



Great Data.com

Proven Quality – Since 1992

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 56,204 Dissemination Areas (approximately one Dissemination Area for every 600 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 Census Divisions, Subdivisions, Consolidated Subdivisions, Economic Regions, Metropolitan Areas, Statistical Area Classifications and Census Tracts. Please refer to the Statistics Canada documentation 'StatsCanBoundaries.pdf' which has more information on these fields.
- **States.csv** – This is our U.S. and Canadian States/Provinces master list.

Accuracy Matters!

PO Box 1999 • Andrews, NC 28901 • phone: (828) 321-5300 • fax: (888) 617-1595

- **StatsCanBoundaries.pdf** – This is Statistics Canada’s PDF about Census products. The Dissemination area info begins at page 19. This will have the field descriptions.
- **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.

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.