

## Sub-county Geocoding Standards Survey

SND Sub-county Geospatial Subteam 2018

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The purpose of this survey is to receive Sub-county Geospatial Subteam feedback on the proposed sub-county geocoding standards. Grantees are asked to provide one response that will be representative of their agency (one response per grantee). The survey will open on July 23 and close on August 3. The results of the survey will be discussed on the August 15 Geospatial call and webinar.

Background: The Tracking Program is proposing to collect health outcome counts at the census tract level. We are writing an instruction manual (called Tracking Network geocoding standards) for geocoding addresses to census tract counts.

We are proposing a 2 bucket system—"high precision" geocodes and "low precision" geocodes. Addresses that do not meet "high precision" or "low precision" outputs should be classified as "census tract unknown/county" with county identified.

\* "High precision" geocode: any point or shape (geography) that fits entirely within a single census tract, AND that point or shape meets or exceeds the minimum match score

\* "Low precision" geocode: Address did not meet the definition of "high precision" but can be reasonably geocoded to a census tract. Either (1) address did fit entirely within a single census tract but did not meet "high precision" minimum match score OR (2) address did not fit entirely within a single census tract or geocode to a census tract but is then spatially joined or otherwise imputed to a census tract.

\* "Census tract unknown/county": Address cannot be reasonably geocoded to a census tract but is geocoded to county.

Please see the attached flow chart for the proposed geocoding process.



## Sub-county Geocoding Standards Vote

- 1 In the comment box below, please enter the name of your agency:

- 2 ESRI and Texas A&M geocoding services provide an address match score which informs a user how closely an address matched a record in their database. It is understood that it is not a measure of geocoding accuracy or precision. However using this in conjunction with other criteria can serve as a surrogate until such measures are developed. We have defined "high precision" as any point or shape (geography) that fits entirely within a single census tract, AND that point or shape meets or exceeds the minimum match score.

Which value should be considered the minimum match score for a "high precision" geocode?

- Greater than or equal to 85  
 Greater than or equal to 99

Comments:

- 3 Does an address that geocodes with zip + 4 count as "high precision"?

- Yes  
 No

Comments:

- 4 While it is possible to accurately geocode PO boxes into a census tract, it may not reflect where a person lives and may artificially increase the rate. Removing PO boxes may impact health outcome rates disproportionately in rural areas. There are methods to impute the total number of PO boxes into census tracts. Imputation does not accurately place a record, but it does prevent a single census tract from having artificially inflated health outcome counts due to the presence of a post office.

How should PO boxes be handled?

- Remove PO boxes entirely  
 Impute to census tract

Comments:

5 Should the standard recommend geocoding addresses that are rural routes per the standardized process (as opposed to removing them)?

- Yes
- No (Please explain below)

Comments:



Done