
US	US	1	21	010
REGION	Census Region	1	22	020
DIVISION	Census Division	1	23	030
STATECE	State (Census Code)	2	24	040, 050, 060, 160, 230, 500, 795, 950, 960, 970
STATE	State (FIPS Code)	2	26	040, 050, 060, 160, 230, 500, 795, 950, 960, 970
COUNTY	County of current residence	3	28	050, 060
COUSUB	County Subdivision (FIPS)	5	31	060
PLACE	Place (FIPS Code)	5	36	160, 312, 352
TRACT	Census Tract	6	41	Reserved for future use
BLKGRP	Block Group	1	47	Reserved for future use
CONCIT	Consolidated City	5	48	Reserved for future use
AIANHH	American Indian Area/Alaska Native Area/ Hawaiian Home Land (Census)	4	53	250
AIANHHFP	American Indian Area/Alaska Native Area/ Hawaiian Home Land (FIPS)	5	57	250
AIHHTLI	American Indian Trust Land/ Hawaiian Home Land Indicator	1	62	Reserved for future use
AITSC	American Indian Tribal Subdivision (Census)	3	63	Reserved for future use
AITSF	American Indian Tribal Subdivision (FIPS)	5	66	Reserved for future use
ANRC	Alaska Native Regional Corporation (FIPS)	5	71	230
CBSA	Metropolitan and Micropolitan Statistical Area	5	76	310, 312, 314, 332, P10, P11, P12
CSA	Combined Statistical Area	3	81	330, P09
METDIV	Metropolitan Division	5	84	314
MACC	Metropolitan Area Central City	1	89	Reserved for future use
MEMI	Metropolitan/Micropolitan Indicator Flag	1	90	010, 020, 030, 040
NECTA	New England City and Town Area	5	91	350, 352, 355, P14, P15, P16

CNECTA	New England City and Town Combined Statistical Area	3	96	335
NECTADIV	New England City and Town Area Division	5	99	355
UA	Urban Area	5	104	400
UACP	Urban Area Central Place	5	109	Reserved for future use
CDCURR	Current Congressional District ***	2	114	500
SLDU	State Legislative District Upper	3	116	Reserved for future use
SLDL	State Legislative District Lower	3	119	Reserved for future use
VTD	Voting District	6	122	Reserved for future use
ZCTA3	ZIP Code Tabulation Area (3-digit)	3	128	Reserved for future use
ZCTA5	ZIP Code Tabulation Area (5-digit)	5	131	Reserved for future use
SUBMCD	Subbarrio (FIPS)	2	136	Reserved for future use
SDELM	School District (Elementary)	5	138	950
SDSEC	School District (Secondary)	5	143	960
SDUNI	School District (Unified)	5	148	970
UR	Urban/Rural	1	153	010, 020, 030, 040
PCI	Principal City Indicator	1	154	312, 352
TAZ	Traffic Analysis Zone	6	155	Reserved for future use
UGA	Urban Growth Area	5	161	Reserved for future use
PUMA5	Public Use Microdata Area – 5% File	5	166	795, 901
PUMA1	Public Use Microdata Area – 1% File	5	171	Reserved for future use
GEOID	Geographic Identifier	40	176	All Summary Levels
NAME	Area Name	200	216	All Summary Levels
RESERVED	For Future needs	50	418	Reserved for future use

**Note:** The Geographic Summary Levels that are designated, as “Reserved for future use” will be used for the ACS period estimate data products. These reference names will not be defined in the ACS Geographic Terms and Concepts section until they are used.

## GEOGRAPHIC HIERARCHY PRIMER

Detailed information on ACS summary levels can be found in Chapter 4. Chapter 4 identifies each geographic level and provides the code for the level. Figure 2.3 provides an example of the various geographic hierarchies used in the American Community Survey. Take some time to review this chart to become familiar with the different hierarchies.

**Figure 2.3 Hierarchy of ACS Geographic Entities**

