MSA

Metropolitan Statistical Area

Universe

All persons

Description

A Metropolitan Statistical Area is comprised of the central county or counties containing the core urban area, plus adjacent/outlying counties that have a high degree of social and economic integration with the central county, as measured by commutation patterns. As of June 6, 2003, the Office of Management and Budget has defined a total of 362 Metropolitan Statistical Areas that incorporate 1,090 counties, containing approximately 83% of the US population. While 78% of the counties now classified as "metropolitan" are the same as before, many Metropolitan areas have changed in some way, either by name or geographic composition.

Comparability

MSA is comparable across years.

Question to respondent

Instructions to interviewer