

A newsletter from East View highlighting census data from around the world

GLOBAL CENSUS DATA AND CLIMATE CHANGE

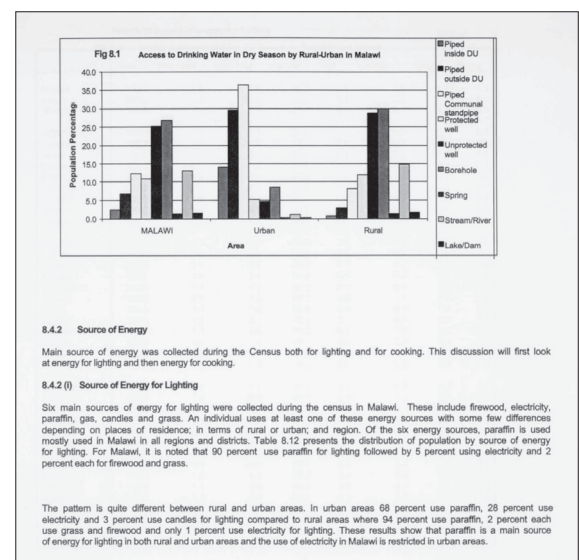
As the world faces an increasing number of natural disasters linked to climate change, census data plays a vital role in providing demographic, social, and economic information that informs policy decisions. Data on population distribution and density, age and health profiles, socioeconomic conditions, and migration patterns are crucial for assessing climate risks and vulnerabilities.

Governments worldwide rely on census data for emergency preparedness, response planning, and evaluating the success of recovery efforts after major disasters.

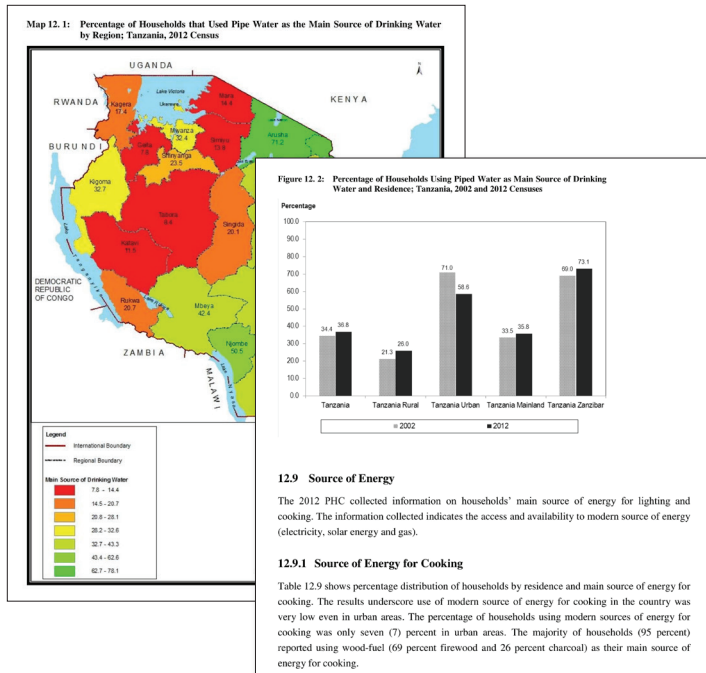
Academic research into the multifaceted impacts of climate change also heavily depends on census data provided by international statistical authorities. Researchers from various disciplines use this data to analyze the effects of climate change on vulnerable populations, identify high-risk areas, evaluate infrastructure resilience, assess climate equity, plan for energy-efficient housing and urban development, track displaced populations, and monitor long-term trends in population growth, urbanization, and socioeconomic shifts. When integrated with climate models and energy consumption data, census information enhances predictions and refines impact estimates.

Growing Importance of Environmental Issues in Census Data Collection

National statistics agencies, such as the United States Census Bureau, offer specialized data products related to climate change, including community resilience estimates and climate vulnerability indexes. In March 2022, the United Nations Statistics Division adopted the Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators to assist national agencies in developing their data collection frameworks for monitoring climate change impacts. Many countries now include detailed questions on environmental issues in their censuses. For example, Belize was the first to incorporate a dedicated environmental section in its 2000 census. By 2010, Trinidad and Tobago followed suit, and in the 2020 census round, Grenada and Tanzania introduced similar sections, with Tanzania adding several new questions.



Malawi, 1998. Census Major Findings, p. 132. Global Census Archive.



GCA Supports Research and Analysis of Climate Change

As a global challenge, climate change demands comparative assessments and analyses, which require easy access to comprehensive international data. Scholars now have access to current and historical census data through the Global Census Archive, a collection of over 8 million pages that includes census tables, publications, maps, and questionnaires from around the world. This archive provides a critical foundation for understanding the complex relationship between climate change and global demographics.

Tanzania, 2012. Census Results. Population Profile. National, pp. 146-147. Global Census Archive.

Further reading on census data and climate change:

- Brown University News, "With \$3.8M grant, new Brown center to research health impacts of climate change on aging populations": <https://www.brown.edu/news/2024-10-02/climate-health-aging>
- Northeastern University, "Can the US census keep up with climate-driven displacement?": <https://cssh.northeastern.edu/can-the-us-census-keep-up-with-climate-driven-displacement/>
- United Nations Statistics Division, "Data Sources in Environment and Climate Change Statistics": https://unstats.un.org/unsd/envstats/fdes/EGES9/Sess2.11_UNSD_DataSourcesEnv_CCstatistics.pdf
- United Nations Statistics Division, "Global Set of Climate Change Statistics and Indicators": <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/envstats/climatechange.cshml>
- U.S. Census Bureau, "Almost a Quarter of U.S. Population Vulnerable to Rising Heat": <https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2023/07/almost-a-quarter-of-population-vulnerable-to-rising-heat.html>
- U.S. Department of Commerce, "The Importance of Data in Combatting Extreme Heat and Climate Change": <https://www.commerce.gov/news/blog/2023/07/importance-data-combatting-extreme-heat-and-climate-change>



The East View **Global Census Archive**® (GCA) is an innovative program to collect official data and publications issued by the national census authorities of more than 200 countries, from the early 19th century to the present day, providing a key resource for scholars and analysts to find current and historical census data to support critical research into our changing world. GCA provides a single platform experience to explore the world's census publications: all countries and regions, the complete depth of published census materials, including original census publications in e-book form, as well as modern tabular data in Excel format and GIS files for advanced users.