**Memo: ZIP to ZCTA Crosswalk Overview**

**ZIP to ZCTA Crosswalk Methodology (Uploaded by Joe Germuska)**

The ZIP to ZCTA crosswalk, uploaded by Joe Germuska, was developed using GeoNames data for USPS ZIP codes and the Census's ZCTA ESRI Shapefile. When mapping coordinates from zipdatamaps.com onto the TIGRIS shapefile, ZCTA matches were inaccurate for 9 out of 14 observations. The crosswalk methodology involved matching ZIP Codes with corresponding ZCTAs, followed by geocoding and GIS analysis to address unmatched ZIP Codes, with a manual review to finalize the crosswalk. [Link to source](https://github.com/censusreporter/acs-aggregate/blob/master/crosswalks/zip_to_zcta/ZIP_ZCTA_README.md).

**HRSA ZIP Code to ZCTA Crosswalk**

The HRSA ZIP Code to ZCTA Crosswalk, available through the Health Center Program GeoCare Navigator, correctly matched 14 out of 14 observations. This process involves either a spatial join to ZCTAs or direct matching of ZIP Codes to ZCTAs using TIGER/Line shapefiles from the Census Bureau for ZCTA data and ZIP code points from an ArcGIS file, based on TomTom mapping and location technology. [Link to GeoCare Navigator](https://geocarenavigator.hrsa.gov/). The relevant ArcGIS file can be found [here](https://www.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=dc123f738bf846779c49db6472f82a4b), and information about TomTom can be accessed [here](https://www.tomtom.com/).

**USPS ZIP Codes by Area and District Codes**

The USPS dataset includes ZIP Codes organized by Area and District Codes, along with ZCTA "physical addresses." The matches in this dataset sometimes differed from both the TIGRIS exercise and the Germuska crosswalk. This resource is useful for linking ZIP Codes with their corresponding geographical and administrative areas. [Link to USPS resource](https://postalpro.usps.com/ZIP_Locale_Detail).

**Potential Solution**

A potential solution to improve accuracy could involve gathering ZIP code points from sources such as zipdatamaps.com or Google Maps, and then performing a spatial join with the TIGRIS shapefile in R. This approach appears similar to the method already employed by the HRSA source.