

2020 Census – CVTPO Urban Area Local Impact

2020 Census Urban Area Criteria

After the 2020 Census, there are three key changes to the Census Bureau’s urban area concept and criteria:

- Increased the minimum population threshold to qualify as urban from 2,500 to 5,000, and we added an alternative: instead of qualifying based on population size, areas can now qualify based on a minimum housing unit threshold.
- Now use housing unit density instead of population density.
- No longer distinguish between different types of urban areas.

The impact of the 2020 Urban Area adjustment impacts to the area is provided below.

Map of changes in the CVTPO urban area boundaries for Lynchburg, Bedford and Altavista UA’s from 2010 – 2020; also all other UA’s in VA located here:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/1/edit?mid=1fVYDVstiK48U6oulAvU0vzlurgbt43w&usp=sharing>

Census urban area changes impacted land area and population between 2010 and 2020:

Urban Area	2010 Area (Sq. Miles)	2020 Area (Sq. Miles)	2010 Population	2020 Population	% Change in Area	% Change in Population	2010 Density	2020 Density
Lynchburg	88.81	91.60	116,636	125,596	3.1%	7.7%	1,313	1,371
Bedford	6.71	8.58	6,829	7,541	27.9%	10.4%	1,018	879
Altavista	5.56	5.94	4,663	4,597	6.8%	-1.4%	839	774
All Virginia Urban Areas	2,767.36	2,747.95	6,037,094	6,528,313	-0.7%	8.1%	2,182	2,376