

for SMSA's of less than 100,000 population up to 301 for SMSA's of a million or more. The Chicago metropolitan area leads the Nation with 1,060 local governments. Metropolitan areas, with 23 percent of the Nation's municipalities, contain all cities of 50,000 or more and over half of those with 25,000-50,000 population. Yet half of the municipalities within SMSA's contain fewer than 2,500 people each, and 25 percent of SMSA populations live outside municipalities.

Contrary to a downward national trend in the number of local governments, local units in metropolitan areas increased by 3 percent between 1957 and 1962. Metropolitan areas are leading the rest of the country in municipal incorporations and establishment of special districts, and lagging behind in the reduction of school districts.

Residents of metropolitan areas are typically served by more layers of overlapping local governments than people outside metropolitan areas. The number of municipalities in metropolitan areas increased by 8 percent between 1957 and 1962, compared with 4.5 percent for the country as a whole. This difference results, in large part, from the more rapid growth of population in SMSA's and the concentration of whole new settlements in suburban areas. Changes in the numbers of local governments in SMSA's between 1957 and 1962 are shown in table 7 and figure 2.

Because the 1962 Census of Governments reclassified special districts, it is not possible to determine how much of the dramatic national increase in these units occurred in SMSA's. Metropolitan areas account for 30 percent of all special districts, but they contain 51 percent of water supply districts and 61 percent of sewerage districts.

TABLE 7.—*Changes in local government in metropolitan areas, 1957-62*

Type of local government	Local governments in the 212 SMSA's		Increase or decrease (-) 1957 to 1962	
	1962	1957	Number	Percent
Total	18,442	17,984	458	3
School districts	6,004	7,486	-1,482	-20
Other	12,438	10,498	1,940	18
Counties	310	311	-1	(¹)
Municipalities	4,142	3,844	298	8
Townships	2,573	2,607	-34	-1
Special districts	² 5,411	3,736	² 1,675	45

¹ Less than 0.5 percent.

² Including some types of entities not formerly subject to classification as independent governmental units.

Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Census of Governments: 1962*, vol. V, "Local Government in Metropolitan Areas," p. 2.

Reduction in school districts has been taking place at a slower rate in metropolitan areas than in the rest of the country—20 percent between 1957 and 1962, compared with 31 percent in the Nation. This lag reflects the fact that all the reduction took place in districts which enrolled fewer than 600 pupils, and only a small proportion of these are in metropolitan areas. By far the greatest increase in school districts, 81 percent between 1957 and 1962, is in the 12,000 to 25,000 pupil class, and virtually all these are in metropolitan areas.