

# Urban Population Patterns

## Investigating life in cities using the Census

### 1. The Census and the National Statistics website

<http://www.ons.gov.uk/census/index.html>

Using the information that can be retrieved using the web link above answer the following questions:

- What is a census?
- How is the information collected?
- At what scale is the information gathered?
- How and why is data collected in a census important for both local and national governments?

Towns and cities grow because people migrate to them. Then, once they arrive, people often migrate within a town/city. Many geographers and social scientists have tried to look at patterns in the ways people finally settle in cities.

Why should geographers expect patterns to develop in towns/cities? Surely, the decisions about where to live are taken by individuals and families. Moreover, psychologists tell us that moving house is one of the most stressful events in any person's life, along with marriage, divorce, childbirth and death of a loved one. At a time like this, people are not going to obey rules; they are going to do what is best for themselves in their special circumstances. They are people with free will, so we ought to expect random distributions based on millions of individual decisions. They are not inanimate objects obeying laws of physics, yet each person's and each family's decisions have to be taken within sets of individual and family circumstances:

- **Income levels and affordability**
- **Level of savings and the effect of this on decisions to rent or buy**
- **Jobs**
- **Schools**
- **Desire for access to facilities such as transport, open space and shopping**
- **Class, education, culture and the need to be near people of similar backgrounds and interests**
- **The balance between short term needs and long term plans**

They are also taken within the context of societal factors:

- **planning regulations**
- **economic opportunities for landowners and builders**
- **wealth of the area**
- **physical factors, including flood risk, slope, stability of the ground**
- **historical factors from the previous development of the area**
- **competition for the more desirable locations**
- **transport links within the city and between the city and other areas**

Everyone makes individual decisions, but people with similar sets of circumstances often end up making similar decisions. This means that groups of people and families with particular characteristics end up living in the same area. What is more, similar sorts of areas can often be found in different towns and cities. This has given rise to the patterns that geographers try to identify.

### **ACTIVITY**

I want you to study and compare the characteristics of different areas within Newcastle-upon-Tyne:

- a central area
- an inner-city area
- a suburban area/ an area on the rural-urban fringe
- an area of rural settlement



Lead Domain List - Windows Internet Explorer

http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/LeadAreaSearch.do?w=7&u=1001&m=0&s=1222100623901&enc=1&areaSearchText=moulsham+and+central&areas5

Office for National Statistics

Neighbourhood Statistics

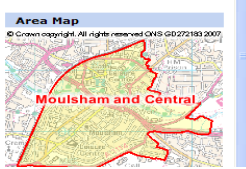
Area: Moulsham and Central (Ward)

Topics

[2001 Census: Census Area Statistics \(59 datasets\)](#)  
A selection of tables from the Census Area Statistics giving detailed information on specific census variables.

[2001 Census: Key Statistics \(31 datasets\)](#)  
Key Statistics cover all main census topics, presented as counts and percentages in a limited number of simple tables.

[Access to Services \(7 datasets\)](#)  
All aspects of service provision, including access to specific health, education and legal facilities.



Search for data for each ward by clicking on [2001 Census: Key Statistics \(31 datasets\)](#) and then use the different data sets to fill in the table below:

% Data	Westgate	Benwell & Scottswood	Castle	Longhorsely	Newcastle upon Tyne
2001 Population					
<b>ETHNICITY</b>					
Ethnic group White (%)					
Ethnic group Asian (%)					
Ethnic group Black (%)					
Ethnic group Mixed (%)					
<b>HEALTH</b>					
General health: Good (Persons) %					
General health: Fairly good (Persons) %					
General health: Not good (Persons) %					
<b>TENURE</b>					
Owner occupied: Owns outright (Households) %					
Owner occupied: Owns with a mortgage or loan (Households) %					
Owner occupied: Shared ownership (Households) %					
Rented from: Council (local authority) (Households) %					
Rented from: Housing Association / Registered Social Landlord (Households) %					
Rented from: Private landlord or letting agency (Households) %					
<b>EMPLOYMENT</b>					
People aged 16-74: Economically active: Employees Full-time (Persons) %					
People aged 16-74: Economically active: Employees Part-time (Persons) %					
People aged 16-74: Economically active: Unemployed (Persons) %					
People aged 16-74: Economically active: Full-time student (Persons) %					

People aged 16-74: Economically inactive: Retired (Persons) %					
People aged 16-74: Economically inactive: Permanently sick / disabled (Persons) %					
Unemployed people aged 16-74: Who are long-term unemployed (Persons) %					
<b>QUALIFICATIONS</b>					
People aged 16-74 with: No qualifications (Persons) %					
People aged 16-74 with: Highest qualification attained level 1 (Persons)					
People aged 16-74 with: Highest qualification attained level 2 (Persons)					
People aged 16-74 with: Highest qualification attained level 3 (Persons)					
People aged 16-74 with: Highest qualification attained level 4 / 5 (Persons)					

### **3. HOUSING TYPE**

Using Google maps/satellite images, describe how: housing type and housing density differs between the different wards.

### **4. ANALYSIS**

i) For each of the factors outlined in the table (Ethnicity; Health; Housing Tenure; Employment and Qualifications), identify any trends/ patterns that occur.

ii) Suggest reasons for any patterns/ trends that exist.

### **5. COMMENT**

To what extent might people/social groups who are concentrated in different areas of a town/ city experience different provisions of health care, education and retail services?

How might this affect their quality of life and social cohesion?