Data Management Plan (DMP) for Congressional Districts 1995-Present Dataset
U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC)
United States Census Bureau (USCB),
U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT)
Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS)
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Change log:
2021-03-18: Initial DMP written
2025-05-29: Document revised, including dataset description.

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0. Dataset and Contact Information
Title of Dataset: Congressional Districts 1995-Present Dataset
URL: https://doi.org/10.21949/1520799
This is an ☐ initial DMP or a ☒ revised DMP.

Organizational Contact Information
    Institution: U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC), United States Census Bureau (USCB)
    Address: 4600 Silver Hill Rd., Washington D.C. 20233
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Data Distributor Contact Information
    Name: National Transportation Atlas Database (NTAD)
    Institution: U.S. Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS)
    Address: 1200 New Jersey Ave. SE, Washington D.C. 20590
    Email: ntad@dot.gov

1. Data Description:

The Congressional Districts 1995-Present dataset is from the United States Census Bureau (USCB), and is part of the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT)/Bureau of Transportation Statistics' (BTS's) National Transportation Atlas Database (NTAD). 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. This dataset also includes 9 geographies for non-voting at large delegate districts, resident commissioner districts, and congressional districts that are not defined. 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. In Connecticut, Illinois, and New Hampshire, the Redistricting Data Program (RDP) participant did not define the CDs to cover all of the state or state equivalent area. In these areas with no CDs defined, the code "ZZ" has been assigned, which is treated as a single CD for purposes of data presentation. 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.

2. Standards Employed:
The data files collected here are saved in the ubiquitous and common geospatial shapefile (.shp) and file geodatabase (.gdb) formats.
As the files created for this ingest were migrations from the original format in a SQL geodatabase, each data file name includes a date stamp indicating when the data in the shapefile was from.
Documentation will include this data management plan, and the metadata and readme files created in 2021.
Documentation will also include the shapefiles, data dictionary, and relevant supporting files created alongside the data from 1995-Present.
A Project Open Data Version 1.1 .xml metadata file will be created to describe the archival location of this data, and that .xml file will be uploaded to data.gov and transportation.data.gov
Necessary software tools: The file formats found in the zip files include: .txt files which can be opened using any text editor; .dbf files, which can be opened with Microsoft Excel; shapefiles (.shp, .shx, and .dbf) which can be opened with any GIS software program; and .pdf files which can be opened with PDF readers.

3. Access Policies:
These data files are in the public domain, and can be shared without restriction. The data files contain no sensitive information.

4. Re-Use, Redistribution, and Derivative Products Policies:
These data are managed by the Bureau of Transportation Statistics. The data are in the public domain, and may be re-used without restriction.
Citation of the data is appreciated. Please use the following recommended citation:
U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC), United States Census Bureau (USCB); U.S. Department of Transportation, Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) [distributor]. Congressional Districts 1995-Present [datasets]. https://doi.org/10.21949/1520799

5. Archiving and Preservation Plans:

The dataset will be archived in the National Transportation Library Repository and Open Science Access Portal (ROSA P). Prior to archiving, the data are stored on the secured BTS networks and drives, which are backed up nightly. The US DOT systems are secured from outside users and backed up daily.

Files in ROSA P are backed up in NTL drives at US DOT, daily; at the Centers for Disease Control, the repository managing facility, daily; and in Amazon Web Service Cloud servers in Virginia and Oregon daily.

The dataset will be retained in perpetuity.

NTL staff will mint persistent Digital Object Identifiers (DOIs) for each dataset stored in ROSA P. These DOIs will be associated with dataset documentation as soon as they become available for use.

The DOIs associated with this dataset include: https://doi.org/10.21949/1520799

The assigned DOI resolves to the repository landing page for the "Congressional Districts 1995-Present" dataset, so that users may locate associated metadata and supporting files.

ROSA P meets all the criteria outlined on the "Guidelines for Evaluating Repositories for Conformance with the DOT Public Access Plan" page: https://ntl.bts.gov/publicaccess/evaluatingrepositories.html

6. Policies Affecting this Data Management Plan

This document was created to meet the requirements enumerated in the U.S. Department of Transportation's Plan to Increase Public Access to the Results of 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.