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NSA Head Office

For immediate release

## **NSA RELEASES 2023 CENSUS PUBLIC USE MICRODATA SAMPLE (PUMS) FOR PUBLIC AND ACADEMIC RESEARCH**

Following the release of the 2023 Population and Housing Census Report, the Labour Force Thematic report, and the Marginalised Communities Profile, researchers can now access unit-record data to run tailored, multi-variable analyses on demographic and socio-economic trends.

Today, the Namibia Statistics Agency officially released the **2023 Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) in accordance with the United Nations Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses, Revision 4, which provide guidance on the dissemination of Public Use Microdata Samples.** The PUMS grants researchers, policymakers, data journalists, and urban planners with direct access to anonymised individual and household level data from the 2023 Population and Housing Census.

While summary tables released in October 2024, January 2025 and July 2026 provided aggregated statistics, the 2023 PUMS enables analysts and users to: access and explore the anonymised response records, create customised variables, model complex socio-economic relationships, and to conduct in-depth analyses of micro-level trends.

Summary reports provide an overview of key findings, but microdata enables for deeper policy analysis. By releasing the 2023 PUMS, the NSA empowers independent researchers to: develop custom analytic models, generating richer insights into housing, populations, labour, and demographic dynamics. This level of analysis helps uncover patterns and relationships that cannot be captured through summary tables alone.

## What does the 2023 PUMS dataset unlock

The PUMS dataset represents a statistically representative sample of responses (covering roughly 20% of the records in the overall census). By offering unit-record data, the dataset enables users to examine overlapping variables that statistics summary reports cannot capture.

## Strict Privacy Protections & Anonymisation

The release of micro data is in strict line with the Statistics Act which emphasises strict privacy protection and anonymisation. According to section 44 (2) of the Statistics Act no 9 of 2011 a document, an information or a record obtained in terms of this Act may not be published or disseminated in a manner which permits the identification of a specific individual, household, undertaking or other organisation, unless the person, household, undertaking or organisation consents in writing to the publication or dissemination in that manner.

As the PUMS contains individual and housing unit records, rigorous disclosure control protocols have been applied to safeguard privacy and confidentiality of respondents.

As a norm, all direct personal identifiers including names, addresses, and administrative geographic identifiers (e.g. Enumeration areas) have been removed. In addition, variables containing extreme numeric values have been top coded to prevent re-identification while preserving the analytical value of the data.

## Access, Formats, and Technical Support

The 2023 PUMS files are now available for immediate access. To ensure broad accessibility and ease of use, the dataset can be downloaded directly in multiple formats including, csv, SPSS and STATA. Complete supporting documentation, including the **2023 PUMS User guide, Metadata, and Questionnaire**, is accessible alongside the data files to assist users in understanding and analysing the dataset.

To explore the dataset and download the accompanying technical documentation, visit [www.nsa.org.na](http://www.nsa.org.na) and register to get access to the information.

Thank you



ALEX SHIMUAFENI

**STATISTICIAN-GENERAL & CEO**

## About Us

Namibia Statistics Agency is mandated with collecting, producing, analysing, and disseminating official statistics. Find us at [www.nsa.org.na](http://www.nsa.org.na)

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