**UMass Donahue Institute LUCA 2020 Resources**

**FAQs for Resource Product #2: 2017 Census vs UMDI Housing Unit Counts by Census Block**

**Q: How do I find my city/town?**

At the top right corner, where it says “select your city/town” select your town’s name from the drop down menu. This will bring up the map of your town. It may take a few seconds to load. If the map appears to be focused on the wrong location, put your cursor to the top left corner of the map and a button that looks like a house will appear. Click it, and it will bring you to the town specified in the dropdown.

**Q: Looking at the map, I see that the UMDI housing unit count is different than the Census’ housing unit count. How do I view the counts?**

Hover your mouse over the block you are interested in. The following information will appear for the block: tract number, block number, UMDI housing unit count, 2017 Census housing unit estimate, and the difference in housing units between the two sources. Additionally, you can see the similar information for group quarters for each data source. You can download housing unit count and group quarters data by block for your town by clicking the red box next to “Click the box to download the data for your city/town”.

**Q: How do I download count data for my town?**

Select your town from the drop down menu at the top right corner. Then, double click the red box next to “Click the box to download the data for your city/town”, located below the drop down. This will download an Excel worksheet that has housing unit and group quarters counts of both UMDI’s address list and 2017 Census own counts by block, as well as the difference between each source’s counts for both housing units and group quarters. (You may have to turn off a pop-up blocker or choose “allow” if you do not see a prompt to download the data after clicking the red button).

Clicking the Excel worksheet icon will download data for the entire state. If you only want your town, click the red box, NOT the worksheet icon.

**Q: I have downloaded the housing unit count file for my town. What do the field headings mean?**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Field** | **Description** | **Source** |
| BLOCK\_GEOID\_2010 | Unique identifying block number. Also called GEOID. It consists of the state ID ("25" for Massachusetts), 3-digit county ID (may include leading zeros), 6-digit tract ID (may include leading zeros), and 4-digit block ID (may include leading zeros). | 2010 Series Information File for the 2010 Census Block State-based Shapefile with Housing and Population data, 2010. tabblock2010\_25\_pophu.zip at ftp://ftp2.census.gov/geo/tiger/TIGER2010BLKPOPHU/ |
| County | County ID number |  |
| Town | Name of the town the block is in. |  |
| Town\_ID | ID number of the town the block is in. |  |
| GQ\_Difference\_UMDI minus MAF | Difference in group quarters counts: UMDI group quarters counts minus 2017 Census data group quarters counts from the Master Address File. |  |
| GQ\_MAF\_2017 | 2017 Census data group quarters counts. | 2020 Census LUCA Address Block count, Oct. 2017. https://www2.census.gov/geo/docs/partnerships/luca/add\_block\_count/st25\_ma/ST25\_Massachusetts\_AddressCountListReport\_102017.txt |
| GQ\_UMDI\_2017 | UMDI group quarters counts. | UMDI Group Quarters Database. |
| HU\_Difference\_UMDI minus MAF | Difference in housing unit counts: UMDI housing unit counts minus 2017 Census data housing unit counts. |  |
| HU\_MAF\_2017 | Housing unit count from Census as of 2017. | From the Census Bureau's Master Address File as published in the 2020 Census LUCA Address Block count, Oct. 2017. https://www2.census.gov/geo/docs/partnerships/luca/add\_block\_count/st25\_ma/ST25\_Massachusetts\_AddressCountListReport\_102017.txt |
| HU\_UMDI\_2017 | UMDI housing unit counts. | UMDI Residential Address Database, including address information from E911 MassGIS Database, Boston Master Address List, VRIS, and L3 Assessors' Databases. Data refreshed Sept. 2017 for all towns, except Boston. Boston refreshed Jan. 2017. |

**Q: I zoomed in to examine a block and now I want to go back to the town overview map and/or change towns and see a different map. How do I do that?**

To get back to the original extent of the map, click the home button (the button that looks like a house). If you want to see a different town, and you are zoomed in or out, click the home button first. Then select the next town you want from the drop down.

**Q: I can’t find the home/zoom buttons. Where are they?**

Hover your mouse in the top left hand corner of the map near the white text box. A button that looks like a house (home button) and a + (zoom in) and – (zoom out) button will appear.

**Q: How do I use this count information?**

This resource shows the difference between housing unit counts based on residential addresses from our UMDI Master Address Database (MAD) and 2017 Census housing unit counts. This may help your city or town to identify potential “problem areas” so you can prioritize identifying addresses missing from the Census Master Address File (MAF). The UMDI MAD is sourced from MassGIS E911 data, assessors L3 data, and addresses included in the VRIS. If while looking at the map and corresponding Excel spreadsheet you find large discrepancies between the UMDI and Census counts for a certain block, this may be an area to focus on when gathering addresses to submit to Census in the future. You might search your assessor’s records, building or adaptation permit records, or other development records to start putting these together. Also, you may request a UMDI LUCA Address list for your town.

**Q: How do I see major roads?**

You can zoom in and out on the map either with the roller button on your mouse (similar to other web map applications) or with the + and – buttons at the top left corner of the map. When you zoom in, main roads should be labeled. The map may take a few seconds to load. If you want to look at a different town after you have zoomed in, be sure to click the home button on the map first (the button that looks like a house). Then, select the next town you want from the drop down menu.

**Q: I need to see more detailed/minor street names within each block. How can I look at these?**

The online Tableau interface we use for this resource only includes major street names. If you need to see more detailed street names you have a few options:

* [TigerWeb](https://tigerweb.geo.census.gov/tigerweb/) Use the TigerWeb map interface to navigate to your town. Using [this link](https://tigerweb.geo.census.gov/tigerweb/) to the website, go to the selection menu to the left of the map and select both the labels and layers boxes for: 1) places and county subdivisions > county subdivisions; 2) census tracts and blocks > census 2010 blocks (you will need to zoom in close to see these); and 3) transportation (roads and railroads.)
* [PDF maps](https://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/maps/block/2010/) are also available at the Census Bureau website. Using [this link](https://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/maps/block/2010/) to the website, go to the selection menu on the right and choose: County Subdivision > Massachusetts > (your city or town). Open the webpage in Adobe Reader and zoom in to see detail.

**Q: Do you have the addresses associated with these block counts?**

We have addresses associated with our own UMDI Master Address Database (MAD) counts by block. We do not have addresses associated with Census data. If you would like to request a UMDI LUCA Address list for your town, please contact Meghan Flanagan at [mflanagan@donahue.umassp.edu](mailto:mflanagan@donahue.umassp.edu) or Matt Schlaikjer at [mschlaikjer@donahue.umassp.edu](mailto:mschlaikjer@donahue.umassp.edu). We will send you an Excel file containing your address list.

**Q: What information is included in the UMDI LUCA Address List for my town?**

* UMDI record ID
* Street address and unit, if applicable
* Zip Code
* City or Town
* Block information
* Land use information
* Residential indicator
* Group Quarters information, if applicable
* Approximate location in decimal degrees (Datum NAD 1983)

**Q: How accurate are the 2017 block counts?**

The UMass Donahue Institute has prepared the UMDI LUCA Address List resource in order to assist Massachusetts municipalities in preparing for and completing the LUCA 2020 review. This product is for informational use only, and, while efforts have been made to make it as comprehensive as possible, it is not fully accurate. UMDI housing unit counts and associated address lists were compiled using batch processing of multiple databases, and are subject to the limitations associated with the automated processing necessary to deal with large numbers of records. Other limitations include, but are not limited to, issues of time lag in data, imperfections in the original databases, and variability among databases. Therefore, this product can be expected to have discrepancies from actual housing unit addresses, locations, and counts. These discrepancies may include:

* duplicate records, particularly with multiple housing units in one building
* missing records, particularly along county or state borders, and records associated with new development
* misassigned address coordinates or census blocks
* misassigned land use type or residential status
* misassigned or duplicate subaddresses
* records of housing units no longer in use
* “parent records” of apartment buildings or condominiums that do not represent actual housing units but may refer to common space
* group quarters misassigned or duplicated as housing units

Note that hotels, motels, tourist homes, inns, and bed-and-breakfasts are included in residential counts and address lists as housing units due to possible use as transient group quarters, partial-year residency, and/or caretakers’ residential quarters.

Both the Census MAF counts and the UMDI MAD counts may be inflated in some areas. In both cases, unless a record could be confirmed as non-residential or as a duplicate, it was left in the database, erring on the side of inclusivity.

**Q: I only have street addresses and don’t know the blocks for them. How do I use this map?**

There are a few ways in which you can find the blocks for your addresses.

If you prefer a spatial reference, Census has published maps in pdf format that have street names and block boundaries that you can use as a reference: https://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/maps/block/2010. (Click here for the direct Massachusetts County Subdivision link: <https://www.census.gov/geo/maps-data/maps/block/2010/cousub/dc10blk_st25_cousub.html>) Click on the tab with the letter that corresponds with the first letter of your county, and then scroll down to find your town. When you click your town’s link, you will be taken to a page with links to pdf maps. These are viewed best with Microsoft Edge or Microsoft Explorer, or you can download them directly to your desktop.

If you prefer to search by address, the Census has a geocoder available where you can look up census blocks by single address or batches of addresses using the “Find Geographies” tool (<https://geocoding.geo.census.gov/geocoder/>).

Alternatively, you may request a UMDI LUCA Address List for your town, which has block IDs assigned.

***For other questions*,** please contact Meghan Flanagan at [mflanagan@donahue.umassp.edu](mailto:mflanagan@donahue.umassp.edu)

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