Results from the Third UNSD Survey on the 2020 Round of Population and Housing Censuses and Review of Census Topics Collected in the 2020 Round[1]

Prepared by
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Background

1.   This report has been prepared as a background paper for the 56th session of the UN Statistical Commission and is referenced in document E/CN.3/2025/3, titled *Report of the Secretary-General on the 2020 and 2030 World Population and Housing Census Programmes.*[3] The Report of the Secretary-General provides an overview of the implementation of the 2020 Programme, including information on national participation in the 2020 round of censuses, successes and challenges faced based on initial high-level findings from the 3rd UNSD survey of the 2020 round, as well as preparations for the 2030 World Programme on Population and Housing Censuses. The report mentions in paragraph 19 that "Detailed results of the third and final survey on national practices during the 2020 round of censuses will be submitted as a background document to the present report."

2.   This background document provides detailed question-by-question analysis of the results from the 3rd UNSD survey and is presented in two parts, covering:
      i.   The results of the third UNSD survey on the 2020 census round.
     ii.   Review of the topics included by countries in the 2020 census round.

Part One: Third UNSD Survey on the 2020 Census Round

I.   Survey purpose and response rate

3.   The Division conducted three surveys on national practices during the 2020 round of censuses: the first in 2016, the second in 2019, and the third in 2024. The 2016 survey aimed to understand how countries were planning and conducting their censuses or otherwise compiling census data for the 2020 round, as well as the challenges they faced or expected to face. The 2019 survey assessed census-taking progress at the mid-round point to identify challenges early and determine the assistance needed by countries to implement the round successfully. A summary report on the results of the second survey was included in the Report of the Secretary-General on Demographic Statistics to the Fifty-first session of the Statistical Commission (E/CN.3/2020/14). Detailed results were shared in a background paper accompanying the report.

4.   As part of its responsibility to monitor and regularly report to the Statistical Commission on the implementation of the 2020 World Programme, the Division developed and launched a survey to take stock of global census taking at the end of the 2020 round. This survey is the third and final survey conducted by UNSD to monitor the 2020 round and was sent to all national statistical offices in August 2024. The survey deadline was extended several times, remaining open until the end of November 2024 to maximize the response rate. To further boost participation, the survey was translated into French, Spanish, and Russian.

5.   The purpose of the survey was to collect information on the outcome of the 2020 round of censuses and plans for the 2030 round. Part one of the present report provides a summary of the main findings and detailed results based on replies received from 155 countries or areas. The results of the

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[3] https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/statcom/session_56/documents/2025-3-SG-Censuses-EE.pdf

survey provide an overview of the status of census taking among United Nations Member States at the end of the 2020 round census decade.

6.   UNSD would like to acknowledge the support of its partners in the regional commissions and other regional organizations (such as SPC and CARICOM), UNFPA (including its regional offices), and members of the International Committee on Census Coordination (ICCC) for facilitating responses to the survey. In addition, UNSD greatly appreciates the time taken by individual countries and areas to respond to the survey.

7.   As of December 2024, 155 countries or areas had responded to the survey and the overall response rate stood at 64 per cent. Responses were received from 155 of the 239 countries/areas that UNSD monitors, including 17 responses from countries/areas that did not conduct a census during the 2020 round. The previous survey, conducted at the end of 2019, achieved a similar response rate (66 percent, or 158 countries/areas in total). However, when the previous survey was conducted only 23 per cent of countries or areas had carried out their 2020 round census[4]. Given most countries/areas had completed their 2020 round census activities at the time of the survey, the latest survey results provide a comprehensive assessment of the national implementation of the 2020 census round. The list of responding countries/areas is shown in Annex 2, Table 1.

8.   The questionnaire used for conducting the survey contained 48 questions seeking information on:
    i.   The status of the census, reference dates, changes to census plans and budgets [Q8 - Q15]
    ii.   Main census methodology [Q17 - Q19]
    iii.   Methods of enumeration [Q26]
    iv.   Types of administrative registers used [Q20 - Q25]
    v.   Type of population count (de facto, de jure) [Q16]
    vi.   Use of geographic information [Q28]
    vii.   Quality assurance and evaluation [Q29 - Q34]
    viii.   Dissemination [Q35 - Q37]
    ix.   Challenges and successes [Q38 - Q40]
    x.   Countries not conducting a census in the 2020 round [Q43 - Q44]
    xi.   Plans for the 2030 Round [Q45 - Q47]

9.   The survey questionnaire is presented in Annex 1 of this report. Analysis of the topics listed above are included in the detailed analysis section of this report and tabulations of each question by five broad regions (Africa, Asia, Europe, Americas, and Oceania) are included in Annex 2.

II.   Summary of findings

10.   A summary of the findings from this survey, based on a preliminary analysis of the results, is included in the *Report of the Secretary-General on the 2020 and 2030 World Population and Housing Census Programmes*[5] *(*E/CN.3/2025/3), which has *been* submitted for discussion and decision to the 56th session of the UN Statistical Commission (see paragraphs 10 to 19 in the Report of the Secretary-General). **This report provides the updated and final analysis of the survey findings.**

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[4] https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/statcom/session_51/documents/BG-Item3j-Survey-E.pdf
[5] https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/statcom/session_56/documents/2025-3-SG-Censuses-EE.pdf

III.   Detailed findings

11.   This section of the present report provides detailed results based on replies received from 155 countries or areas. The results of the survey provide an overview of the status of censuses taken at the end of the 2020 census round. Unlike earlier surveys in the round, the majority of census activities were completed at the time of collection and therefore this report provides a more accurate assessment of the national implementation of the 2020 census round than previous surveys. The survey also asked countries about plans for the 2030 round.

A.   The status of the census, reference dates, changes to census plans and budgets [Q8 - Q15]

12.   In addition to the findings of the third UNSD survey, the division has regularly monitored the implementation of population and housing censuses throughout the 2020 round by staying informed and publishing the status of censuses globally. According to the information available[6] as at the end of the 2020 round, 204 countries or areas have conducted at least one population and housing census in the period 2015 -2024, representing the enumeration of 85 per cent of the world's population. By comparison, during the 2010 census round, 214 countries or areas conducted a population and housing census, comprising about 93 per cent of the world's population[7].

13.   Many countries/areas delayed the census and shifted their census from the middle to the end of the round. Based on the previous UNSD survey in 2019, the peak census years were expected to be 2020 and 2021, however, primarily due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many countries delayed their census activities and the peak census years were delayed and spread over a longer period. Prior to the pandemic, only 13 per cent of countries were expected to undertake the census in 2022, 2023 or 2024. By the end of the round, 47 per cent of countries/areas that completed a census had done so during the last three years of the round. This shift in census dates is shown in Figure 1 which compares the anticipated census dates in 2019 with the actual census dates reported in 2024.

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[6] Detailed and country-specific information on 2020 round census dates is available on the webpage of the 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme (http://unstats.un.org/unsd/ demographic/sources/census/censusdates.htm)
[7] See Table 1 in document E/CN.3/2025/3 for a regional perspective.

Figure 1 Distribution of population and housing censuses dates in the 2020 census round
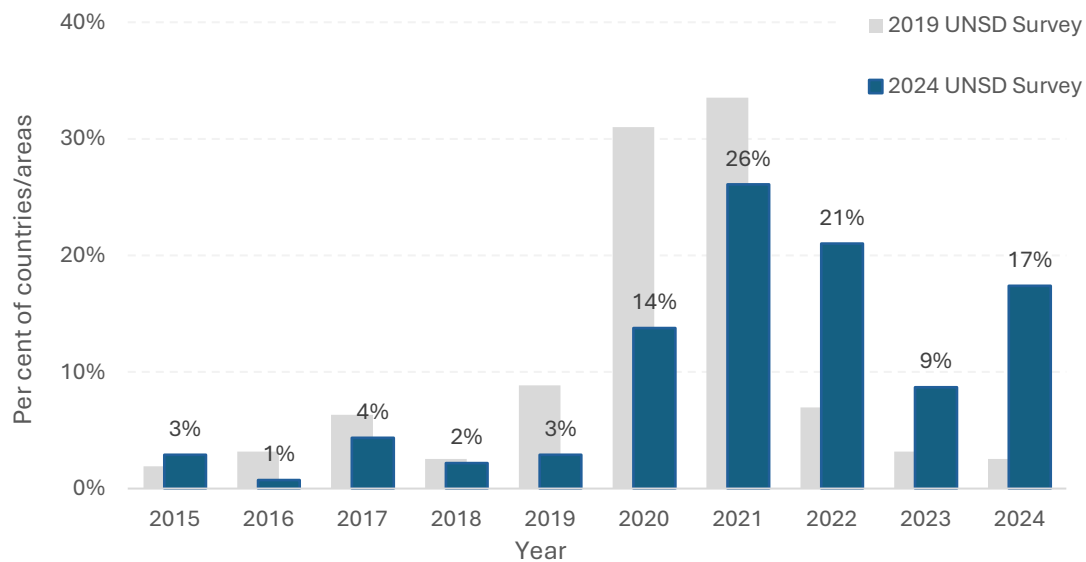
Source:
1. 2019 UNSD survey: https://unstats.un.org/UNSDWebsite/statcom/session_51/documents/BG-Item3j-Survey-E.pdf
2. 2024 UNSD survey: Questions 8, 9 and 10

Note:
For countries/areas with multiple censuses in the round the latest census date reported in the 2024 survey is shown.

14. Nearly half (47 per cent) of the countries/areas surveyed reported changing the census date during the 2020 round. Of the 65 countries that reported changing the census date, the primary reason was the COVID-19 pandemic (51 countries/areas). Other reasons for moving the census included Budget (16 countries/areas), and problems/delays with preparations (11 countries/areas) (see Figure 2). Less frequently cited reasons included Lack of legal authority (5), Political Instability (4), Natural disasters (3), and Security (2).

Figure 2 Changes to census dates
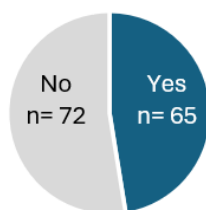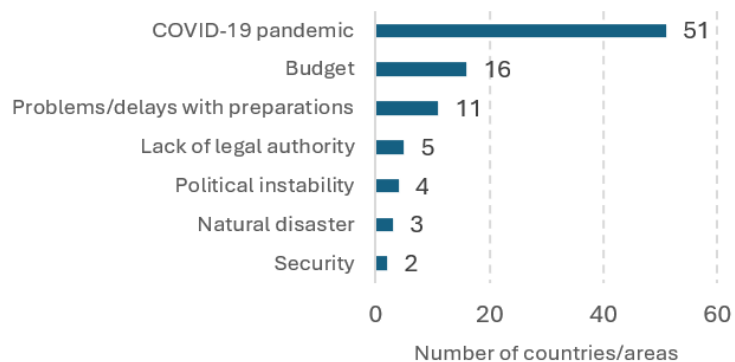
15.   The survey asked countries about the impact on the budget due to COVID-19. Over 50 countries/areas reported changes in the budget due to the pandemic, with the majority (40 out of 51) reporting the budget increased, and 10 reporting the budget decreased. For the countries with a decrease in budget, the reasons provided where broadly due to re-prioritization of resources toward fighting the pandemic. For those countries/areas reporting budget increases due to COVID-19 the increased costs were associated with increased training, provision of protective equipment, technology/infrastructure to support changes to collection procedures and communications activities. Figure 3 provides an indication of the types of reasons specified in the free-text response.

Figure 3 Word cloud based on responses to the question: Specify the major reason(s) for the budget increase due to COVID-19?

B. Main census methodology in the 2020 round [Q17-19]

16.   The most commonly used census methodology is *full field enumeration* (also known as the traditional census), accounting for 69 per cent of the countries. This approach involves contacting every household and dwelling unit to collect data directly from individuals. *Combined methods*, which involve a combination of registers and full field enumeration or sample surveys, are used in 18 per cent of cases. This reflects a growing trend towards leveraging existing administrative data to supplement traditional census methods. Only 12 per cent of countries relied solely on *administrative registers* for their census. This suggests that while there is increasing interest in register-based approaches, many countries still relied on traditional field enumeration methods during the 2020 round.

17.   Census methodologies vary considerably by region (see Figure 4). In Europe, 69 per cent of countries/areas used either a combined (31 per cent) or fully register based (38 per cent) approach in the 2020 round. In contrast, responding countries/areas in Oceania and Africa all followed the full field enumeration approach. In the Americas, most countries/areas (92 per cent) used full field enumeration with only Greenland using a fully register based approach and two countries reporting a combined approach. In Asia, full field enumeration was still the most common method (53 per cent) although more countries/areas moved towards a combined approach during the round (36 per cent). Four countries in Asia used a fully register-based approach (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and United Arab Emirates).

Figure 4 Per cent of responding countries/areas using a combined or register-based approach in the 2020 round.
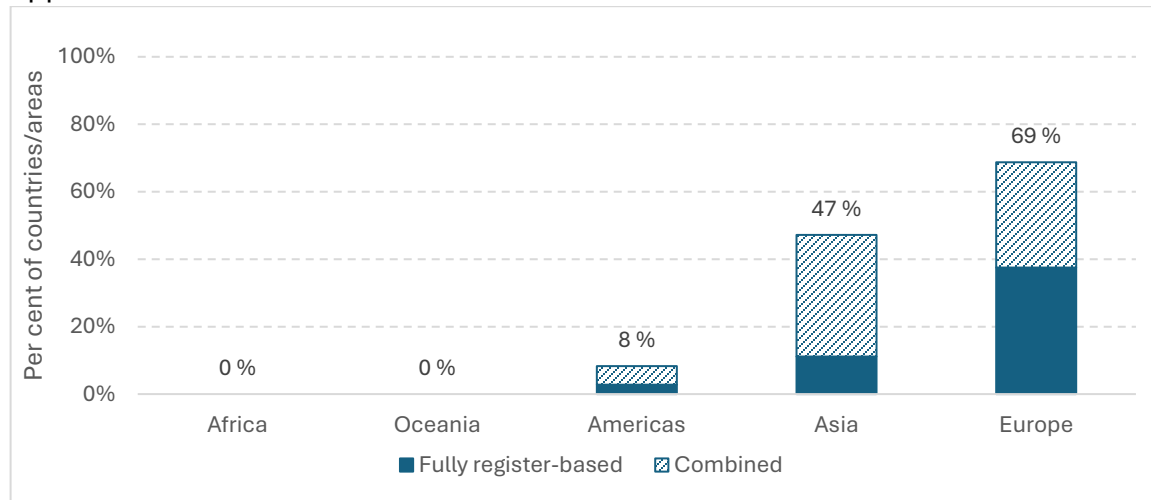
Note:
Based on the set of questions answered by 137/155 responding countries/areas that conducted a census in the 2020 round. Full field enumeration was used by all responding countries in Africa and Oceania, 92% of countries/areas in the Americas, 53% of countries/areas in Asia and 31% of countries/areas in Europe.

C. Methods of enumeration [Q26]

18.   Survey data indicates nearly half of the countries (47 per cent) utilized only one method of enumeration during their 2020 census round. A slight majority (53 per cent) utilized 2 or more methods of enumeration, while a third of the countries surveyed (32 per cent) utilized 3 or more methods (see figure 5).

Figure 5 Number of modes of data collection for full-field enumeration and combined censuses
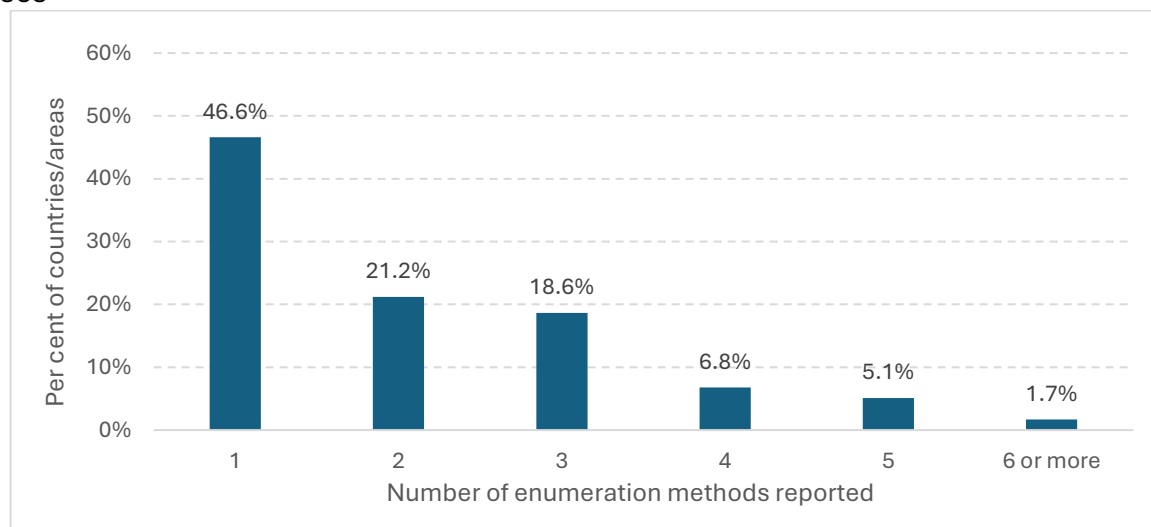
Note:

19.	Face-to-face interviews with electronic questionnaires (CAPI) emerged as the most prevalent method in the 2020 round, utilized by 78 per cent of countries/areas. CAPI was only used by 9 per cent of countries/areas during the 2010 round, and this shift indicates a strong preference for digital tools in modern census operations. Internet self-response (CAWI) was also widely adopted, with 44 per cent of countries/areas using this method compared with 16 per cent in the previous round. This reflects the increasing reliance on online platforms for data collection.

20.	Survey data indicate that face-to-face interviews with paper questionnaires were used by 30 per cent of countries/areas (down from 79 per cent in the 2010 round) with only seven countries (or 6 per cent) reporting face-to-face interviews with paper questionnaires as the only mode of collection. While the use of paper-based questionnaires administered by enumerators decreased significantly between the 2010 and 2020 rounds, the use of paper questionnaires for self-completion by respondents (both delivered/collected by enumerators and mailed out/back) also decreased. Self-response paper questionnaires were used by 24 per cent of countries/areas in the 2020 round (down slightly from 26 per cent in the previous round). Paper based methods are still valuable in certain contexts, particularly in areas with limited internet access or digital literacy.

21.	The use of telephone interviews supported by electronic questionnaires (Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI)) by 20 per cent of countries/areas indicates a growing trend towards remote data collection methods. Figure 6 highlights both the main enumeration methods used in the 2020 round, and the shift towards digital tools since the 2010 round.

Figure 6 Enumeration methods used in the 2020 and 2010 rounds
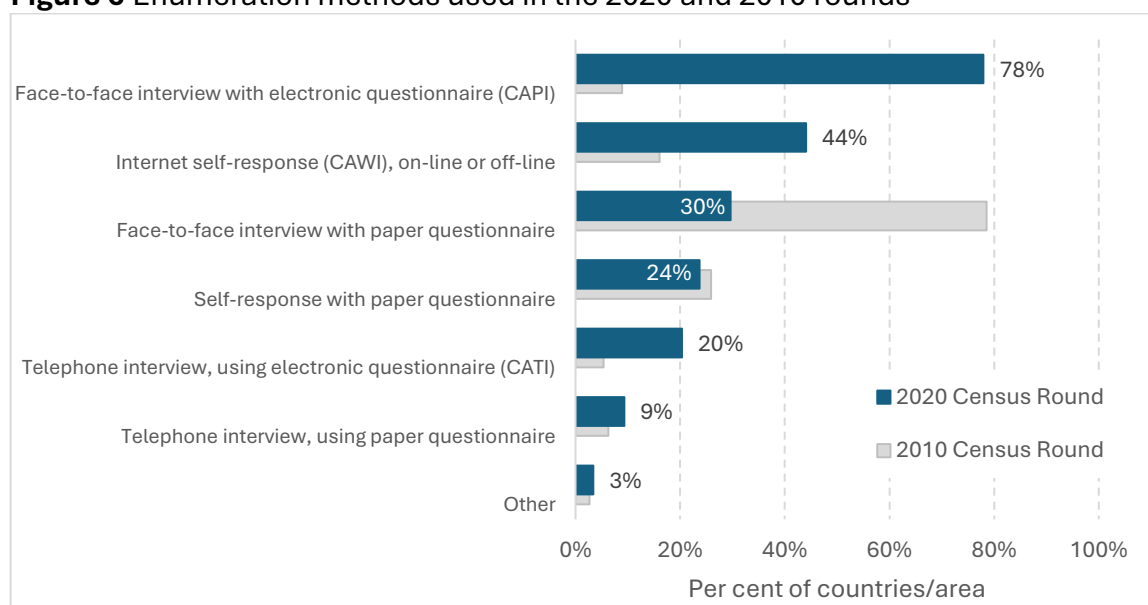
Note
The 2020 round percentages are based on 118 countries/areas from the 3rd UNSD survey on the 2020 round (conducted in 2024). The 2010 round percentages are based on 112 countries/areas from the 1st UNSD survey on the 2020 round including lessons learned from the 2010 round (conducted in 2016).

D. Types of administrative registers used [Q20 – Q25]

22.   In the survey, 25 countries/areas reported using a combined approach (a combination of registered-based and full-field enumeration), and 17 countries/areas reported using a fully registered based approach. These countries were asked to report on the type of administrative registers used to produce census-like statistics. The number of countries using each type of registers is shown in Figure 7.

23.   The important role of the population register is reflected in the survey results, with a population register used in 88 per cent (15 out of 17) register-based countries/areas, and 88 per cent (22 out of 25) of the countries/areas using a combined approach. In total, 37 out of 42 combined and register based countries reported using population registers. These results are in line with the Handbook on Register-based Population and Housing Censuses[8], which highlights the importance of
    i.   national legislation providing for the creation of a population register and authority to use the data contained in it for statistical purposes; and
    ii.   the establishment of a central population register.

24.   While the population register was the most widely used type of register, in most cases, countries reported using a combination of registers to produce census-like statistics. On average, countries reported producing statistics from nearly 6 (5.88) of the 12 types of registers listed in the survey (including the other option).

25.   Well over half of these 42 countries/areas reported using social security registers (30 countries/areas), employment/unemployment registers (29 countries/areas), education registers (29 countries/areas), building/dwelling registers (28 countries/areas), and address registers (25 countries/areas). Fewer countries/areas reported using business registers (20 countries/areas) and taxation registers (20 countries/areas). Border control registers were used by 11 countries/areas.

26.   During the 2020 round, nearly all the register-based census activity was concentrated in Europe and parts of Asia. Interestingly, nearly all countries reporting using border control registers were in Asia (10 out of 11 countries), while taxation registers were much more commonly used in Europe (16 out of 20 countries).

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[8] https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/publication/handbook-registers-phc.pdf

Figure 7 Type of registers used by countries/areas that conducted the census using register-based or combined approaches.
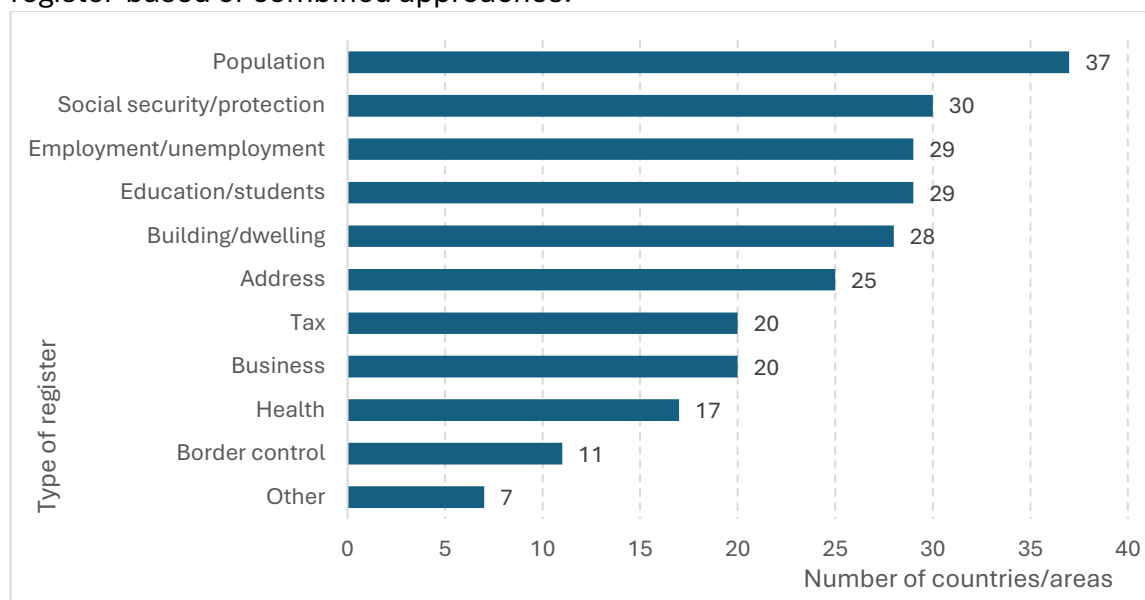
E. Type of population count (de facto, de jure) [Q16, Q27]

27.   Regarding population count in the census, there are two internationally recommended concepts for identifying the total population. The two concepts are:
   a) usual resident count (also called de jure count; a count on the basis of the place where a person usually resides), and
   b) population present count (also called de facto count; a count on the basis of the place where a person is present at the time of the census).

In practice, the two concepts can be applied in one census. For example, when a census is carried out on a population present (de facto) basis, it is still possible to produce figures for the usual resident (de jure) population if information is collected on the place of usual residence of individuals. The choice between a de jure and a de facto approach has major implications on the organisation of the enumeration phase. Also, the census results in terms of de jure population will be directly influenced by the definition of place of usual residence adopted and by its implementation during the census.

28.   According to the survey results, 95 countries adopted only the usual resident count, while 22 countries relied solely on the concept of population present count, and 16 countries used both concepts in the census (see Figure 8). In addition, 3 European countries reported 'other' and indicated the count was based on the registered population. A review of the responses also shows that there is significant variation among regions. The population present count is used by over half of the responding countries in Oceania, 43 per cent of countries in Africa, and 37 per cent of countries in Asia. Whereas the population present concept is less commonly used in the Americas (22 per cent) and Europe (6 per cent). See Annex 2, table 7 for more details on the regional breakdown.

Figure 8 Population count concepts
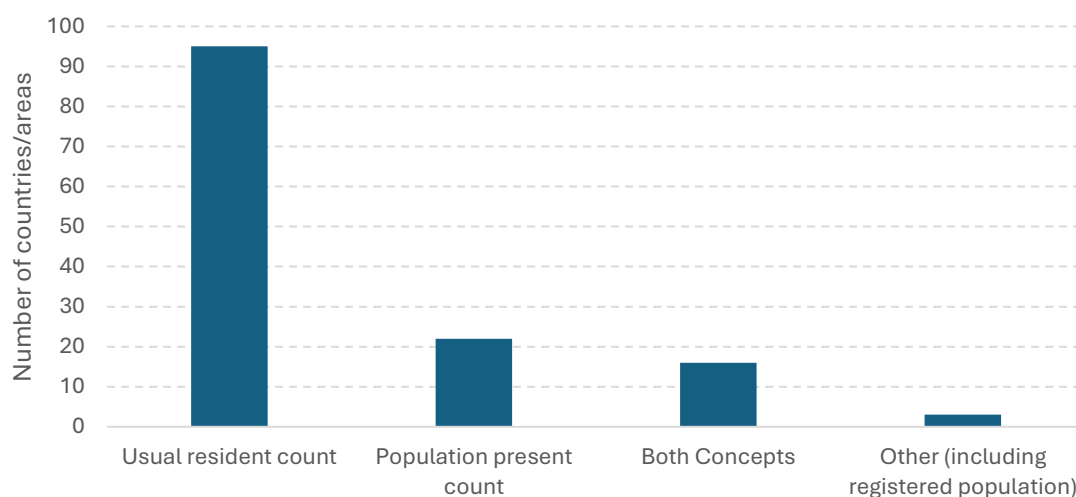
29.   When determining the place of usual residence, the most frequently used reference period was *at least 6 months/180 days*. Over half (54 per cent) of the countries/areas reported using the 6-month criteria, with this concept more often used by countries in Africa, the Americas and to a lesser extent Asia. A reference period of at least 1 year was used by 26 per cent of countries and more commonly used by European countries/areas (see Annex 2, Table 11).

F.   Use of Geographic Coordinates [Q28]

30.   Countries/areas were asked about the collection and use of geographic coordinates in the census. Geographic coordinates where most commonly used to locate building and housing units, with 66 per cent of countries/areas reporting using GPS coordinates for this purpose. Locating buildings and housing units was also the most frequently identified use of geographic coordinates across all regions. Other uses included identifying enumeration areas (39 per cent of countries/areas), and identifying features such as roads, railways, waterbodies, facilities and landmarks (24 per cent of countries/areas). Only 17 per cent of countries/areas reported no collection/use of GPS coordinates during the 2020 round census. See Annex 2, Table 12.

G.   Quality Assurance and Evaluation [Q29 – Q34]

31.   Nearly all countries (96 per cent) attempted to measure the accuracy of the population count, with a majority (54 per cent) using multiple methods of quality assurance. Demographic analysis and Post Enumeration Surveys (PES) were the most common tools used by 49 per cent and 47 per cent of countries/areas respectively. Post Enumeration Surveys were more frequently used by countries in Africa (71 per cent), and by between 50 and 30 per cent of countries from Asia (47 per cent), Europe (45 per cent), and the Americas (33 per cent).

32.   In addition to Demographic analysis and Post Enumeration Surveys, the comparison with other data sources to provide confidence in census estimates is also a widely used approach. One feature of the 2020 round censuses is the increased use of administrative data for quality assurance and validation of census results, with 34 per cent of countries making comparisons

with administrative datasets at an aggregate level. This approach is most frequently used in Asia (50 per cent) and Europe (45 per cent). In addition, 23 per cent of countries made comparisons with administrative datasets at a unit record level and this approach was more commonly used in Europe (50 per cent). Countries/areas in Africa, the Americas and Asia were less likely to make comparisons to administrative datasets at the unit record level (7, 15, and 26 per cent respectively). The comparison of census estimates with existing household surveys remained as a well-established approach to measure accuracy of the population count and was used by 29 per cent of countries in the 2020 round.

33.　　Analysis and monitoring of questionnaire return rates was reported by 20 per cent of countries/areas with this method more prevalent amongst countries in Asia and the Americas. Figure 9 highlights the prevalence of the various methods of evaluation and the regional variations.

Figure 4 Evaluation method(s) used to measure the accuracy of the population count

34.　　The revised Principles and Recommendations do not take a position on adjustments to census data after enumeration and prior to publication. Instead, the recommendations highlight the factors countries should consider before deciding whether or not to adjust census data. This lack of international consensus on adjustments to census data after collection is also reflected in the survey findings with almost half (48 per cent) of the responding countries/areas reporting no adjustments were made to the population count before publication. On the other hand, a similar number of countries (43 per cent) reported adjusting census data prior to publication. Nine per cent of countries/areas did not specify whether adjustments were made prior to publication. Annex 2, Table 14 provides a regional perspective, revealing that adjustments to census counts are more frequent in the Americas and less common in Europe.

Figure 5 Did you adjust the population count prior to publication?

Figure with y-axis labeled "Per cent of countries/areas" ranging from 0% to 60%, and x-axis labeled "Did you make adjustments to the population count before publication?" with categories No (~48%), Yes (~43%), and Other / Not Specfied (~9%).
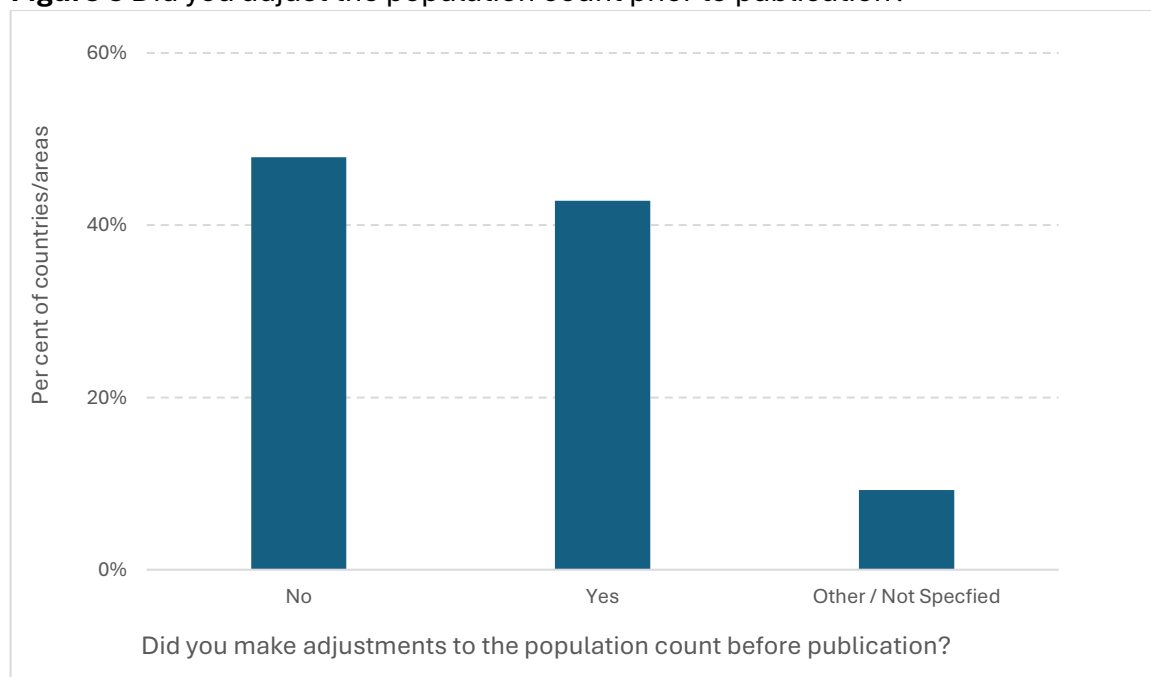
Note
Figures for Oceania are available in Annex 2, Table 14.

35.   Revision 4 of the Principles and Recommendations state that: '*in those countries were the total population figure has been adjusted for under-enumeration or over-enumeration, both the enumerated figure (the population count) and the adjusted population figure (the population estimate) should be published'*. Of the countries that adjusted population counts prior to publication, the majority (63 per cent) published only the adjusted population estimates, while 37 per cent reported publishing both the adjusted population estimates, and unadjusted population counts.

36.   In addition to questions on evaluating and adjusting for coverage, the survey also asked about measuring the accuracy of responses (content error) as well as evaluating field operations. Content error is measured by 63 per cent of countries/areas globally and is common practice in all regions, with over half of the countries in each region answering yes to the question: 'Did you measure the accuracy of the responses' (see Annex 2, Table 15).

37.   An evaluation of the field operations was carried out by 75 percent of countries/areas. Of the countries that carried out an evaluation of the field operations, less than half (41 out of 86) published the findings. The remaining 45 countries did not publish the evaluation of field operations. One quarter (29 out of 115) of the responding countries with field-based data collection did not conduct an evaluation of the field operations during the 2020 round (see Annex 2, Table 16).

38.   Countries conducting register-based censuses were asked an open-ended question about measuring the accuracy of the census data[9]. These countries reported employing a variety of methods to ensure the accuracy of their data. Common practices include the use of quality frameworks to assess

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[9] Countries were asked: "For register-based censuses, how do you measure the accuracy of the census data (e.g. population count)?"

administrative sources, thorough monitoring and documentation of the production process, and post-enumeration surveys. Comparisons with other data sources, such as previous censuses and regular statistics on education, labor force, and building permits, are also standard. Many countries use unique identifiers across datasets for record linkage and apply mathematical and logical verification for process quality. Output quality is often evaluated through demographic analysis, comparisons with aggregate administrative datasets, and imputations. Some countries use the "signs of life" method to verify the presence of individuals in multiple registers. Additionally, other countries incorporate administrative data to fill gaps and ensure comprehensive coverage.

39.   Countries performing record linkage in their census processes use various methods to measure the quality of these linkages[10]. Common practices include confirming data during field enumeration and using unique identifiers to link records. Consistency checks between registers based on common variables, aggregate checks against sample survey results, and manual checks for inconsistencies are also employed. Some countries use probabilistic linking, exact linking, and linking based on family relationships or visual inspection of records. Quality is often assessed by the count of unsuccessful linkages, the validity of ID numbers, and the removal of duplicates. Additionally, cross-validations and comparisons with external data are utilized to ensure accurate data linking.

H. Dissemination [Q35 – Q37]

40.   Countries continue to use multiple channels to disseminate census results and tailor dissemination products to meet user needs. The survey asked about the use of contemporary data dissemination products and found that 70 per cent of countries used or planned to use interactive online databases. Many countries also used web-based mapping tools (62 per cent) and produced anonymized microdata (59 per cent) to support further research and analysis. At the global level, the production of grid-based outputs is reported by 38 per cent of countries/areas, however, there is a clear regional variation with 80 per cent of countries/areas in Europe reporting plans to produce grid-based outputs.

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[10] Countries were asked: "If you perform record linkage in your census process, how do you measure the quality of record linkage"

Figure 6 Use of contemporary data dissemination products
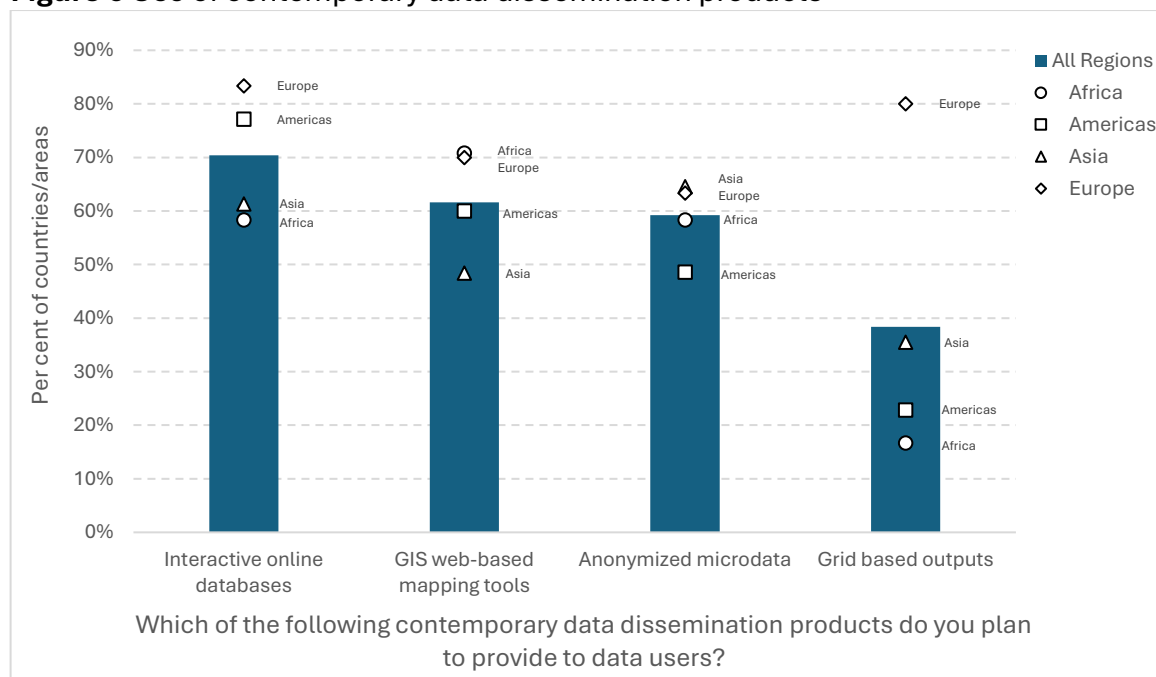
41.   Half of the responding countries/areas (50 percent) produced microdata samples to support additional research and analysis of census data. The countries/areas providing microdata where evenly divided into those providing microdata to all users (31 countries) and those providing microdata samples available only to selected users under specific conditions (31 countries). See Annex 2, Table 18.

42.   Survey data highlighted regional differences in the granularity of census outputs. In countries/areas in Africa, the Americas, and Oceania, the smallest geographical level at which census data is most frequently disseminated is at the level of Census enumeration area (or census blocks). For countries/areas in Asia, census data was most frequently disseminated at the smallest administrative divisions within a country or at administrative units on a higher geographical level. For countries/areas in Europe, one square kilometer grids or grids with resolution below one square kilometer were most frequently reported as the lowest level of dissemination. (see Annex 2, Table 19)

I.   Challenges and Successes [Q38 – Q40]

Challenges

43.   The survey results highlighted several key challenges faced by countries during the 2020 round of population and housing censuses. Improving coverage and data quality emerged as the top concern, cited by 78 per cent of countries/areas. Indeed, ensuring complete coverage of the population, especially in remote or marginalized areas, and among hard-to-reach groups such as mobile populations and slum dwellers, remains a significant challenge. Maintaining data quality requires rigorous training of field staff, effective supervision, and quality control measures. Additionally, implementing new technologies and ensuring their effective use was also a major

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challenge, mentioned by 75 per cent of countries/areas. While technology can improve efficiency and accuracy, its implementation requires significant investment in infrastructure, training, and technical support.

44.   Timely completion of census operations, managing public trust, and recruiting and training field staff were also identified as critical issues. 75, 70, and 69 per cent of countries/areas, respectively, highlighted these challenges. Implementing new methodologies and securing adequate financial resources were cited by 67 and 63 per cent of countries/areas. Figure 12 shows the full list of challenges and the relative difficulty (moderate or severe) of each challenge.

45.   Looking only at the areas identified as a "significant challenge" provides a slightly different picture. Through this lens, timeliness (38 per cent), technology (34 per cent), and managing public trust (31 percent) remain amongst the highest ranked challenges. However, the recruitment and training of field staff (36 per cent) and securing financial resources (32 per cent) ranked much higher when only focusing on the significant challenges faced during the round.

Figure 7 What challenges did you face in planning and/or conducting your census?

Improving coverage and data quality — 29
Timeliness — 38
Implementing new technologies — 34
Managing public trust / perceptions — 31
Recruiting and training field staff — 36
Implementing new methodologies — 23
Financial resources — 32
Improving data dissemination — 13
Keeping to budget — 26
Privacy and confidentiality concerns — 17
Identifying residential addresses — 16
Legal authority / Governmental support — 14

■ Significant challenge   ▨ Moderate challenge

Successes

46.   The survey also requested countries to highlight key achievements and successes in conducting their population and housing censuses during the 2020 round. Overall, the 2020 round of censuses was marked by significant achievements in terms of technological innovation, methodological improvements, and operational efficiency. These successes will contribute to the production of high-quality census data that can inform evidence-based policymaking and planning.

47.   In particular, countries reported the following key achievements: improvement in the use of information technologies (65 per cent of countries/areas), reflecting the increased adoption of digital tools for data collection, processing, and analysis; enhancements in data quality (61 per cent); enhancements in census methodologies (60 per cent), such as the use of mobile devices and online self-enumeration, along with the integration of administrative data sources; keeping census operations within budget (56 per cent), a significant achievement given the challenges of large-scale data collection.

Figure 8 What were your successes in the 2020 round of censuses?

Per cent of countries/areas identifying each success
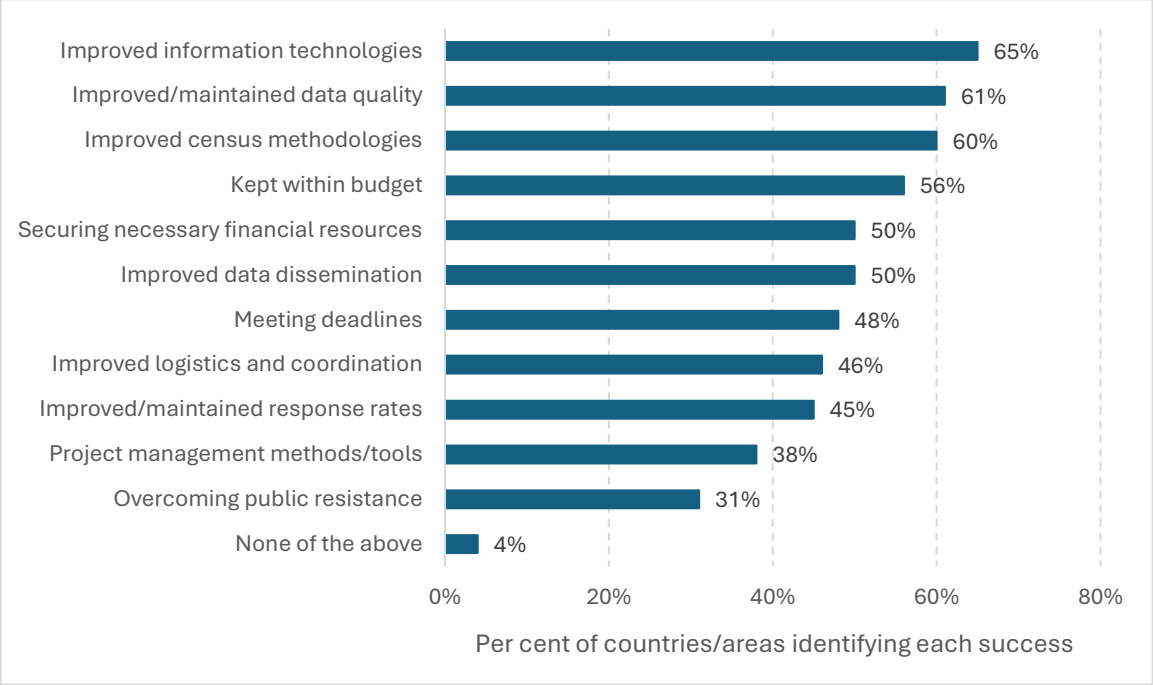
Challenge/Success Matrix

48.   The survey asked about 12 challenges. For seven of these challenges, countries/areas were also asked an equivalent question to determine if the area was also a success in the 2020 round. The area of challenge/success and the questions asked in the survey are shown in figure 14.

Figure 9 Questions asked as both challenges and successes

Area	*Challenge question text*	*Success question text*
Technology	Implementing new technologies	Improved information technologies
Quality	Improving coverage and data quality	Improved/maintained data quality
Methodology	Implementing new methodologies	Improved census methodologies
Budget	Keeping to budget	Kept within budget
Financial resources	Financial resources	Securing necessary financial resources
Timeliness	Timeliness	Meeting deadlines
Public support	Managing public trust / perceptions about the census	Overcoming public resistance

49.   Plotting these challenges and successes on the same chart provides further insights about the extent to which countries/areas overcame challenges and whether countries were able to turn these challenges into successes during the 2020 round (see Figure 15).

Figure 10 Challenges and successes in the 2020 round
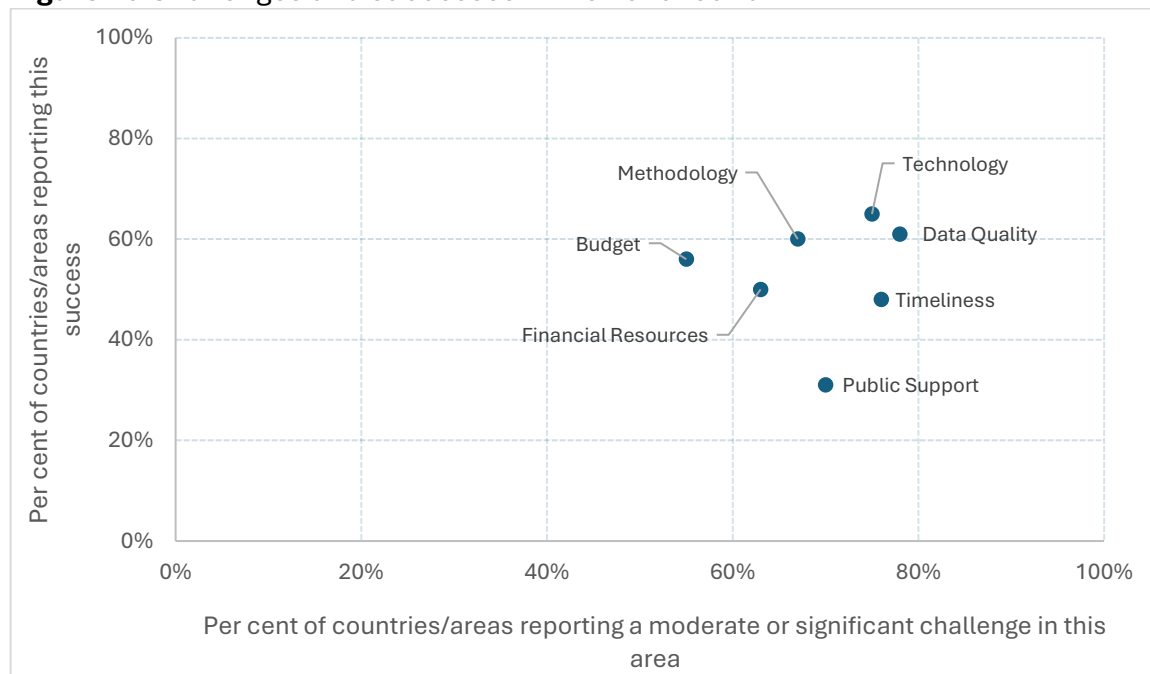
50.   Two areas reported as considerable challenges: technology and data quality were also reported as big successes in the 2020 round. The rapid shift towards digital collection methods, and the success of maintaining data quality during this transition, were clearly two accomplishments countries were very proud of. Although implementing new methodologies was considered less challenging than technology and data quality issues, countries still considered improved methodologies as a key success story during the 2020 round.

51.   Countries reported less success overcoming timeliness challenges and maintaining public support. These two areas were identified as challenges by over 70 per cent of countries, however, only 48 per cent reported meeting deadlines as a success and even fewer (31 per cent) reported overcoming public resistance.

J. Countries not conducting a census in the 2020 round [Q43 – Q44]

52.   Seventeen countries that did not conduct a census in the 2020 round responded to the survey. These countries are shown in Annex 2, Table 1. The primary reason reported for not conducting a census was lack of budget (65 per cent). Other reasons included: problems/delays with preparations, COVID-19 pandemic, political instability, and lack of security. See Annex 2, Table 22.

K. Plans for the 2030 Round [Q45 – Q47]

17

53.   Regardless of whether a country conducted a census during the 2020 round, all 155 responding countries/areas were asked about their plans for the 2030 census round. At the time of completing the survey (August – November 2024), just over half of the responding countries knew the reference date (either exact or provisional) for their 2030 round census. One quarter had a provisional reference date, while just over one quarter had an exact date planned for their 2030 round census. Just under half (48 per cent) of the countries/areas did not yet know the expected reference date.

Figure 11: Expected reference dates in the 2030 round

Do you know the expected reference date(s) for your census in the 2030 round?
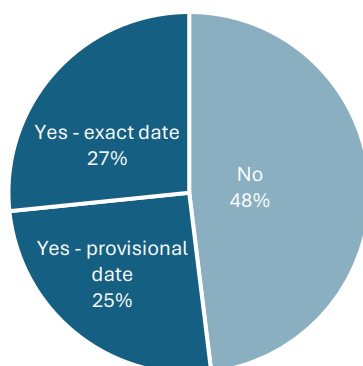
54.   Based on the indicative census dates provided by countries, 2030 and 2031 will likely be the peak years for census taking in the 2030 round. The other peak will occur at the start of the round. Twenty countries indicated that the census would take place in 2025, this includes 6 countries that delayed their census beyond the end of the 2020 round, as well as another 10 countries that have previously conducted more than one census per round.

Figure 12 What is the census reference date for your 2030 round census?
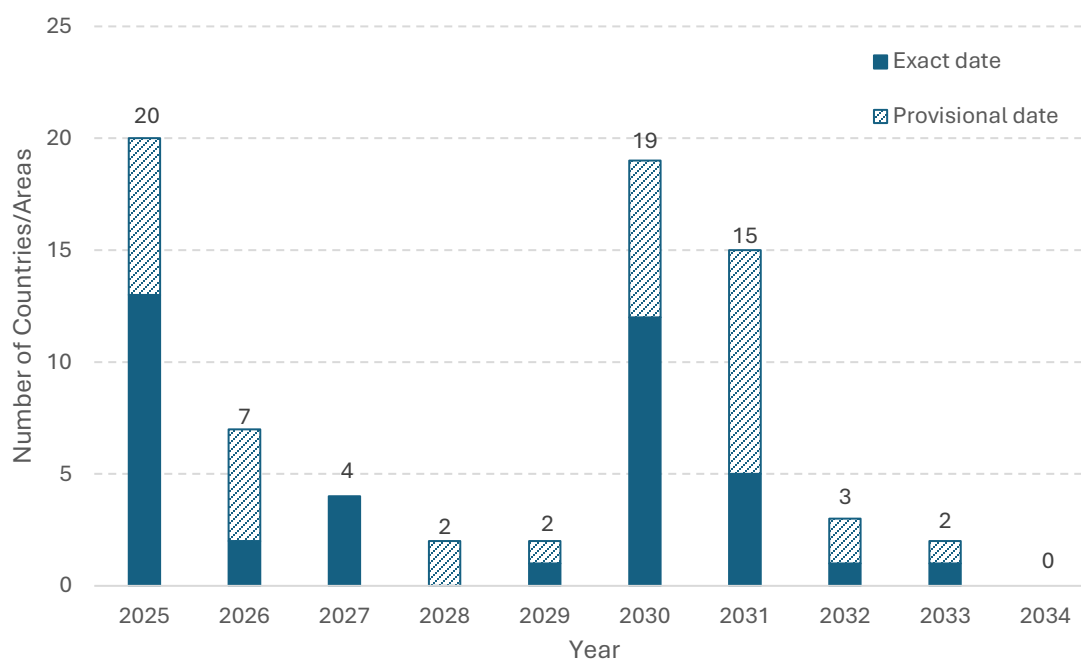
55.   Survey data also show that the 2030 census round is expected to witness significant advancements in methodology and technology, there will be increased reliance on administrative data sources to supplement field-based operations and further use of population and housing censuses as a core component of population data systems.

56.   Based on responses to the survey about future plans, the 2030 round will see a higher proportion of countries/areas using combined and register based approaches. The per cent of countries/areas using a combined approach will increase from 18 per cent to 24 per cent, while the per cent of countries/areas taking a fully register based approach is set to increase from 12 per cent to 24 per cent. Although fewer countries intend to use full field enumeration in the 2030 round (down from 69 per cent to 54 per cent), the traditional approach to the census is still intended to be used by most countries. Full field enumeration will remain the most commonly used method, particularly for countries in Africa and the Americas. The regional distribution and a comparison to the previous round is shown in Figure 18.

Figure 13 Main census methodology used (planned to be used) in the 2020 and 2030 rounds

World

69% (2020 round)
54% (2030 round)
24% (2030 round)
18% (2020 round)
12% (2020 round)
23% (2030 round)

Africa

100% (2020 round)
88% (2030 round)
9% (2030 round)
3% (2030 round)

Americas

92% (2020 round)
78% (2030 round)
16% (2030 round)
6% (2020 round)
3% (2020 round)
6% (2030 round)

Asia

30% (2030 round)
53% (2020 round)
37% (2030 round)
36% (2020 round)
33% (2030 round)
38% (2020 round)

Europe

31% (2020 round)
36% (2030 round)
7% (2030 round)
31% (2020 round)
57% (2030 round)
38% (2020 round)

● Full Field Enumeration ● Combined ● Fully Register-Based

Part Two: Review of Census Topics Collected in the 2020 Round

I.   Introduction

57.   Revision 4 of the United Nations Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses (P&R) has been submitted to the United Nations Statistical Commission for adoption at its fifty sixth session in 2025.

58.   The publication introduces several new topics relative to its earlier versions. For example, it recommends additional technology questions related to uses of the internet and ownership of mobile phones; a wider range of questions related to migration such as reasons for international migration, reason for change of residence and ever residing abroad; questions on registration of vital events and assignment of legal identity; as well as questions on farm size and livestock. Descriptions of these new topics, along with the topics from previous versions are contained in Part five of the latest P&R.

59.   The list of Housing and Population topics included in the P&R are based on the global and regional census experience of the last several decades. The Population Topics are grouped under nine headings: "Geographical and internal migration characteristics", "International migration characteristics", "Household and family characteristics", "Demographic and social characteristics", "Fertility and mortality", "Educational characteristics", "Economic characteristics", "Disability characteristics" and "Agriculture". This grouping, along with the topics regarded as core topics or additional topics, as well as whether a topic is new in the latest revision is shown in Annex 3 Table 2. The housing topics and their classification as core or additional is shown in Annex 3, Table 3.

60.   The P&R makes a distinction between topics collected directly (those that appear in the census questionnaire), and derived topics. The former are those for which data are collected by a specific item on the census. Although data for the derived topics also come from information in the questionnaire, they do not necessarily come from replies to a specific question.

II.   Objectives of *Part Two* of this report

61.   The main objective of Part Two of this report is to review and document country practice in the implementation of population and housing census topics—as recommended in the latest revision of the P&R. This analysis provides background information for the Statistical Commission to inform discussion on the latest revision and provides a summary of country practice in the 2020 round.

62.   Part Two of this report attempts to ascertain to what extent the P&R recommendations (from revision 3) on housing and population census topics have been implemented within 2020 round censuses, as well as the frequency that newly proposed topics (in revision 4) were asked by countries during the 2020 round.

III.   Scope and method of review and limitations

A. Scope and method of review

63.	The present report is based on a comprehensive review of census questionnaires used in 103 countries across the world—23 countries in Africa, 17 in the Americas, 27 in Asia, 23 in Europe and 13 in Oceania. Annex 3 lists the countries included in analysis for this report.

64.	The questionnaires for this review were obtained via desk-based research by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) which involved searching NSO websites and publicly available material. The review in this report covers mostly countries that rely on the traditional census. The experience of countries using registers and other sources not involving fieldwork through a questionnaire are generally not included.

65.	This report is based solely on the review of census questionnaires and the information contained therein. Detailed information contained in other census documents, instructions and manuals—which would be needed for a fuller understanding of a country's experience and compliance with international recommendations in terms of concepts, definitions and classifications used—were not consulted for the purpose of this review.

66.	The method for identifying the topics implemented by the countries involved a review of the wordings and the meanings contained in the instructions, question headings, questions, sub-questions, response categories, classifications and codebooks (when found on the questionnaires). This information was examined in relation to the topics, concepts, definitions, classifications and explanatory text contained in the P&R (revision 3 and newly proposed topics in revision 4). That information was subsequently summarized to obtain the rates of implementation of the recommended topics at the regional and global levels.

B. Limitations

67.	It should be noted at the outset that there are a few challenges and limitations that should be taken into consideration when interpreting the findings of this report. First, the P&R does not provide recommended and specific wordings for questions on the topics that it recommends. As a result, one's reading of the questions appearing on census questionnaires in relation to the text in the P&R could lead to different interpretations. Second, because of space limitation on census questionnaires, countries are restricted in the amount of detail they can provide, which in turn limits a fuller appreciation of the questions posed and the concepts behind them. Third, due to the existence in some countries of reliable non-census sources (e.g. administrative registers, established surveys) for some of the P&R recommended topics, such topics may not appear on the census questionnaires of those countries. Just because a topic did not appear on the census questionnaire of a country, it could not automatically be assumed that that topic was not of relevance to that country. The foregoing limitations and caveats should be taken into consideration when interpreting the findings in this report.

## IV.	Highlights and the findings

A. The frequency of population topics asked during the 2020 round

68.   Overall, the set of population census topics, as recommended in Revision 3 of the P&R, has been implemented by a considerable number of countries across the world. While most of the recommended population census topics were found to be relevant to all regions, some topics were a priority and of high relevance only in a few regions.

69.   Figure 19 provides a summary of all population topics from the P&R revision 3, along with an indication of the topics status as a core or additional topic, plus the frequency of newly proposed topics in P&R revision 4 observed during the 2020 round.

Figure 14 Frequency of population topics asked in 2020 round questionnaires
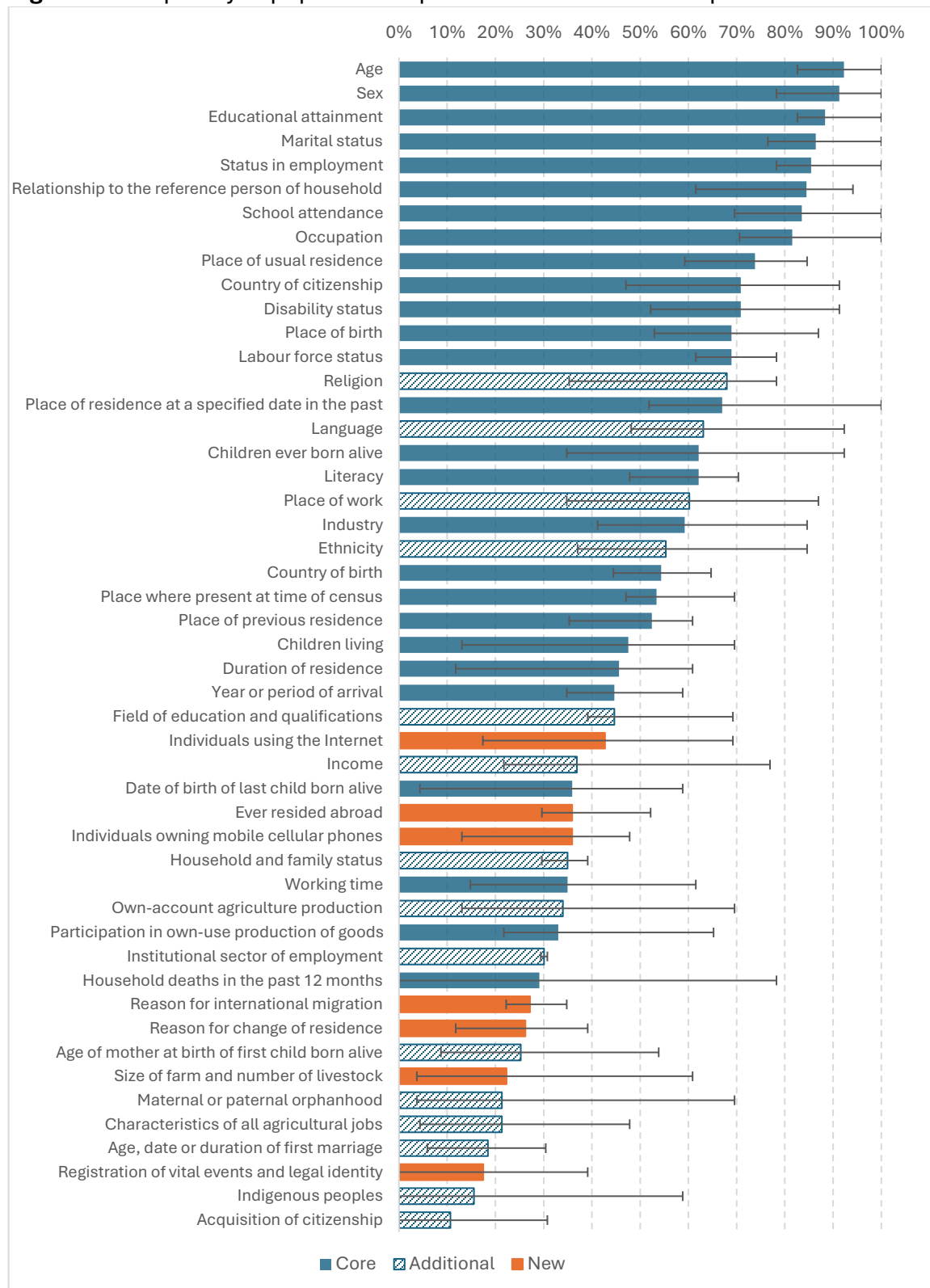
Note: Errors bars represent the regional variation, showing the highest and lowest prevalence for each topic in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, Oceania.

70.   This report provides some broad observations about the frequency of topics asked in the 2020 round, however, not all topics are discussed. For those interested in a specific topic, the full table of counts by region are available in Annex 3 to allow further analysis and exploration of regional trends.

71.   Age and sex are the most frequently asked topics and included in over 90 per cent of the census questionnaires. In addition, educational attainment, marital status and status in employment are the next most frequently asked topics and included by over 85 per cent of countries.

72.   The 13 most frequently asked topics are also core topics. There is less regional variation in the most frequently asked topics. Amongst the 27 most frequent topics, only four topics – Religion, Language, Place of Work, and Ethnicity - are designated as additional topics. Despite not being core topics, many countries include these topics in their census questionnaires.

73.   Four core topics were asked less frequently in the 2020 round.
   i.   Date of birth of the last child born alive was asked by 36 per cent of countries and asked more frequently in the Americas, Oceania and Africa (59, 54 and 52 per cent respectively). The topic was seldomly included by European countries (4 per cent).
   ii.   Working time was included by 35 per cent of countries analyzed. Frequently asked in Oceania (62 per cent), but less frequently amongst countries in Asia (14 per cent).
   iii.   Questions on participation in own-use production of goods were included by 33 per cent of countries. Primarily asked in African countries (65 per cent), and less frequently in all other regions (between 22 and 33 per cent).
   iv.   The core question on household deaths in the past 12 months was asked by 29 per cent of countries. However, there is significant regional variation with 78 per cent of countries in Africa including this topic, compared with 29 per cent in the Americas, 19 per cent in Asia, and 15 per cent in Oceania. None of the European countries analyzed included this question.

74.   Revision 4 of the P&R suggests several new topics for inclusion as population census topics. Six new topics are included in the P&R and these questions were included in the 2020 round census questionnaires of between 43 per cent and 18 per cent of countries.
   i.   Questions on the use of the internet were ask by 43 per cent of countries, and most frequently asked in Oceania (69 per cent).
   ii.   The topic ever resided abroad was asked by 36 per cent of countries and most frequently asked in Europe (52 per cent)
   iii.   Ownership of mobile cellular phones was also asked by 36 per cent of countries and most frequently by African countries (48 per cent)
   iv.   Reason for international migration was asked by 27 per cent of countries, with very little regional variation (22 per cent in Asia to 35 per cent in Africa)
   v.   Questions relating to the size of farm and number of livestock were asked by 22 per cent of countries. These questions are more likely to be included in censuses conducted by African countries (61 per cent).
   vi.   Questions on the registration of vital events and assignment of legal identity were asked by 17 per cent of countries. In the 2020 census round, these questions were more likely to be included by countries in Africa (39 per cent) and the Americas (24 per cent).

B. Comparison of population topics collected in the 2010 and 2020 round

75.   In 2013, UNSD conducted a similar analysis of the population topics[11]. Figure 20 plots the prevalence of population topics during the 2010 against the prevalence of the same set of population topics in the 2020 round. The chart attempts to identify which topics were more frequently included in the census (those above the line) during the 2020 round, and which topics where less likely to be included in the census (those below the line) during the 2020 round. Care should be taken when interpreting these results as the percentages are based on two different sets of countries, as well as a different number of countries (124 in the 2013 analysis and 103 in the 2024 analysis).

76.   Except for educational attainment, which was asked more frequently in the 2020 round, the analysis showed that the most frequently asked topics in the 2010 round were asked slightly less during the 2020 round. Care should be taken before drawing too much from this reduction, in most cases, the decrease was because only the housing questionnaire was able to be sourced and included in the analysis. On further investigation, age and sex are still universally collected in all the individual level census questionnaires analyzed. There was, however, a noticeable reduction in questions related to industry and country of birth which became less frequently asked in the 2020 round. The reduced frequency of questions about industry of employment maybe partly explained by the corresponding increased frequency of questions on place of work, with countries deriving industry from place of work by referencing business registers after collection instead of including industry questions directly in the census.

77.   Field of education and qualifications became more frequently asked, which is inline with the increased inclusion of questions on educational attainment. Place of previous residence also became more prevalent indicating countries are increasingly using the census as a tool for monitoring internal and international migration.

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[11] https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/meetings/egm/NewYork/2013/UNSD_Population_topics.pdf

Figure 15: How frequently are population topics included in the census (comparison of the 2010 and 2020 round)
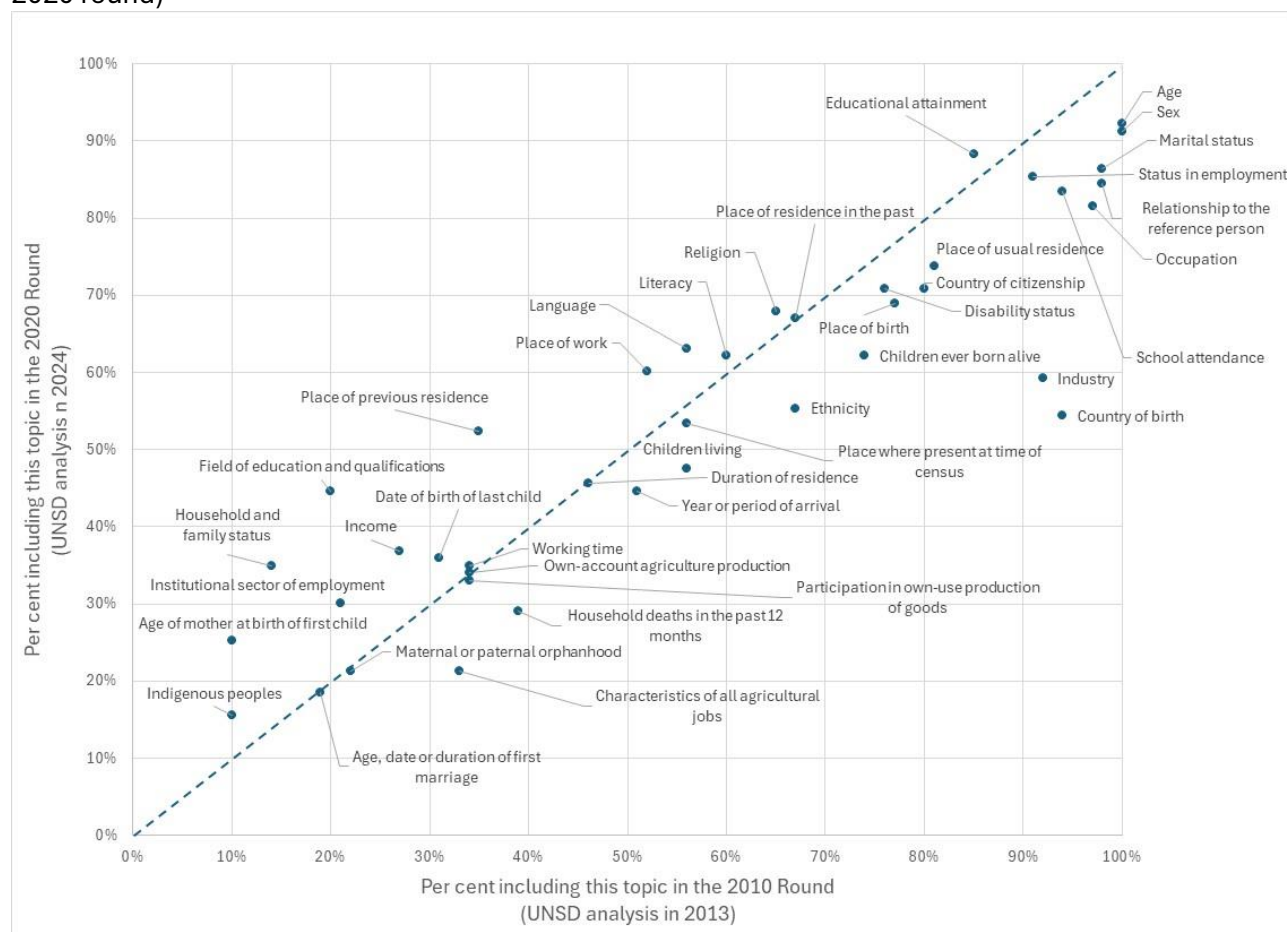
C. The frequency of housing topics asked during the 2020 round

78. In addition to the population topics, UNSD also collected and summarized information on the set of housing topics included in the 2020 round. The prevalence of the housing topics amongst the countries analyzed is shown in Figure 21.

79. The most frequently included topics, which are part of the core topics, reflect fundamental aspects of living conditions. These include the type of living quarters (75 per cent), ownership type (71 per cent), and the number of rooms (68 per cent). These elements are essential for assessing basic living standards and infrastructure.

80. Among the core topics, the type of toilet (60 per cent) and occupancy status (59 per cent) are also asked by the majority of countries, indicating their importance in understanding sanitation facilities and living arrangements. Additionally, the location of living quarters (57 per cent) and the water supply system (54 per cent) are critical for evaluating the accessibility and quality of basic utilities, which are vital for daily living.

81.   Construction materials for outer walls (53 per cent) and the type of lighting/electricity (53 per cent) are also core topics, highlighting the importance of building safety and energy sources. Other notable core topics include the availability of fuel for cooking (49 per cent) and the main source of drinking water (47 per cent), which are crucial for health and daily activities. These core topics ensure that the census captures the most critical aspects of living conditions.

82.   In the middle range, there is a mix of core and additional topics. With the availability of ICT devices (50 per cent) the most frequently asked additional topic. This increased popularity of questions about the availability of ICT devices is in line with the proposed changes in the latest revision of the P&R, where owing a mobile phone and use of the internet are proposed as new population topics collected for everyone within the household. The number of bedrooms (48 per cent) and construction materials of floors and roofs (48 per cent) are also frequently asked additional topics.

83.   The least frequently included housing topics are predominantly additional topics, included by fewer countries. These cover aspects like durable household appliances (39 per cent) and the number of cars available (30 per cent), contributing to understanding the overall quality of life. Other additional topics include the availability of hot water (17 per cent) and the accessibility to the dwelling (12 per cent), which, while relevant, are less critical compared to the core topics.

84.   For those interested in further insights, the prevalence of each topic, as well as the regional breakdown, are available in Annex 3, Table 3.

Figure 16 Frequency of housing topics asked in 2020 round questionnaires
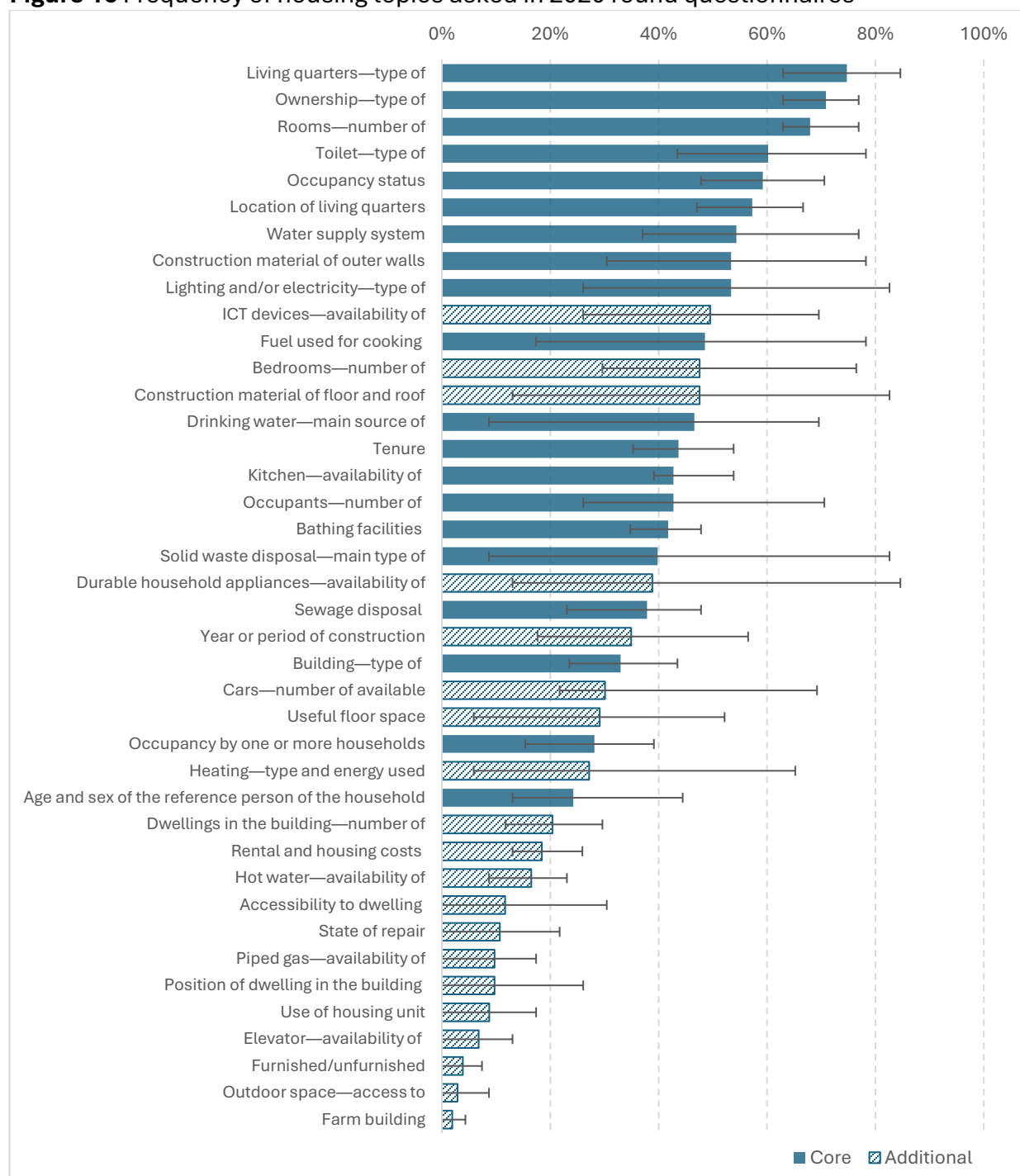
Note: Errors bars represent the regional variation, showing the highest and lowest prevalence for each topic in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe, Oceania.

ANNEX 1: Survey Questionnaire (Third UNSD Survey)

UNSD survey: 2020 round of population and housing censuses

This online-based survey is being conducted by the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD).
The purpose of the survey is to collect information on the outcomes of the 2020 round of censuses and to gather information on the plans for the 2030 round of censuses. The information collected by the survey will provide the information base for the report of the United Nations Secretary-General to the United Nations Statistical Commission. This survey's responses will also inform the ongoing preparation of the revised UN Principles and Recommendations for the 2030 round of censuses.

The survey is prepared under the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) resolution E/RES/2015/10 which established the 2020 World Population and Housing Census Programme. The resolution requested the Secretary-General to monitor and regularly report to the Statistical Commission on the status of census-taking among United Nations Member States.

The question set varies depending on the type and status of the 2020 round census:

Information about the 2020 round is collected from all countries that conducted (or plan to conduct) a census between the start of 2015 and the end of 2024. Most questions are asked of all respondents, although slightly different questions are asked based on the type of census conducted (full-field enumeration, combined, or fully register-based).

For countries that did not conduct a census during the 2020 census round (2015 - 2024), additional information is sought about the reasons for not conducting a census during the round and the status of any preparation and planning activities.

Finally, all countries are asked about plans for the next round (2030) of population and housing censuses.

The questionnaire should be completed by—preferably—the Census Manager or the person responsible for population and housing censuses.

Questions marked with an asterisk (*) must be answered by all respondents.

If there are any questions regarding this questionnaire, please send your queries to censusprogramme@un.org (with a copy to smith61@un.org).

Kindly observe the extended deadline of **8 November 2024** for completing the questionnaire.

Contact Information: Please provide the contact information for the Census Manager (or the person with overall responsibility for the census of population and housing) and for the respondent/official filling this questionnaire, if different from the Census Manager. Questions marked with an asterisk (*) are required to be answered by all respondents.

1. Country Name *
   _____

2. Respondent Full Name *
   _____

3. Respondent Title/Position *
   _____

4. Respondent Email
   _____

5. Census Manager Full Name (if different to the respondent)
   _____

6. Census Manager Title/Position (if different to the respondent)
   _____

7. Census Manager Email (if different to the respondent)
   _____

8. Have you conducted a census in the 2020 round? (i.e. in the period from 2015 to 2024) *
   (Mark only one answer)
   ☐   Yes: one census in the period
   ☐   Yes: more than one census in the period **(skip to question 10)**
   ☐   No - but we are planning to conduct one before the end of 2024
   ☐   No, and we are NOT planning to conduct one before the end of 2024 **(skip to question 43)**

9. Census reference date(s): *
   _____ **(skip to question 11)**

10. Please list the census reference dates during the 2020 round (2015 - 2024) *
    If more than one population and housing census is taken/planned during the 2020 census round, then the date should refer to the census taken in the year nearest to January 1st, 2020

    _____

11. Has the census date ever changed?
    (Mark only one answer)
    ☐   Yes

☐ No

12. What is the reason(s) for the change of the census date?
 (Mark all that apply)
  ☐ COVID-19 pandemic
  ☐ Budget
  ☐ Security
  ☐ Political instability
  ☐ Natural disaster
  ☐ Lack of legal authority/Government support (e.g. decree/proclamation not issued yet)
  ☐ Problems/delays with preparations
  ☐ Other

13. How was the budget impacted (expected to be impacted) due to COVID-19? *
 (Mark only one answer)
  ☐ No change to the budget **(skip to question 16)**
  ☐ Budget increased (expected to increase) **(go to question 14)**
  ☐ Budget decreased (expected to decrease) (e.g. as governments shift budgetary resources to fight the pandemic) **(skip to question 15)**

14. Specify the major reason(s) for the budget increase due to COVID-19: *

   [   ]

 (skip to question 16)

15. Specify the major reason(s) for the budget decrease due to COVID-19: *

   [   ]

16. What concept of population count was used?
 (Mark all that apply)
  ☐ Population present count (i.e., de facto, the place a person is at the time of the census)
  ☐ Usual resident count (i.e., de jure, the place a person spends most of his/her daily night-rest)
  ☐ Other

17. Which census method was used (will be used) for conducting the census?
(Mark only one answer)
  ☐ Full field enumeration (traditional census) **(skip to question 26)**
  ☐ Full field enumeration with yearly updates of characteristics **(skip to question 26)**
  ☐ Rolling census **(skip to question 26)**

☐   Combined census - registers and full field enumeration **(skip to question 24)**

☐   Combined census - registers and sample surveys **(skip to question 24)**

☐   Combined census - linking registers and existing sample surveys (i.e. no field-based collection) **(skip to question 20)**

☐   Fully register-based census **(skip to question 20)**

☐   Other **(go to question 18)**

18. Briefly describe the census method used (or planned to be used) if it doesn't fit any of the above categories:

<div style="border:1px solid black; height:60px;"></div>

19. Please complete the set of questions most aligned with your census methodology * *(select one)*

☐   Traditional (full-field enumeration) Census **(skip to question 26)**

☐   Combined Census **(skip to question 24)**

☐   Register-based Census **(skip to question 20)**

Questions for register-based censuses

20. For register-based censuses, how do you measure the accuracy of the census data (e.g. population count)?
Give brief details, specifying separately for data source quality; input data quality; process quality; and output quality (in terms of both coverage and content).

<div style="border:1px solid black; height:60px;"></div>

21. For population counts based on administrative registers (e.g., population register), please indicate the criteria used to determine place of usual residence, including any applicable reference time periods. *
Give brief details of criteria used

<div style="border:1px solid black; height:60px;"></div>

22. What type of registers were used (will be used)? *

☐   Population register

☐   Address register

☐   Building/dwelling register

☐   Business register

☐   Employment/unemployment/jobseekers register

☐   Social security/protection/insurance register

☐ Tax register
☐ Education/students register
☐ Health register
☐ Border control register
☐ Other (Please Specify)

_____

23. If you perform record linkage in your census process, how do you measure the quality of record linkage?
Give brief details of record linkage quality measurement:

```
┌─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┐
│                                                             │
│                                                             │
│                                                             │
└─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┘
```

Skip to question 45

Questions for combined censuses

24. What type of registers were used (will be used)? *
☐ Population register
☐ Address register
☐ Building/dwelling register
☐ Business register
☐ Employment/unemployment/jobseekers register
☐ Social security/protection/insurance register
☐ Tax register
☐ Education/students register
☐ Health register
☐ Border control register
☐ Other (Please Specify)

_____

25. If you perform record linkage in your census process, how do you measure the quality of record linkage?
Give brief details of record linkage quality measurement:

```
┌─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┐
│                                                             │
│                                                             │
│                                                             │
└─────────────────────────────────────────────────────────────┘
```

Questions for full field enumeration censuses and combined censuses

26. Which method(s) of enumeration was used (will be used) for field-based data collection?
(Mark all that apply)

☐   Not applicable (no field-based data collection; fully register based census)
☐   Face-to-face interview with paper questionnaire
☐   Face-to-face interview with electronic questionnaire (CAPI)
☐   Self-response with paper questionnaire (questionnaire mailed out/mailed back)
☐   Self-response with paper questionnaire (questionnaire delivered/collected by enumerator)
☐   Internet self-response (CAWI), on-line or off-line (using downloadable form)
☐   Telephone interview, using paper questionnaire
☐   Telephone interview, using electronic questionnaire (CATI)
☐   Telephone interview, using automated telephone interviewing/interactive voice response (IVR)
☐   Other

27. What specific reference time-period is typically used to determine place of usual residence? (for countries using the "usual resident count" concept)
(Mark only one answer)
☐   Not required/Not applicable
☐   Less than 3 months
☐   At least 3 months/90 days
☐   At least 6 months/180 days
☐   At least 1 year
☐   Other

28. Did you collect/use geographic coordinates (e.g. GPS coordinates) for any of the following:
(Mark all the apply)
☐   Not applicable (no collection or plans to collect/use GPS coordinates)
☐   Enumeration area (centroid and/or boundary)
☐   Building and housing unit location
☐   Roads and other features (such as railroads, water bodies, facilities, landmarks, etc)
☐   Other

29. Which of the following method(s) of evaluation did you use (will use) to measure the accuracy of the population count?
(Mark all the apply)
☐   Not applicable (no plan to conduct evaluation of census data quality)
☐   Post enumeration survey
☐   Other form of coverage survey
☐   Demographic analysis
☐   Comparison with results of existing household surveys
☐   Comparison with aggregate administrative datasets
☐   Comparison with unit record administrative datasets
☐   Analysis of questionnaire return rates
☐   Other

30. Did you (or will you) make adjustments to the population count before publication?
(Mark only one answer)
☐   No **(skip to question 32)**

☐   Yes, both adjusted and unadjusted statistics were (or will be) published
☐   Yes, only adjusted statistics were (or will be) published
☐   Other

31. Briefly describe the method(s) used to adjust population counts

32. Did you measure the accuracy of the responses (content error)?
    (Mark only one answer)
    ☐   Yes
    ☐   No **(skip to question 34)**

33. Specify the method(s) used to assess content error

34. Was an evaluation of the field operation carried out and report published?
    (Mark only one answer)
    ☐   Yes, carried out and a report was (or will be) published
    ☐   Evaluation carried out but a report not published
    ☐   No evaluation carried out

35. Which of the following contemporary data dissemination products do you plan to provide to data users?
    (Mark all the apply)
    ☐   Interactive online databases
    ☐   GIS web-based mapping tools
    ☐   Grid based outputs
    ☐   Anonymized microdata
    ☐   Other

36. What type of microdata did you (or will you) disseminate?
    (Mark all the apply)
    ☐   Synthetic microdata available to all users
    ☐   Microdata samples available to all users
    ☐   Microdata samples available only to selected users under specific conditions
    ☐   Not yet decided
    ☐   None
    ☐   Other

37. What is the smallest geographical level at which census data set (e.g., population count) is disseminated?
(Mark only one answer)
☐ Census enumeration area / census block
☐ 1 Km2 (one square kilometer) grid
☐ Grid with resolution below 1 Km2 (e.g., 100m x 100m, 500m x 500m)
☐ Smallest administrative divisions within a country (e.g., LAU2 in the European context)
☐ Administrative units on a higher geographical level
☐ Other

38. What challenges did you face in planning and/or conducting your census?
(Mark one answer per row)

	Significant challenge	Moderate challenge	Not a challenge	Not applicable
Legal authority / Governmental support	☐	☐	☐	☐
Financial resources	☐	☐	☐	☐
Keeping to budget	☐	☐	☐	☐
Timeliness	☐	☐	☐	☐
Improving coverage and data quality	☐	☐	☐	☐
Privacy and confidentiality concerns	☐	☐	☐	☐
Managing public trust / perceptions about the census	☐	☐	☐	☐
Identifying residential addresses	☐	☐	☐	☐
Recruiting and training field staff	☐	☐	☐	☐
Implementing new technologies	☐	☐	☐	☐
Implementing new methodologies	☐	☐	☐	☐
Improving data dissemination	☐	☐	☐	☐

39. Specify any additional challenges not listed above:

40. What were your successes in the 2020 round of censuses?
☐ Kept within budget
☐ Securing necessary financial resources
☐ Meeting deadlines
☐ Improved logistics and coordination
☐ Overcoming public resistance
☐ Implementation of project management methods/tools
☐ Improved/maintained response/participation rates
☐ Improved/maintained data quality
☐ Improved data dissemination
☐ Improved information technologies

☐   Improved census methodologies
☐   None of the above
☐   Other

41. Please provide links to the final census report and questionaries (individual, household, and other types) if these are available online. Alternatively, please email these documents to censusprogramme@un.org (copy to dybquest@un.org)

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42. Additional information. Please provide any additional information about your 2020 round census that you wish to mention which is not addressed elsewhere in this questionnaire.

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Skip to question 45

Questions for countries that did not conduct a census during the 2020 round

43. What are the reasons for not conducting a census in the 2020 round? *
☐   COVID-19 pandemic
☐   Lack of budget
☐   Lack of security
☐   Political instability
☐   Natural disaster
☐   Lack of legal authority / Government support (e.g. decree/proclamation not issued yet)
☐   Problems/delays with preparations
☐   Other

44. Indicate the current status of the census by marking completed and in-progress activities (Mark only one answer per row)

	Completed	In Progress
Planning	☐	☐
Mapping	☐	☐
Design census questionnaire(s) and applications	☐	☐
Build systems and infrastructure	☐	☐
Pilot/Pre-testing	☐	☐
Enumeration	☐	☐
Data processing	☐	☐
Analysis of data quality	☐	☐
Dissemination and analysis	☐	☐
Evaluation	☐	☐

Plans for the 2030 round

45. Do you know the expected reference date(s) for your census in the 2030 round? (the period from 2025 to 2034)
    (Mark only one answer)
    ☐   Yes - we have an exact date
    ☐   Yes - but the date is provisional
    ☐   No   **(Skip to question 47)**

46. What is the census reference date for your 2030 round census?
    If more than one census is planned for the 2030 round, please enter the date of the first census in the round

    _____

47. What will be the main census method for the census in the 2030 round (2025 - 2034)?
    (Mark only one answer)
    ☐   Full field enumeration (traditional census) **(end of survey)**
    ☐   Full field enumeration with yearly updates of characteristics **(end of survey)**
    ☐   Rolling census **(end of survey)**
    ☐   Combined census - registers and full field enumeration **(end of survey)**
    ☐   Combined census - registers and sample surveys **(end of survey)**
    ☐   Combined census - linking registers and existing sample surveys **(end of survey)**
    ☐   Fully register-based census **(end of survey)**
    ☐   Other **(go to question 48)**

48. Briefly describe the census method used (or planned to be used) if it doesn't fit any of the above categories:

    ┌──┐
    │   │
    │   │
    │   │
    └──┘

    (end of survey)

Please submit your response

UNSD would like to thank you for completing this questionnaire. The information you have provided will provide the information base for the report of the Secretary-General to the Statistical Commission, for assessing evolving census methods and use of technology as well as for identifying possible trends and emerging challenges for the 2020 round.

ANNEX 2: Tabulation of Survey Results by Question and Region

Table 1: List of countries or areas that responded to the survey

Africa (35)	Americas (38)	Asia (40)	Europe (36)	Oceania (6)
Algeria	Argentina	Armenia	Åland Islands	Guam
Benin	Aruba	Azerbaijan	Albania	Kiribati
Botswana	Bahamas	Bahrain	Andorra *	Marshall Islands
Burkina Faso	Barbados	Bangladesh	Austria	New Zealand
Burundi	Belize	Bhutan	Belarus	Samoa
Cabo Verde	Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	China	Belgium	Tokelau
Cameroon *	Brazil	China, Hong Kong Special	Bosnia and Herzegovina *	
Chad *	Canada	Administrative Region	Bulgaria	
Comoros	Cayman Islands	Cyprus	Croatia	
Congo	Chile	Georgia	Denmark	
Côte d'Ivoire	Colombia	Indonesia	Finland	
Democratic	Costa Rica	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	France	
Republic of the	Cuba *	Iraq	Greece	
Congo *	Dominica	Israel	Hungary	
Djibouti	Dominican Republic	Japan	Iceland	
Egypt	Ecuador	Jordan	Ireland	
Equatorial	El Salvador	Kazakhstan	Italy	
Guinea	Greenland	Kuwait	Latvia	
Eswatini	Guadeloupe	Kyrgyzstan	Liechtenstein	
Guinea	Guatemala	Lao People's Democratic	Lithuania	
Kenya	Guyana	Republic	Luxembourg	
Libya *	Martinique	Malaysia	Malta	
Madagascar	Mexico	Maldives	Netherlands	
Mauritania	Montserrat	Mongolia	North Macedonia	
Mauritius	Panama	Myanmar	Norway	
Morocco	Paraguay	Nepal	Poland	
Niger *	Peru	Oman	Portugal	
Nigeria	Puerto Rico	Pakistan	Republic of Moldova	
Rwanda	Saint Barthélemy	Philippines	Serbia	
Senegal	Saint Kitts and Nevis	Qatar	Slovakia	
Sierra Leone	Saint Martin (French Part)	Republic of Korea	Slovenia	
Somalia *	Saint Vincent and the	Saudi Arabia	Spain	
South Africa	Grenadines	Singapore	Sweden	
Sudan *	Sint Maarten (Dutch part)	Sri Lanka	Switzerland	
Togo	Suriname	State of Palestine	Ukraine *	
Tunisia	Trinidad and Tobago *	Syrian Arab Republic	United Kingdom of Great	
United Republic	United States of America	Tajikistan	Britain and Northern	
of Tanzania	United States Virgin Islands	Thailand *	Ireland	
Zambia	Venezuela (Bolivarian	Türkiye		
	Republic of)	United Arab Emirates		
		Uzbekistan *		
		Yemen *		

Note
(*) these countries responded to the survey and indicated they did not complete a census during the 2020 round.

Table 2: Have you conducted a census in the 2020 round? [Q8]

	Africa	Americas	Asia	Europe	Oceania	All Regions (%)
No - but we are planning to conduct one before the end of 2024	3	1	3	-	-	**7**
No, and we are NOT planning to conduct one before the end of 2024	7	2	4	4	-	**17**
Yes: more than one census in the period	1	9	5	7	3	**25**
Yes: one census in the period	24	26	28	25	3	**106**
Number of responding countries/areas	**35**	**38**	**40**	**36**	**6**	**155**

Table 3: Census reference date [Q9 and Q10]

	Africa	Americas	Asia	Europe	Oceania	**All Regions**
2015	1		3			**4**
2016			1			**1**
2017	3	1	2			**6**
2018	1	2				**3**
2019	2		1	1		**4**
2020		5	10	2	2	**19**
2021	3	4	6	21	2	**36**
2022	7	12	6	3	1	**29**
2023	4	5	1	1	1	**12**
2024	7	7	6	4		**24**
No Census in the round	7	2	4	4		**17**
Number of responding countries/areas	**35**	**38**	**40**	**36**	**6**	**155**

Note:
For countries/areas with multiple censuses in the round, the latest date is shown

Table 4: Has the census date ever changed? [Q11]

	Africa	Americas	Asia	Europe	Oceania	**All Regions**
Yes	16	19	17	11	2	65
No	12	17	19	21	3	72
Number of responding countries/areas	**28**	**36**	**36**	**32**	**5**	**137**

Table 5: What is the reason(s) for the change of the census date? [Q12]

	Africa	Americas	Asia	Europe	Oceania	**All Regions**

COVID-19 pandemic	9	16	13	11	2	**51**
Budget	6	5	5	0	0	**16**
Security	2	0	0	0	0	**2**
Political instability	1	1	1	1	0	**4**
Natural disaster	0	2	0	1	0	**3**
Lack of legal authority	1	2	2	0	0	**5**
Problems/delays with preparations	5	3	2	0	1	**11**

Table 6: How was the budget impacted (expected to be impacted) due to COVID-19? [Q13]

	Africa	Americas	Asia	Europe	Oceania	**All Regions**
Budget decreased (expected to decrease) (e.g. as governments shift budgetary resources to fight the pandemic)		2	5	2	1	10
Budget increased (expected to increase)	14	14	5	5	3	41
No change to the budget	14	18	26	25	1	84
Number of responding countries/areas	**28**	**34**	**36**	**32**	**5**	**135**

Table 7: What concept of population count was used? [Q16]

	Africa	Americas	Asia	Europe	Oceania	**All Regions**
Population present count (i.e., de facto, the place a person is at the time of the census)	5	7	7	1	2	**22**
Usual resident count (i.e., de jure, the place a person spends most of his/her daily night-rest)	16	28	22	27	2	**95**
Both Concepts	7	1	6	1	1	**16**
Other (countries/areas specifying 'Registered Population')				3		**3**
Number of responding countries/areas	**28**	**36**	**35**	**32**	**5**	**136**

Table 8: Which census method was used (will be used) for conducting the census? [Q17 -19]

	Africa	Americas	Asia	Europe	Oceania	**All Regions**
Full field enumeration	28	33	19	10	5	**95**
Combined		2	13	10		**25**
Fully register-based census		1	4	12		**17**

	Africa	Americas	Asia	Europe	Oceania	All Regions
Number of responding countries/areas	28	36	36	32	5	137

Table 9: What type of registers were used (will be used)? (Multiple Responses Allowed) [Q22 and Q24]

	Africa	Americas	Asia	Europe	Oceania	All Regions
Address register		1	9	15		25
Border control register			10	1		11
Building/dwelling register		1	8	18	1	28
Business register		1	6	12	1	20
Education/students register		1	10	18		29
Employment/unemployment/jobseekers register		2	9	18		29
Health register		1	8	8		17
Population register		1	15	21		37
Social security/protection/insurance register		1	10	19		30
Tax register		1	3	16		20
Other		1	2	4		7
All Responses		11	90	151	2	254
Number of responding countries/areas	0	3	17	22	1	43

Table 10: Which method(s) of enumeration was used (will be used) for field-based data collection? (Multiple responses allowed) [Q26]

	Africa	Americas	Asia	Europe	Oceania	All Regions
Face-to-face interview with paper questionnaire	4	18	9	2	2	35
Face-to-face interview with electronic questionnaire (CAPI)	26	25	27	10	4	92
Self-response with paper questionnaire (questionnaire mailed out/mailed back)		4	1	3		8
Self-response with paper questionnaire (questionnaire delivered/collected by enumerator)		9	5	5	1	20
Internet self-response (CAWI), on-line or off-line (using downloadable form)	1	18	17	16		52
Telephone interview, using paper questionnaire		4	5	1	1	11

Telephone interview, using electronic questionnaire (CATI)	1	9	7	6	1	24
Telephone interview, using automated telephone interviewing/interactive voice response (IVR)		1				1
Other	1	1		2		4
All Responses	**33**	**89**	**71**	**45**	**9**	**247**
Number of responding countries/areas	**28**	**33**	**32**	**20**	**5**	**118**

Table 11: What specific reference time-period is typically used to determine place of usual residence? (for countries using the "usual resident count" concept) [Q27]

	Africa	Americas	Asia	Europe	Oceania	**All Regions**
Not required/Not applicable	1	1			1	3
Less than 3 months	1		1			2
At least 3 months/90 days	1	1	2		2	6
At least 6 months/180 days	21	21	14	3	1	60
At least 1 year	2	3	9	15		29
Other	1	4	4	2		11
Number of responding countries/areas	**27**	**30**	**30**	**20**	**4**	**111**

Table 12: Did you collect/use geographic coordinates (e.g. GPS coordinates) for any of the following: (Multiple responses allowed) [Q28]

	Africa	Americas	Asia	Europe	Oceania	**All Regions**
Not applicable (no collection or plans to collect/use GPS coordinates)	3	5	10	2		20
Enumeration area (centroid and/or boundary)	12	12	15	5	2	46
Building and housing unit location	20	21	18	16	4	79
Roads and other features (such as railroads, water bodies, facilities, landmarks, etc)	16	7	4		2	29
Other	1	3	2	1		7
All Responses	**52**	**48**	**49**	**24**	**8**	**181**
Number of responding countries/areas	**28**	**34**	**32**	**20**	**5**	**119**

Table 13: Which of the following method(s) of evaluation did you use (will use) to measure the accuracy of the population count? (Multiple responses allowed) [Q29]

	Africa	Americas	Asia	Europe	Oceania	All Regions
Not applicable (no plan to conduct evaluation of census data quality)	2	1	2			**5**
Post enumeration survey	20	11	15	9	1	**56**
Other form of coverage survey		2	5	1		**8**
Demographic analysis	13	15	17	10	3	**58**
Comparison with results of existing household surveys	6	8	12	7	2	**35**
Comparison with aggregate administrative datasets	5	9	16	9	1	**40**
Comparison with unit record administrative datasets	2	5	9	10	1	**27**
Analysis of questionnaire return rates	2	8	8	4	3	**25**
Other	3	2	3	3	1	**12**
All Responses	**51**	**62**	**86**	**55**	**12**	**266**
Number of responding countries/areas	**27**	**35**	**32**	**20**	**5**	**119**

Table 14: Did you (or will you) make adjustments to the population count before publication? [Q30]

	Africa	Americas	Asia	Europe	Oceania	All Regions
No	13	12	17	13	2	**57**
Yes, both adjusted and unadjusted statistics were (or will be) published	2	7	7		3	**19**
Yes, only adjusted statistics were (or will be) published	7	14	4	7		**32**
Other	5	2	4			**11**
Number of responding countries/areas	**27**	**35**	**32**	**20**	**5**	**119**

Table 15: Did you measure the accuracy of the responses (content error)? [Q32]

	Africa	Americas	Asia	Europe	Oceania	All Regions
No	11	17	8	7	1	**44**
Yes	16	18	23	13	4	**74**
Number of responding countries/areas	**27**	**35**	**31**	**20**	**5**	**118**

Table 16: Was an evaluation of the field operation carried out and report published? [Q34]

	Africa	Americas	Asia	Europe	Oceania	All Regions
Evaluation carried out but a report not published	8	13	16	8		**45**
No evaluation carried out	4	10	9	4	2	**29**
Yes, carried out and a report was (or will be) published	13	12	6	8	2	**41**
Number of responding countries/areas	**25**	**35**	**31**	**20**	**4**	**115**

Table 17: Which of the following contemporary data dissemination products do you plan to provide to data users? (Multiple responses allowed) [Q35]

	Africa	Americas	Asia	Europe	Oceania	All Regions
Interactive online databases	14	27	19	25	3	**88**
GIS web-based mapping tools	17	21	15	21	3	**77**
Grid based outputs	4	8	11	24	1	**48**
Anonymized microdata	14	17	20	19	4	**74**
Other	4	9	8	1		**22**
All Responses	**53**	**82**	**73**	**90**	**11**	**309**
Number of responding countries/areas	**24**	**35**	**31**	**30**	**5**	**125**

Table 18: What type of microdata did you (or will you) disseminate? *(Mark all the apply)* [Q36]

	Africa	Americas	Asia	Europe	Oceania	All Regions
Microdata samples available to all users	10	3	11	5	2	**31**
Microdata samples available only to selected users under specific conditions	3	6	9	11	2	**31**
Not yet decided	10	9	3	6	2	**30**
None		10	3	7		**20**
Other	4	9	4	8	1	**26**
All Responses	**27**	**37**	**30**	**37**	**7**	**138**
Number of responding countries/areas	**22**	**36**	**29**	**31**	**5**	**123**

Table 19: What is the smallest geographical level at which census data set (e.g., population count) is disseminated? [Q37]

	Africa	Americas	Asia	Europe	Oceania	All Regions
Census enumeration area / census block	10	17	5	3	3	**38**

Grid with resolution below 1 Km2 (e.g., 100m x 100m, 500m x 500m)			4	9		**13**
1 Km2 (one square kilometer) grid			1	13	1	**15**
Smallest administrative divisions within a country (e.g., LAU2 in the European context)	9	10	10	4	1	**34**
Administrative units on a higher geographical level	7	2	9			**18**
Other	1	5	6	2		**14**
Number of responding countries/areas	**27**	**34**	**35**	**31**	**5**	**132**

Table 20: What challenges did you face in planning and/or conducting your census? [Q38]

	Significant challenge	Moderate challenge	Not a challenge	Not applicable	% Significant or Moderate
Legal authority / Governmental support	14	21	98	4	**26%**
Financial resources	32	53	44	6	**63%**
Keeping to budget	26	50	55	6	**55%**
Timeliness	38	66	32	2	**76%**
Improving coverage and data quality	29	79	27	3	**78%**
Privacy and confidentiality concerns	17	54	64	1	**52%**
Managing public trust / perceptions about the census	31	66	36	5	**70%**
Identifying residential addresses	16	50	63	7	**49%**
Recruiting and training field staff	36	59	32	11	**69%**
Implementing new technologies	34	68	30	4	**75%**
Implementing new methodologies	23	68	38	7	**67%**
Improving data dissemination	13	65	52	5	**58%**

Table 21: What were your successes in the 2020 round of censuses? [Q40]

	Number of countries/Areas reporting this success	% of responding countries/areas (n=138)
Improved information technologies	88	65%
Improved/maintained data quality	83	61%
Improved census methodologies	82	60%
Kept within budget	76	56%
Improved data dissemination	68	50%
Securing necessary financial resources	68	50%
Meeting deadlines	65	48%
Improved logistics and coordination	63	46%
Improved/maintained response/participation rates	61	45%
Implementation of project management methods/tools	52	38%
Overcoming public resistance	43	31%
None of the above	6	4%

Table 22: What are the reasons for not conducting a census in the 2020 round? (Multiple reasons allowed) [Q43]

	Number of countries/Areas reporting this reason	% of responding countries/areas (n=17)
COVID-19 pandemic	4	24%
Lack of budget	11	65%
Lack of security	3	18%
Political instability	3	18%
Natural disaster	-	-
Lack of legal authority / Government support (e.g. decree/proclamation not issued yet)	-	-
Problems/delays with preparations	5	29%
Other	6	35%

Table 23: Do you know the expected reference date(s) for your census in the 2030 round? (the period from 2025 to 2034) [Q45]

	Africa	Americas	Asia	Europe	Oceania	All Regions
No	12	20	16	24	2	74
Yes - but the date is provisional	15	7	10	7		39
Yes - we have an exact date	8	11	13	5	4	41
No response			1			1
All Responses	35	38	40	36	6	155

Table 24: Do you know the expected reference date(s) for your census in the 2030 round? (the period from 2025 to 2034) [Q46]

	Africa	Americas	Asia	Europe	Oceania	**All Regions**
2025	5	6	7	1	1	**20**
2026	2	2	2	1		**7**
2027	2		2			**4**
2028	1		1			**2**
2029	2					**2**
2030	2	8	7	1	1	**19**
2031	2	1	2	9	1	**15**
2032	3					**3**
2033	2					**2**
2034						
Date unknown, not specified, or outside the range 2025 – 2034	14	21	19	24	3	**81**
All Responses	**35**	**38**	**40**	**36**	**6**	**155**

Table 25: What will be the main census method for the census in the 2030 round (2025 - 2034)? [Q47]

	Africa	Americas	Asia	Europe	Oceania	**All Regions**
Full field enumeration	28	25	9	2	4	**68**
Combined	3	5	11	10	1	**30**
Fully register-based census	1	2	10	16		**29**
Yet to decide / Other	3	6	10	8	1	**28**
All Responses	**35**	**38**	**40**	**36**	**6**	**155**

ANNEX 3: Topics Asked in the 2020 Round

Table 1: Countries included in the review of topics asked in census questionaries from the 2020 round

Africa (23)	Americas (17)	Asia (27)	Europe (23)	Oceania (13)
Angola	Argentina	Azerbaijan	Albania	Australia
Botswana	Aruba	Bangladesh	Bulgaria	Cook Islands
Cabo Verde	Barbados	Bhutan	Croatia	Fiji
Equatorial Guinea	Bermuda	Brunei Darussalam	Czechia	French Polynesia
Eswatini	Bolivia	China, Hong Kong	Estonia	Marshall Islands
Ghana	Brazil	Cyprus	France	Nauru
Kenya	Canada	Indonesia	Hungary	New Caledonia
Lesotho	Cayman Islands	Iran (Islamic Republic of)	Ireland	New Zealand
Liberia	Chile	Israel	Isle of Man	Niue
Madagascar	Colombia	Japan	Italy	Palau
Malawi	Costa Rica	Jordan	Jersey	Tokelau
Mali	Guatemala	Kazakhstan	Luxembourg	Tonga
Mauritius	Mexico	Kyrgyzstan	Malta	Wallis and Futuna
Mozambique	Panama	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Montenegro	
Namibia	Peru	Malaysia	North Macedonia	
Rwanda	United States of America	Maldives	Poland	
Saint Helena	United States Virgin Islands	Mongolia	Portugal	
Senegal		Nepal	Republic of Moldova	
Seychelles		Pakistan	Romania	
Sierra Leone		Philippines	Russian Federation	
South Africa		Qatar	Slovakia	
Uganda		Republic of Korea	Switzerland	
United Republic of Tanzania		Saudi Arabia	United Kingdom	
		Singapore		
		State of Palestine		
		Tajikistan		
		Timor-Leste		

Table 2: Population Topics Included in the 2020 Round (n=103)

Topic	Topic Type (P&R rev 3)	Core/ Additional/ New	Africa (n=23)	Americas (n=17)	Asia (n=27)	Europe (n=23)	Oceania (n=13)	Total (n=103)
Age	Demographic and social characteristics	Core	22	17	24	19	13	**95**
Sex	Demographic and social characteristics	Core	22	17	24	18	13	**94**
Educational attainment	Educational characteristics	Core	20	15	24	19	13	**91**
Marital status	Demographic and social characteristics	Core	21	13	23	19	13	**89**
Status in employment	Economic characteristics	Core	20	14	23	18	13	**88**
Relationship to the reference person of household	Household and family characteristics	Core	21	16	25	17	8	**87**
School attendance	Educational characteristics	Core	21	14	22	16	13	**86**
Occupation	Economic characteristics	Core	20	12	20	19	13	**84**
Place of usual residence	Geographic and internal migration	Core	19	12	16	18	11	**76**
Country of citizenship	International migration characteristics	Core	21	8	17	18	9	**73**
Disability status	Demographic and social characteristics	Core	21	13	20	12	7	**73**
Place of birth	Geographic and internal migration	Core	20	9	17	15	10	**71**
Labour force status	Economic characteristics	Core	18	11	18	16	8	**71**
Religion	Demographic and social characteristics	Additional	18	6	19	17	10	**70**
Place of residence at a specified date in the past	Geographic and internal migration	Core	14	12	14	16	13	**69**
Language	Demographic and social characteristics	Additional	14	9	13	17	12	**65**
Children ever born alive	Fertility and mortality	Core	18	13	13	8	12	**64**
Literacy	Educational characteristics	Core	16	11	19	11	7	**64**
Place of work	Economic characteristics	Additional	8	9	14	20	11	**62**
Industry	Economic characteristics	Core	12	7	18	13	11	**61**
Ethnicity	Demographic and social characteristics	Additional	12	10	10	14	11	**57**
Country of birth	International migration characteristics	Core	12	11	12	14	7	**56**
Place where present at time of census	Geographic and internal migration	Core	11	8	13	16	7	**55**
Place of previous residence	Geographic and internal migration	Core	13	6	16	14	5	**54**
Children living	Fertility and mortality	Core	16	11	11	3	8	**49**
Duration of residence	Geographic and internal migration	Core	14	2	13	12	6	**47**
Year or period of arrival	International migration characteristics	Core	8	10	10	12	6	**46**
Field of education and training, and educational	Educational characteristics	Additional	9	7	12	9	9	**46**
Individuals using the Internet	New (P&R rev 4)	New	12	8	11	4	9	**44**
Income	Economic characteristics	Additional	8	6	9	5	10	**38**
Date of birth of last child born alive	Fertility and mortality	Core	12	10	7	1	7	**37**
Ever resided abroad	New (P&R rev 4)	New	7	6	8	12	4	**37**
Individuals owning mobile cellular phones	New (P&R rev 4)	New	11	6	11	3	6	**37**
Household and family status	Household and family characteristics	Additional	9	6	8	9	4	**36**
Working time	Economic characteristics	Core	7	7	4	10	8	**36**
Own-account agriculture production	Agriculture	Additional	16	4	4	3	8	**35**
Participation in own-use production of goods	Economic characteristics	Core	15	4	6	5	4	**34**
Institutional sector of employment	Economic characteristics	Additional	7	5	8	7	4	**31**
Household deaths in the past 12 months	Fertility and mortality	Core	18	5	5		2	**30**
Reason for international migration	New (P&R rev 4)	New	8	4	6	7	3	**28**
Reason for change of residence	New (P&R rev 4)	New	9	2	7	5	4	**27**
Age of mother at birth of (date or time when) first child	Fertility and mortality	Additional	8	3	6	2	7	**26**
Size of farm and number of livestock	New (P&R rev 4)	New	14	2	1	3	3	**23**
Maternal or paternal orphanhood	Fertility and mortality	Additional	16	1	1	1	3	**22**
Characteristics of all agricultural jobs during the last year	Agriculture	Additional	11	2	3	1	5	**22**
Age, date or duration of first marriage	Fertility and mortality	Additional	7	1	8	2	1	**19**
Registration of vital events and assignment of legal identity	New (P&R rev 4)	New	9	4	4		1	**18**
Indigenous peoples	Demographic and social characteristics	Additional	2	10			4	**16**
Acquisition of citizenship	International migration characteristics	Additional	3		1	3	4	**11**

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Table 3: Housing Topics Included in the 2020 Round (n=103)

Topic	Core/ Additional/ New	Africa (n=23)	Americas (n=17)	Asia (n=27)	Europe (n=23)	Oceania (n=13)	Total (n=103)
Living quarters—type of	Core	18	13	17	18	11	77
Ownership—type of	Core	17	12	17	17	10	73
Rooms—number of	Core	15	12	17	16	10	70
Toilet—type of	Core	18	12	14	10	8	62
Occupancy status	Core	11	12	16	14	8	61
Location of living quarters	Core	14	8	18	12	7	59
Water supply system	Core	12	12	10	12	10	56
Construction material of outer walls	Core	18	10	11	7	9	55
Lighting and/or electricity—type of	Core	19	9	13	6	8	55
ICT devices—availability of	Additional	16	9	14	6	6	51
Fuel used for cooking	Core	18	8	12	4	8	50
Bedrooms—number of	Additional	12	13	8	10	6	49
Construction material of floor and roof	Additional	19	10	9	3	8	49
Drinking water—main source of	Core	16	6	16	2	8	48
Tenure	Core	10	6	13	9	7	45
Kitchen—availability of	Core	9	7	11	10	7	44
Occupants—number of	Core	6	12	10	12	4	44
Bathing facilities	Core	8	8	11	11	5	43
Solid waste disposal—main type of	Core	19	6	7	2	7	41
Durable household appliances—availability of	Additional	16	5	5	3	11	40
Sewage disposal	Core	11	8	7	10	3	39
Year or period of construction	Additional	5	3	8	13	7	36
Building—type of	Core	8	4	7	10	5	34
Cars—number of available	Additional	5	6	6	5	9	31
Useful floor space	Additional	2	1	12	12	3	30
Occupancy by one or more households	Core	5	5	8	9	2	29
Heating—type and energy used	Additional	2	1	7	15	3	28
Age and sex of the reference person of the household	Core	4	3	12	3	3	25
Dwellings in the building—number of	Additional	3	2	8	6	2	21
Rental and housing costs	Additional	3	3	7	4	2	19
Hot water—availability of	Additional	2	2	5	5	3	17
Accessibility to dwelling	Additional	3		2	7		12
State of repair	Additional	5	2	3		1	11
Piped gas—availability of	Additional	1	2	3	4		10
Position of dwelling in the building	Additional		1	2	6	1	10
Use of housing unit	Additional	2		3	4		9
Elevator—availability of	Additional	2		1	3	1	7
Furnished/unfurnished	Additional		1	2	1		4
Outdoor space—access to	Additional	2		1			3
Farm building	Additional	1			1		2