

## **README for “Congressional Districts 1996-Present” dataset.**

U.S. Department of Commerce (USDOC), U.S. Census Bureau (USCB); U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS)[distributor]

2021-03-18

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### **LINKS TO DATASET**

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A. Dataset archive link:

<https://doi.org/10.21949/1520799>

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### **SUMMARY OF DATASET**

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The Congressional Districts 1996-Present dataset is from the U.S. Census Bureau. The TIGER/Line shapefiles and related database files (.dbf) are an extract of selected geographic and cartographic information from the U.S. Census Bureau's Master Address File / Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing (MAF/TIGER) Database (MTDB). The MTDB represents a seamless national file with no overlaps or gaps between parts, however, each TIGER/Line shapefile is designed to stand alone as an independent data set, or they can be combined to cover the entire nation. Congressional Districts are the 435 areas from which people are elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. After the apportionment of congressional seats among the States based on census population counts, each State is responsible for establishing congressional districts for the purpose of electing representatives. Each congressional district is to be as equal in population to all other congressional districts in a State as practicable. The 116th Congress is seated from January 2019 to 2021. The TIGER/Line shapefiles for the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Island Areas (American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands) each contain a single record for the non-voting delegate district in these areas. The boundaries of all other congressional districts reflect information provided to the Census Bureau by the states by May 1, 2018

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## A. GENERAL INFORMATION

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### 0. Title of Dataset:

Congressional District 1996-Present [datasets]

### 1. Description of Dataset:

The Congressional Districts 1996-Present dataset is from the U.S. Census Bureau. The TIGER/Line shapefiles and related database files (.dbf) are an extract of selected geographic and cartographic information from the U.S. Census Bureau's Master Address File / Topologically Integrated Geographic Encoding and Referencing (MAF/TIGER) Database (MTDB). The MTDB represents a seamless national file with no overlaps or gaps between parts, however, each TIGER/Line shapefile is designed to stand alone as an independent data set, or they can be combined to cover the entire nation.

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### 2. Dataset archive link:

<https://doi.org/10.21949/1520799>

### 3. Authorship Information:

#### Principal Data Creator or Data Manager Contact Information

Institution: U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau

Address: 4600 Silver Hill Rd., Washington D.C. 20233

Email: [geo.bas@census.gov](mailto:geo.bas@census.gov)

#### Data Distributor Contact Information

Name: National Transportation Atlas Database (NTAD)

Institution: U.S. Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS), The Office of Spatial Analysis and Visualization (OSAV)

Address: 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE, Washington D.C. 20590

Email: [ntad@dot.gov](mailto:ntad@dot.gov)

### 4. Date of data collection and update interval:

Annually

### 5. Geographic location of data collection:

The TIGER/Line shapefiles for the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Island Areas (American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands)

6. Information about funding sources that supported the collection of the data:

U.S. Department of Commerce (USDOC), U.S. Census Bureau (USCB)

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## **B. SHARING/ACCESS & POLICIES INFORMATION**

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0. Recommended citation for the data:

U.S. Department of Commerce (USDOC), U.S. Census Bureau (USCB); U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS)[distributor]. (2020). Congressional District 1996-Present [datasets]. <https://doi.org/10.21949/1520828>

1. Licenses/restrictions placed on the data:

These data are in the Public Domain.

2. Was data derived from another source?:

No.

3. This dataset and its documentation was created and shared to meet the requirements enumerated in the U.S. Federally-Funded Scientific Research" Version 1.1 << <https://doi.org/10.21949/1520559> >> and guidelines suggested by the DOT Public Access website << <https://doi.org/10.21949/1503647> >>, in effect and current as of December 03, 2020.

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## C. DATA & RELATED FILE OVERVIEW

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### 1. File List for the bts\_NTAD\_Congressional\_Districts\_Data\_Package.zip collection

#### A. Filename:

cd\_XXXX.zip

#### Short description:

Compressed file folders containing the geospatial data for Congressional Districts 2002-Present dataset.

#### B. Filename:

bts\_Congressional Districts\_DMP\_20210312.pdf

#### Short description:

A PDF file containing the Data Management Plan that was created for current and future management of the data and associated files.

#### C. Filename:

bts\_Congressional Districts\_20210312\_README.txt

#### Short description:

The README.txt file that includes human-readable information about the data, variable definitions, contact information, and other contextual information. The file you are reading now.

### 2. File List for the cdXXX\_XXXX.zip collection

#### A. Filename:

cdXXX.shp

#### Short description:

A shapefile containing the geospatial data for Congressional Districts 1996-Present dataset. This includes associated files with extensions. .prj, .dbf, .sbn, .sbx, .shx.

#### B. Filename:

cdXXX.txt

#### Short description:

A text file containing key metadata and documentation information such as methodology, procedures, data dictionary, etc.

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## **D. METHODOLOGICAL INFORMATION**

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### 1. Description of methods used for collection/generation of data:

TIGER/Line Shapefiles are extracted from the Census MAF/TIGER database by nation, state, county, and entity. Census MAF/TIGER data for all of the aforementioned geographic entities are then distributed among the shapefiles each containing attributes for line, polygon, or landmark geographic data.

### 2. Instrument- or software-specific information needed to interpret the data:

The data and documentation files can be opened with Esri ArcMap and any GIS software package.

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## **E. DATA-SPECIFIC INFORMATION**

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### 1. XXXXXX data table

Data is updated annually as applicable. Dataset Manager is contacted to verify changes to data resulting in NTAD update. The metadata is updated in the same manner. For the most recent data, please visit the NTAD catalog at <https://data-usdot.opendata.arcgis.com/>

### A. Number of variables (columns):

The data dictionary found in (PDF documentation) provides definitions for the variables

### B. Data Dictionary/Variable List:

Because of the large number of variables, please refer to the Data Dictionary found within the file cdXXX.txt for names, definitions, and formats of variables.

### C. Missing data codes:

None

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## **F. UPDATE LOG**

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This bts\_CongressionalDistricts\_20210318\_README.txt file was originally created on 2021-03-18 by Dominic Menegus, Geographer, [dominic.menegus@dot.gov](mailto:dominic.menegus@dot.gov)

[Note changes or update to the readme.txt file, e.g.:]

2021-03-18: Original file created