

2016 VOTING RIGHTS PUBLIC USE FILE DOCUMENTATION



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Census Redistricting & Voting Rights Data Office (CRVRDO)
U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce

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INTRODUCTION

On December 5, 2016, the Census Bureau's Section 203 determinations were published in the Federal Register Notice. That notice provided the simple listing of jurisdictions required by law to provide language assistance to those minority groups who are unable to speak or understand English adequately enough to participate in the electoral process. In support of the Federal Register Notice, the Census Bureau has released this set of public files presenting the underlying data used to construct these determinations.

It should also be understood that the files available to the public are not exactly the same as those used to make the determinations because of disclosure avoidance measures to protect confidentiality. Specifically, the data for some combinations of geography and language minority group have been suppressed because of small sample sizes. Those data that have not been suppressed have been rounded and the percentages described above have been recalculated to be consistent with the rounded figures.

Small area estimation models were used to reduce the sampling variance of the estimates of counts and rates for use in the process of making the determinations. The modeling, based on 2010–2014 ACS 5-year data, produced estimates of the following counts for each jurisdiction by language minority combination:

- 1) Total population;
- 2) Total voting age population;
- 3) Total citizen voting age population;
- 4) Total citizen voting age population who speak a language other than English at home and speak English "less than very well";
- 5) And total citizen voting age population who speak a language other than English at home and speak English "less than very well" and whose educational attainment is less than 5th grade.

These counts were then used to calculate the following two rates:

- 1) The language proficiency rate for those speaking English less than very well of voting age citizens;
- 2) And the illiteracy rate of those voting age citizens who speak English less than very well.

For some combinations of geography and language minority group the model was not able to produce an estimate. In these instances, we used estimates calculated directly from the 2010–2014 ACS 5-year data. The totals and rates produced were then used to make the final determinations for each jurisdiction. Since most of the estimates used were modeled, these results do not equal the published 2010–2014 ACS 5-year estimates, nor can they be obtained from the 2010–2014 ACS 5-year Public Use Microdata Sample (i.e., PUMS) files.

The first section of this document describes the three public files and the records which appear on each of the files. The second section describes the variables which appear on these files. Also, this section describes the legal values for each of these variables. The third section lists all of the language minority groups which were potentially covered. The fourth section lists a set of acronyms and abbreviations used throughout this document. The U.S. Census Bureau contact for the Voting Rights special tabulation is James Whitehorne (James.Whitehorne@census.gov, 301-763-4039) of the Census Redistricting & Voting Rights Data Office.

FILES CREATED

There are three separate files; all of them are Windows ASCII, comma-delimited files that can be imported into a wide range of software applications. The Complete File contains data for all jurisdictions / American Indian and Alaska Native Areas crossed by all applicable language minority groups regardless of coverage. The Determinations File contains only the areas and language minority groups covered by the Section 203 determinations as published in the Federal Register Notice. The American Indian/Alaska Native (AIAN) and Alaska Native Regional Corporation (ANRC) Covered Jurisdiction File provides a list of all counties and Minor Civil Divisions (MCD) by name that are covered because a covered AIAN or ANRC area is in part or wholly contained in that county/MCD. Each file is sorted in ascending order by the LEVCODE, ST, CNTY, MCD, AIAN, ANRC, LANCOUNT fields, which are defined later in the document. All files have quotes around their character variables and contain a header row with the field names given to aid their import into software applications.

File 1: The Complete File

This file contains one record for all geography by language minority group (LMG) combinations, whether they are covered or not. The geographies included are Nation, State, County, Minor Civil Division (MCD), AIAN, AIAN area within a county or MCD (AIAN/Juris), ANRC, and ANRC area within a county or MCD (ANRC/Juris). For the AIAN/Juris and ANRC/Juris summary-levels, each combination of county or MCD that intersects an AIAN or ANRC area is provided. If a county contains wholly or in part multiple AIAN or ANRC areas, each combination is shown.

- The following is a list of summary-level specific notes for this file.
 - National
 - Includes record only for “Total Population”
 - The only estimate provided is the illiteracy rate.
 - The illiteracy rate given is the proportion of voting age citizens who have an educational attainment less than the fifth grade. The rate is given as a percentage and is calculated to two decimal places. Note that, unlike the illiteracy rate given for other geography by LMG combinations, the illiteracy rate for this record is not derivable from the other fields.
 - State, County, and MCD
 - Includes records for all LMGs
 - The record for “Total Population” only contains the estimate for voting age citizens in that geography. It is used as the denominator for the limited English proficiency for that geography.
 - AIAN and ANRC
 - Includes records for only the American Indian and Alaskan Native LMGs
 - The record for “American Indian alone or in combination” only contains the estimate for voting age citizens in that geography. It is used as the denominator for the limited English proficiency for that geography.
 - AIAN/Juris and ANRC/Juris
 - Includes records for only the American Indian and Alaskan Native LMGs
 - The data shown corresponds to the estimates for the AIAN or ANRC areas that overlap the county or MCD. It is not the estimates for that portion of the AIAN or ANRC area that falls into the county or MCD (the intersection).
- The name of this file is “sect203_All_Areas.csv.”

File 2: The Determinations File

This file has a record for all LMG by jurisdiction combinations that are covered by the 2016 Section 203 Voting Rights determinations.

- The following is a list of summary-level specific notes for this file.
 - For the national summary level, there are no records on this file.
 - State
 - Includes records for covered state by LMG combinations
 - Includes records for “Total Population” for covered states
 - The “Total Population” record will only contain the estimate for voting age citizens
 - County
 - Includes records for covered county by LMG combinations
 - Includes records for “Total Population” for covered counties
 - The “Total Population” record will only contain the estimate for voting age citizens
 - MCD
 - Includes records for covered MCD by LMG combinations
 - Includes records for “Total Population” for covered MCDs
 - The “Total Population” record will only contain the estimate for voting age citizens
 - AIAN
 - Includes records for covered AIAN area by LMG combinations
 - Includes records for “American Indian alone or in combination” for covered AIAN areas
 - The “American Indian alone or in combination” record will only contain the estimate for voting age citizens
 - AIAN/Juris
 - Includes records for covered AIAN/Juris by LMG combinations
 - ANRC
 - Includes records for covered ANRC area by LMG combinations
 - Includes records for “American Indian alone or in combination” for covered ANRC areas
 - The “American Indian alone or in combination” record will only contain the estimate for voting age citizens
 - ANRC/Juris
 - Includes records for covered ANRC/Juris by LMG combinations
- If the jurisdiction by LMG combination is not covered, there is no record of it on this file.
- If the jurisdiction does not have any LMG covered, there is no record of that jurisdiction on this file.
- The name of this file is “sect203_Determined_Areas_Only.csv.”

File 3: AIAN/ANRC Covered Jurisdiction File

This file is a subset of the complete file which has all counties and MCDs covered because an AIAN or ANRC area in that county or MCD met the qualifications for coverage.

- This file has records only for the AIAN/Juris and ANRC/Juris summary levels.
- It includes records for covered AIAN/Juris by LMG and ANRC/Juris by LMG combinations.
- The name of this file is “sect203_Jurisdiction_by_AIAN_ANRC_Area.csv.”

VARIABLE DESCRIPTION

Table 1 describes the file layouts of the complete file and the determinations file. These two files have the same file layout and same variables and differ only in the records that are included. Table 2 describes the AIAN/ANRC covered jurisdiction file, which has a different layout than the previous two files. Note that all flag fields were set using the internal unrounded and unsuppressed data. Because of this, there may be some inconsistencies between the rounded values of VACLEP, LEPPCT, or ILLRAT on the public file and the various flag fields. While the number of such instances may be small, presenting the data on the files in this manner ensures that the flag fields are consistent with the determinations published in the Federal Register Notice while protecting the confidentiality of the data given.

Note that LANCOUNTS 2, 4–54, and 56–71 correspond to LMGs. Of these, 4–54 correspond to AIAN LMGs. In addition, LANCOUNTS 1 and 3 correspond to totals and are not LMGs. The value of 55 is no longer used but the value is skipped for comparability to the 2011 files.

Table 1: File Layout for The Complete File and The Determinations File

Field Name	Field Description	Field Type
LEVCODE	The one digit summary level codes recoded as follows (Nation = 1, State = 2, County = 3, MCD = 4, AIAN = 5, AIAN/Juris = 6, ANRC = 7, ANRC/Juris = 8)	Numeric
LEVEL	Textual definition of the LEVCODE field (Nation, State, County, MCD, AIAN, AIAN/Juris, ANRC, ANRC/Juris)	Character
GEOID	Geographic identifier <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For state level: State FIPS code For county level: State FIPS & County FIPS code For MCD level: State FIPS & MCD FIPS code For AIAN Area: AIANHH code For AIAN/Juris level: State FIPS &(MCD FIPS code or County FIPS code For ANRC Area: ANRC Code For ANRC/Juris level: State FIPS &(MCD FIPS code or County FIPS code 	Character
AIAN	The four digit census AIANHH code (0000 if not applicable)	Character
ANRC	The five digit census ANRC code (00000 if not applicable)	Character
ST	The two digit state FIPS code (00 if not applicable)	Character
CNTY	The three digit county FIPS code (000 if not applicable)	Character
MCD	The five digit minor civil division FIPS code (NNNNN if not applicable)	Character
NAMELSAD	Name and the Legal/Statistical Area Description of the geographic entity (State, County, MCD, AIAN or ANRC area); Note for MCDs that cross county boundaries, the county name is not included in this field.	Character
LANCOUNT	Numeric variable describing the LMG or total	Numeric
LANGUAGE	The textual version of the LMG or total	Character
POP	Total population	Numeric
MPOP	Margin of error for the total population	Numeric
VAPOP	Total voting age population	Numeric
MVAPOP	Margin of error for total voting age population	Numeric

Field Name	Field Description	Field Type
VACIT	Total citizen voting age population	Numeric
MVACIT	Margin of error for the total citizen voting age population	Numeric
VACLEP	Total citizen voting age population who speak a language other than English at home and speak English “less than very well”	Numeric
MVACLEP	Margin of error for the total citizen voting age population who speak a language other than English at home and speak English “less than very well”	Numeric
ILLIT	Total citizen voting age population who speak a language other than English at home and speak English “less than very well” and whose educational attainment is less than 5 th grade	Numeric
MILLIT	Margin of error for the total citizen voting age population who speak a language other than English at home and speak English “less than very well” and whose educational attainment is less than 5 th grade	Numeric
LEPPCT	Percentage, with four decimal places, of the total citizen voting age population who speak a language other than English at home and speak English “less than very well” to the total citizen voting age population. For states, counties and MCDs, the denominator is the entire voting age citizen population for that geography. For AIAN areas and AIAN/Juris, the denominator is the total AIAN alone or in combination voting age citizen population. For ANRC areas and ANRC/Juris, the denominator is the also the total AIAN alone or in combination voting age citizen population.	Numeric
MLEPPCT	The margin of error for the percentage, with four decimal places, of the total citizen voting age population who speak a language other than English at home and speak English “less than very well” to the total citizen voting age population.	Numeric
ILLRAT	Percentage, with four decimal places, of the total limited English proficient citizen voting age population whose educational attainment is less than 5 th grade to the total limited English proficient citizen voting age population.	Numeric
MILLRAT	The margin of error for the percentage, with four decimal places, of the total limited English proficient citizen voting age population whose educational attainment is less than 5 th grade to the total limited English proficient citizen voting age population.	Numeric
FLAG10	FLAG10 is the flag indicating if there are more than 10,000 voting age citizens who do not “speak or understand English adequately enough to participate in the electoral process”. For LMGs in counties and MCDs, this flag is 1 if VACLEP is greater than 10,000. Otherwise, this flag is 0. For all other geographies, and for values of LANCOUNT that do not correspond to LMGs, this flag is blank.	Character

Field Name	Field Description	Field Type
FLAG5	FLAG5 is the flag indicating if the rate of those who do not “speak or understand English adequately enough to participate in the electoral process” is greater than 5 percent. For LMGs in states, counties, MCDs, AIAN areas, AIAN/Juris, ANRC areas, and ANRC/Juris this flag is 1 if the value of LEPPCT is greater than 5.0000. Otherwise this flag is 0. For the nation, and for values of LANCOUNT that do not correspond to LMGs, this flag is blank.	Character
FLAG_EDU	FLAG_EDU is the flag indicating if the geography by LMG combination has an ILLRAT greater than the national average. For LMGs in states, counties, MCDs, AIAN areas, AIAN/Juris, ANRC areas, and ANRC/Juris, this flag is 1 if the value of ILLRAT is greater than 1.31. Otherwise this flag is 0. For the nation, and for values of LANCOUNT that do not correspond to LMGs, this flag is blank.	Character
FLAG_ST	FLAG_ST is the flag indicating that a state is covered or the jurisdiction is covered because the state is covered. For states, this flag is 1 if the state by LMG combination is covered. For counties and MCDs this flag is 1 if the state by LMG combination is covered and the county or MCD is covered because of the state. For counties and MCDs, this flag is 0 if the state by LMG combination is covered and the county or MCD is not covered. For counties and MCDs, this flag is blank if the state by LMG combination is not covered. For all other geographies, and for values of LANCOUNT that do not correspond to LMGs, this flag is blank.	Character
FLAG_JUR	FLAG_JUR is the flag indicating if the jurisdiction by LMG combination is covered because the jurisdiction meets the coverage criteria on its own; that is, it would be covered with or without state or AIAN being covered. For counties and MCDs, this flag is 1 if the county or MCD by LMG combination is covered. Otherwise this flag is 0. For all other geographies, and for values of LANCOUNT that do not correspond to LMGs, this flag is blank.	Character
FLAG_AI	FLAG_AI is the flag indicating if a geography is covered because of an AIAN on ANRC area. For counties, MCDs, AIAN areas, AIAN/Juris, ANRC areas, and ANRC/Juris, this flag is 1 if an AIAN or ANRC area that resides in that geography is covered. Otherwise this flag is 0. For nation and state, and for values of LANCOUNT which do not correspond to LMGs, this flag is blank.	Character
FLAG_COV	FLAG_COV is the flag indicating if the jurisdiction is covered for any reason. For states, counties, and MCDs, this flag is 1 if the state, county, or MCD is covered. Otherwise this flag is 0. For all other geographies, and for values of LANCOUNT which do not correspond to LMGs, this flag is blank.	Character
NOTES:		
Numbers do NOT contain commas to separate large values (one million = 1000000 and not 1,000,000)		

Table 2: File Layout for AIAN/ANRC Covered Jurisdictions File

Field Name	Field Description	Field Type
LEVCODE	The three digit summary level codes recoded as follows (Nation = 1, State = 2, County = 3, MCD = 4, AIAN = 5, AIAN/Juris = 6, ANRC = 7, ANRC/Juris = 8)	Numeric
LEVEL	Textual definition of the LEVCODE field (Nation, State, County, MCD, AIAN, AIAN/Juris, ANRC, ANRC/Juris)	Character
ST	The two digit state FIPS code	Character
CNTY	The three digit county FIPS code (000 if not applicable)	Character
MCD	The five digit minor civil division FIPS code (NNNNN if not applicable)	Character
NAMELSAD	Name and the Legal/Statistical Area Description of the geographic entity (County, MCD). for MCDs that cross county boundaries, the county name is not included in this	Character
AIAN	The four digit census AIANHH code	Character
ANRC	The five digit census ANRC code	Character
NAME2	Name and the Legal/Statistical Area Description of the AIAN or ANRC area	Character
LANCOUNT	Numeric variable describing the LMG	Numeric
LANGUAGE	The textual version of the language minority group	Character

LANGUAGE MINORITY GROUPS

Table 3 specifies the value of the variable LANGUAGE that corresponds to each value of the variable LANCOUNT. These values correspond to the 68 LMGs in addition to the three totals. The variables LANCOUNT and LANGUAGE are on all of the files described in this document.

Table 3 lists 68 language minority groups and the three totals, “Total Population,” “American Indian alone or in combination,” and “Asian alone or in combination.” These three totals are never covered; however, all of the language minority groups are potentially covered.

Table 3: Mapping of the variable LANCOUNT to the variable LANGUAGE

LANCOUNT	LANGUAGE
1	Total Population
2	Hispanic
3	American Indian alone or in combination
4	American Indian (Apache)
5	American Indian (Arapaho)
6	American Indian (Blackfeet)
7	American Indian (Canadian and French American Indian)
8	American Indian (Central American Indian)
9	American Indian (Cherokee)
10	American Indian (Cheyenne)
11	American Indian (Chickasaw)
12	American Indian (Chippewa)
13	American Indian (Choctaw)
14	American Indian (Colville)
15	American Indian (Comanche)
16	American Indian (Cree)
17	American Indian (Creek)
18	American Indian (Crow)
19	American Indian (Delaware)
20	American Indian (Hopi)
21	American Indian (Houma)
22	American Indian (Iroquois)
23	American Indian (Kiowa)
24	American Indian (Lumbee)
25	American Indian (Menominee)
26	American Indian (Mexican American Indian)
27	American Indian (Navajo)
28	American Indian (Osage)
29	American Indian (Ottawa)
30	American Indian (Paiute)
31	American Indian (Pima)
32	American Indian (Potawatomi)
33	American Indian (Pueblo)
34	American Indian (Puget Sound Salish)
35	American Indian (Seminole)
36	American Indian (Shoshone)

LANCOUNT	LANGUAGE
37	American Indian (Sioux)
38	American Indian (South American Indian)
39	American Indian (Spanish American Indian)
40	American Indian (Tohono O'Odham)
41	American Indian (Ute)
42	American Indian (Yakama)
43	American Indian (Yaqui)
44	American Indian (Yuma)
45	American Indian (All other American Indian Tribes)
46	American Indian — Tribe not Specified
47	Alaskan Athabascan
48	Aleut
49	Inupiat
50	Tlingit-Haida
51	Tsimshian
52	Yup'ik
53	Alaska Native Tribe — Tribe not Specified
54	American Indian (American Indian or Alaska Native - Not Specified)
55	Unused
56	Asian Indian
57	Bangladeshi
58	Cambodian
59	Chinese (including Taiwanese)
60	Filipino
61	Hmong
62	Indonesian
63	Japanese
64	Korean
65	Laotian
66	Malaysian
67	Pakistani
68	Sri Lankan
69	Thai
70	Vietnamese
71	Other Asian — Not specified

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

The following table lists acronyms and abbreviations used throughout the document and what they mean.

Table 4: Acronyms and Abbreviations

ACRONYM	DEFINITION
ACS	American Community Survey
AIAN	American Indian/Alaska Native
AIAN/Juris	A pseudo level of geography indicating a county or minor civil division that is intersected by an American Indian or Alaska Native area.
AIANNH	American Indian/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian
ANRC	Alaska Native Regional Corporation
AIAN/Juris	A pseudo level of geography indicating a county or minor civil division that is intersected by an Alaska Native Regional Corporation area.
ASCII	American Standard Code for Information Interchange
CNTY	County FIPS code
FLAG_AI	Flag indicating the county or minor civil division is covered due to an intersecting covered American Indian or Alaska Native area.
FLAG_COV	Flag indicating the jurisdiction is covered for any reason.
FLAG_EDU	Flag indicating an illiteracy rate higher than the national average of 1.31.
FLAG_JUR	Flag indicating the county or minor civil division record is covered based on its own population, regardless of the American Indian/Alaska Native area or state level coverage provisions.
FLAG_ST	Flag indicating that, for state level records, a state is covered and, for county and minor civil division records, they are covered because of the state coverage provisions.
FLAG10	Flag indicating 10,000 voting age citizens who do not “speak or understand English adequately enough to participate in the electoral process”. This flag only appears on county and minor civil division records.
FLAG5	Flag indicating a greater than 5% rate of voting age citizens who do not “speak or understand English adequately enough to participate in the electoral process”.
GEOID	A combination of geographic codes that creates an ID for the geography represented by the record.
ILLIT	Total citizen voting age population who do not “speak or understand English adequately enough to participate in the electoral process” and who have not completed the fifth grade.
ILLRAT	Percentage of the citizen voting age population who do not “speak or understand English adequately enough to participate in the electoral process” and who have not completed the fifth grade..
Juris	Jurisdiction (also see AIAN/Juris, ANRC/Juris)
LANCOUNT	A numeric code indicating the language represented by the record. The code to language crosswalk is available in Table 3 of this document.
LANGUAGE	A textual description of the language represented by the record.

ACRONYM	DEFINITION
LEPPCT	Percentage of the total citizen voting age population who do not “speak or understand English adequately enough to participate in the electoral process”.
LEVCODE	A numeric code indicating the level of geography represented by the record.
LEVEL	A textual description indicating the type of geography represented by the record.
LMG	Language Minority Group
MCD	Minor Civil Division
MILLIT	Margin of error of the total citizen voting age population who do not “speak or understand English adequately enough to participate in the electoral process” and who have not completed the fifth grade.
MILLRAT	Margin of error of the percentage of the citizen voting age population who do not “speak or understand English adequately enough to participate in the electoral process” and who have not completed the fifth grade.
MLEPPCT	Margin of error of the percentage of the total citizen voting age population who do not “speak or understand English adequately enough to participate in the electoral process”.
MPOP	Margin of error for the total population
MVACIT	Margin of error for the total citizen voting age population.
MVACLEP	Margin of error for the total citizen voting age population who do not “speak or understand English adequately enough to participate in the electoral process”.
NAMELSAD	The combination of the geographic area's name and the legal or statistical area description.
POP	Total Population
PUMS	Public Use Microdata Sample
ST	State FIPS code
VACIT	Total citizen voting age population.
VACLEP	Total citizen voting age population who do not “speak or understand English adequately enough to participate in the electoral process”.