

Guide to the Use of CDBG Block Level Eligibility Materials

Background and Purposes of the Project

The Division of Housing & Neighborhood Development, part of the Department of Human Services of Polk County, has initiated this analysis of data based upon the 1990 Census of Population and Housing.

The purpose of the project is to identify areas eligible for CDBG expenditures, and to identify these areas at the block level. Block level analysis is needed because census block groups are too large to permit identification of some small but eligible and deserving neighborhoods.

Data from the 1990 census dealing with counting people, housing units, families, and race, age, and type for each is available from what is called the 100% count, or "STF1". This data is from the brief questionnaire which was mailed to nearly all homes in the U.S. in April, 1990. This data is available on CD-ROM for census block groups. Data from the 100% count (STF1), is available at the block level on tape and an extract of it is available on a CD-ROM.

Data on income is available from a sample of approximately 17% of people and is called "sample data", or "STF3". This data is available at the census block group level but not at the block level.

The Number of Geographic Areas by Census Summary Level

Polk County

The following table shows the value of block level analysis for Polk County.

Summary Level	County Code	Summary Level Code	# of Areas	# Areas with Pop.	Total Population
County	12105	50	1	1	405382
County subdivision	12105	60	6	6	405382
Place	12105	70	48	46	405382
Census tract/BNA	12105	80	189	172	405382
Block group	12105	90	490	447	405382
Block	12105	100	7253	7171	405382

Methodology for Estimating Income at the Block Level

This methodology used involves shifting the curves of income distribution (available at the block group level) so that they reasonably reflect the probable incomes of families and unrelated individuals in each of the blocks that comprise the block group. Various steps of calibration and quality control analysis then force all numbers to aggregate back correctly to block group data and report on the probable range of error. These techniques are not innovative; they have been in use by statisticians and data modellers for several decades. Techniques include decile distribution analysis and procedures for handling missing data so that suppression of data in some areas by the Census Bureau for reasons of confidentiality will not impede analysis. The various steps in this process are described more fully below.

Some Caveats Helpful in Using Materials from this Study

The following comments are offered to aid in interpreting the work undertaken in this study.

"Census blocks" are often far larger than the area circumscribed by four city streets. Sparsely populated areas, especially, may have very large "blocks".

Block numbers are placed at the center of the block area in maps produced in this study, not at the centroid. In some cases, as in an "L" shaped block, the block number can be outside the perimeter of the block.

The 1990 Tiger files are used for mapping eligibility data to be sure that all boundaries are the same as those used for the 1990 Census of Population and Housing.

Definitions of Summary Level Codes

All Census Areas of the U.S.

County-wide data is referred to as "summary level 50" data. Similarly, block level data is referred to as "summary level 100". The following is a list of the summary levels that are widely used. This study uses summary levels 50, 60, 70, 80, 90 and 100 so that the greatest amount of detail available from the census is used. Often, when tract data or block group data are used, they are from summary levels 140 and 150; data levels which may cross the boundaries between two "places" or towns. This CDBG study respects the boundaries of all cities, towns and other "places".

1.	10	United States			1C/3C*
2.	20	Region			1C/3C
3.	30	Division			1C/3C
4.	40	State	(totals)	1A/3A	1C/3C*

5.	50	County	(totals)	1A/3A	1C/3C
6.	60	County subdivision	(MCD/CCD) (totals)	1A/3A	
7.	61	County subdivision	(>10000)		1C/3C
8.	62	County subdivision	(<10000) (MSA/CMSA)		1C/3C
9.	70	Place	(parts)	1A/3A	
10.	80	Census tract/BNA	(parts)	1A/3A	
11.	90	Block group	(parts)		
12.	91	Block group	(parts)	1A/3A	
13.	100	Block			
14.	140	Census tract/BNA	(totals)	1A/3A	
15.	150	Block group	(totals)	1A/3A	
16.	155	County	(parts)	1A/3A	
17.	160	Place	(totals)	1A/3A	
18.	161	Place	(>10000)		1C/3C
19.	170	Consolidated city	(totals)	1A/3A	1C/3C

The following "county subdivision codes", assigned by the Bureau of the Census, are used in this study.

90117 Bartow division
91209 Frostproof division
91404 Haines City division
91833 Lakeland division
91859 Lake Wales division
93718 Winter Haven-Auburndale division

The following "county place codes (FIPS)", assigned by the Bureau of the Census, are used in this study.

2550 Auburndale city (pt.)
2900 Babson Park CDP
3675 Bartow city
13775 Combee Settlement CDP
15515 Crooked Lake Park CDP
15725 Crystal Lake CDP
16050 Cypress Gardens CDP
16450 Davenport city
18550 Dundee town
18875 Eagle Lake city
24100 Fort Meade city
24900 Frostproof city
25125 Fussels Corner CDP
25875 Gibsonia CDP
28400 Haines City city (pt.)
30225 Highland City CDP
30325 Highland Park village
30700 Hillcrest Heights town
34000 Inwood CDP
35300 Jan Phyl Village CDP
35950 Kathleen CDP
37525 Lake Alfred city
37975 Lake Hamilton town
38250 Lakeland city (pt.)
38262 Lakeland Highlands CDP
38950 Lake Wales city
41400 Loughman CDP
43925 Medulla CDP
47200 Mulberry city
57950 Polk City town (pt.)
74775 Wahneta CDP
75475 Waverly CDP (pt.)
77862 Willow Oak CDP (pt.)
78200 Winston CDP
78275 Winter Haven city (pt.)
99999 Remainder of division

The following codes for "Project Areas" are used in this effort.