

Home Truths: Housing and Welfare



1 Photographic enquiry

- Look at the photographs of housing. Although the picture of old industrial housing looks grim can you think of any good things about living there? See how many differences you can list between the contents of 19th century and modern houses. A visit to your local museum might help with this.
- What other evidence can you find in the photographs about life at the time? Photographs do not always tell you the whole picture. For each photograph say what it doesn't tell you?
- You may live in or know of houses that look like the old photograph. How do you think they have changed since the 19th century? How has the area changed, and the sort of people living in the houses?

2 Some housing questions asked by the census

- The 2001 Census asks questions about whether your house has central heating. Why do we need this information? Who is going to use this information? Are there other questions that you think should be asked?
- More people today are living on their own. Why do you think this is so? What effect will this trend have on the number and type of houses that we need to build?

3 Health questions

- The census also asks about health. Study the map of long-term illnesses. Which areas of Britain have higher levels of illness? There are different explanations for this: living conditions might be worse in high illness areas or there might just be more old people.
- Try to find out which is true. The Secos database on the Census CD-ROM contains useful data on this.

4 What do people feel about where they live?

- Many people today are happy with where they live, others are not - see the Housing Satisfaction data on the resource sheet.
- Carry out a study in your home area. Produce a map of your locality and label the zones with different kinds of housing. Identify areas of poor housing. What improvements need to be made?
- Try to find out what different people like and dislike about their housing and their locality. Are there any aspects of housing in your area that are a danger to people's health? Which housing is particularly good? If you have a cassette recorder, try making a recording of the views of different people.

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Theme Links between housing conditions and health

This unit uses the census to stimulate discussion of the possible links between housing quality and health. The 2001 Census asks questions on nine aspects of how we live. Housing and health questions provide two of the nine areas of the census.

Curriculum context

Geography at Key Stages 3 and 4.

The activities link to the Geography National Curriculum Programmes of Study by providing a context for:

- Geographical enquiry and skills e.g. asking geographical questions, Gg1a.
- Collecting and recording appropriate evidence, Gg1c.
- Communicating in ways appropriate to task and audience, Gg1f .
- Photographic analysis as a geographical skill, Gg2d.
- Knowledge and understanding of environmental change, Gg5.
- Explaining "how and why changes take place, and the issues that arise from these changes" Gg3f KS3, including patterns and processes, Gg4.



Classroom ideas

- As an introduction teachers might like to draw students' attention to the census questions on housing from the centre of the accompanying resource sheet. Ask students why the government might need this information.

Note: the data provide a clear picture of housing standards and the distribution of poor housing. In this context poor can be taken to mean: inadequately heated and overcrowded. The census also tells us whether households are well matched to the existing housing stock e.g. large families in high-rise accommodation.

- The tasks on the activity sheet can be worked on in small groups, with students reporting back in a plenary.
- Task 4 provides opportunities for local research.

Health in the census - a note

Housing conditions can greatly affect a person's health. The census focuses on:

- The prevalence of long-term illness in the household.
- Whether the respondent's health has been 'good', 'fairly good', or 'not good' in the past year. Poor heating has been related to the fact that Britain has the highest winter death rate in the EU.

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19th century housing
Stoke-on-Trent

1901



Source: Stoke-on-Trent City Museum



The 2001 Census collects housing data on:

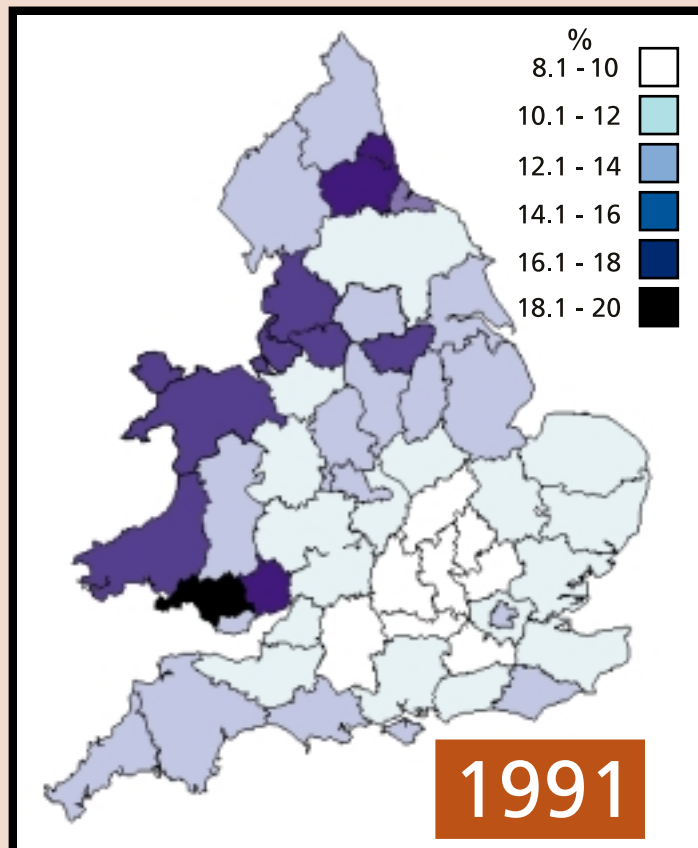
- The type of accommodation
- The lowest floor level
- Whether owned or rented
- The number of rooms
- Shared amenities (e.g. bathrooms)
- The presence of central heating

2001

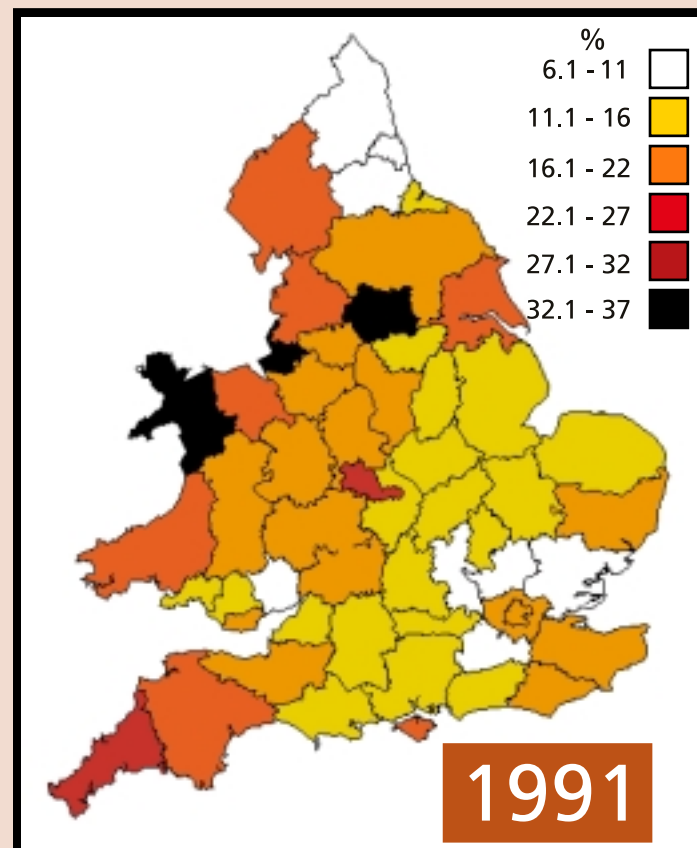
New marina housing
Cardiff Bay
South Wales



Maps from the last census



Percentage of residents in England and Wales with long-term illness

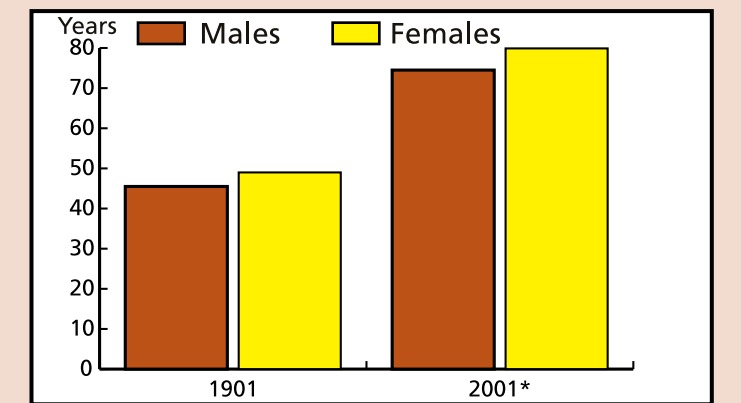


Percentage of residents in England and Wales without central heating

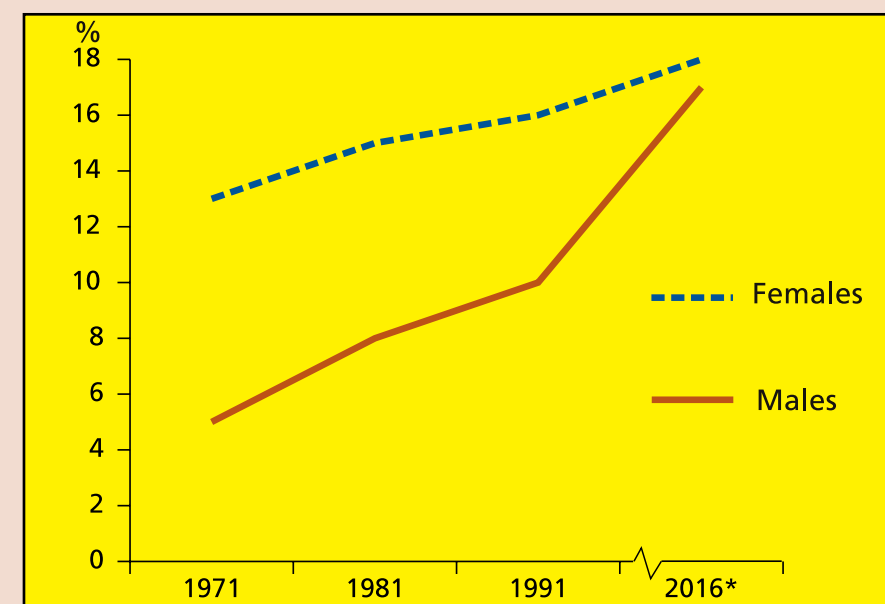
Housing satisfaction today

	% Very satisfied	% Dissatisfied
Heating	56	14
Insulation	38	23
Number of rooms	59	11
Size of rooms	53	11
Layout	52	9
State of repair	44	15
Appearance	48	9

Life expectancy



One person households



Data sources:
Regional Trends and Social Trends