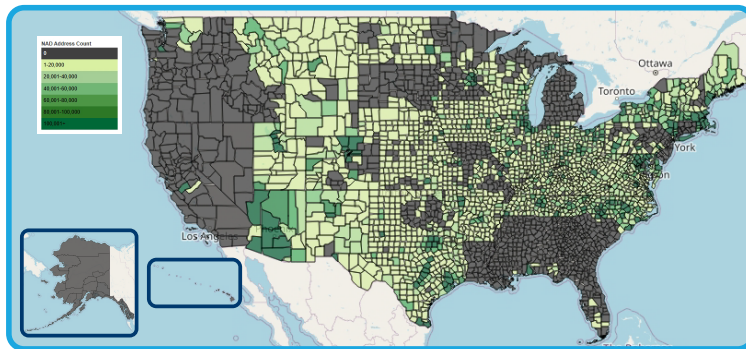Accurate city and county address data is the foundation of effective planning and decision making. Whether you're verifying voter district boundaries, coordinating emergency response efforts, or assessing risks and hazards, having comprehensive address data ensures accuracy and efficiency. Make sure your research, analytics and logistics are powered by the best data available to support smart city and county planning.
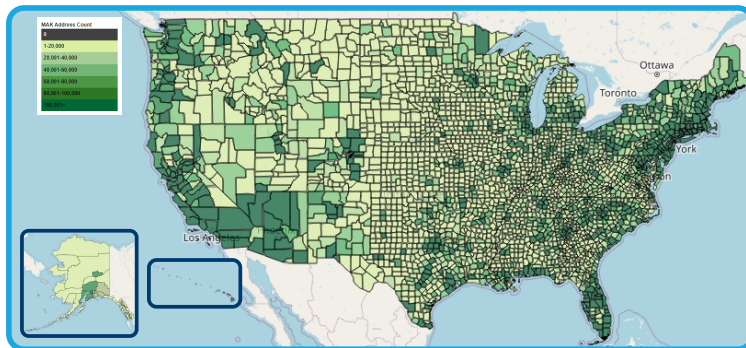
The Pitfalls of Free Address Data

Free government databases such as The National Address Database (NAD) and the United States Census Bureau offer city and county data. However, these databases are not entirely complete or accurate, relying on state participation or public domain knowledge to fill in their data. This can make data dirty with duplicates and outdated information.
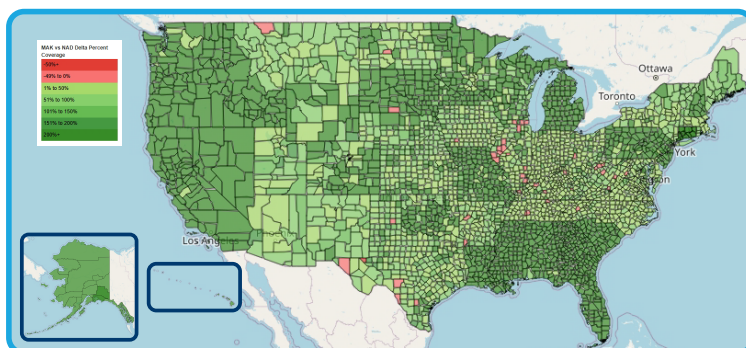
Gaps in Coverage

About 40 states contribute data to the NAD, leaving coverage gaps in many regions. Their data covers about 80 million addresses, both residential and commercial.

In comparison, Melissa offers coverage for 62 states, territories and U.S. military addresses, with approximately 225 million residential and commercial addresses covered.
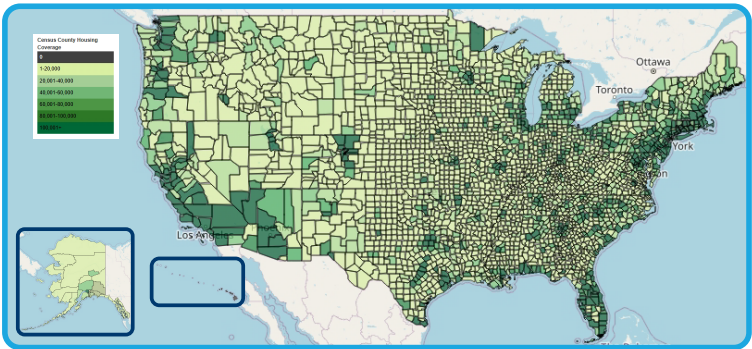

Percentage difference between Melissa and NAD's coverage. While some NAD areas show more counties and ZIP Code™ coverage, there are many rows in NAD data that are not true or are duplicated.
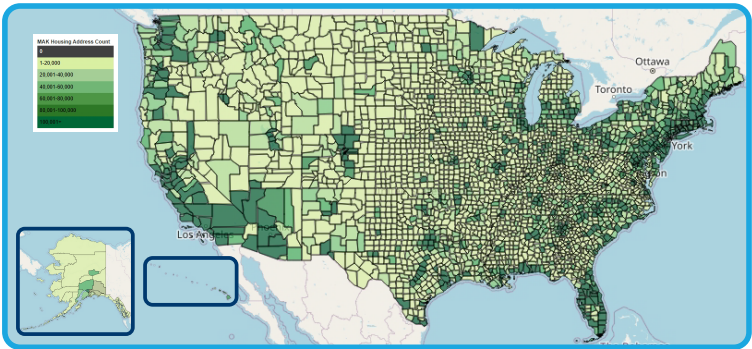
Missing Address Elements

The Census Bureau's coverage for residential addresses is fairly comprehensive, but it is missing crucial data such as PO boxes and businesses. Melissa also offers much more information on every address, such as congressional districts and carrier routes, giving you deeper property and location insights.

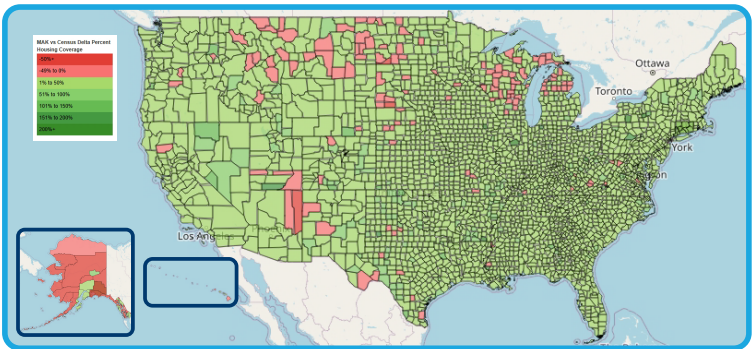| U.S. Census Bureau	Melissa		
State	Melissa Address Key	Carrier Route	Lat/Long
County	Address (parsed to individual elements)	City Abbreviation	Geo Level
Tract		FIPs Code	Census Key
Block	RBDI	Vacant	Census Key Decennial
Block_GeoID	Commercial Mail Receiving Agency	Neighborhood Name	Elevation
Total Housing Units	County	Apartment Name	National & State Upper & Lower District ID
Total Group Quarters	Congressional District	Non-USPS	

Less Overall Coverage

The Census covers about 148 million residential addresses, 85,000 tracts and 1.3 million blocks in the U.S.

Melissa covers about 180 million residential addresses, 85,000 tracts and 6.4 million blocks in the U.S.

Overall, Melissa's coverage is about 7% better than the Census's coverage.

Dive Deeper Into Your Cities & Counties With Complete Location Intelligence

Reveal the full picture of your city with deeper location-based insights from verified, accurate address data. Melissa has key datasets that can help you analyze property trends, map infrastructure, assess legislative boundaries and more.

Global Address Database (GAD): Melissa's Global Address Database has accurate and detailed information on U.S. addresses, including non-post office addresses. It allows for customized selections, so you can access data how you need to, from ZIP Codes, Census blocks, or any shape-based search.

GIS Data: Melissa's data is easy to use in GIS systems. We offer parcel shapes and building footprints for precise mapping capabilities, as well as hazard data for risk assessments based on natural hazards.

Legislative District Data: Get accurate, updated information on legislative districts, specific to each address instead of a ZIP or ZIP+4®. Melissa has complete U.S. national and state coverage, as well as about 300 county and 100,000 city local elected official information.

Property Data: Our property data allows you to drill deep into specific interests for better research and insights. For example, Melissa offers current and historic median household income, which can be tracked over time to see how affordability in specific areas has changed.

Enhance Your Esri Experience with Melissa

Melissa's data is seamlessly compatible with Esri solutions. If you're an Esri user, we can supply layers for your data easily and efficiently.

And, if you use ArcGIS Pro, use Melissa's Listware solution to validate, standardize, and append missing address elements onto your U.S. and Canadian address data, all without exporting to a different system.

Accurate Address Data in Action: The City of Burbank

See how the City of Burbank leverages geocodes and accurate address data at a rooftop level to optimize, improve and increase planning and project management.

"Melissa's address formatting was in line with our existing data and GIS location accuracy matched 99.9% of the time, far better than competitive solutions compared in testing."

– *Mike Carson, GIS Manager, City Of Burbank*

Learn More

Why Choose Melissa for City & County Address Data?

✔ **Better Coverage:** Most Master Address Tables are incomplete. Melissa has detailed, comprehensive coverage of American addresses, including non-USPS addresses.

✔ **Comprehensive Data:** Melissa has much more detailed, verified property and location data for each address than other providers.

✔ **USPS® Certifications:** Melissa is USPS® CASS™/DPV®, PAVE™ & NCOA^Link® certified, with many other postal partnerships around the world.

✔ **Security & Compliance:** We're committed to data security, privacy and compliance. Melissa is SOC 2, HIPAA/HITECH and GDPR compliant.

✔ **40 Years of Experience:** With 40 years of domain knowledge, Melissa has developed the best address engine for unparalleled results.

✔ **Easily Consumed:** On-prem, web APIs and cloud services available. Apps and integrations are also available for many popular platforms and CRM databases like Salesforce, ArcGIS, Microsoft SSIS, Google Sheets and Excel.

> **What do you need for your city planning? Get your count here!**

About Melissa

Since 1985, Melissa has specialized in global intelligence solutions to help organizations unlock accurate data for a more compelling customer view. More than 10,000 clients worldwide in areas such as retail, education, healthcare, insurance, finance, and government, rely on Melissa data quality and ID verification software, including data matching, validation, and enhancement services to gain critical insight and drive meaningful customer relationships.