

Developing future scenarios for the population and living arrangements in Iceland using census data

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Abstract

Introduction

Housing needs are currently a hot topic in Iceland and the government is under much pressure to improve the housing situation. In the general discussion, the lack of investment in new buildings and dwellings is said to be the main source of the problem and a major intervention to increase the number of new buildings and dwellings is increasingly put forward as a solution. However, when examining the need for new dwellings the demographic changes of the population have to be taken into account, e.g. the aging population and different living arrangements.

Objectives

One problem with the general discourse in Iceland has been lack of data examining the situation in the Icelandic housing market, its relationship with where people are living and possible scenarios detailing how this might develop in the near future. What is therefore needed is further data on the housing market and the living arrangements of the population in order to ensure that the discussion is based on facts and figures. This will hopefully increase the likelihood of an evidence based policy of the Icelandic housing market and the need for new dwellings.

Data and methods

By using extrapolated interpolated census data from 2011 along with other data sources; surveys, administrative sources, population forecasts and various demographic data from Iceland, this presentation aims to show several scenarios in which the population might be expected to develop in the near future. In addition the possible development of new houses and dwellings in Iceland will be modeled as well and the two will be compared in order to make an evidence based prediction about the possible development of the need for housing in Iceland.