

SUMMARY



The latest Census reveals that people who live within the UK can still live in very different 'worlds'. For some, resources and amenities abound, for others life is characterised by deprivation and difficulties, especially when their need for support is great.

Since 1801 successive governments have asked the population to assist in the taking of a Census. The 2001 Census marked the bi-centenary of Census taking in the UK. It is the most comprehensive social record of life in this country now available.

This project has produced a series of 10 short reports showing key patterns and inequalities in life in the UK as revealed by the 2001 Census. The project focuses on differences between areas within the UK, highlighting those where services and opportunities appear not to be available or accessible and often finding that they are lacking or missing in the places that need them most.

How to use this pack

- Each of the **10 reports** stands alone as a description and analysis of what the 2001 Census can tell us about a particular issue in contemporary Britain. The series taken together gives an overall view of poverty, inequality and place.
- The **technical report** can be consulted for project background, details of data and methods, further analyses, and overarching observations and conclusions.
- Finally, each of the **five posters** gives a striking insight into one of five themes, raising issues and illustrating them with maps and photographs.

The reports are:

1. **Doctors and nurses**, on illness and the provision of formal care
2. **In sickness and in health**, on illness and the provision of informal care
3. **Teachers**, on qualifications and the provision of teachers
4. **Sons and daughters**, on children's and adults' educational qualifications
5. **Changing rooms**, on overcrowded and underoccupied homes
6. **A place in the sun**, on holiday/second homes and private renting
7. **The office**, on employment and the distribution of skills
8. **Open all hours**, on people working long hours and no hours
9. **Top gear**, on households with many cars and no cars
10. **Home front**, on children caring for others and those living in poverty



Highlights of the reports

Health (reports: *Doctors and nurses, In sickness and in health*)

A total of 4.5 million people in the UK reported that they had both poor health and a limiting long-term illness in 2001; 5.9 million people said that they provide care to family and friends on an informal basis. The amount of this informal care is provided in direct proportion to the rate of poor health in areas across the UK. However, higher numbers of practising, qualified medical practitioners tend to live and work in areas where the rates of illness are lower. This is an example of what has been called the 'inverse care law'.

Education (reports: *Teachers, Sons and daughters*)

An 'inverse education law' also appears to exist. Areas which have the highest proportions of young people with no qualifications tend to have the lowest availability of teachers. The proportion of 16-17 year olds with GCSE-level qualifications also varies widely across England, Wales and Northern Ireland, and areas with a high proportion tend also to have many adults (around the age of these young people's parents) with degree-level qualifications. The situation in Scotland is different, with little variation in the rate of young people with qualifications, and no relationship with the education of the older generation.

Housing (reports: *Changing rooms, A place in the sun*)

Overcrowding and underoccupancy vary widely across the UK. Areas with high levels of overcrowding tend not to have many underoccupied homes. The Census also recorded 185,000 unoccupied second homes and holiday residences. In areas where these are prevalent – particularly remote rural areas – there are more people who may be having difficulty entering the housing market.

Employment (reports: *The office, Open all hours*)

Well-paid, high-status jobs are most likely to be found in London and the South East. In areas without many high-status jobs available, people with very good qualifications are more likely to be working in lower-status jobs. This suggests that someone's location is sometimes more important than their qualifications in determining what kind of job they do. Areas with low levels of unemployment tend also to have many people working long hours; conversely, areas with high unemployment tend to have few people working long hours. The country appears to be divided between 'work-rich' and 'work-poor' areas.

Poverty (reports: *Top gear, Home front*)

There are about the same number of households in the UK which might be said to need a car but which do not have one as there are households which might be said to have more cars than they really need. The areas in which many households may need a car but do not have one are geographically distinct from those in which many households have more cars than they might really need. Child poverty remains widespread in the UK. Areas where many families have no parents in paid employment tend also to have many young people providing care on an informal basis.

Read the full reports to find out more about how and why some areas and some people have the resources and amenities they need, while others do not.

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