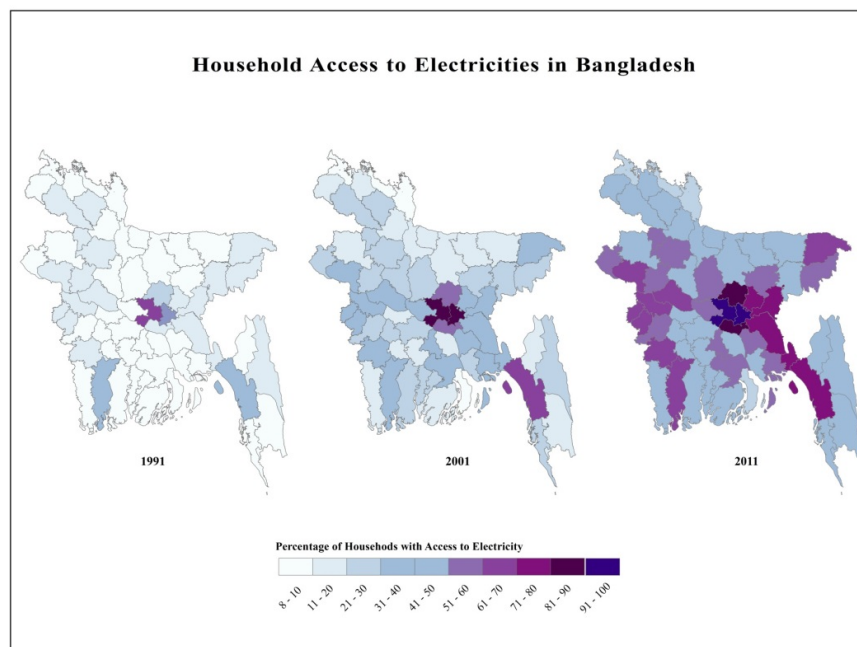


IPUMS-International: Using Maps to Better Understand International, National and Sub-National Statistics on Social Dynamics

Patricia Kelly Hall, Sula Sarkar, Lara Cleveland and Rodrigo Lovaton
University of Minnesota
cleveland@umn.edu

The Integrated Public Use Microdata Series-International (IPUMS International) is a data infrastructure project which disseminates high-precision census microdata samples to researchers worldwide free of cost. IPUMS-International now contains harmonized census and survey microdata on 614 million persons in 277 samples from 82 countries.

Changes in administrative boundaries pose major challenges for spatio-temporal research on social dynamics. Research showing change over time needs to hold space constant to study contextual or spatial effects on behaviors and outcomes. Boundary changes risk polluting their analyses with artifacts that obscure real changes that may have occurred. For example, holding space constant is critical in measuring progress toward MDG goals at lower levels of geography. An example of household electricity availability in Bangladesh over 3 censuses is shown below. IPUMS harmonized geographic variables enable us to calculate the same measures at sub-national levels, holding spatial units constant across sample years.



The IPUMS-International project is constructing geographic units that are spatially consistent over a 50-year period. The following types of boundary files are available, although not all types are currently available for every country:

1. Spatially harmonized first- and second-level administrative units harmonized to provide spatially consistent boundaries across samples in each country.
2. Year-specific first- and second-level administrative units for individual countries.
3. Non-spatially harmonized first-level geography which do not account for spatial change over time. These will be phased out as spatially harmonized and year-specific GIS files become available for these countries.

For more information, visit: <https://international.ipums.org/>