



Housing Type in Pakistan

Gallup Pakistan Analysis of the 7th Population
Census of Pakistan 2023



PRESS RELEASE

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According to the 7th Population Census of Pakistan, approximately 20% of all housing in Pakistan—equivalent to around 8 million units—falls under the category of kacha housing. –

Housing Type in Pakistan

Islamabad, January 28th, 2025

Gallup Pakistan, as part of its Big Data Analysis initiative, is looking at the 7th Population Census of Pakistan 2023, which can be found [HERE](#).

What is the Big Data Analysis Series by Gallup?

Gallup Pakistan's Big Data series was started by Bilal I Gilani, Executive Director of Gallup Pakistan. Bilal explains the rationale of the series: *"The usual complaint from academics and policy makers is that Pakistan does not have data availability. Our experience negates that. Pakistan has lots of data, but it is not available in a usable form and not widely accessible. At Gallup we plan to bridge this gap in terms of accessibility and use of data. The Gallup Big Data series has earlier worked with data sets such as [PSLM](#), [Labour Force Survey](#), and [Economic Survey reports](#) as well as [National Census Reports](#) and [Election Commission Data sets](#). The current series is using the [7th Population Census of Pakistan 2023 dashboard](#), which provides a variety of demographic statistics. We hope that these series are useful, and we welcome both feedback as well as possible collaborations as we create a public good in the form of useful data sets in Pakistan."*

What data points this current edition covers:

This series aims to present the important learnings about housing type in Pakistan, for policy makers, the public, as well as for marketers in an easy and understandable way. This edition looks at the 7th Population Census of Pakistan 2023. The series' main aim is to provide data. Implications of these data points for development sector as well as wider socio-political ramifications is something we would like to trigger in relevant circles.

Housing Type in Pakistan

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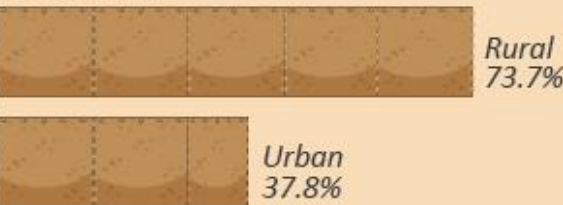
According to the 7th Population Census of Pakistan, approximately 20% of all housing in Pakistan—equivalent to around 8 million units—falls under the category of kacha housing.



Kacha Housing in Pakistan

Balochistan’s rural areas have the highest prevalence of kacha housing, with 73.7% of homes falling into this category, while urban centers in the province have a comparatively lower 37.8%.

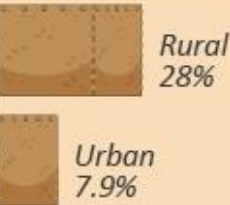
Balochistan



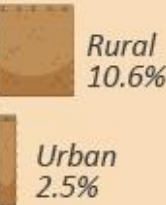
Sindh



Khyber Pakhtunkhwa



Punjab



Islamabad records the lowest percentage in Kacha Housing, at just 0.7%.

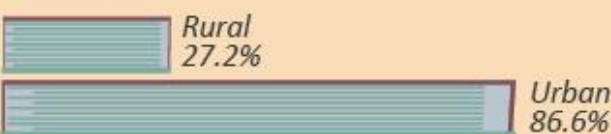
Pakka Housing in Pakistan

Pakka housing remains the predominant form of housing in Pakistan, comprising 26 million households, or 67.5% of the total.

Punjab



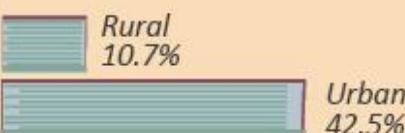
Sindh



Khyber Pakhtunkhwa



Balochistan



Islamabad is overwhelmingly dominated by pakka housing, with 98.4% of its rural and 96.1% of its urban population living in structurally sound, permanent dwellings.

Key Findings:

- 1. According to the 7th Population Census of Pakistan (2023), approximately 20% of all housing in the country—equivalent to around 8 million units—falls under the category of kacha housing.**
 - a. Balochistan's rural areas have the highest prevalence of kacha housing, with 73.7% of homes falling into this category, while urban centers in the province have a comparatively lower 37.8%.
 - b. A district-level analysis further underscores these disparities, with Washuk (Balochistan) recording the highest proportion of kacha housing at 92.1% (45,155 houses).
- 2. Approximately 5 million households, or 12.6% of the total households in Pakistan, reside in semi-pakka housing.**
 - a. The regions with the highest prevalence of semi-pakka housing include rural Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (21.7%), urban Balochistan (19.7%), and rural Punjab (16.4%).
- 3. Pakka housing remains the predominant form of housing in Pakistan, comprising 26 million households, or 67.5% of the total.**
 - a. Islamabad is overwhelmingly dominated by pakka housing, with 98.4% of its rural and 96.1% of its urban population living in structurally sound, permanent dwellings.
 - b. Karachi South (97.4%) and Karachi Central (96.5%) rank among the top three districts for pakka housing, underscoring the city's role as Pakistan's financial and commercial hub.

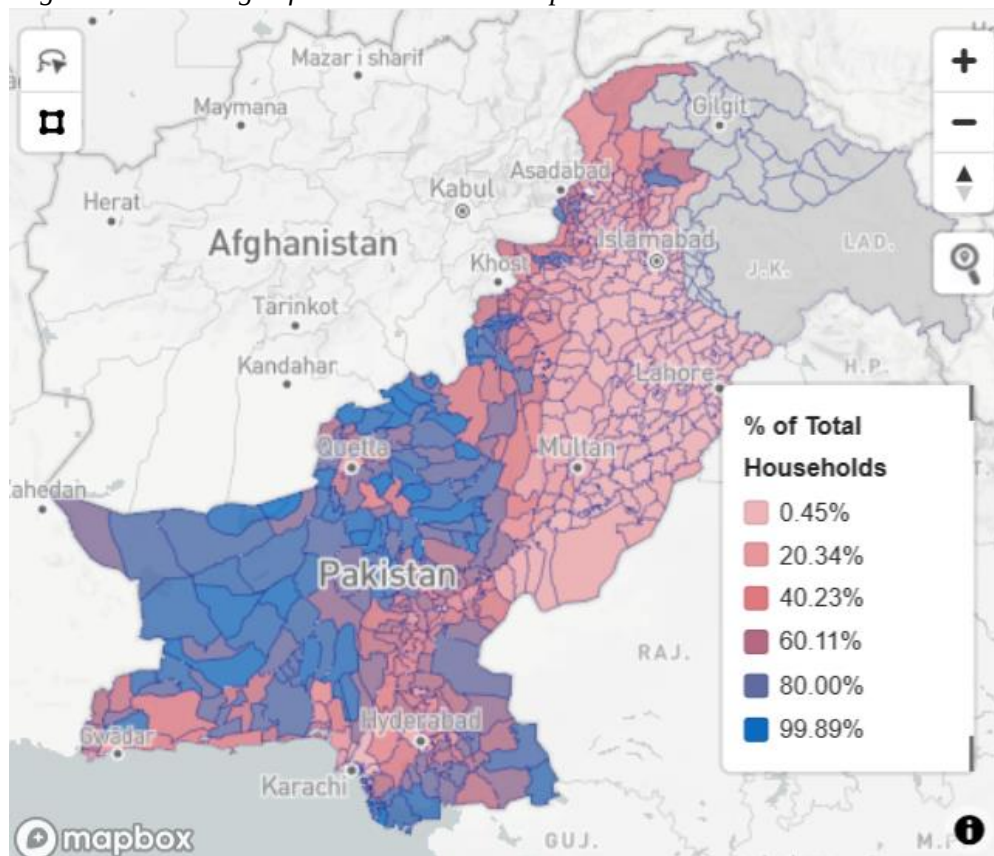
Kacha Housing

1. According to the 7th Population Census of Pakistan (2023)¹, approximately 20% of all housing in the country—equivalent to around 8 million units—falls under the category of kacha housing.

In Pakistan, residential structures are generally classified into three categories: pukka houses, which are built with durable materials such as brick, stone, cement, concrete, or timber; kacha houses, which are made from less durable materials like mud, bamboo, reeds, or thatch; and semi-pukka houses, which incorporate elements of both.²

A broad geographical analysis reveals that kacha housing is disproportionately concentrated in the southern and western regions of Pakistan, particularly in Sindh and Balochistan. In some areas of these provinces, kacha structures make up more than 90% of all housing. In contrast, Punjab and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) have significantly lower proportions, with kacha housing remaining under 20% of the total. These stark regional disparities highlight the varying levels of infrastructure development across provinces.

Figure 1: Percentage of Total Households Reported: Kacha



Source: 7th Population Census of Pakistan 2023, visualization by Gallup Pakistan

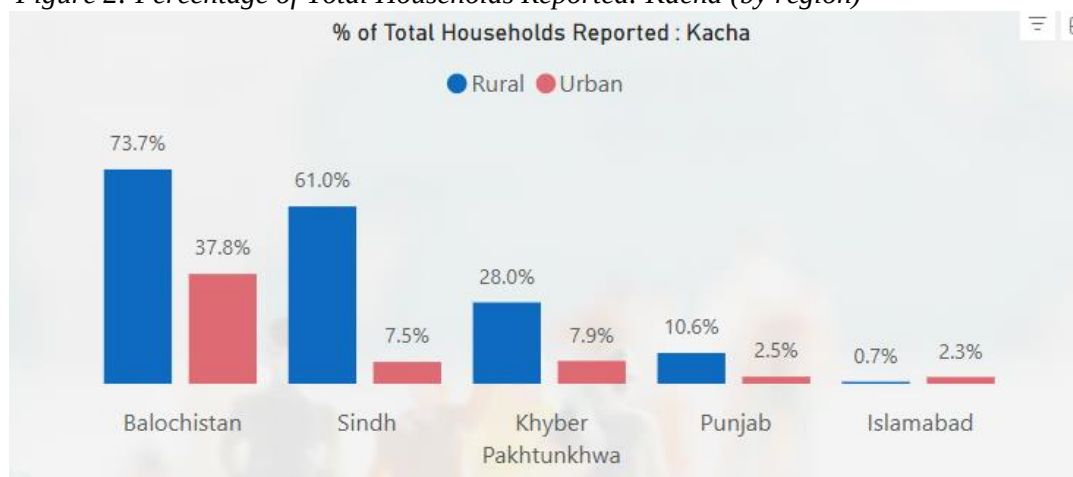
Breaking the data down further into rural and urban divisions within each province provides even greater insight. **Balochistan's rural areas have the highest prevalence of kacha housing, with 73.7% of homes falling into this category, while urban centers in the province have a comparatively lower 37.8%.** Sindh exhibits the most pronounced rural-

¹ <https://galluppakistandigitalanalytics.com/digital-population-and-housing-census-2023/>

² <https://www.britannica.com/place/Pakistan/Housing>

urban gap, with 61% of rural dwellings classified as kacha, compared to just 7.5% in urban areas—a difference of 53.5 percentage points. By contrast, KP, Punjab, and Islamabad show significantly lower proportions of kacha housing overall. In KP, 28% of rural homes are kacha, while Punjab stands at 10.6%, and Islamabad records the lowest percentage, at just 0.7%. These variations can largely be attributed to differences in economic development, infrastructure investment, and urban planning. While Sindh and Balochistan have a few well-defined urban hubs—such as Karachi, Hyderabad, and Quetta—Punjab and KP have seen more widespread infrastructure expansion in both urban and rural settings, reducing reliance on kacha housing.

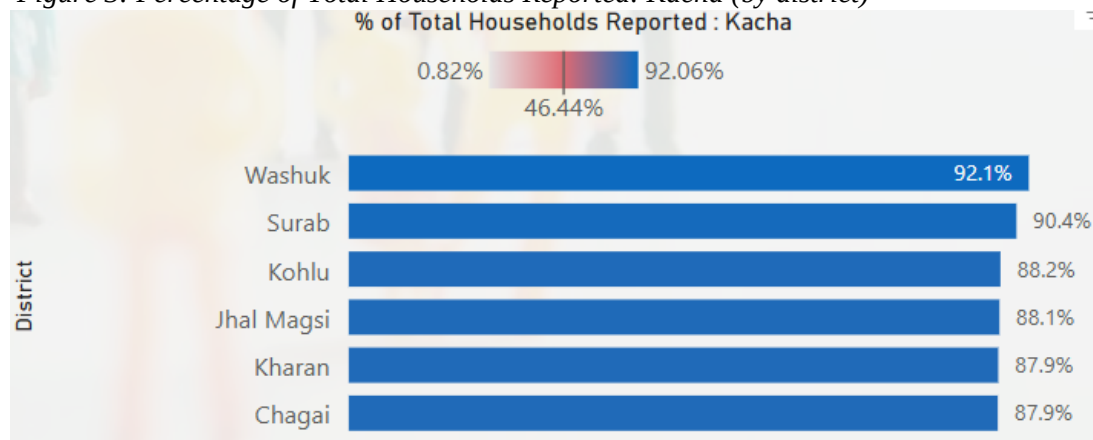
Figure 2: Percentage of Total Households Reported: Kacha (by region)



Source: 7th Population Census of Pakistan 2023, visualization by Gallup Pakistan

A district-level analysis further underscores these disparities, with Washuk (Balochistan) recording the highest proportion of kacha housing at 92.1% (45,155 houses), followed closely by Surab at 90.4% (46,304 houses) and Kohlu at 88.2% (33,609 houses). The fact that all three of the top districts for kacha housing are in Balochistan reinforces the province's lag in infrastructure development and highlights the urgent need for targeted housing and development initiatives to improve living conditions in these underdeveloped regions.

Figure 3: Percentage of Total Households Reported: Kacha (by district)



Source: 7th Population Census of Pakistan 2023, visualization by Gallup Pakistan

Overall, the data reveals significant spatial inequalities in housing infrastructure across Pakistan. While economic development and urbanization have helped reduce kacha housing in

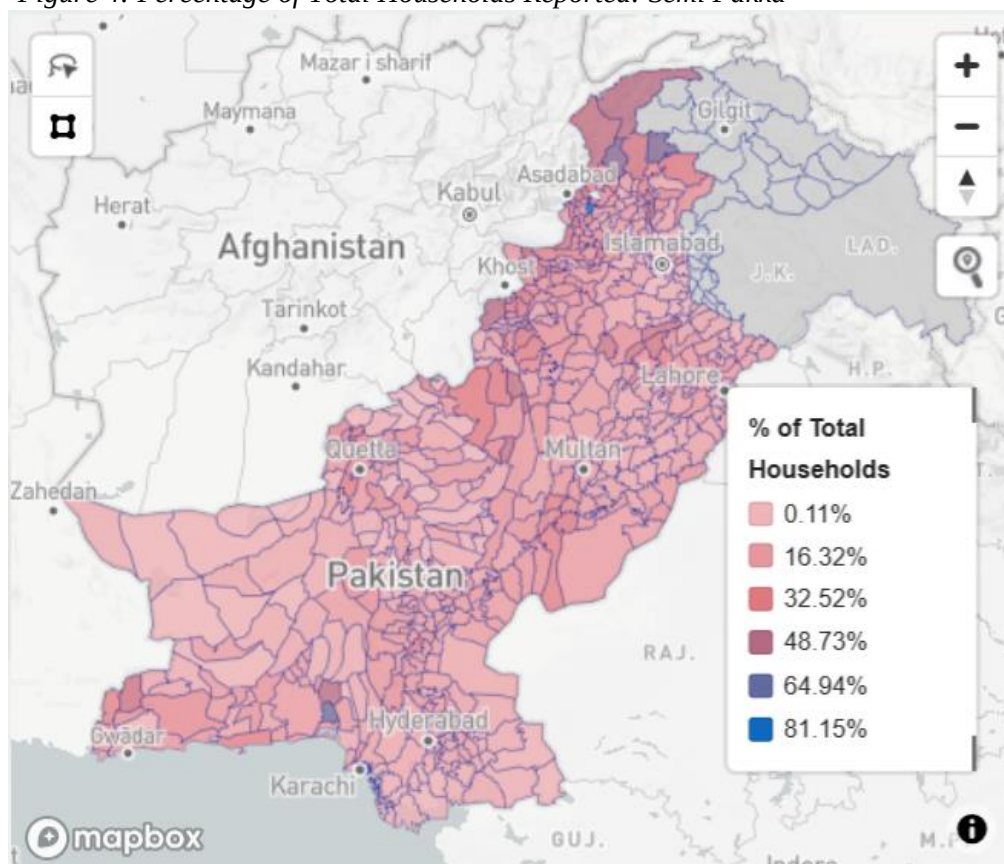
some provinces, large portions of the population—particularly in rural Sindh and Balochistan—continue to live in structurally vulnerable dwellings. This disparity underscores the need for sustained investment in housing, infrastructure, and rural development to bridge the gap between Pakistan’s most and least developed regions.

Semi Pakka Housing

2. **Approximately 5 million households, or 12.6% of the total households in Pakistan, reside in semi-pakka housing.**

These structures represent an intermediate stage between kacha and pakka housing, offering slightly improved infrastructure but still lacking the durability, stability, and long-term resilience of fully developed pakka homes.

Figure 4: Percentage of Total Households Reported: Semi Pakka



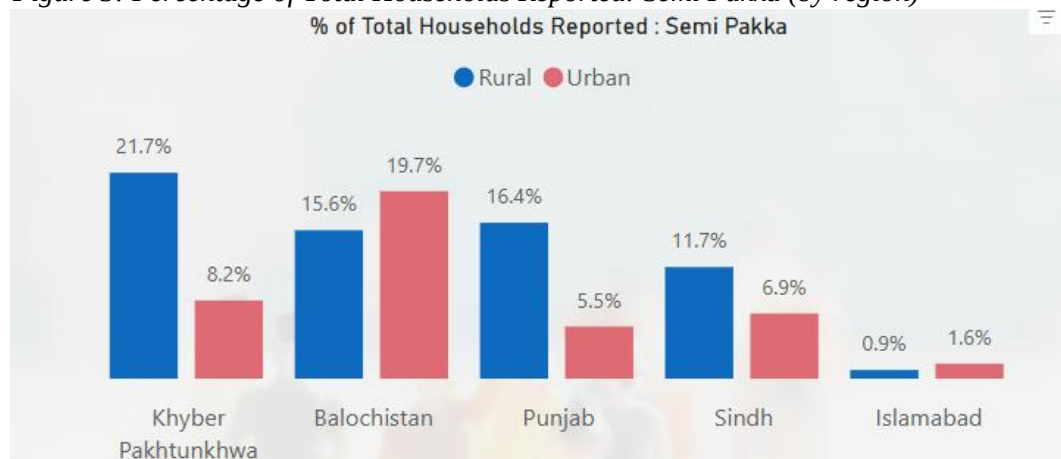
Source: 7th Population Census of Pakistan 2023, visualization by Gallup Pakistan

The regions with the highest prevalence of semi-pakka housing include rural Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (21.7%), urban Balochistan (19.7%), and rural Punjab (16.4%), followed closely by rural Balochistan at 15.6%. When analyzing the distribution of kacha and semi-pakka housing together, an interesting trend emerges: lower proportions of kacha housing, as seen in rural Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Punjab, do not necessarily indicate full infrastructural development. Instead, these regions remain in a transitional phase, where a significant percentage of households have shifted to semi-pakka dwellings but have yet to reach the standard of pakka housing. This underscores the need for targeted financial and

administrative interventions to facilitate the final push toward more permanent and resilient housing solutions.

Conversely, in regions like Balochistan, where a substantial portion of the rural population continues to live in kacha housing, a notable percentage in both rural and urban areas also resides in semi-pakka dwellings. While these homes provide marginally better living conditions, they remain structurally vulnerable, emphasizing the pressing need for improved housing policies and investment in infrastructure to uplift these communities.

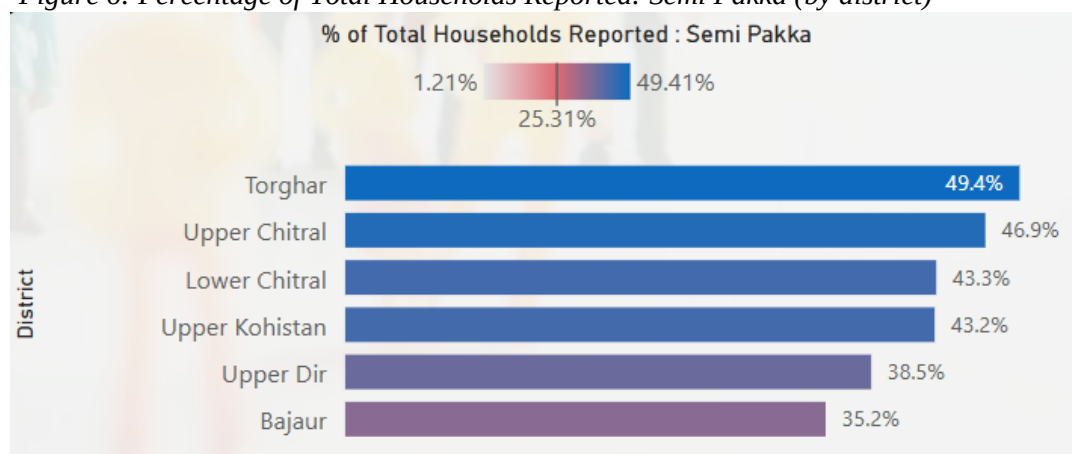
Figure 5: Percentage of Total Households Reported: Semi Pakka (by region)



Source: 7th Population Census of Pakistan 2023, visualization by Gallup Pakistan

A district-wise breakdown further reinforces the provincial trends, with the highest concentration of semi-pakka dwellings found in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. **Torghar tops the list, with 49.4% of its housing classified as semi-pakka (14,531 households)**, followed closely by Upper Chitral at 46.9% and Lower Chitral at 43.3%. The prevalence of semi-pakka housing in these areas suggests that while some progress has been made in moving away from kacha housing, significant development efforts are still required to ensure the transition to more durable, sustainable housing structures.

Figure 6: Percentage of Total Households Reported: Semi Pakka (by district)



Source: 7th Population Census of Pakistan 2023, visualization by Gallup Pakistan

the distribution of semi-pakka housing highlights an important nuance in Pakistan's housing landscape. While some regions may appear to have lower kacha housing figures, they remain in an infrastructural gray zone, requiring additional support to achieve full development.

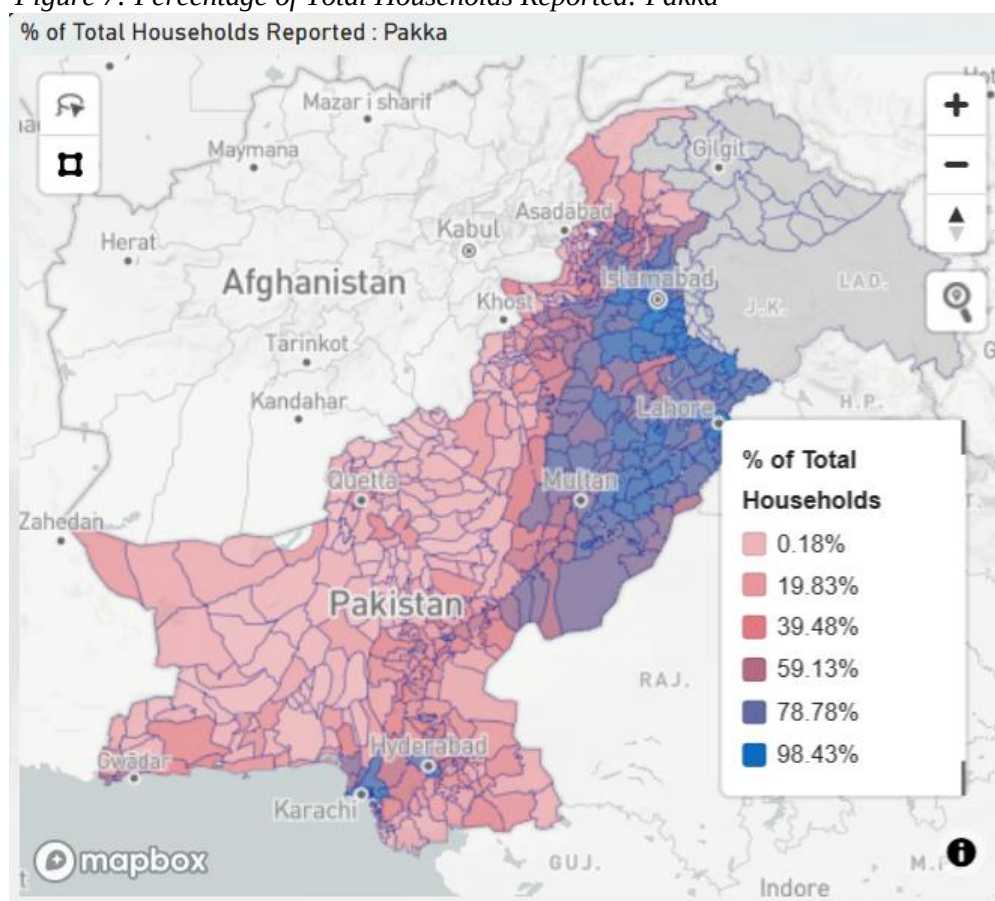
Addressing this gap through strategic investments in housing, financial aid, and better access to construction resources will be crucial in ensuring long-term housing stability across the country.

Pakka Housing

3. Pakka housing remains the predominant form of housing in Pakistan, comprising 26 million households, or 67.5% of the total.

Its distribution closely aligns with broader patterns of economic development, with the highest concentrations found in northern Punjab, southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and select parts of Sindh, where pakka housing exceeds 80% of total households. Conversely, regions with a high prevalence of kacha or semi-pakka housing, such as Balochistan and large parts of Sindh, tend to have less than 20% pakka housing, highlighting stark regional disparities in infrastructure and living standards.

Figure 7: Percentage of Total Households Reported: Pakka

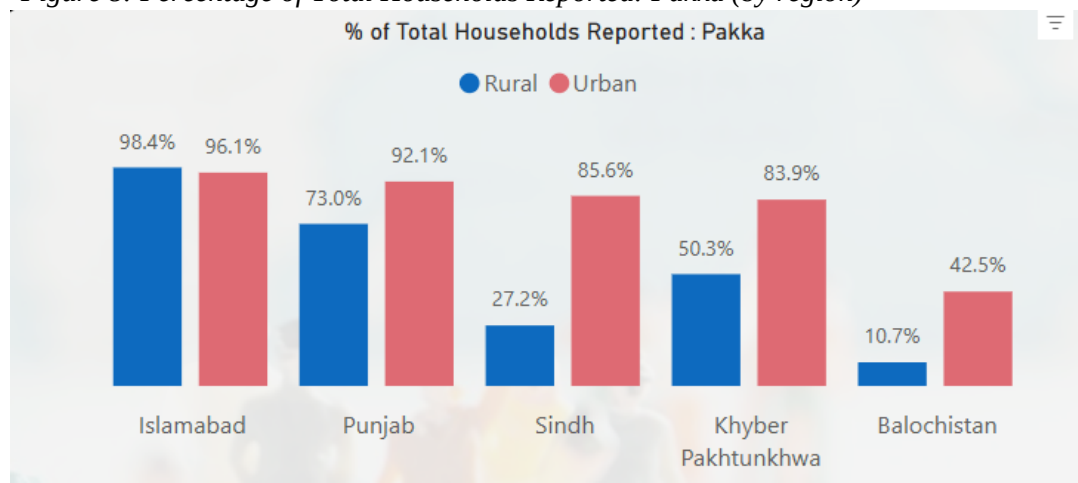


Source: 7th Population Census of Pakistan 2023, visualization by Gallup Pakistan

A closer look at regional differences shows that Islamabad is overwhelmingly dominated by pakka housing, with 98.4% of its rural and 96.1% of its urban population living in structurally sound, permanent dwellings. As the nation's capital and a planned city, Islamabad has benefited from systematic urban development, government investment, and regulatory measures that have minimized the spread of informal settlements. Other provinces exhibit a clear urban-rural divide in pakka housing prevalence, with urban Punjab

(92.1%), Sindh (85.6%), and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (83.9%) significantly outpacing their rural counterparts. Even urban Balochistan, despite the province's overall infrastructural challenges, reports a relatively high percentage of pakka housing (42.5%). Among rural regions, Punjab leads with 73% of its households in pakka housing, followed by Khyber Pakhtunkhwa at 50.3%, reinforcing Punjab's status as the most infrastructurally developed province.

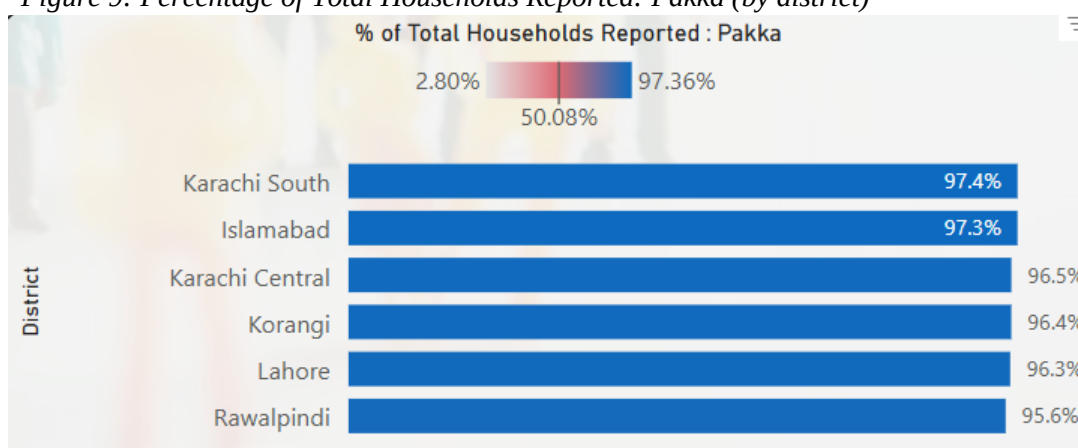
Figure 8: Percentage of Total Households Reported: Pakka (by region)



Source: 7th Population Census of Pakistan 2023, visualization by Gallup Pakistan

A particularly noteworthy trend emerges within Sindh. While much of the province struggles with inadequate housing, Karachi stands out as an exception. **Karachi South (97.4%) and Karachi Central (96.5%) rank among the top three districts for pakka housing, underscoring the city's role as Pakistan's financial and commercial hub.** However, this also highlights internal disparities within the metropolis, as Karachi North does not feature among the top-ranked districts. Similarly, Islamabad, with 97.3% or 400,099 of its total households classified as pakka, further exemplifies how planned urbanization and economic activity contribute to better housing conditions.

Figure 9: Percentage of Total Households Reported: Pakka (by district)



Source: 7th Population Census of Pakistan 2023, visualization by Gallup Pakistan

These patterns of pakka housing distribution reinforce the notion that housing quality is intricately tied to economic development, urban planning, and governmental intervention. While major cities and economic hubs have successfully fostered an environment where

permanent housing dominates, large portions of rural Pakistan and underdeveloped regions remain in need of targeted policies and infrastructure investments to bridge the gap. Addressing this divide will be essential to ensuring equitable housing opportunities for all Pakistanis, regardless of their geographic location.

Wish to Contribute to Gallup Big Data Analysis?

Gallup Pakistan is looking for collaboration with researchers to expand the Big Data Analysis project. If you have any ideas, please write to Bilal I Gilani, Project Director, Big Data Analysis at Gallup Pakistan.

Wish to know more about the 7th Population Census of Pakistan 2023?

The Gallup Pakistan 7th Population Census of Pakistan 2023 Dashboard presents an in-depth district and tehsil level analysis of demographic and housing data, covering key factors such as population distribution, age breakdowns, urbanization trends, household structures, literacy and living conditions across various regions.

You can find more information on the 7th Population Census of Pakistan at:

<https://www.galluppakistanandigitalanalytics.com/>

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