

Part B - 5

LEAD AGENCY/BUREAU AND/OR SUBCOMMITTEE/WORKING GROUP REPORT
(Agencies with Lead Responsibilities Assigned under Circular A-16 in Appendix E
- <http://www.fgdc.gov/publications/a16final.html#appendix>) (Please provide a separate report for each activity for which you have the lead)

1. Program/Activity Name: **Governmental Units**
2. What are the specific federal programs this data supports?

Censuses and surveys conducted by the Census Bureau are specifically dependent upon governmental units data. Governmental units data supports any data collection or tabulation activities by the Federal government that are based upon governmental units, which includes the majority of data.

3. Uses of Data: How does your data benefit customers and support agency missions?

Governmental unit boundary data provides the framework by which most statistical data are collected and to which they are tabulated. Through establishing a consistent way to collect and interchange governmental unit boundary data and facilitate their maintenance, analysis, and comparison, the governmental units theme supports the majority of federal, state, local, academic and private-vendor geographic statistical programs.

4. Charter/Plan: Do you have a current charter or plan for collection? If so - please describe (include how recently the charter/plan was implemented and whether it is in need of update).

The Census Bureau has collected and maintained boundary information for over 50 years, and the collection plans are under continuous review and improvement. Census utilizes state, local, and tribal information when updating boundaries whenever possible. Other agencies, according to their own missions and schedules, collect governmental unit boundary data as well.

5. Performance Measures: Does your agency have performance measures for your data theme? If so, please list the measures and whether you achieved your goals.

Yes. The Boundary and Annexation Survey is the vehicle to collect any changes to governmental unit boundaries. The Census Bureau had a performance measure of an 83% response rate. This goal was achieved.

6. Metadata Status: Is metadata discoverable and served through the NSDI Clearinghouse? What percentage of this theme's data has metadata and is in a Clearinghouse node?

The Census Bureau provides information on existing geospatial data holdings, including governmental unit boundary data, to the US Census Bureau node of the FGDC Metadata Clearinghouse. Furthermore, the metadata records posted

to the US Census Bureau node of the FGDC Metadata Clearinghouse are harvested for data discovery on the Geospatial One-Stop portal.

7. Standards: What is the status of this theme's data, process, transfer, and classification standards?

The draft Framework Governmental Unit Boundary standard has been available for review and comment on the Census Bureau website since June 2002. In November 2004, the draft Framework Governmental Unit Boundary Standard completed the FGDC 90-day public review and comment period. An Editing Committee will be formed to adjudicate all comments made on the draft standard in preparation for submitting the revised draft standard for ANSI/INCITS L1 public review and the subsequent processing and approval as an American National Standard. These activities will be done in conjunction with the other framework standards to assure harmonization of the content and a usable suite of framework standards.

8. Progress: List FY 2004 activities/progress to date (quantify where possible).

- The draft Governmental Unit Boundary standard was submitted to the FGDC Standards Coordinator for the FGDC 90-day public review and comment period in January 2004.
- The draft Governmental Unit Boundary standard was technically edited per the FGDC Standards Coordinator guidelines in June 2004
- The draft standard was underwent a FGDC 90-day public review and comment period, ending in November 2004
- The draft standard was presented at several professional conferences, most recently, the ESRI International User Conference in August 2004.

9. Participation: List participating Federal agencies.

- US Geological Survey
- Bureau of Land Management
- National Park Service

10. Planned Activities: What are your planned activities for FY05?

In FY2005, it is expected that the draft Framework Governmental Unit Boundary standard will undergo a formal ANSI review, will subsequently be approved by ANSI/INCITS L1 subcommittee, and endorsed as an American National Standard in conjunction with the other Framework theme standards.

11. Policy: Do you have a formal agency policy in place for full and open access or data sharing? Are you able to fulfill this policy and provide public access with your current agency financial resources as allocated or are you in pursuit of collaborative federal partnerships to support data access?

Governmental Units, including metadata, are included as component in the vast collection of data products produced by the Census Bureau that are available to the public. Boundary data also will be made available through The National Map program of USGS.

12. Are there areas or issues regarding lead responsibilities for spatial data themes that require attention, or lessons-learned that you would like to share with others? Please describe.

None at this time.