



Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R)
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Secretary Ben Carson



HUD USPS ZIP CODE CROSSWALK FILES

DATASET / HUD USPS ZIP CODE CROSSWALK FILES

Other Datasets ▾

HUD's Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R) is pleased to announce that HUD-USPS ZIP Code Crosswalk data are now available via an application programming interface (API). With this API, developers can easily access and customize crosswalk data for use in existing applications or to create new applications. To create an account and get an access token, please visit the API page here:
<https://www.huduser.gov/portal/dataset/api.html>.

Note: ZIP to Congressional District and Congressional District to ZIP Crosswalk Files are now available

USPS ZIP Code Crosswalk files are now available for 2010 Census geographies level beginning with the first quarter of 2012. HUD is not supplying USPS ZIP Code Crosswalks for 2000 Census geographies beyond the fourth quarter of 2011.

One of the many challenges that social science researchers and practitioners face is the difficulty of relating United States Postal Service (USPS) ZIP codes to Census Bureau geographies. There are valuable data available only at the ZIP code level that, when combined with demographic data tabulated at various Census geography levels, could open up new avenues of exploration.

While some acceptable methods of combining ZIP codes and Census geography exist, they have limitations. To provide additional avenues for merging these data, PD&R has released the HUD-USPS Crosswalk Files. These unique files are derived from data in the quarterly USPS Vacancy Data. They originate directly from the USPS; are updated quarterly, making them highly responsive to changes in ZIP code configurations; and reflect the locations of both business and residential addresses. The latter feature is of particular interest to housing researchers because many of the phenomena that they study are based on housing unit or address. By using an allocation method based on residential addresses rather than by area or by population, analysts can take into account not only the spatial distribution of population, but also the spatial distribution of residences. This enables a slightly more nuanced approach to allocating data between disparate geographies. Please note that the USPS Vacancy Data is constructed from ZIP+4 data that contains records of addresses, it does not contain ZIP+4 data that are associated with ZIP codes that exclusively serve Postal Office Boxes (PO Boxes). As a result, ZIP codes that only serve PO Boxes will not appear in the files.

Understanding ZIP Code Crosswalk Files

Though often used for mapping, spatial analysis, and data aggregation careful attention is required when interpreting ZIP Code data relative to other administrative geographies. The following article demonstrates how to more effectively use the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) United States Postal Service ZIP Code Crosswalk Files when working with disparate geographies.

Wilson, Ron and Din, Alexander, 2018. "Understanding and Enhancing the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's ZIP Code Crosswalk Files," Cityscape: A Journal of Policy Development and Research, Volume 20 Number 2, 277 – 294. <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/periodicals/cityscpe/vol20num2/ch16.pdf>

Using a GIS to Geoprocess ZIP Code Crosswalk Files

This article demonstrates how to use a GIS to process ZIP Code Crosswalk Files. In this article, calls for service from New York City's Open Data Portal are estimated at the county-level and census tract-level. This article also includes an accuracy analysis.

Din, Alexander and Wilson, Ron, 2020. "Crosswalking ZIP Codes to Census Geographies: Geoprocessing the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development's ZIP Code Crosswalk Files," Cityscape: A Journal of Policy Development and Research, Volume 22, Number 1, <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/periodicals/cityscpe/vol22num1/ch12.pdf>

[Data](#)[Documentation](#)[FAQs](#)

How to Read the HUD-USPS ZIP Crosswalk Files:

There are six types of crosswalk files available for download. The first 3 crosswalk files are used to allocate ZIP codes to Census tracts, counties or Core Based Statistical Areas (CBSA). The last three are used to allocate Census tracts, counties or Core Based Statistical Areas to ZIP codes. It is important to note that the relationship between the two types of crosswalk files is not a perfectly inverse one. That is to say, you cannot use the ZIP to Tract crosswalk to allocate Census tract data to the ZIP code level. For that you would have to use the Tract to ZIP crosswalk file.

Select Crosswalk Type:

ZIP-TRACT ▼

Select Data Year and
Quarter:

1st Quarter 2020 ▼

Download

Note: USPS ZIP Code Crosswalk files are now available for 2010 Census geographies level beginning with the first quarter of 2012. HUD is not supplying USPS ZIP Code Crosswalks for 2000 Census geographies beyond the fourth quarter of 2011.

Questions regarding these crosswalk files can be directed to Alex Din with the subject line HUD-Crosswalks.