**Definitions**:

* **ZIP Code**: Postal Codes designated by the United States Postal Service. More information on ZIP Codes can be found on the United States Postal Service site [ZIP Code™ - The Basics (usps.com)](https://faq.usps.com/s/article/ZIP-Code-The-Basics)
* **ZIP Code Tabulation Area (ZCTA)**: From the Census definition “ZIP Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTAs) are generalized areal representations of United States Postal Service (USPS) ZIP Code service areas.... The term ZCTA was created to differentiate between this entity and true USPS ZIP Codes. ZCTA is a trademark of the U.S. Census Bureau; ZIP Code is a trademark of the U.S. Postal Service.” More information on ZCTAs can be found on the Census website [ZIP Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTAs) (census.gov)](https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/guidance/geo-areas/zctas.html)

**Crosswalk Methods:**

Crosswalk methods are necessary to align data reported at various geographic levels into a common geographic format. The relationships and hierarchy of census geographic boundaries can be found on the U.S. Census Bureau website [Geographic Hierarchy Diagram (census.gov)](https://www2.census.gov/geo/pdfs/reference/geodiagram.pdf).

Our methods generally prioritized using population weighted, then area weighted, then unweighted approach for overlapping boundaries.

**Census Tract to ZCTA Crosswalk**

The Census Tract to ZCTA relationship file record (“zcta\_tract\_rel\_10.txt”) for 2010 ZCTA delineations were downloaded from the [U.S. Census Bureau](https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/technical-documentation/records-layout/2010-zcta-record-layout.html) website.

Measures with original census tract level data are converted into ZCTA data following this process:

To aggregate census tract level data up to the ZCTA level, all data values from census tracts within the ZCTA are averaged using the proportion of the ZCTA population from that the census tract using the ZPOPPCT column.

**County to ZCTA Crosswalk**

The County to ZCTA relationship file record (“county\_tract\_rel\_10.txt”)for 2010 ZCTA delineations were downloaded from the [U.S. Census Bureau](https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/technical-documentation/records-layout/2010-zcta-record-layout.html) website.

Measures with original county level data are converted into ZCTA following this process:

To map measures from the county level to the ZCTA level, all ZCTAs that are entirely contained within the county receive the county value. For ZCTAs that span across two or more counties, the county values are averaged using population weights, based on the proportion of the ZCTA population in each of the counties using the ZPOPPCT column.

**ZIP Code to ZCTA Crosswalk**

The ZIP Code to ZCTA Crosswalk for 2020 (“Zip\_to\_zcta\_crosswalk\_2020.csv”) ZIP Codes were downloaded from the UDS Mapper site.

Measures with original ZIP Code data are converted into ZCTA data following this process:

To map measures from the ZIP Codes to ZCTAs, all ZCTAs that have a 1:1 match to the ZIP Code are directly assigned the original ZIP Code value. For ZIP Codes that have many:1 relationship with a ZCTA, the ZCTA value is calculated with an unweighted average as population weights are not provided in the crosswalk.