Codebook – National Walkability Index Data

The National Walkability Index dataset characterizes Census block groups and tracts based on its relative walkability. Walkability depends upon characteristics of the built environment that influence the likelihood of walking being used as a mode of travel. The Walkability Index is based on data from the EPA's Smart Location Mapping project which includes a National Walkability Index for block groups.[1] The block group data from the EPA have been aggregated to provide a similar walkability index at the census-tract level.

National Walkability Index data tables are available in both Excel and comma delimited text (CSV) file formats. Data is available by both census tract and census block group. There is a row for each census tract or census block group in the 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia.

In addition to the National Walkability Index value, we include all of the variables provided in the original EPA walkability dataset including values and ranks for each of the four dimensions of walkability used to generate the original index.

Data tables include the following variables for each tract or block group:

Variable	Format	Description
TractID OR BlkGrpID	Char 11 OR Char 12	The fully qualified census tract ID. Includes the state FIPS code (2 chars), the county FIPS code (3 chars) and the tract ID (6 characters). The tract ID has an implied decimal before the last two characters. For example "010102" is referred to in Census tables and descriptions as tract 101.02. OR The fully qualified census block group ID. Includes the state FIPS code (2 chars), the county FIPS code (3 chars), the tract ID (6 characters), and the block group ID (1 char).
StCoFIPS	Char 5	The state and county FIPS code. Useful for selecting data for a particular county or set of counties.
StAbbr	Char 2	The alphabetic state postal abbreviation. Useful for selecting data for a particular state or set of states.
NatWalkInd	Numeric	The National Walkability Index. Values range from 1 (least walkable) to 20 (most walkable).
Pop2010	Numeric	Total population from the 2010 census
HU2010	Numeric	Total number of housing units from the 2010 census
HH2010	Numeric	Total households from the 2010 census
D2A_EPHHM	Numeric	The mix of employment types and occupied housing. A block group with a diverse set of employment types (such as office, retail, and service) plus a large quantity of occupied housing units will have a relatively high value.
D2B_E8MIXA	Numeric	The mix of employment types in a block group (such as retail, office or industrial).

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[1] See https://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/smart-location-mapping#walkability.

Variable	Format	Description
D3B	Numeric	Street intersection density (pedestrian-oriented intersections). This variable was calculated as a weighted sum of different intersection types with zero weight for automobile oriented intersections and lower weights for 3- vs. 4-way intersections.
D4A	Numeric	Distance from the population-weighted centroid to nearest transit stop (meters)
D2A_Ranked	Numeric	Rank of block groups or tracts for D2A_EPHHM within all block groups or tracts. Range from 1-20, higher ranks indicate more walk trip likelihood.
D2B_Ranked	Numeric	Rank of block groups or tracts for D2B_E8MIXA within all block groups or tracts. Range from 1-20, higher ranks indicate more walk trip likelihood.
D3B_Ranked	Numeric	Rank of block groups or tracts for D3B within all block groups or tracts. Range from 1-20, higher ranks indicate more walk trip likelihood.
D4A_Ranked	Numeric	Rank of block groups or tracts for D4A within all block groups or tracts. Range from 1-20, higher ranks indicate more walk trip likelihood.

Vintage 2017 tract/block group IDs are used. These including all tract and county coding changes made through 2017. For details, see https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/technical-documentation/table-and-geography-changes.html.