



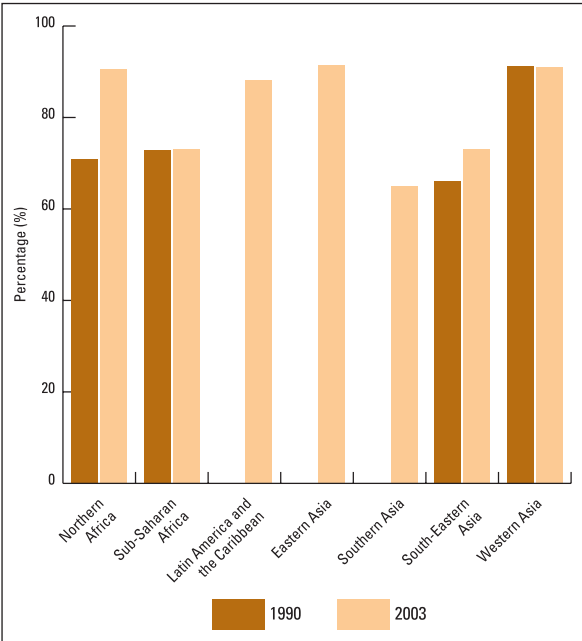
Overcrowding in Asia

In Asia, sufficient living area is poorly reported, so determining the actual incidence of overcrowding for the region is difficult. However, some trends are beginning to emerge. Southern Asia has the highest prevalence of overcrowding in the developing world, with a third of its urban population residing in houses that lack sufficient living area, followed by South-Eastern Asia where over a quarter of the urban population lives in overcrowded housing. For Eastern Asia, not enough information was available for analysis, and levels and trends were estimated from those observed in South-Eastern Asia and Western Asia. Differentials across sub-regions should therefore be examined with caution.

An analysis of sufficient living area in this region shows that most of the cities and countries are facing growing trends toward overcrowding. The few exceptions include the cities of Manila in the Philippines, and the cities of Istanbul, Ankara and Adana in Turkey, where urban residents slightly increased their living area.

Overcrowding rates are high in various Asian cities, namely in Yangon, in Myanmar, Dhaka and Rajshahi in Bangladesh, Karachi, Faisalabad and Islamabad in Pakistan, and Ulan Bator in Mongolia, where around 40 per cent of the urban population lived in overcrowded dwellings in 2003. With the exception of Yangon, which has the lowest proportion of slums among the least developed countries in the world (26 per cent), the other nations are characterized by a high prevalence of urban dwellers living in slum conditions: Bangladesh, at 85 per cent; Pakistan, at 74 per cent; and Mongolia, at 65 per cent. In other countries in which the proportion of slum dwellers is high, such as Nepal (56 per cent) and India (55 per cent), the incidence of overcrowding is also relatively high – one-third and half of the urban population, respectively.

Proportion of urban households with sufficient living area



Source: UN-Habitat Urban indicators Programme phase III.
 Note: Data fro 1990 not available for some regions

For further information, please contact: Mr. Sharad Shankardass, Spokesperson & Head, Press & Media Relations Unit, or Ms. Zahra A. Hassan, Media Liaison, Press & Media Relations Unit, Tel: 7623153, 7623136, 7623151, Fax: 7624060, E-mail: habitat.press@unhabitat.org, website: www.unhabitat.org