



Methodology Report

United Nations Database on Older Persons in Collective Living Quarters 2022



United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division

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Notes on regions, development groups, countries or areas

The designations employed in this publication and the material presented in it do not imply the expression of any opinions whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. The term “country” as used in this publication also refers, as appropriate, to territories or areas.

In this publication, data for countries and areas are often aggregated in six continental regions: Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Northern America, and Oceania. These regions are further divided into 21 geographic subregions. Further information on continental regions is available from <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/m49/>. Countries and areas are also grouped into eight Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) regions as defined by the United Nations Statistics Division and used for The Sustainable Development Goals Report (<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/regional-groups/>). The seven SDG regions are: Sub-Saharan Africa, Northern Africa and Western Asia, Central and Southern Asia, Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Oceania, and Europe and Northern America. Because of the magnitude of migrant stock in the SDG region Europe and Northern America and to maintain continuity with previous revisions of the international migrant stock produced by the Population Division, Europe and the subregion Northern America are also presented separately. The names and composition of geographical areas follow those of “Standard country or area codes for statistical use” available at <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/methodology/m49/> as of 2 December 2020.

The designation of “more developed” and “less developed”, or “developed” and “developing”, is intended for statistical purposes and does not express a judgment about the stage in the development process reached by a particular country or area. More developed regions comprise all countries and areas of Europe and Northern America, plus Australia, New Zealand and Japan. Less developed regions comprise all countries and areas of Africa, Asia (excluding Japan), Latin America and the Caribbean, and Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand).

The group of least developed countries (LDCs) includes 46 countries, located in sub-Saharan Africa (32), Northern Africa and Western Asia (2), Central and Southern Asia (4), Eastern and South-Eastern Asia (4), Latin America and the Caribbean (1), and Oceania (3). Further information is available at <https://un.org/ohrrls/content/least-developed-countries>

The group of Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) includes 32 countries or territories, located in sub-Saharan Africa (16), Northern Africa and Western Asia (2), Central and Southern Asia (8), Eastern and South-Eastern Asia (2), Latin America and the Caribbean (2), and Europe and Northern America (2). Further information is available at <https://un.org/ohrrls/content/landlocked-developing-countries>.

The group of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) includes 58 countries or territories, located in the Caribbean (29), the Pacific (20), and the Atlantic, Indian Ocean, Mediterranean and South China Sea (AIMS) (9). Further information is available at <https://un.org/ohrrls/content/small-island-developing-states>.

The classification of countries and areas by income level is based on gross national income (GNI) per capita as reported by the World Bank (June 2020). These income groups are not available for all countries and areas. Further information is available at <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519-world-bank-country-and-lending-groups>.

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION.....	1
DEFINITIONS	2
DISAGGREGATION.....	3
DATA SOURCES	4
REFERENCES.....	5

INTRODUCTION

Most people live in private households their entire lives. In many high-income countries, but increasingly also in less wealthy countries, living in an institution (detailed definition below) has become an option for older persons who have difficulty managing on their own or who need specialized medical services. Systematic data on collective living quarters (or non-household living arrangements) are still limited and in the majority of cases lack detail about the specific arrangements, such as hotels, rooming houses and other lodging houses, institutions, camps and workers' quarters and others. The main source for non-household living arrangement data are population and housing censuses. Neither sample household surveys nor administrative data generally collect or provide such data.

The *United Nations Database on the Older Persons in Collective Living Quarters 2022* is the first dataset that provides harmonized and internationally comparable data on patterns and trends of older persons aged 65 or over residing in collective living quarters (also called “group quarters”) for most countries and all major regions of the world. The data are drawn from census tabulations provided by countries to the Demographic Yearbook (DYB) of the United Nations, as well as information processed from the census microdata samples from the Integrated Use Public Microdata Samples-International (IPUMSI) at the University of Minnesota.

Standard procedures were used across the data sources so that estimates may be compared both across countries and over time. The estimates are based on 347 unique data sources from 135 countries or areas, representing approximately 77 per cent of persons aged 65 or over globally (circa 2010), with reference dates ranging from 1960 to 2018.

The 2022 database was prepared by Yumiko Kamiya and Camille Dorion. The present database builds on the initial work carried out by Sara Hertog for a preceding database on living arrangements of older persons (United Nations, 2017). The authors benefitted from comments received from Karoline Schmid and Sara Hertog.

DEFINITIONS

The indicators selected for this database are defined in accordance with the United Nations *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses Revision 2* (2008) which classifies collective living quarters (also called “group quarters”) as structurally separate and independent places of abode intended for habitation by large groups of individuals or several households and occupied at the time of the census. Such quarters usually have certain common facilities, such as cooking and toilet installations, baths, lounge rooms or dormitories, which are shared by the occupants. Collective living quarters (abbreviated CLQs) also differ from typical household living arrangements because the people living in them are usually not related to one another. Collective living quarters (also called “group quarters”) include persons living in boarding houses (hotels, rooming houses and other lodging houses) or in institutional living arrangements such as nursing homes, mental hospitals or wards, military installations (barracks), worker camps, correctional and penal institutions, and educational and religious group dwellings (e.g., boarding schools, orphanage, convents, monasteries, etc.). Institutional living arrangements are a subset of the group quarters.

The indicators selected for this database are defined in accordance with the *United Nations Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses Rev 2 (2008)*. Data on collective living quarters are limited and usually not disaggregated by specific types of living quarters.

DISAGGREGATION

Data on collective living quarters are limited and usually not disaggregated by specific types of living quarters. Where possible, given the available data, disaggregated by sex and broad age group (65 years or over, 65 to 79 years and 80 years or over).

DATA SOURCES

Two types of sources of data on the collective living quarters of older persons are reflected in this database:

1. IPUMS-International

Minnesota Population Center. Integrated Public Use Microdata Series, International: Version 7.3 [dataset]. Minneapolis, MN: IPUMS, 2020.

<https://doi.org/10.18128/D020.V7.3>

IPUMS-I samples are drawn from the microdata files of country-specific censuses and surveys and thus are not as highly standardized with respect to the codes used to describe collective living quarters or group quarters. The collective living quarters were estimated based on the variable “GQ” which included collective dwelling, generally institutions and other group living arrangements such as boarding houses and educational and religious group dwellings (e.g., boarding schools, orphanages, convents, monasteries, etc.). Where possible, the subset of institutional living arrangements is presented separately.

Indicators are estimated from the household rosters of 196 IPUMS-I samples, representing 70 countries or areas and with reference years ranging from 1960 to 2016.

2. Demographic Yearbook (DYB) of the United Nations

(https://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic-social/products/dyb/dyb_household/)

The Demographic Yearbook compiles data on the collective living quarters reported to the United Nations by national statistical offices. The collective living quarters were estimated based on data contained in Table B70 “Population by type of living quarters, age and sex”. This table does not provide information by type of living quarters. Estimates based on DYB records for 95 countries or areas are included in the database with reference years ranging from 1995 to 2018.

REFERENCES

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2017). *Living Arrangements of Older Persons: A Report on an Expanded International Dataset*. ST/ESA/SER.A/407.

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Statistics Division (2008). *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses Revision 2*. ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/67/Rev.2