**Census Subdivision Quality Note: T1FF Data Produced on Census Geography**

You are contemplating the using taxfiler data from the T1 Family File (T1FF) data based census geography. The T1FF database is comprised of records aggregated at the Postal Code level. In order to provide T1FF data on census geography boundaries, postal geography has to be converted into census geography. To obtain a correspondence between these two types of geographies, the “Postal Code Conversion File (PCCF)” produced by Statistics Canada is used. The PCCF is a file which provides a correspondence of the six-character Postal Code and census geography (see the list below). Federal Electoral Districts (FED) are also included on the PCCF. Postal Codes do not respect census geographic boundaries and therefore are often linked to more than one census geographic area (or FED) of the same type. For example, a Postal Code can easily span over 2 or more census subdivisions in a rural area or over 2 or more census tracts in an urban area. Therefore, on the PCCF, a single link indicator (SLI) variable exists for all Postal Codes. The best “census subdivision / Postal Code” combination to be used for the assignment of census geography in cases of multiple census subdivisions to a specific Postal Code will have an SLI value of 1.

The method used to establish the single link indicator between a Postal Code and a CSD is mainly based on the dwelling distribution for a specific Postal Code between the different CSDs. For example, if a Postal Code crosses 2 CSDs and 75% of the dwellings are in the CSD#1, then it is very likely that the Postal Code / CSD#1 combination will have an SLI of 1 while Postal Code / CSD#2 will have an SLI of 0. Other factors such as physical limits (creeks, train tracks, business parks) are also used in the SLI determination. By assigning all T1FF records associated with a specific Postal Code to only the one CSD, a certain amount of under coverage or over coverage is created for almost all CSDs when looking at T1FF data. For the other census geographies, the issue of under or over coverage diminishes for higher levels of the geography hierarchy. For example, the coverage issues is more prevalent for census subdivisions than for census divisions, and the coverage issues is also more prevalent for census tracts than for census metropolitan areas. By agreeing to buy T1FF data grouped by census geography, you accept the data quality issues associated with any under coverage or over coverage in the data. In no event will Statistics Canada be liable or accept responsibility for any direct, special, indirect, consequential or other damages, however caused.

Federal Electoral Districts

Economic Regions (ER)

Census Divisions (CD can be rolled-up to ER)

Census Metropolitan Areas (CMA)

Census Agglomerations (CA)

Census Subdivisions (CSD can be rolled-up to CD; available only for T1FF custom tabulations)

Census Tracts (CT can be rolled-up to CMA and in some cases to CA)

Dissemination Areas (DA can be rolled-up to CT or CSD; available only for T1FF custom tabulations)

**The Excel document “CSD\_Coverage\_CensusVsT1FF\_2011.xlsx” can be consulted for more detailed coverage information on specific CSDs. See the “CSD Detailed Coverage Table” in the Excel file to check the quality of the data for the CSD of interest.**

**Due to the relatively poor quality of the coverage for some CSDs (mostly in rural areas and low population areas), T1FF data at the CSD level should be used with caution. Statistics Canada does not accept responsibility for any direct or indirect consequences associated with under coverage or over coverage in T1FF data at the CSD level.**

Example:

The table below demonstrates the difference in population as estimated by taxfiler data (T1FF) using Postal Geography and Census Data using Census Geography for some communities in the County of Simcoe, Ontario.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Community** | **T1FF 2013** | **Census 2011** |
| Simcoe County | 447,830 | 446,065 |
| *Adjala-Tosorontio* | *6,960* | *10,600* |
| Clearview | 13,870 | 13,735 |
| Springwater | 18,930 | 18,225 |
| Severn | 13,850 |  12,375 |
| Ramara | 8,030 | 9,275 |
| Essa | 17,470 |  18,505 |
| *Oro-Medonte* | *11,990* | *20,075* |
| Tay | 9,880 |  9,735 |

For example if “Oro-Medonte” has amongst all its postal codes 5 that are fairly large but are always in the situation where 40% of the postal code population is in “Oro-Medonte” and 60% is in one of the neighbouring CSDs, the population truly living in these postal code and within the  “Oro-Medonte” boundaries will have been linked to other CSDs.

Please contact info@communitydata.ca if you have any questions.