

Building and Maintaining the Master Address File

Sean Uhl



The Master Address File

- A continuously updated, nationwide file of addresses with associated status codes and geographic information
- Referred to as the MAF



The New MAF/TIGER System

- The MAF and TIGER databases were separate databases that had different software, legal values, and architectures
- After Census 2000, a plan was developed to integrate these two databases into one, known as the MAF/TIGER Database (MTdb)



The New MAF/TIGER System

- The MTdb contains all of the historical data in addition to any metadata collected for the MAF addresses
- The Census Bureau has developed software to standardize, match, and geocode incoming address records to the existing records on the MAF



MAF Records

- Generally, each represents a single structure or single unit within a structure on the ground
 - Few exceptions (e.g. Transitory Locations, empty lots, etc.)
- Referred to as MAF Units
- The main types of MAF Units are:
 - Housing Unit (HU) Records
 - Group Quarters (GQ) Records
 - Transitory Location (TL) Records
 - Nonresidential Records



MAF Units

- MAF Units have various attributes about the structure (or within structure unit), including:
 - Unit Status (e.g. Valid or Duplicate)
 - Residential Status
 - Housing Unit Type (e.g. Single Family or Trailer)
 - Source
- MAF Units are associated to one or more address records



Types of Addresses

- The addresses in the MTdb are generally grouped into two categories:
 - City-Style
 - Non-City Style
 - PO Box
 - Rural Route
 - Location Description
- Addresses are flagged to indicate if they are used for location and/or mailing



Address Records

- All forms of an address are kept on the MAF Unit to be used for matching
- Only one Location Description is stored for a MAF Unit
- The MAF/TIGER database currently has **278,784,240** address records linked to **193,645,008** MAF Units



Ongoing Updates to the MAF

- There are two main ongoing operations that update the MAF are:
 - Demographic Area Address Listing Files (DAAL)
 - USPS Files
 - Delivery Sequence Files (DSF)
 - ZIP Move Engineering File
 - Locatable Address Conversion System (LACS)
- We currently update the MAF with both sources twice a year (Spring/Fall)



2010 Census Field Operations

- Address List Building Operations
 - Address Canvassing
 - Group Quarters Validation (GQV)
- Enumeration Operations
 - Group Quarters Enumeration
 - Housing Unit Enumeration
 - Update/Leave, Update/Enumerate, Remote Update/Enumerate, Remote Alaska
 - Enumeration of Transitory Locations
 - Non-response Followup
 - Field Verification



2010 Census Non-Field Updates

- Partnership Programs
 - LUCA
 - New Construction
 - Federal State Cooperative Program for Population Estimates (FSCPE)
 - GQ Updates
 - HU Count Review
 - GQ Count Review
 - Service Based Enumeration Research
- Respondent Provided Updates
 - Be Counted
 - Telephone Questionnaire Assistance

Challenges

- Our practice has not included continuous updates of non-city style addresses
- No program for continuous updates of GQs
- Data from multiple sources
 - Quality
 - Coverage
 - Format

Challenges (cont.)

- Do not have quality indicators for individual addresses
- Difficulty in measuring quality at the MAF Unit level



2010 Census Address Summit



Group #:	Group Members:
Development of an Address List	
<p>1. What are the critical considerations when beginning development of an address list:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Planned Use II. Resources available III. Potential data sources 	
<p>2. What are some of the <i>greatest challenges</i> with developing an address list from scratch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Multiple planned uses/ competing or unclear needs II. Insufficient funding, technological or human resources III. Too many/ too few data sources/ ambiguous authority of sources / conflicting information from multiple sources 	
<p>3. What are some of the <i>best practices</i> for developing an address list from scratch:</p>	
<p>4. How are the following utilized when developing an address list from scratch:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Standards b. Data Standardization c. Partnership 	

