**Memo: Historical ZIP Code Changes and Population**

**Purpose:** List the sources used to describe changes in zip codes over time. List sources used to provide population estimates by zip code.

**Historical Zip Code Changes Sources**

1. **National ZIP Code Crosswalk (1990-2020) (Bailey & Helmuth)**
   * Description: This dataset tracks changes in ZIP Code boundaries across three decades (1990–2000, 2000–2010, and 2010–2020). It clusters ZIP Codes into the smallest geographic units that are consistent over each decade, helping to minimize measurement errors and address issues like missing data. The crosswalk covers the contiguous United States, Alaska, Hawaii, and the District of Columbia, and is useful for embedding observations from administrative data within appropriate social, demographic, and economic contexts.
   * Access: This dataset is available through the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) and can be accessed [here](https://www.openicpsr.org/openicpsr/project/194404/version/V2/view).
2. **HUD-USPS ZIP Crosswalk Files**
   * Description: The HUD-USPS ZIP Crosswalk Files provide a quarterly updated dataset that maps ZIP Codes to various geographic entities like Census Tracts, Counties, and Core-Based Statistical Areas (CBSAs). These crosswalks are available from the first quarter of 2010 to the second quarter of 2024, allowing for the analysis of ZIP Code changes over time. The dataset is useful for comparing and analyzing changes in ZIP Codes in relation to other geographic and administrative boundaries.
   * Access: This resource is maintained by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and can be accessed [here](https://www.huduser.gov/apps/public/uspscrosswalk/home).

**Population Data Sources**

1. **UnitedStatesZipCodes.org Database**:
   * **Description**: This paid dataset provides detailed population estimates across multiple sources, including the IRS (2020), ACS (2021), and historical population and household data from 2005 to 2021. These datasets are valuable for tracking population changes at the ZIP code level over time and analyzing demographic trends within specific areas. This resource offers a comprehensive view of population shifts, helping users understand the dynamics of different ZIP codes.
   * **Access**: More information on this dataset can be found [here](https://www.unitedstateszipcodes.org/zip-code-database/).
2. **HUD USPS ZIP Code Crosswalk Files**:
   * **Description**: The HUD USPS ZIP Code Crosswalk Files provide a way to link ZIP codes to Census geographic entities such as Census Tracts, Counties, and Core-Based Statistical Areas (CBSAs). One useful feature of this dataset is the "RES Ratio," which indicates the proportion of the population associated with a particular ZIP code and FIPS code. A RES Ratio of zero suggests that the ZIP code has no residential population for that specific FIPS code. Tests using PO ZIP codes from sample ZCTA data confirm the accuracy of this approach, making it a reliable tool for analyzing population distribution across geographic areas.
   * **Access**: This resource is maintained by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and can be accessed [here](https://www.huduser.gov/apps/public/uspscrosswalk/home).
3. **IRS ZIP Code Data (1998, 2001, 2004–2021)**
   * **Description:** This dataset, provided by the IRS, includes population data based on individual income tax returns. It is available for the years 1998, 2001, and 2004 through 2021 and approximates the number of households within each ZIP code. This data is particularly useful for understanding population changes related to economic activity and household dynamics over time.
   * **Access:** The dataset can be accessed [here](https://www.irs.gov/statistics/soi-tax-stats-individual-income-tax-statistics-zip-code-data-soi).