NCHS Geographic Coding 2003

Division of Vital Statistics (DVS)



Contents

Current Geographic Coding

- Instruction Manual Part 8 (IMP8), Vital Records Geographic Classification
- Began in early 1960s with code lists produced by NCHS to identify all counties and incorporated cities with 10,000 or more population
- Updated every decade as soon as possible after completion of the decennial Census.
 - Codes not updated between censuses
 - Codes are unique to NCHS

Current Geographic Coding

- Variation among states in coding geographic data
 - Cities only at NCHS level of detail (10,000)
 - Cities of less than 10,000
 - All cities regardless of population
 - All minor civil divisions
 - All unincorporated places

FIPS Coding

- FIPS Federal Information Processing Standard
 - Standardized geographic codes used routinely by other government agencies
 - Federal Information Processing Standards
 Publications (FIPS PUBS) are issued by the
 National Institute of Standards and Technology
 (NIST) after approval by the Secretary of
 Commerce

FIPS Coding

- Based on Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) 55-3
 - Guidelines for each state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and outlying areas
 - Names and codes for all incorporated places, census designated places(CDPs), counties, county subdivisions, and their primary divisions as recognized by the U.S. Bureau of the Census

FIPS Coding

- Benefits of using FIPS
 - Standardized geographic coding
 - Potential for updating codes between censuses
 - Easier coding of occurrences for out-of-state residents
 - Facilitate usage of vital event data in Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

- Revised IMP8 to be used with 2003 events
- Standard Certificate Revision specifications include provisions for FIPS codes for all geographic variables including:
 - State and County of Occurrence
 - State and County/City of Residence
 - Nativity codes(State of Birth)

• Size of variables

State: 2 digitsCounty/City: 3 digits

• FIPS

State: 2 digitsCounty: 3 digitsCity: 5 digits

- Coding places in more than one county
 - Current Manual: one code to each part of the place
 - Under FIPS: one code for each place, regardless of the number of counties

Implementation Example of coding from Current IMP8

State Code	Place Name	County Name	County/Place Code
34	Chapel Hill, part	Durham	051
34	Chapel Hill, part	Orange	008

Implementation Example of coding from New IMP8

State	Place Name	Place	County	County
Code		Code	Name	Code
37	Chapel Hill	11800	Durham	063
37	Chapel Hill	11800	Orange	135

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- New IMP8 will include
 - All incorporated places, regardless of size
 - All CDPs, regardless of size
 - Inclusions (I.e., areas within incorporated places or CDPs with recognized names) as in the current IMP8
 - Balance of county code if not incorporated place or CDP

Sample listing for Alabama

State	Place Name	Place	County	County		
Code			Name	Code	Code	
01	Abbeville	00124	Henry	067	C1	
01	Acipcoville	07000	Jefferson	073	U4	
01	Adamsville	00460	Jefferson	073	C1	
01	Addison	00484	Winston	133	C1	
01	Akron	00676	Hale	065	C1	
01	Alabama City	28696	Etowah	055	U4	
01	Alabama Home Spur (Partlow State Hospital)	77256	Tuscaloosa	125	U4	
01	Alabaster	00820	Shelby	117	C1	
01	Alberta City	77256	Tuscaloosa	125	U4	
01	Albertville	00988	Marshall	095	C1	
01	Alden	31384	Jefferson	073	U4	
01	Alexander City	01132	Tallapoosa	123	C1	
01	Alexander Heights	26896	Lauderdale	077	U4	
01	Aliceville	01228	Pickens	107	C1	
01	Allenville	50000	Mobile	097	U4	
01	Allgood (Chepultepec)	01396	Blount	009	C1	
01	Altoona	01660	Blount	009	C1	
01	Altoona	01660	Etowah	055	C1	

- "Urban by Special Rule" towns and townships treated as incorporated cities in New England, NY, NJ, PA, MI, and WI
- Current coding based on pre-designation of areas based on population and/or population density

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- New coding for towns/townships
 - Those that include incorporated place or CDP
 - Code all incorporated places and CDPs
 - Code remainder to "Balance of Town" code
 - Those that do not include incorporated place or CDP
 - Code to "Entire Town" code

Implementation Schedule

- April 2002
 - States are sent draft manual
- April July
 - States review draft manual and interact with NCHS on problems, discrepancies, etc.
- August
 - Electronic version of new manual is sent to states
- October
 - Printed version of new manual is sent to states
- January 1, 2003
 - States use new manual to code geographic variables
