



AIRA

AMERICAN IMMUNIZATION
REGISTRY ASSOCIATION

Smarty FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions

Last Updated: 06/21/2022

Basics About Smarty

1. What is Smarty?

Smarty is an address cleansing and geocoding service that can help IIS improve data quality. Smarty is a leader in location data intelligence.

2. Who has access to SmartyStreets?

American Immunization Registry Association (AIRA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides Smarty at no cost for all member IIS programs. Smarty's services cannot be extended to any organizations outside of IIS. This includes other programs within an agency, providers, EHRs, etc.

3. How does an IIS connect with Smarty?

Smarty provides several ways for IIS to connect to the address cleansing and geocoding service. Manual batch processing, automated batch processing, an HL7 real-time solution, and/or a user interface API are connectivity options. Manual batch processing via the Command-Line Interface (CLI) can be executed any time once the appropriate software is downloaded on a designated computer. The other connection options involve setting up business rules and processes first.

4. Does Smarty do any matching to the patient?

IIS submit de-identified data to the Smarty service; address cleansing does not match data to the patient. Smarty standardizes and validates submitted addresses in accordance with USPS standards. Smarty cannot determine if the intended person (e.g. the patient) lives at the specified address.

5. Are there limitations to the cleansed and geocoded addresses returned from Smarty?

Smarty does have a few minor limitations. Smarty's methodology relies on USPS standards and workflows. As a result, Smarty will return the same errors and inconsistencies contained within the USPS database.

For example, the USPS city name provided by Smarty may not match the legal city where the address resides. These instances are exceptions, however, and not the rule. IIS have reported that returned data is overwhelmingly accurate.

6. Does Smarty provide map coordinates for addresses?

Smarty does not necessarily provide map coordinates for addresses. Smarty provides latitude and longitude coordinates for addresses based on the centroid (geographical center point) of the delivery area; this is based on US Census data.

It is possible that USPS does not have a geocode for a small proportion of a delivery area. In this scenario, Smarty uses the coordinates of nearby delivery areas with known geocodes to approximate the address coordinates.

Reference the **Precision** field in metadata returned by Smarty to determine the level of accuracy for the geocodes.

7. Is the cleansed address data provided to the EHR?

This depends on the business rules of each IIS. Some jurisdictions elect to send cleansed addresses back to the original source, some do not.

8. Does Smarty store the addresses that they receive?

Yes. Smarty tracks data in Master Logs, which helps them ensure that they send you the cleansed and geocoded data requested by your IIS. There is also an anonymized log which helps with the algorithms; the algorithms help match an address sent to Smarty to a known address in the database. Smarty has created a video to explain. The Logging Data – Does SmartyStreets Do It? video is here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZOT4YfYuE8A>.

Smarty has proper controls in place to ensure that your data cannot be intercepted by a third party. Smarty also does not sell or distribute your data. Since their servers are fully automated, no one at Smarty will see the data that you send. It is all processed automatically.

9. What happens to identifiable information sent to Smarty for cleansing and geocoding?

Only the minimum, de-identified address-related data should be provided to Smarty. IIS should not include any patient, vaccine, or other ePHI data in the submission to Smarty.

10. Does AIRA have access to the data submitted to Smarty?

AIRA does not have access to any information submitted by IIS to Smarty.

AIRA does ask IIS that utilize Smarty to complete a monthly survey via SurveyMonkey. The survey helps us understand how IIS are connecting to Smarty and usage of the service.

Technical Assistance

11. What if my IIS is not yet connected to Smarty for address cleansing and geocoding?

AIRA can help with that! Technical assistance is available to orient IIS programs to the process for connecting to SmartyStreets. The Smarty orientation is focused on: a) helping IIS become familiar with the Smarty website, b) understanding the current IIS infrastructure, c) learning about options available for connecting to Smarty, d) understanding how to reintegrate cleansed and geocoded addresses back into the IIS, and e) engaging with the Smarty User Group.

12. Where can I find more information about the Address Cleansing and Geocoding process?

Please visit the [AIRA website](https://repository.immregistries.org/resource/iis-implementation-guidance-for-a-shared-address-cleansing-and-geocoding-service/) for more information on the Address Cleansing Service or contact AIRA (info@immregistries.org).

Resources

AIRA has a variety of resources to assist with getting started using Smarty. All of the resources can be found on the AIRA website. Below are a few highlights to get you started:

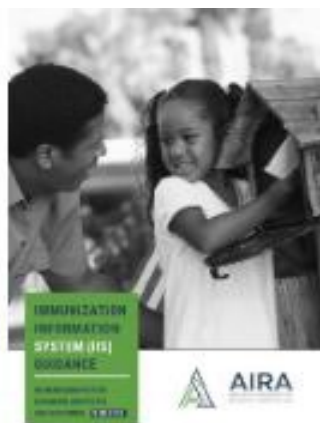
The Implementation guidance document is here:

<https://repository.immregistries.org/resource/iis-implementation-guidance-for-a-shared-address-cleansing-and-geocoding-service/>



The Reintegration guidance document is here:

<https://repository.immregistries.org/resource/iis-reintegration-of-cleansed-addresses-and-geocodes/>



The Smarty User Group is a forum that unites Smarty implementers, users, and potential users to assist an IIS with initial set-up, troubleshooting issues, and encourage the development of relationships among jurisdictions.

<https://www.immregistries.org/address-cleansing-and-geocoding-user-group>

A recorded session of the Smarty Orientation is here:

<https://repository.immregistries.org/resource/smartystreets-address-cleansing-and-geocoding-orientation/>