**FIPS to 2013 NCHS Urban-Rural Cross Walk Documentation  
Updated 12/13/21 by Isabel De Ramos**

* **Introduction:**
  + NCHS Urban-Rural Classification Scheme is a six-level urban classification scheme for U.S. counties and county-equivalent entities, often used to examine health differences across the urban-rural continuum. The 2013 urban-rural scheme is the most recent version made available. It is based on the Office of Management Budget’s (OMB) February 2013 delineation of metropolitan statistical areas (MSA) and micropolitan statistical areas (derived from 2010 OMB standards) and Vintage 2012 postcensal population estimates. As of 2013, the classification scheme employs four metropolitan levels and two nonmetropolitan levels (6 total) with the following thresholds per county:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Code | Type | Description |
| 1 | Large central metropolitan county group | Counties in metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) of ≥1,000,000 population that (1) contain the entire population of the largest principal city of the MSA, or (2) have their entire population contained in the largest principal city of the MSA, or (3) contain ≥250,000 inhabitants of any principal city of the MSA |
| 2 | Large fringe metropolitan county group | Counties in MSAs of ≥1,000,000 population that did not qualify as large central metropolitan counties |
| 3 | Medium metropolitan county group | Counties in MSAs of populations of 250,000 to 999,999 |
| 4 | Small metropolitan county group | Counties in MSAs of populations <250,000 |
| 5 | Micropolitan county (nonmetropolitan) group | Counties in micropolitan statistical areas (i.e., urban cluster population of 10,000 to 49,999) |
| 6 | Noncore county (nonmetropolitan) group | Nonmetropolitan counties that did not qualify as micropolitan |

* + Please see description link below in “Data source” for data descriptions of 2006- and 1990-NCHS Urban-Rural Classification Scheme for Counties.
* **Data source**:
  + Link: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/data_acces_files/NCHSURCodes2013.xlsx>
  + Description: <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data_access/urban_rural.htm>
* **Final Product:**
  + *“fips\_urbanrural\_xwalk.csv”:* simple FIPS to NCHS Urban-Rural Classification with following variables:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Variable name** | **Description** |
| **fips** | 5 digit fips (state+county) |
| **county\_name** | Name of county |
| **2013\_code** | 6-level code using 2013 NCHS Urban-Rural Classification Scheme |
| **2006\_code** | 6-level-code using 2006 NCHS Urban-Rural Classifciation Scheme |
| **1990\_code** | 6-level-code using 1990 NCHS Urban-Rural Classifciation Scheme |

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