
Canadian Dissemination Areas Documentation



Introduction:

Our Canadian Dissemination Areas product contains the latest areas per postal code. This is a unique product which we created using our Canadian Postal Code data mapped to the Dissemination Area as defined by Statistics Canada.

Statistics Canada currently defines 57,594 Dissemination Areas (approximately one Dissemination Area for every 640 people), therefore there will be multiple Postal Codes to a Dissemination Area, in most cases. Their definition is as follows:

A Dissemination Area (DA) is a small, relatively stable geographic unit composed of one or more adjacent dissemination blocks. It is the smallest standard geographic area for which all census data are disseminated. DAs cover all the territory of Canada.

Note: for U.S. clients, this has location IDs, and in some ways can be considered to have 'Canadian FIPS Codes.'

Included Files:

Our files are normalized so that when loaded into a database, there is no redundancy. Here is a description of the files and their contents.

- **Postal-to-da-full.csv** – This is the master file and contains one record for every Postal Code. It includes the Postal Code, Province, City, and Dissemination Area Code.
- **DA-master-full.csv** – This is the Dissemination Area Master List and includes the Dissemination ID cross-referenced to the Province, Census Division ID / Name / Type, Subdivision ID / Name / Type, Consolidated Subdivision ID / Name, Economic Region ID / Name, Metropolitan Areas Province ID / ID / Name / Type, Statistical Area Classification Code and Type, and Census Tract ID / 'Name' (Tract ID without the Province prefix).
- **States.csv** – This is our U.S. and Canadian States/Provinces master list.

- **PC-DA-Master-Demo.xlsx** – This is an Excel spreadsheet, which is included in the demo version. We match up the postal code data to the data in the DA-Master-demo.csv file. It makes it easier for clients to understand and evaluate the demo data.
- **SubdivisionTypes.csv** – This is a file with the Subdivision Type Codes and Descriptions.

Note: The Dissemination ID (DAUID) is composed of the 2-digit Province ID, followed by the 2-digit Census Division Code and the 4-digit Dissemination Area Code.

Census Division Types:

CDR	Census Division
CT	County
CTY	County
DIS	District
DM	District Municipality
MRC	Municipality Region of County
RD	Regional District
REG	Region
RM	Regional Municipality
TE	Territory Equivalent
TER	Territory
UC	United Counties

Census Metropolitan Area Types:

B	Census Metropolitan Area (CMA)
D	Census Agglomeration Area (CA)
G	Strong Metropolitan Influence Zone (for non-CMA/CA)
H	Moderate Metropolitan Influence Zone (for non-CMA/CA)
I	Weak Metropolitan Influence Zone (for non-CMA/CA)
J	No Metropolitan Influence Zone (for non-CMA/CA)
K	Census Agglomeration (CA) that is tracted

Statistical Area Classification (SAC) definition:

The Statistical Area Classification (SAC) groups census subdivisions (CSDs) according to whether they are a component of a census metropolitan area (CMA), a census agglomeration (CA), or census metropolitan influenced zone (MIZ). The MIZ categorizes all CSDs in the provinces and territories that are outside CMAs and CAs. CSDs within the provinces that are outside CMAs and CAs are assigned to one of four categories according to the degree of influence (strong, moderate, weak or no influence) that the CMAs or CAs have on them. CSDs within the territories that are outside CAs are assigned to a separate category.