**Memorandum**

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To: Derek Wu, Neil Cholli

From: Dylan Craig

Date Created: 12/27/2024

Subject: Data Analysis Memo on VA Zip Types

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**Purpose:** To provide descriptive statistics comparing VA Zip Types (Standard, PO Box, Unique) between zipdatamaps.com and types calculated using address types from HUD USPS.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **ZIPDATA.COM** | **PO Box (HUD USPS)** | **Standard (HUD USPS)** | **Unique (HUD USPS)** | **NA** |
| PO Box | 60 | 84 | 51 | 73 |
| Standard | 2 | 1302 | 13 | 11 |
| Unique | 9 | 2 | 54 | 38 |
|  | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 |

Above is a table listing VA Zip Types using HUD USPS data. First, all year-quarters are uploaded and then collapsed by zip code.

Zip types are constructed based on the collapsed value of each zip code’s residential address ratio, other address ratio, and business address ratio (**see code**):

A computer screen with green and blue text

Description automatically generated

So, for example, if a zip code has ever had residential addresses across any year-quarters, it’s classified as Standard.

The table above shows that most zip codes (1,704) align between ZipDataMaps.com and HUDUSPS, but there are around 150 zip codes where they don’t match.

Zip types in the final dataset are currently based on ZipDataMaps.com.

\*\* Note: On reflection, I don’t think our method for using HUD-USPS to determine Zip Type is very useful. PO Box zip codes refer to areas where mail isn’t delivered to street addresses, but there can still be residential addresses. That might explain the discrepancies between zipdatamaps and HUD-USPS for PO Boxes. Since we’re using zipdatamaps anyway, this note doesn’t change much!