

Data Highlights

HH - I : Normal households by household size.

According to 2001 Census there are in all 194 million households with 1028 million people. About 138 million households live in the rural areas against 56 million in the urban areas. Of the total households, 193 million households are Normal Households (excluding Houseless and Institutional Households). These are further distributed into 132 million households (70.8 per cent) in the rural areas and 55 million households (29.2 per cent) in the urban areas.

Statement-1 gives the average households size, decadal growth rate of households and population for the census years 1971 to 2001. For the sake of comparison data for Assam where 1981 Census was not held and Jammu & Kashmir where 1991 Census was not held, have been excluded in the following statement :-

Statement-1 : Number of households, population, average household size and growth by residence 1971-2001

Census year	Total/ Rural/ Urban	Number of Households	Population	Average House- hold size	Decadal growth rate of households	Decadal growth rate of population
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1971	Total	99,662,971	528,917,868	5.3	-	-
	Rural	78,925,295	421,951,334	5.3	-	-
	Urban	20,737,676	106,950,831	5.2	-	-
1981	Total	118,832,680	659,300,460	5.5	19.23	24.65
	Rural	90,124,596	502,880,692	5.6	14.19	19.18
	Urban	28,708,084	156,419,768	5.4	38.43	46.25
1991	Total	148,165,097	816,169,666	5.5	24.68	23.79
	Rural	108,227,175	602,885,849	5.6	20.09	19.89
	Urban	39,937,922	213,283,817	5.3	39.12	36.35
2001	Total	187,096,612	991,811,100	5.3	26.28	21.52
	Rural	132,376,300	711,647,289	5.4	22.31	18.04
	Urban	54,720,312	280,163,811	5.1	37.01	31.36

It may be seen from the above **Statement-1** that the average household size at national level has declined slightly from 5.5 in 1991 to 5.3 in 2001. Similar pattern has been noted for the rural and urban households. During the decade 1971-81, the population growth

was higher than the growth in households, a phenomenon which saw a turnaround during 1981-91 when the number of households grew at a faster pace than the population and thereafter even faster rate in the last decade (1991-2001). This is perhaps indicative of growing nuclearization of families in the society which is more evident in urban area than in rural.

HH – I SC & HH – I ST : Normal households by household size

Statement-2 below presents average Household size among the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Households for the Census 2001.

Statement -2 : Number of households, population, average household size for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes by residence – 2001

Census year-2001	Total/Rural/Urban	Number of households	Population	Average household size
1	2	3	4	5
SC Households	Total	31,541,899	164,183,917	5.2
	Rural	25,300,567	131,881,644	5.2
	Urban	6,241,332	32,302,273	5.2
ST Households	Total	15,986,571	82,382,970	5.2
	Rural	14,639,769	75,744,942	5.2
	Urban	1,346,802	6,638,028	4.9

According to the 2001 Census there are 32 million Scheduled Castes Households consisting of a population of 164 million. Incidentally, there is no rural and urban differential so far as size of the household is concerned. Average household size of Scheduled Caste Households at 5.2 is slightly lower than that of the Total Households (5.3). Further, of the total Scheduled Castes households, 80 per cent are in rural areas against 20 per cent in the urban areas.

There are 16 million Scheduled Tribes households consisting of 82 million population. Of these 91.6 per cent are residing in the rural areas and only 9.5 in the urban areas. The average size for the Scheduled Tribe household is 5.2 which again is less than the average for all households. The distribution of household is proportionate to distribution of population in rural and urban areas of the country both in case of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Households. Expectedly, the average Household size of Scheduled Tribe Households in

urban areas is quite low at 4.9 as compared to Scheduled Castes as well as Total Households.

The second part of the Table HH-1 relates to the distribution of Households in different size categories viz single member, 2 members..... 7+ members. This provides preliminary insight into the composition of the household and their variations across the country. The data when tabulated by nuclear, nuclear pair, supplemented and extended nuclear Households etc. which can be obtained by coding of the relationship, will provide further insight into the social structure and system followed in the Household.

Statement 3 below presents percentage distribution of normal households by the size i.e. number of members in the household in total, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes households.

Statement - 3 : Percentage distribution of normal households (All, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes households) by size category of the household - 2001

	1 member household	2 member household	3-4 member household	5-6 member household	7+ member household	3-6 member household	5+ member household
All Households							
Total	3.9	8.2	30.9	32.2	24.8	63.1	57.0
Rural	4.0	8.4	28.9	32.4	26.4	61.3	58.8
Urban	3.8	7.9	35.7	31.7	20.8	67.4	52.5
SC Households							
Total	4.1	8.8	29.4	33.5	24.3	62.8	57.8
Rural	4.2	9.1	28.9	33.2	24.7	62.1	57.9
Urban	3.8	7.7	31.4	34.5	22.7	65.9	57.2
ST Households							
Total	3.9	9.1	29.4	33.1	24.4	62.5	57.5
Rural	3.8	9.2	29.1	33.1	24.8	62.2	57.9
Urban	5.2	8.9	32.5	33.1	20.3	65.6	53.4

The distribution of households by size-categories provides the opening canvass understanding the social phenomenon of household formation and their composition. The other household based tables that would follow are expected to provide further insights into various social, cultural and economic aspects of the population with household as unit. One of most important size category of households is the single-member household. Such

households are largely formed as a result of (a) persons migrating to new area and living alone, (b) one member migrating (say children) or dying (say spouse) out of a two member household. According to 2001, 3.9 percent (7.5 million) of the total households in India are single member households. The percentage of single member household is slightly higher in rural area than urban area. On the other side of the spectrum about a quarter of the households have 7 members and above with significant differential between rural and urban areas. In urban areas 20.8 per cent of the households have 7 member and above as compared to 26.4 per cent in rural areas. In India 8.2 per cent of the households are two member household which socially is, a very important category. Interestingly the proportion of such households is significantly higher in rural area than urban area being 8.4 per cent and 7.9 per cent respectively. The only size category for which the proportion of households is higher in urban area as compared to rural area is 3-4. In this category there are 35.7 per cent of households which is 6.8 point higher than the proportion in rural area. The distribution patterns are found to be similar in Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe households with differentials as expected between rural and urban areas.

Table HH-2 Houseless Household by Household size

Census traditionally collects information of Houseless households, who do not live in a building or census house but live in the open or road sides, pavements, pipes, fly over etc. The data on houseless households provides an overview of the type of such households existing in the country who are either forced by poverty or other reasons compelled to live in open. **Statement-4** presents number and population of Houseless households and distribution of Houseless households by size category 1 member, 2 members.....7 plus.

Statement-4: Distribution of Houseless households by size and residence-2001

Total/ Rural/ Urban	Number of households	Population	Average size	1 member households	2 member households	3-4 member households	5-6 member households	7+ member households
Total	447,552	1,943,476	4.3	18.1	12.2	29.1	21.9	18.6
Rural	259,742	1,164,877	4.5	10.0	13.5	33.7	24.9	17.9
Urban	187,810	778,599	4.1	29.3	10.5	22.8	17.8	19.5

There are 447,552 houseless households consisting of 1,943,476 persons in the country. Of these 58.1 percent were enumerated in the rural areas while 41.5 per cent in the urban areas. Average household size of the Houseless households for all areas stands at 4.3, while it is 4.5 for rural and 4.1 for the urban areas.

The 2001 Census provides data on the size of houseless households for the first time. It may be seen that at the national level 18 per cent of the Houseless households are single member households. This proportion is only 10.0 per cent in the rural areas and 29.3 per cent in urban areas. The largest proportion 29.1 per cent households have 3 to 4 members followed by 5 to 6 (21.9). A fairly large percentage of Houseless households (18.6) are having more than 7 members. In this connection it will be pertinent to state that enumeration of the Houseless Households was done on the night of 28th February, 2001 when the enumerators on the basis of pre identified areas visited places of worships, railway platforms, flyovers etc where such households were generally found. It can so happen that people get covered in one schedule though they are not part of the same household. Keeping in view difficulties encountered by the enumerator in a hostile climate and unfriendly environment specially for enumerating vagabonds, lepers, beggars and mentally challenged abandoned persons etc., it is quite likely the size of the houseless household got inflated in certain cases. Therefore, size of the houseless household has to be understood and appreciated from the point of view of the challenging field conditions while collecting this data.

Table HH-3 Institutional households by household size

Table HH-3 relates to Institutional Household by household size. A group of persons living in institution and sharing a common kitchen form an institutional household. The institution may be residential educational institutions like school, college, medical institutions like hospitals, sanatorium, religious institutions like ashrams and social security institutions like orphanages, elderly homes, punitive institutions like jails, juvenile homes etc. The information on institutional households by type of institution is not available in 2001 Census; however, data on number and size of institutional household provides an overview of the population living in institutional households. **Statement-5** below depicts number, population and percentage distribution of Institutional Households in broad size categories by rural and urban residence.

Statement-5: Distribution of Institutional households by size and residence-2001

Total/ Rural/ Urban	Number of house holds	Population	Average size	Up to 9 member households	10-19 members households	20-39 member households	40-99 member households	100+ member households
Total	460,595	7,800,984	16.9	56.4	26.9	7.7	6.5	2.5
Rural	252,124	4,042,270	16.0	60.6	24.4	6.7	5.9	2.3
Urban	208,471	3,758,714	18.0	51.3	29.9	8.9	7.3	2.7

At the aggregated national level 460,595 Households have been enumerated as Institutional Households covering 7,800,984 population. In other words these were the

households which were part of any institution. Of these 54.7 per cent are located in the rural areas and the remaining 45.3 per cent are in the urban areas. While a number of households are more in the rural areas, the average size of the Institutional households is higher for the urban areas at 18.0 as compared to 16.0 for the rural areas. A little over half (56.4 per cent) of the total Institutional households are having up to 9 members while 26.9 per cent up to 10 to 19 members. Further 7.7 per cent Institutional households have 20-29 members.

It is noteworthy that 11,417 households which is 2.5 per cent of the total Institutional households in the country are having more than 100 members, in other words at least 11 lakh population is part of such large institutions. Interestingly 100+ size Institutional households are fairly distributed among rural and urban areas around 51 & 49 per cent respectively. It is understandable as, at times, some of the large institutions like residential professional colleges, hospitals, ashrams etc. come up in the periphery of urban areas which fall in the jurisdiction of the revenue villages.