

MEDIA RELEASE

(NSA launches 2023 Census Main Report)

30th October 2024

NSA Head Office

For immediate release

MEDIA RELEASE

Launch of 2023 Population and Housing Census Main Report Wednesday, 30 October 2024

1. The Namibia Statistics Agency, today 30th October 2024 released a Main report that gives the main results from the 2023 Population and Housing Census. This release was done exactly 11 months after the end of Data collection.
2. The 2023 Population and Housing Census (PHC) is Namibia's first full digital census. It leveraged technologies available to improve operational efficiency, enhance the quality of the data collected, and be able to release results promptly. The 2023 PHC counted and collected detailed information on all persons who spent the Census Night on Sunday 24th September 2023 in the country (de facto approach). The initial enumeration period was from 25th September 2023 to 06th October 2023, with a mop-up period extending to 30th October 2023 in some areas with challenges. Before the Census Reference Night, structures were listed between the 18th and 24th of September 2023.
3. This press release highlights findings from the 2023 Population and Housing Census Main Report which contains final results on population size and Distribution, socio-economic characteristics of the population, fertility, Migration and Mortality, Housing conditions, and Characteristics.
4. It is worth mentioning that the total Namibia population and the regional population did not differ from the population figures presented in the preliminary report that was launched in March 2024. However, significant differences are observed between the two reports in terms of the rural and urban population as well as population by town.

5. Results

5.1 Size and Distribution of the Population

- a. The analysis of the 2023 Namibia Population and Housing census indicates that Namibia's Population was 3,022,401 as of 24 September 2023, indicating an intercensal annual growth rate of 3.0 percent between 2011 and 2023.
- b. Overall, there were 1,548,177 females, representing 51.2 percent of the population, which is slightly higher than 1,474,224 males, representing 48.8 percent of the population.
- c. The data indicates that there is almost an equal urban-rural distribution, 1,512,685 were urban residents while 1,509,716 were rural residents.
- d. Khomas region is the most populous region, constituting 16.4 percent of the total population of Namibia. Kunene is the least population, contributing only 4 percent to the total population of Namibia.

5.2 Children

- a. In Namibia, children are defined as a population aged from 0 to 17 years
- b. The 2023 PHC results show that there were about 1.29 million children (42.7%) out of the total Population.
- c. There were more female children (648,213) than male children (642,398)
- d. The results also indicate that 73.8 percent of children under the age of five had a birth certificate.
- e. The results further show that 7.6 percent of the children in Namibia have lost at least one parent, and that 1.2 percent of the children have lost both parents.
- f. The results also indicate that about 0.9 percent (6,594) of the total households are headed by children, while about 0.2 percent (1,160) of the households are headed by orphans.

5.3 Youth

- a. Youth is defined as a population aged from 15 to 34 years
- b. The youth constitute 34.1 percent (1.03 million) of the total population of Namibia

- c. There are slightly more female (518,013) youth than male (512,922) youth.

5.4 Elderly

- a. The 2023 PHC show that there were 206,675 people aged 60 years and above in Namibia, representing 6.8 percent of the total population.
- b. There are more females (60.6%) than males (39.4%) among the elderly.
- c. The results also indicate that about 18.1 percent (136,916) of the total households are headed by elderly.

5.5 Marital Status and Nuptiality

- a. According to the 2023 PHC, about 70 percent of the population aged 15 years and above were never married.
- b. About 25 percent of the population aged 15 years and above were in a union, of which 15.8 Percent were married with a certificate, 5.5 were married in traditional and 4.1 were cohabiting/consensual union.
- c. Compared to the previous Census, Widowhood decreased by 0.8 percentage points (from 3.6% in 2011 to 2.8% in 2023). It is higher among the females (4.8%) than males (0.8%)
- d. About divorce and separation, the 2023 PHC shows that about 1.0 percent of the population aged 15 and above is divorced while 0.6 percent is separated.

5.6 ECD, Education, and Literacy

- a. According to the 2023 PHC results, 21.4 percent of the children aged 0 to 5 years are attending the Early Childhood Development program in Namibia.
- b. The 2023 PHC results show that there were 1,876,122 adult individuals aged 15 years and above. Among them, about 87 percent could read and write with understanding in any language.

- c. The results show that 9.7 percent of the population aged 6 years and above have never been to school. Urban areas had a lower proportion of individuals with no schooling (5.2%) as compared to rural areas (14.4%). Regional Comparison, Kunene has the highest proportion of Never attended (36.2%) followed by Omaheke with 19.2 percent.
- d. The overall enrolment rate was 76.1 percent and was higher in urban areas (78.0%) than in rural areas (74.5%).
- e. The overall enrolment rate for the population aged 6 -13 years was 92.7 percent and was higher among females (93.4%) than males (92.1%) population.

5.7 Fertility

- a. The 2023 PHC findings show that women in Namibia gave birth to 85,991 babies in the last 12 months preceding the census, which is equivalent to a crude birth rate of 28.5 births per 1,000 population.
- b. The Current Total Fertility Rate (TFR) for Namibia is 3.8 children per woman during her reproductive life. TFR is higher in rural areas (3.0 Children) than in urban areas (4.9 Children)
- c. Fertility varies across regions. The highest TFR is in Kavango West (5.2 children), Ohangwena(5.0 children), and Omaheke (5.0 children). While the lowest TFR is in Khomas (2.6 children) and Erongo (2.9 children).
- d. Fertility has declined over time since the current level of the TFR (3.8 children) is almost half of the TFR in the 1991 Population and Housing Census (6.1 children).

5.8 Migration

- e. In terms of internal migration, long-term migration which compares the population by region of birth and region of usual residence, the results show that Khomas and Erongo are the highest receiving regions as they host 253,170 and 130, 870 in-migrants, respectively, while Ohangwena and Omusati are the highest sending regions.

5.9 Mortality

- a. The data shows that the Crude Death rate in 2023 was 6.9 deaths per 1,000 population.
- b. Infant mortality rate (IMR) was estimated at 26.2 deaths per 1000 live births and the under-five mortality rate (U5MR) was 38.8 deaths per 1000 live births.
- c. Both infant and under-five mortality rates were higher in the Hardap, Omaheke, and Kavango West regions and the lowest in the Khomas and Erongo regions.

5.10 Households

- d. In September 2023, there were 756,339 private households across the country. Among them 414,119 are in urban areas, representing 54.8% of all households in the country. At the regional level, the largest numbers of households are recorded in Khomas (144,630), Erongo (74,795), and Omusati (72,437). Regions with the lowest number of households are Kavango East (21,614), Omaheke(28,188), and Hardap (28197).
- e. The average household size in Namibia is 3.8 persons. It varies slightly by area of residence (3.5 in urban areas and 4.2 in rural areas); By region, the household size varies between 3.1 persons (in //Kharas and Erongo) and 5.5 persons (Kavango West).
- f. At the national level, almost half of the households (49.0%) are headed by women.
- g. The percentage of households headed by women varies by region. It is higher in the Omusati (58.3%), Ohangwena (58.0%), and Oshana (56.2%) regions and lower in the Omaheke region (39.1%)

5.11 Housing Characteristics

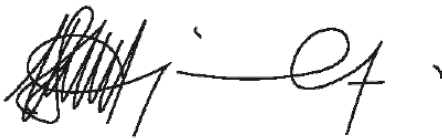
- a. About 33 percent of private households in Namibia reside in formal dwellings, while 26.0 percent reside in traditional dwellings. However, 28.7 percent of the private households reside in informal dwellings.
- b. The proportion of households living in informal dwellings was recorded as the highest in Khomas (46.9%), Omaheke(46.8%), and Otjozondjupa (40.1%)
- c. Owner occupied and Occupied rent free were the two pre-dominant forms of tenure status for private households in Namibia. About 43 percent of the private households own the dwelling without a mortgage while about 23 percent occupy their dwelling rent-free.
- d. The majority of households in Namibia (44.1%) use cement bricks as the main materials for the walls of their housing units. About 35 Percents uses corrugated iron sheets.
- e. The main materials for the floor of the dwelling units, most private households in Namibia have Cement (42.5%), Sand/ Earth (24.6%), or tiles (22.5%).
- f. Almost 81% of households in Namibia have their housing units roofed with corrugated iron sheets.
- g. Nine out of 10 households in Namibia (91.4%) drink water from safe sources. There are variations between urban (98.0%) and Rural (83.5%) but also regions.
- h. Unsafe drinking water used by private households is mainly taken from River, Dams or spring (3.0%) or boreholes with open tanks (2.3%)

- i. The access to electricity for lighting by private households in Namibia currently amounts to 59.5 percent (46.9% on grid, 0.2% generator, and 12.4% solar).
 - j. The access to electricity by households is far higher in urban areas (77.3%) than in Rural (37.9%) areas.
 - k. At the National level, the majority of private households in Namibia (50.1%) use firewood as the main source of energy for cooking. This observation mainly prevails in rural areas (84.6%), whereas in urban areas the main sources of energy for cooking are electricity (55.0%), Gas (21.8%), and Firewood (21.7%).
 - l. About 47 percent of households have access to a household flush toilet facility and the proportion is higher among urban (69.8%) than rural (18.4%) households.
 - m. About 40.0 percent of households do not have access to a toilet facility with the proportion being over three times as much among rural (63.8%) as urban (20.3%) households.
 - n. In terms of waste disposal by private households in Namibia, the most common mode is regular collection (36.9%) followed by roadside dumping (24.2%) and dumping in the field/bush (23.1%).
6. The 2023 PHC instituted several data quality monitoring mechanisms and leveraged technology to implement interventions toward ensuring complete and accurate coverage. These included the use of GIS technology and geospatial resources, such as collecting the GPS coordinates of all structures, and the use of a census dashboard for real-time monitoring, these strategies made it possible to continuously assess data quality and correct errors and inconsistencies while enumerators were still on the field. The approach, and with public sensitization created an alert, enthusiastic, and proactive public leading to the avoidance of duplications and omissions as well as eliminating fabrications.
7. Only aggregated data is reported and is the norm for the rest of the results under the Statistics Act (Act 9 of 2011). The Act places a legal restriction on publishing confidential information of individuals. All personal details are protected and

removed from all publications and datasets to protect the confidentiality of respondents.

8. The management of the Namibia Statistics Agency expresses its appreciation to all Census Committees, Census Officials, Field Officers, Partners, the Media, Stakeholders, Respondents, and the General Public who participated in the census and looks forward to continued engagements during the dissemination phase of this important national exercise.
9. For more information and updates on this and other reports from the Census Data, please visit our official website at www.nsa.org.na or contact our office at 061 431 3200 or email 2023-census@nsa.org.na

I thank you



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About Us

Namibia Statistics Agency is mandated with collecting, producing, analyzing, and disseminating official statistics. Find us at www.nsa.org.na

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