

Question: What is the Difference between 3-Digit and 5-Digit Population Counts?

Answer: Many researchers request 5-Digit ZIP for the purposes of linking with the Census ZIP Code Tabulation areas. **The Census Bureau records 550 ZIP Code Tabulation Areas (ZCTA) for Massachusetts.** The population for the smallest ZCTA requires cell suppression. The largest ZCTA is 02301 (Brockton) which has a ZCTA population of 61,025. Both the ZCTA 3-Digit and the MassGIS quarterly update from US Postal Service for Massachusetts 3-Digit ZIP Code contain 18 grouping with the largest population (1,283,942) in 021 and the smallest population (28,215) in 022 (see Table 1 below) .

Table 1. MA 3-Digit ZIP Code Populations

| ZIP CODE | 3-Digit Population |
|----------|--------------------|
| 010 | 469,375 |
| 011 | 168,835 |
| 012 | 130,689 |
| 013 | 83,111 |
| 014 | 211,812 |
| 015 | 373,719 |
| 016 | 188,402 |
| 017 | 379,027 |
| 018 | 713,126 |
| 019 | 476,314 |
| 020 | 400,371 |
| 021 | 1,283,942 |
| 022 | 28,215 |
| 023 | 441,063 |
| 024 | 408,771 |
| 025 | 116,621 |
| 026 | 147,883 |
| 027 | 526,336 |

Always Keep in Mind that Zip Codes Cut Across Multiple Political Boundaries

