

## **Evidence and Enquiry: Using census data in the history classroom**

### **What can we learn about Dunlavin, County Wicklow, from the census, 1841 to 1901?**

Census material is an excellent source for use in the classroom.

The raw data may be used in a variety of ways.

Teachers should feel free to mix and match data, topics and themes depending on the locality studied and the time from which the material dates.

An urban study could graph the number of houses during a particular time span as a method of measuring urban growth [or decline] over a period of time, or simply to show the size of a settlement at one point in time.

A study set in a Gaeltacht area might home in on the numbers of Irish speakers. Every study will be different and the teacher will be able to choose relevant exercises based on the studies themselves.

The exercises in this section [based on Dunlavin, County Wicklow] show how census materials can be used in the classroom.

They serve as a starting point for teachers who wish to use census material in the classroom.

They may also provide a template for class work and homework that would be suitable for students, especially in Transition Year.

- Section one:     Dunlavin in 1841, buildings and people**
- Section two:    Dunlavin in 1841 and 1851, buildings and people**
- Section three:  Dunlavin buildings, 1881 to 1901**
- Section four:   Dunlavin in 1901, buildings on Main Street.**
- Section five:   Who lived on Dunlavin's Main Street in 1901?**

## Section one: Dunlavin in 1841, buildings and population

The following census information relates to six townlands in Dunlavin district for 1841

Area	Inhabited Houses	Uninhabited Houses	Building	Families	Population	Males	Females
Loughmogue Upper	18	0	0	29	131	69	62
Lugatryna	8	0	0	9	42	24	18
Cowpasture	9	0	0	10	71	33	38
Milltown	26	1	1	33	159	75	84
Tornant Upper	6	0	0	10	52	24	28
Dunlavin Lower	12	0	0	13	67	36	31

1. Which townland was the most populous?
2. Which townland was the least populous?
3. What was the average family size in Cowpasture?
4. How does this compare to typical family sizes today?
5. Why do you think so few houses were uninhabited in 1841?

## Section two: Dunlavin, 1841 and 1851, buildings and people

The 1851 comparative figures for the six sample townlands are also given.

The 1841 figures appear in brackets after the 1851 figures.

Area	Houses Inhabited	Houses Uninhabited	Building	Families	Population	Males	Females
Loughmogue Upper	11 (18)	0 (0)	0 (0)	14 (29)	71 (131)	40 (69)	31 (62)
Lugatryna	3 (8)	0 (0)	0(0)	4(9)	16 (42)	11 (24)	5 (18)
Cowpasture	9 (9)	1 (0)	0 (0)	9 (10)	22 (71)	13 (33)	9 (38)
Milltown	3 (26)	0 (1)	0 (1)	5 (33)	30 (159)	15 (75)	15 (84)
Tornant Upper	6 (6)	0 (0)	0 (0)	8 (10)	42 (52)	21 (24)	21 (28)
Dunlavin Lower	5 (12)	0 (0)	0 (0)	5 (13)	20 (67)	10 (36)	10 (31)

1. What trend is evident from the table above?
2. Suggest a reason for this trend. What might have happened to the 'missing' people?
3. Which townland suffered the worst decline in numbers?
4. What percentage of the population disappeared from Loughmogue Upper and Tornant Upper between 1841 and 1851?
5. Draw a simple bar graph to show the decline in population in Dunlavin Lower and Lugatryna during this decade.

## Section three: Dunlavin buildings, 1881 to 1901

This study contains two bar graphs, showing the number of buildings in Dunlavin D.E.D. and Dunlavin village in 1881, 1891 and 1901.

Chart A.

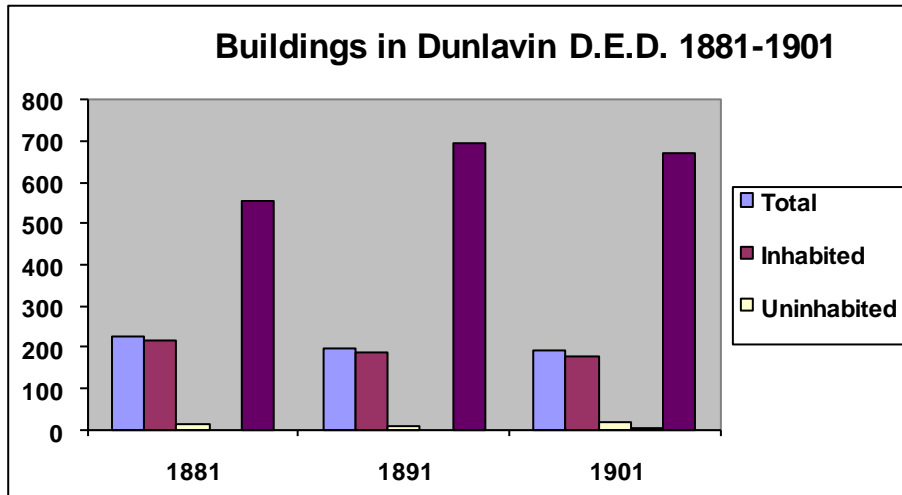
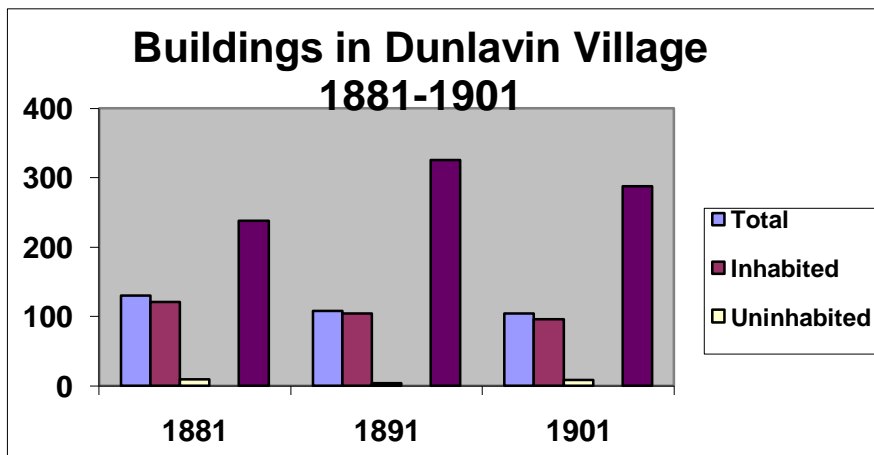


Chart B.



1. What trend is evident from the 'inhabited buildings' column of the graphs?
2. The total number of inhabited buildings in the D.E.D. in 1881 was much higher than the number in 1901. Suggest a reason for the continuous decline in population in the D.E.D. during this period.
3. How does this population trend tie in with what you have learned regarding the overall economic situation in late nineteenth-century Ireland?
4. The railway arrived in Dunlavin in 1885. How is this situation reflected in the farmsteadings [sheds] column of the graphs? Why would sheds become more important to people after the railway had arrived?
5. Both graphs A and B above are very similar, but the shed-building boom leading up to 1891 was more evident in the urban area of the village than in the rural area of the D.E.D. Can you suggest a reason for this?

## Section four: Dunlavin in 1901, buildings on Main Street.

The following information relates to houses on Main Street in 1901

Head of Family	Type of House	No. of Rooms	No. in Family	Class of House
Sarah Lawler	Public House	8	10	1
William Byrne	Shop	7	2	1
Joseph Waldron	Private House	3	2	2
Kerry L. Supple	Private House	10	2	1
Henry Hoey	Hotel	17	3	1
John Hawkes	Bank	8	4	1
Henry Coleborn	Shop	6	6	2
Peter A. Doran	Hotel	10	7	1
Peter B. Coleman	Private House	8	3	2
James Gordon	Private House	2	0	2
James Keogh	Lodging House	4	6	2
Edward Wall	Private House	4	4	2
Philip Doran	Private House	4	8	2
James Kelly	Shop	6	13	2
John Thomas	Private House	6	2	2
Michael Moore	Private House	2	6	2
Peter Masterson	Private House	2	6	2

1. How many private houses were there in this row of seventeen houses?
2. What percentage of buildings in this row had a commercial use?
3. Name three services available along this row of houses in 1901.
4. The houses are all listed as class 1 or class 2. What does this mean?
5. Calculate the average number of rooms in the class 1 houses on the list.

## Section five: Who lived on Dunlavin's Main Street in 1901?

Head of Family	Type of House	No. of Rooms	No. in Family	Class of House
Sarah Lawler	Public House	8	10	1
William Byrne	Shop	7	2	1
Joseph Waldron	Private House	3	2	2
Kerry L. Supple	Private House	10	2	1
Henry Hoey	Hotel	17	3	1
John Hawkes	Bank	8	4	1
Henry Coleborn	Shop	6	6	2
Peter A. Doran	Hotel	10	7	1
Peter B. Coleman	Private House	8	3	2
James Gordon	Private House	2	0	2
James Keogh	Lodging House	4	6	2
Edward Wall	Private House	4	4	2
Philip Doran	Private House	4	8	2
James Kelly	Shop	6	13	2
John Thomas	Private House	6	2	2
Michael Moore	Private House	2	6	2
Peter Masterson	Private House	2	6	2

### HOUSEHOLD OF SARAH LAWLER

Name	Relationship to Head	Age	Married	Born	Religion	Profession
Sarah Lawler	Head	54	Widow	Co. Wicklow	Catholic	Merchant
James Lawler	Son	29	Married	"	"	Merchant
Marie Lawler	Daughter	24	Married	"	"	-
Agnes Lawler	Daughter	26	Single	"	"	-
Nicholas Lawler	Grandson	2	Single	"	"	-
John Lawler	Grandson	9 mth	Single	"	"	-
Sarah Mapes	Servant	23	Single	"	"	Domestic
Maggie Fay	Servant	17	Single	"	"	Nurse
John McGough	Shop Assistant	17	Single	"	"	Shop Assistant
Eddie Whittle	Servant	20	Single	"	"	Porter

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**HOUSEHOLD OF JOSEPH WALDRON**

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<b>Name</b>	<b>Relationship to Head</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Married</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>Religion</b>	<b>Profession</b>
Joseph Waldron	Head	50	Yes	Co. Wicklow	Church of Ireland	Plasterer
Frances Waldron	Wife	52	Yes	"	"	

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**HOUSEHOLD OF JOHN HAWKES**

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<b>Name</b>	<b>Relationship to Head</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Married</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>Religion</b>	<b>Profession</b>
John Hawkes	Head	40	Yes	Co. Cork	Church of Ireland	Bank Manager
Lizzie Hawkes	Wife	35	Yes	Co. Tipperary	"	
May Hawkes	Daughter	12	No	Co. Cork	"	
Kate Rielly	Maid	18	No	Co. Wicklow	Catholic	Domestic

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**HOUSEHOLD OF HENRY COLEBORN**

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<b>Name</b>	<b>Relationship to Head</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Married</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>Religion</b>	<b>Profession</b>
Henry Coleborn	Head	40	Yes	Hants	Irish Church	Jeweller
Sarah Coleborn	Wife	40	Yes	Co. Wicklow	"	
Maud Coleborn	Daughter	18	No	Hants	"	
Walter Coleborn	Son	14	No	Co. Wicklow	"	Scholar
Mabel Coleborn	Daughter	6	No	"	"	Scholar
Henry J. Coleborn	Son	1	No	Co. Wicklow	"	

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**HOUSEHOLD OF PETER A. DORAN**

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<b>Name</b>	<b>Relationship to Head</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Married</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>Religion</b>	<b>Profession</b>
Peter A Doran	Head	26	Married	Co. Kildare	Catholic	Publican
Brigid Doran	Wife	22	Married	Co. Wicklow	"	Publican
Robert Miley	Assistant	45	Single	"	Protestant	Shop Assistant
Peter O'Toole	Assistant	24	Single	"	Catholic	"
Kate Archibald	Servant	24	Single	Co. Kildare	"	Domestic
Maggie Ennis	Servant	24	Single	Co. Kildare	"	"
Edward Yaul	Servant	35	Married	"	"	Servant

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**HOUSEHOLD OF EDWARD WALL**

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<b>Name</b>	<b>Relationship to Head</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Married</b>	<b>Born</b>	<b>Religion</b>	<b>Profession</b>
Edward Wall	Head	62	Yes	Co. Wicklow	RC	Car Owner
Kate Wall	Wife	60	Yes	"	"	
William Wall	Son	34	No	"	"	Car Driver
Edward Wall	Son	30	No	"	"	Car Driver

1. What was the total number of who people lived in the six houses?
2. Calculate the average number of people per house. Do you think this figure is low or high? How does it compare to the numbers of people per house nowadays?
3. What percentage of these people was born locally [in Co. Wicklow or Co. Kildare]. Name three people who had moved into the area and say from where they had moved.
4. What proportion of the people in these six houses was Catholic and what proportion was Church of Ireland. Draw a pie chart to represent this situation.
5. Name one profession mentioned in the forms that would no longer be listed as a profession. Suggest a modern equivalent of this profession.
6. What was the average age of the people who lived in these six houses? Construct a population pyramid to show the age and sex structure of the population in the six houses in 1901.