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Dissemination Geography Unique Identifier: Definition and Structure

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Dissemination Geography Unique Identifier: Definition and Structure

Introduction

This document describes the structure of the Dissemination Geography Unique Identifier (DGUID) code. This code is used within Statistics Canada's Common Output Database Repository (CODR).

The DGUID is a skeleton key for linking geospatial data and statistical data. It facilitates linking every geographic area maintained by Statistics Canada with data tables that use geographic names within CODR.

Principles and assumptions

In developing the structure of the DGUID, the following principles are implemented:

1. Language neutral
2. Minimal change (re-uses existing geographic structure/codes as much as possible)
3. Exhaustive (complete) and accommodating (adaptable)
4. Easily understood, intuitive and decodable by internal and external users
5. Minimal amount of IT storage space

Structure

The DGUID varies from 10 to 21 characters in length (Figure 1 and Table 1).

The first 9 characters are fixed in composition and length. These characters indicate the **vintage**, **type** and **schema** of geographic boundaries.

The **geographic unique identifier** that follows varies from 1 to 12 characters in length, which corresponds to the geographic area within a geographic boundary.

The four elements composing the DGUID are as follows:

Figure 1
Structure of DGUID

DGUID = **Vintage** || **Type** || **Schema** || **Geographic Unique Identifier**

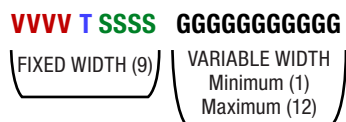


Table 1
Code structure breakdown

Vintage	Type	Schema	Geographic Unique Identifier
2001 To 2016 (most recent release)	A – Administrative S – Statistical	0000 to 0499 0500 to 0999	Corresponds to the unique identifier (GEOUID) of each geographic area.

Vintage

Vintage is a four digit code (**VVVV**) indicating the reference year of the geospatial data. Vintage values range from 2001 to the most recent reference year of geospatial data. The reference year varies depending on the maintenance cycle of a given geographic area. The various reference year that could be found are defined in Table 2 below.

Table 2
Vintage geographic reference year definition

Name	Abbreviation	Cycle	Possible values
Census	CENSUS	Quinquennial	2001, 2006, 2011, 2016
Federal electoral districts redistribution	FED	Decennial	2003, 2013
Health region boundary release	HRBR	Annual ¹	2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2018

1. Although the maintenance cycle for Health Regions is annual, a new vintage is released only when there are changes to the health regions limit definition.

Type

Type is a one character code (**T**) indicating the type of geographic areas composing the geographic coverage of the statistical data disseminated. Possible values are as follows (Table 3):

Table 3
List and examples of geographic area types

Type	Name	Description
A	Administrative	Defined, with a few exceptions, by Canadian federal and provincial/territorial statutes or agencies, and adopted by Statistics Canada for the purpose of data dissemination activities. Examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Country - Health Region - Province / Territory - Forward Sortation Area - Federal Electoral District - Ecoregion
S	Statistical	Defined by Statistics Canada to support census and survey dissemination activities. They are created according to a set of rules based on geographic attributes and one or more characteristics of the resident population. Examples include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Census Agricultural Region - Population Centre - Economic Region - Dissemination Area - Census Metropolitan Area - Drainage Region

Schema

Schema is a four digit sequential number (**SSSS**) assigned to each unique “set” of geographic areas. See Table 4 below for the list of schema codes and their associated geographic areas.

Geographic Unique Identifier

Geographic Unique Identifier is a variable length alpha-numeric code (**GGGGGGGGGGG**) assigned to each individual geographic area. For more detail see the illustrated glossary on [Geographic Code](#). Geographic Unique Identifiers range from 1 to 12 characters in length.

Table 4
List of current Geographies and the associated vintage, type, schema and GEOUID code

English Geography Name	Vintage reference year abbreviation (Table 2)	Type	Schema	Geographic Unique Identifier (GEOUID)		Example
				Field name	Length	
Country	CENSUS	A	0000	"11124" ¹	Canada, 2011	2011A000011124
Geographical region of Canada	CENSUS	A	0001	PRUID ²	Prairies, 2016	2016A00014
Province or territory	CENSUS	A	0002	PRUID	Quebec, 2011	2011A000224
Census division	CENSUS	A	0003	CDUID	Toronto, 2011	2011A00033520
Federal electoral district	FED	A	0004	FEDUID	Orléans, 2013	2013A000435076
Census subdivision	CENSUS	A	0005	CSDUID	Toronto, City, 2011	2011A00053520005
Designated place	CENSUS	A	0006	DPLUID	Lanark, 2016	2016A0006350045
Health region	HRBR	A	0007	HR_UID	Edmonton Zone, 2013	2013A00074834
Local health integration network	HRBR	A	0008	HR_UID	South West, 2015	2015A00083502
Forward sortation area	CENSUS	A	0011	CFSAUID	K1J, 2011	2011A0011K1J
Economic region	CENSUS	S	0500	ERUID	Toronto, 2011	2011S05003530
Census agricultural region	CENSUS	S	0501	CARUID	Cariboo, 2011	2011S05015905
Census consolidated subdivision	CENSUS	S	0502	CCSUID	Rosburn, 2016	2016S05024616005
Census metropolitan area	CENSUS	S	0503	CMAUID	Toronto, 2011	2011S0503535
Census agglomeration	CENSUS	S	0504	CMAUID	Cobourg, 2016	2016S0504527
Census metropolitan area part	CENSUS	S	0505	CMAUID	Ottawa - Gatineau (Ont. part), 2016	2016S050535505
Census agglomeration part	CENSUS	S	0506	CMAUID	Campbellton (Que. part), 2016	2016S050624330
Census tract	CENSUS	S	0507	CTUID	0002.00 – Moncton, City / Cité, 2011	2011S05073050002.00
Population centre	CENSUS	S	0510	PCUID	Toronto, 2011	2011S05100944
Population centre part	CENSUS	S	0511	PCUID	Lloydminster (Sask. part), 2016	2016S0511470478
Dissemination area	CENSUS	S	0512	DAUID	13070226, 2016	2016S051213070226
Dissemination block	CENSUS	S	0513	DBUID	13070226019, 2016	2016S051313070226019
Aggregate Dissemination Area	CENSUS ³	S	0516	ADAUID	24230047, 2016	2016S051624230047

1. The country unique identifier is from the SCCAI standard classification, combining a hierarchical 2-digit regional code to the 3-digit United Nations M49 country code.

2. The Geographical region of Canada layer is currently not available for download. It can be generated by dissolving the Province or territory layer on the first digit of the PRUID.

3. Aggregate Dissemination Areas did not exist prior to Census 2016.

Correspondence files

Correspondence files containing the DGUID values for all disseminated geographic boundaries are available upon request. If you require a copy of one or more DGUID correspondence files, please [contact us](#).