



SECTION TWO DKD Geography (Geography 101)

Community and neighborhood indicator reporting systems must address the issue of how to define the geographic areas for which data is to be reported. Before specific areas can be defined a couple of factors need to be considered:

- 1) *Is the data of interest available for the desired geographic areas?*
- 2) *Is the size of the population of each area large enough to support reliable measurement?*

In general, there is a trade off between the size of the area (population) and the amount of detail available or effort required to produce a set of measurements. This makes the choice of geographic unit for performance indicators a compromise between geographic detail and information detail. For a community or neighborhood indicator reporting system County is too large of a unit while census divisions known as census tracts are probably too small of units for much of the desired data. In the case of DetroitKidsData some of the desired data measures were known to have only zip code available in the source data system and hence no further geographic detail is readily available. For these reasons, basing a community measurement system upon zip codes as the building blocks for geographic areas was adopted as a reasonable compromise between size of geographic area and availability of data for the DetroitKidsData community measurement system.

DetroitKidsData used 167 zip codes in the tri-county Detroit area (Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne) to build 96 “DKD Districts”. A DKD District is either a single zip code or a combination of adjoining zip codes with similar population characteristics (income and race) that were aggregated to achieve a population threshold of 25,000. The following table provides the number of zip codes and DKD Districts in each of these three counties. Wayne County, which contains the City of Detroit, has been divided into a section for Detroit and the remainder of the county “OutWayne”. Note: the area referred to as “Detroit” does not conform to the actual boundary of the City of Detroit. When using zip codes the cities of Hamtramck and Highland Park are part of Detroit zip codes and a small portion of the City of Detroit west of the Rouge River (Old Redford) is part of the Redford Township zip code.



Geographic Area	ZIP Codes	DKD Districts
Macomb County	36	18
Oakland County	66	32
Wayne County	65	46
Detroit	27	21
OutWayne	39	25
Total	168	96