File Name:

Govt_Units_2017_Final.xlsx

General Description:

The file contains a snapshot view of the Census Bureau's master address file for governments – it includes all independent government units, and dependent school districts that were active and included as part of the 2017 Census of Governments.

Details about the definition of and criteria for classifying governments can be found in the technical documentation: https://www.census.gov/data/datasets/2017/econ/gus/public-use-files.html.

File Layout:

The file is in standard excel spreadsheet format, and contains four tabs: one for general purpose governments (**General Purpose**), one for special district governments (**Special District**), one for school district governments (**School District**), and finally, one for dependent school systems (DEP School Dist). Most columns in the spreadsheet are self-explanatory, but selected columns have additional description in the table below.

Column Name	Notes
CENSUS_ID	This is the internal identifier used by the Census Bureau for each government unit.
WEB_ADDRESS	WEB_ADDRESSes are self-reported, and are often not available. There has been no quality control procedures conducted on the validity of these addresses.
POPULATION, POPULATION_YEAR	The value in the POPULATION column represents the Census Bureau's population estimate of that particular government for the year contained in the POPULATION_YEAR column. Note that these columns are only applicable to general purpose governments.
FIPS_STATE, FIPS_COUNTY, FIPS_PLACE	Federal Information Processing Standard geographic codes, more information on these codes can be found at https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/geographies/reference-files.2017.html. Note that the FIPS_PLACE column is only applicable to general purpose governments.
COUNTY_AREA_NAME	The county area the Census Bureau has classified the government as serving. Some government units cross county area boundaries, in these cases this column represents the county area that is most served by the government, or the county area where the government is headquartered.
FUNCTION_NAME	For special district governments, denotes how the Census Bureau classifies the activities of the government. More information about the Census Bureau's government classification standards can be found at https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/govs/about/2006_classification_manual.pdf?#.
ENROLLMENT, ENROLLMENT_YEAR	The value in the ENROLLMENT column represents the Census Bureau's enrollment estimate of that particular government for the year contained in the ENROLLMENT_YEAR column. Note that these columns are only applicable to school district governments.