

# The Size of Extended and Nuclear Families in the Babylon Governorate for the Years 1997, 2010, and 2018: An Analytical Study in Population Geography

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This study was prepared to show the image of the size of the extended and nuclear families in the Babylon Governorate during the years 1997, 2010, and 2018. Furthermore, it indicated the impact of the economic, social, and health factors on the size of families. The researchers mainly relied on the data of the Central Bureau of Statistics, and resorted to the field study, as they took a random sample of one per cent, choosing 2,932 families from the sample community. The results of the study showed the temporal change of nuclear families for the years 1997, 2010, and 2018. Furthermore, there was a remarkable change in the urban and rural areas of the study, as the lowest numbers and proportions of families were recorded in 1997; in urban areas there were 57,600, and the countryside had 56,143 families. The number of nuclear families increased slightly in 2010 from 1997, where it reached in urban areas 80,510 families, while in the countryside, it reached 66,816 families. In 2018, the proportions and number of nuclear families in the countryside and urban areas increased to 127,912, and 10,5442 families respectively, and they were characterised by variation and fluctuation between the administrative units for the three years. The proportions and the number of extended families decreased in the rural and urban areas between 2010–2018. As the results of the study showed that economic, social, and health factors are related to the size of extended and nuclear families, and in light of the results, the researchers have recommended several proposals.

**Keywords:** *Extended families, Nuclear families.*

## **Introduction**

The family was, and remains, placed at the great attention of many specialists in various specialisations. In particular, the social and human sciences, due to its importance and considering it as the first and main core from which society was formed, as it is the first social unit known to humankind in life, from the first marriage. The emergence of the first family groups have evolved over time into many different social organisations, in which family organisations have varied in their structure, sizes, functions, and roles. It performs many functions, including those related to establishing and maintaining social relations, including what concerns the provision of the emotional and economic bond, that is indispensable for the growth and development of its members and their participation in the life of society as active members (Al-Ayashi, 2008: 281). As a result of a lack of studies on this topic, and the lack of study at the level of the Babylon Governorate, the researchers were encouraged to analyse this phenomenon spatially and temporally in the province of Babylon. Therefore, the topic of the research is the analysis of the numerical and relative distribution of the extended and nuclear families who lived in this City, in the years 1997, 2010, and 2018. In order to know the changes in number and proportions of the extended and nuclear families, and because of the researchers' belief that the province of Babel had witnessed clear numerical changes in the periods between these years, they used a set of statistical styles for the research which included three topics. The first included an introduction and the theoretical framework, while the second topic included concepts and terms, and finally, the third included the numerical and relative distribution of the extended and nuclear families in the Babylon Governorate in the years 1997, 2010, and 2018. The finalisation of the research resulted in many of conclusions.

### ***The Problem of the Study***

The study seeks to answer the following questions:

1. Is there a difference in the size of extended and nuclear families in the years 1997, 2010, and 2018, in the Babylon Governorate, or spatial difference in the size of these families in the spatial limits of the governorate for those three years?
2. Are there any elements that affect upon the difference in the size of extended and nuclear families in the governorate?

### ***The Aims of the Study***

The current study aims at discovering changes in the size of extended and nuclear families during the years 1997, 2010, and 2018, as well as their spatial size during these years, and in addition to searching for these variables that relate with the difference in size, temporally and spatially.

### ***The Research Hypothesis***

1. The size of extended and nuclear families differs in the years 1997, 2010, and 2018, in the Babylon Governorate, as the number of these families varies spatially for the three years.
2. The economic, social, cultural, and other factors influence the differences in the size of extended and nuclear families in the governorate.

### ***The Limits of the Study***

#### ***Spatial and Temporal Limits***

The spatial limits of the study of the Babylon Governorate, with all of its administrative units and their areas, is about 5,119 km<sup>2</sup>, with a percentage of 1.2 per cent of the total area of Iraq, as it extends between the two latitudes of 32.7 ° and 33.8 ° to the north, with a longitude of 42, 43, and 50°, 45° to the east. It lies in the central part of Iraq, and is located in the northern part of the Middle Euphrates region. Furthermore, it is bordered to the north by the Baghdad Governorate, to the south by the Najaf and Qadisiyah Governorates, the Wasit Governorate is by the eastern side, and the Karbala and Anbar Governorates are in the west.

The administrative structure of the governorate consists of 16 administrative units, and from which there are four districts of Al-Hilla, Al-Mahaweel, Al-Hashimiya, and Al-Musayab. It includes 12 administrative units at the District level, as is shown in Map 1. The centre of the District of Hilla (the City of Hilla), is the centre of the Province, representing the administrative and economic capital of the governorate, as it is characterised by its population number, its economic activities, and its various service activities. The temporal limits for the study are represented by the period of the years 1997, 2010, and 2018.

#### ***The Hypothesis of the Study***

The researchers relied on the analytical approach in geography, which is based on distribution, analysis, and linkage, and as they mainly relied on the data of the Central Statistics Device, and the questionnaire form. Two thousand nine hundred and thirty-two questionnaire forms were distributed to the administrative units of the Babylon Governorate, according to the environment with the percentage of one per cent. These forms were distributed according to the ratios of the families for each administrative unit in the Province of Babylon. In addition, the use of theoretical literature helped the researchers in linking and analysing (see more: Gregory, Statistical and the geographer: Third Edition, Longman group, Limited, London, 1973, p.p, 8-20).

**Map 1.** Babylon Administrative Districts in 2020



**Source:** Al-Hilla Municipality Directorate, Map of Babylon Governorate, on the scale (1/500000) in 2020

## The Study Concepts and Terminology

### *The Concept of the Family*

The concept of the family is one of the concepts that interferes with many scientific disciplines, such as sociology, law, economics, genetics, embryology, and legislation. In addition to its use in large, comprehensive family formations, such as extended, complex families, and simple families, such as the nuclear family (Ahmad, 2004).

Among the concepts that clarified the meaning of the family and was explained by Auxt-Conte — who is one of the first scholars in the field of sociology — the family is the first cell in the body of society; it is the first point from which development begins and it is the natural social medium in which the individual grew up. It is considered a basic and general system which based on its existence, is the survival of the community, as it supplies it to new members, establishing and preparing them to carry out their roles in other systems of society and to establish new families of their own (Mahoos, 2009).

It can be said that the overwhelming majority of prominent sociologists believe that the family has evolved from large shapes, extending to smaller and smaller forms continually. For example, it was the opinion of Durkheim, who believed that the family took in the shadow of ancient high-end cultures, shrinking from its largest known forms to smaller and smaller forms. Thus, these scholars were able to determine the following family patterns that they believed existed in the societies of the ancient world:

***Extremely kinship groups of this type that existed in the ancient Roman Empire***

1. The big family, which consisted of brothers, their wives, and their children, who lived together under a sharing life that did not know the division of the inheritance of the ownership.
2. The classic patriarchal family is the family that includes multiple generations in the male line.
3. The father's family, which consists of the husband, wife or wives, minor children, and their relatives (Ghaith, 176: 979).

***The Concept of the Extended Family***

The extended family consists of people who are living together with whom they have a continuous and intimate understanding, with a large network of kinship ties. The knowing form of this family is three generations, in which grandparents, parents, and children live together. This form of families is mainly preferred in cultures that have values and respect for the adults, for the purpose of surrounding them in care, and families which are based on blood relations, depending on larger units than this. Other relatives can live in the same house, and many members from the same family may take responsibility for caring for the children (Ibrahim, 2017).

Rosser and Harris have defined it as a specific relationship between a group of individuals who are related emotionally through marriage and childbearing. This type is broader than the nuclear family, as it extends into three generations starting from grandparents to grandchildren. This type of family is spreading in rural areas, the lowest-income, and more extensive environments. Insisting on the reference of the adults over young people, over the series of generations, it is considered a rebellion against its group and power.

The extended family is characterised by the rank of status, where the reference is for adults over young people, over the series of generations. It is also characterised by a clear definition of marital, parenting, and brotherhood roles. Thus, it limits the interference of social institutions in their affairs and the affairs of its subjects. This condition is characterised as a

prevalence of customs and traditions, which extended families consider them as an expression of their authenticity (Al-Kohel, 2017).

A common pattern in primitive and non-industrial societies, is the group that consists of a number of related families, whether the lineage is to the man or the woman, who live in one residence or place. Among the circumstances that encourage the existence of the extended family are political and geographic isolation, a weak state system, and some specific economic and social conditions, such as raising large herds of livestock, and the collective ownership of land (Al-Dabaa, 2009).

### ***The Concept of the Nuclear Family***

The nuclear family refers to a group consisting of at least two heterosexual individuals who live in an acceptable relationship in society, with a son or daughter or without children. Thus, meaning that it is the family unit that consists of the father and mother and children or a husband and wife alone (Ibrahim, 2017).

It is also known as a group of individuals with strong relations resulting from the ties of marriage, blood, and adoption. This group lives in one house, its members link to the father, mother, and children, with coherent social relations based on shared interests and goals. The nuclear family consists of the parents and their non-adult children. It acts as an independent unit from the rest of the family units in the local community. It is common that they are of a small size, have a relative degree of individual freedom, horizontal relations and independent residents, as well as an economic life which is relatively independent of the original families. What distinguishes the nuclear Arab family is that it maintains a network of relationships with families of origin and relatives, as it benefits from their material and moral support, and the sharing of services with them (Al-Kohel, 2017). The nucleus is a prominent phenomenon in advanced industrial societies because in its cohesion, it depends on sexual attraction and friendship between the husband and wife, and also among parents and children. However, family relations quickly weaken when children grow up, whether through the influence of friend groups or as a result of social and geographic movements (Marshall, 2001).

## **The Numerical and Relative Distribution of Extended and Nuclear Families According to the Administrative Units of the Babylon Governorate in the Years 1997, 2010, and 2018**

### ***The Numerical and Relative Distribution of Extended and Nuclear Families for the Year 1997***

Numerical distribution refers to the population size in a specific region, at a specific time. Thus, meaning that this concept has been seen in the absolute quantitative or numerical basis as the main in the classification of ranks. It determines their levels without giving importance to the proportion of what this size constitutes of the total percentage of the population of the state or region, as it does not differ in distribution only by the number of the points, as there are modern large urban centres that occupy only limited areas of land. Meanwhile, there are large areas in which population densities decrease to a large degree to reach one person or less, per square kilometre (Ziyadi, 2013). The study of the relative distribution of the population of any region according to its administrative units is one of the most widespread and used methods, as it shows the percentage of what affects the administrative unit of the total population. These percentages may explain the importance of the place and the development of that importance in a specific period, with its difference in time and space, as the geographic role is determined by analysing that importance and explaining its causes and development with the change, depending on the data of the various censuses (Najim Al-Din, 1982).

The data Tables 1, 2 and 3, indicate that the numerical and relative distribution of the extended and nuclear families in the urban-rural localities of the Babylon Governorate varies spatially between its administrative units at the time, and in the years 2018–2018, and 1997. The highest number of extended families was recorded in 1997, reaching 124,655, at the rate of 53 per cent, when the lowest number of extended families were recorded in 2018, as it reached only 59,887 families, with the rate of 20 per cent. In regard to the nuclear family, it was confined among its highest percentage, as it reached 8,147,326 families, at a rate of 80 per cent, in 2018. Its lowest number, which was 108,594 families, at a rate 46 per cent, occurred in 1997. The reason for this variety in the decline of the nuclear family in 1997, is due to the deteriorating conditions that the country went through during the economic blockade that was imposed on Iraq. Furthermore, social factors have led to an increase in the number of extended families, such as parental care, bonding values and family unity. This was reflected in the Hilla District Centre, which ranked first. It was affected directly with the number of families, recording its highest percentage in the number of extended families in 1997, in the urban “Al-Hather”, in the District of Hilla, reaching 25,430 families, and registering a rate of 48 per cent from the total of the extended families. It was followed by “Al-Iskandria”, which reached 5,339 families with a percentage or rate of 10 per cent. Next,

was Al-Qasim, which had 4,082 families, registering a rate of eight per cent from the total number of extended families, through which, the Hilla District Centre acquired the highest numerical and relative indicators, as it includes the city of Hilla, which is as an administrative capital of the Province of Babylon. Furthermore, it is the most fortunate in its availability of economic activities, investments, and service activities, among other administrative units of different administrative ranks. Accordingly, the high data on the numerical and relative distribution of families in them is mainly due to the concentration of the urban population in it, in comparing with the number of rural residents, as these units are of an urban nature. This indicates that the increasing in the economic, social and cultural due to the level of their population.

As for the countryside, the extended family at the administrative units level of the governorate was characterised by the spatial variation in the rates between one administrative unit and another. In 1997, it recorded the highest rate for it, in the status of the District of Hilla, and al-Mahaweel, as well as the areas of al-Kifil, al-Midhatiya, and al-Mashroo'h, as the rates reached 9.4 per cent, 15 per cent, 9 per cent, 9.3 per cent, and 11.3 per cent, respectively. This is due to the fact that it is of a rural nature, and the lowering level of cultural, educational, health, and living awareness of the residents of these units. As, in 1997, the housing units in the rural areas was of course lesser than the number of families, as there were three, four, and five families in the one residential house. This was due to the family connection in the study area. When children get married, they are not separated from the original family (father, mother), but remain in the same house. A room is built for the son who marries, and so on, to the rest of the children. In addition, to the family's need for manpower to accomplish and manage agricultural, planting and animal raising, and other farming activities.

The nuclear family, and at the level of administrative units, excelled in "Hather", the study area on the countryside of the nuclear family, as shown in Table 1. It had the highest number of nuclear families in the District of Al-Hilla, which reached 26,468 families, with a rate of 46 per cent, in 1997. It was followed by the Al-Iskandria District, with 6,020 families, with a rate of 10.4 per cent. The lowest percentages were recorded in the areas of Imam, Al-Talia'a, and Jurf al-Sakhr, as they reached 613, 339, and 447 families, with the rates of 0.7 per cent, 0.5 per cent, and one per cent, respectively. The reason behind this urban variety is attributed to the fact that the Hilla District has an urban nature. This leads to the high economic, social, and cultural level of its population, in addition to the state's policy to create residential areas by distributing housing lands to some residentials in the same society.

As for the lowest rates of the nuclear family in the areas of the Imam, Al-Talea, and Jurf al-Sakhr, this is due to its rural nature and the low level of cultural, health, and living awareness of the residents in these areas. As for the countryside, the highest rates were recorded in the

Al-Hilla, Al-Mahaweel, and Al-Kifil District Centres, as they numbered 8,300, 5,161, and 6,507 nuclear families, with rates of 9.1 per cent, 11.5 per cent, and 15 per cent, respectively. The rural family is the basis from which the modern urban family has descended, so it is more stable than others, since it depends mainly on the traditional system of values which is based on customs, morals, and controls that are prevailing among its members.

**Table 1:** The numerical and relative distribution of extended and nuclear families by administrative units in the Babylon Governorate in 1997

Administrative Districts	Extended Family	Urban			Countryside			
		Percentage	Nuclear Family	Percentage	Extended Family	Percentage	Nuclear Family	Percentage
Hilla District Centre	25430	48	26468	46	9734	15	8300	15
Al-Kifil District	1003	2	1132	2	7640	11.3	6507	11.5
Abi Gharag District	1085	2	1224	2.1	5044	7.5	4473	8
Al-Mahaweel District Centre	1023	2	1201	2	6309	9.4	5161	9.1
Al-Imam District	573	1	613	1	2992	4.4	2448	4.3
Al-Mashroo District	1609	3	2049	3.5	6254	9.3	4914	9
Al-Neel District	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Al-Hashimya District	1953	4	2202	4	0	0	0	0
Al-Qasin District	4082	8	4792	8.3	4798	7	3925	7
Al-Midhatiya District	3108	6	3504	6	5950	9	5069	9
Al-Shomeliy District	909	2	1112	2	4221	6.2	3452	6.1
Al-Tali'a	288	0.5	339	0.5	2102	3.1	1864	3.3

District								
Al-Musa'ib District	3832	7	4322	7.5	0	0	0	0
Al-Sada District	1852	3.5	2175	4	4649	6.9	3961	7
Juruf al-Sakher District	365	1	447	0.7	3052	4.5	2398	4.2
Al-Iskandarya District	5339	10	6020	10.4	4310	6.4	3671	6.5
The Total	52451	100	57600	100	67055	100	56143	100

The source: from the researchers work that relies on:

- Planning institution, Central Statistical Organization, results of the general population census in 1997 for the Babylon Governorate;
- The form of the questionnaire (field study);
- The Nile District was created in 2000, according to the govern order No. (518) on February 28, 2000.

### ***The Numerical and Relative Distribution of Extended and Nuclear Families for the Year 2010***

The data in Table 2 shows the numerical and relative distribution of the extended and nuclear families in the urban and rural areas in 2010. The highest number of nuclear families was recorded was 80,510 among urban families, and 66,816 among rural families. Meanwhile, the lowest number of extended families reached 47,835 in urban areas, and 49,031 in rural areas. The features of the numerical distributive picture of the extended and nuclear families in the administrative units have not changed clearly. The centre of the Al-Hilla District, in urban "Al-Hadar", continued exclusively in the first place, as the number of extended families reached 21,130, with a recorded percentage of 44 per cent. Al-IsKandria came in second place, as the number of extended families reached 4,756, with a rate or percentage of ten per cent. The Al-Qasim District represented the third position, reaching 4,004 families, and recording a rate of eight per cent of the total extended families, which it is the same level that it recorded in the census of 1997. Meanwhile, the Musayab District Centre and the Al-Mudahtya District came in fourth, with respective family numbers of 2,984, and 2,890, accompanied by rates of 6.1 per cent, and six per cent of the total of the extended families. The lowest numbers appeared in the areas of Juruf Al-Sakher, Nile, and Al-Talee'a, as the number of extended families of each reached 287, 385, and 416, also recording percentages of 0.5 per cent, one per cent, and one per cent of the total of the extended families,

respectively. As for the countryside, the highest rates of extended families were recorded in Al-Hilla, Al-Mahaweel, and the two District Centres of Al-Kifil, and Qasim. The number of extended families in each reached 5,667, 4,455, 5,004, and 4,553 families, with rates of 11.5 per cent, nine per cent, 10.2 per cent, and nine per cent. The numerical and relative distribution data for the extended families in the Hilla District was mainly due to the improvement of economic and social conditions after 2003.

It is clear that there is a difference between the administrative units of the governorate in the rates and the number of the nuclear families at the level of the districts in urban areas. This was evident in 1997, with a slight difference in the numerical rates of nuclear families. It is represented in the urban areas attaining the first position, which is the highest in the status of the District of Hilla, and Al-Iskandria. As for the second level, which is the lowest, it was represented by the areas of Al-Nile, Al- Imam, Al-Tale'a, and Jurof al-Sakher. In terms of the countryside, where the District of Hilla achieved the first level with a rate of 15 per cent, the reason for this is that the centre of the District of Hilla represents the centre of the Province. Its superiority in the nuclear family is converting a long distance of agricultural areas — which are close to the centre of the City of Hilla — into residential areas, as well as the construction of vertical buildings that led to increase the chances of obtaining a housing unit. The Al-Kifil District attained the second level, with a rate reached 11.2 per cent. The Al-Mahaweel District Centre came in at third position, with nine per cent, meanwhile, the Abu Gharq and Sadat Al-Hindiya Districts occupied the fourth position with ratios of 8.6, and 8.7. The last level were occupied by the nuclear families in the countryside, represented by Al-Mashro, Al-Qasim, Al-Madhatya, Al-Iskandria, Al-Shomali, and Nile, at rates of 7.4, seven, seven, 7.2, 5.5, and four per cent, respectively.

As for the high rates of nuclear families in rural and urban areas in their administrative units, it is because of the service, economic, and social differences, and also the lack of justice in large families in the distribution of services, which prompted the population to concentrate in urban areas that have the largest share of services, finance, entertainment, and other departments and institutions. The prevailing pattern of marriage is the nuclear family marriage, which led to a decline in the number of extended families, including the desire of the two parents for their independence, especially in housing and in the economic and social aspects.

**Table 2:** The numerical and relative distribution of extended and nuclear families according to the administrative units in the Babylon Governorate in 2010

Administrative Districts	Rural				Urban			
	Extended Family	Percentage	Nuclear Family	Percentage	Extended Family	Percentage	Extended Family	Percentage
Hilla District Centre	21130	44	41017	51	5667	11.5	10073	15
Al-Kifil District	1038	2	1766	2.1	5004	10.2	7504	11.2
Abi Gharaq District	1164	2.4	1897	2.3	3864	8	5794	8.6
Al-Mahaweel District	1611	3.3	2317	3	4455	9	5904	9
Al-Imam area	720	2	916	1	1215	2.4	1484	2.2
Al-Mashroo'a District	1947	4	2579	3.3	3915	8	4982	7.4
Nile District	385	1	451	0.5	2974	6	2782	4
Al-Hashimya District Centre	2010	4.2	2663	3.3	0	0	0	0
Al-Qasim District	4004	8	5095	6.3	4553	9	4552	7
Al-Midhatiya District	2890	6	3989	5	3668	7.4	4667	7
Al-Shomely District	814	2	1169	1.4	3444	7	3731	5.5
Al-Talie'a District	416	1	597	1	1352	3	1845	3
Al-Musaib District Centre	2982	6.1	4863	6.1	0	0	0	0
Al-Sada District	1681	3.5	2627	3.2	3755	8	5872	8.7
Jurof al-Sakher District	287	0.5	466	0.5	1957	4	2814	4.2
Al-Iskandarya District	4756	10	8098	10	3208	6.5	4812	7.2
The Total	47835	100	80510	100	49031	100	66816	100

**Table 2 Source:** From the researchers work depending on:

- Ministry of Planning, Central Agency for Statistics and Information Technology, 2010 Population Estimates for the Babylon Governorate;
- The Questionnaire (field study).

### ***The Numerical and Relative Distribution of Extended and Nuclear Families for the Year 2018***

The data in Table 3 shows the numerical and relative distribution of the extended and nuclear families in the urban and rural areas in 2018. It recorded the highest number and percentage of nuclear families, which reached 127,912 urban families, and 105,442 rural families. Meanwhile, it also recorded the lowest number of extended families, with 29,298 urban families, and 30,589 rural families.

The images of the geographical distribution of the extended and nuclear families in the urban and rural areas in the Province of Babylon in 2018, has many differences. From the data of this table, it is clear that there is a difference between the administrative units of the governorate in the units of the extended and nuclear families with the Districts, as they were in 1997, and 2010, with a slight difference in the numerical percentages of families.

The Al-Hilla District Centre achieved the first position for nuclear families in Al-Hadar (urban), reaching 63,044 families, with a percentage of 49.2 per cent of all nuclear families. The reason behind this, there is a continuous shift in the pattern of the extended family to that of the nuclear family, and as a result of several factors, including migration, education, the diversity of economic activities, the decline in the agricultural production system, and also the increasing importance of work sectors, such as industry and services. The Hilla District Centre also represents the Governorate Centre which enjoys the availability of all economic, social, cultural, administrative, and service activities, as well as the occurrence of internal migration from the countryside of the administrative units of the Governorate to the City. This is due to the deterioration of agriculture, the spread of unemployment, and the increasing of demand of education for males and females, which worked to create a path away from the work of their families in the agricultural field. They became independent from their extended families and became independent nuclear families. They do not rely on their extended families to meet their basic needs, nor what social and geographical change has brought to the rural units, as well as the requirements of marriage at the present time, which is the independence of the husbands in a separate house away from the big family. Al-Iskandria came second in urban families with 12,577, with a percentage of ten per cent of the total number of nuclear families. The Al-Qasim region came third in the urban area with seven per cent, while the Al-Musaib District occupied the fourth level in the urban area, reaching 7,908

families at the rate of five per cent of the total number of nuclear families. Meanwhile, it was found from the data of the same table that the Al-Hilla, Al-Mahaweel, and Al-Kifil District Centres witnessed an increase in nuclear families in the countryside. The rates were 14 per cent, nine per cent, and 11 per cent, respectively. The reason for this is due to the improvement in living conditions, economic conditions, and high levels of marriage, which have led to increased fertility rates. In addition, to the factor of urbanisation and diversity in the forms of economic activity. The lowest percentages were recorded in the areas of Al-Imam, Al-Nile, Al-Shomali, Al-Talee'a, and Jurf al-Sakhr, recording ratios of 1.2 per cent, one per cent, 1.4 per cent, one per cent, and 0.5 per cent of the total number of nuclear families.

Some administrative units in Al-Hadar witnessed a marked decrease in the units and number of extended families, representing in the areas Ofal-Imam, Al-Nile, Al-Shomali, Al-Taleea and Jurf Al-Sakhr, with rates of 419, 205, 533, 245, and 209 families, and accompanied by percentages of 1.3 per cent, 0.6 per cent, 1.8 per cent, 0.8 per cent, and 0.7 per cent, respectively, from the total of the extended families. This is due to the regression, as the political, social, and economic transformations witnessed by the Iraqi society in general, and the rural family in particular, were affected in most aspects of the rural, social, economic, and cultural activities of the family. On the education side, which has spread widely and that introduces modern concepts and trends in males and females, it has shown a conflict in traditional values and practices. Furthermore, the mass media had begun to offer new ideas, methods, practices, and trends regarding families, which led to the decline of extended families in rural areas, as the nuclear family of the father and mother and their unmarried children appeared in urban and rural areas. The highest rates of urbanisation were recorded in the urban District of Hilla, and its District of Al-Iskandria, reaching 12,913, and 3,142 extended families, with ratios of 44.7 per cent, and 10.7 per cent of the total number of extended families, respectively.

We notice from the data of the same table, that all administrative units in the countryside of the Babel Governorate witnessed a noticeable decrease in the rates and the number of extended families with nuclear families. These numbers were characterised by variance, as the highest percentage was recorded in the Al-Hilla District Centre, and in the Kifil District, which reached 3,457, and 4,083 families, with the ratios of 13.3, and 11.3 per cent of the total number of extended families in 2018. It was followed by the Al-Mahaweel District Centre, as well as the areas of Abi Gharq, Al-Sada and Al-Nile, with rates of 8.6 per cent, 8.4 per cent, 8.2 per cent, and 7.6 per cent of the total number of extended families, respectively. The lowest rates were recorded in the areas of Al-Imam, Al-Tale'a, and Jurof Al-Sakhr, which reached 692, 837, and 1,176 families with rates of 2.2 per cent, 2.7 per cent, and 3.8 per cent of the total number of extended families. The reason for this decrease is that the prevailing pattern in some of these administrative units of families in the countryside is the pattern of

the extended family. That is, it consists of more than one simple family in one residential living. It results in many problems in most cases, including an increase in fertility rates, as well as competition and conflict that occurs between women on the one hand, and children on the other hand. Also, the housing units in the rural areas are of course lesser than the number of families, as the housing unit is occupied by more than one family, which led to the accumulation of the large family in a single residence. This creates economic problems, as when children get married, they do not separate from the original family, but rather, they remain in the same residence. This depends mainly on the family's traditional system of values that are based on the customs, morals, and controls that prevail among its members.

This is in addition to the family's need for manpower to complete and manage agricultural and animal businesses. The society has also witnessed economic, political, and cultural developments that played a major role in the formation of nuclear families. Furthermore, the father's authority over the members of his family and his wife move towards democracy, as the children enjoy some independence and freedom in discussing several family and social matters, such as marriage.

**Table 3:** The numerical and relative distribution of extended and nuclear families according to administrative units in the Babylon Governorate in 2018

Administrative Units	Urban				Rural			
	Extended Family	Percentage	Nuclear Family	Percentage	Extended Family	Percentage	Extended Family	Percentage
Hilla District Centre	12913	44.7	63044	49.2	4087	13.3	14487	14
Al-Kifil District	717	2.4	2693	2.1	3457	11.3	11570	11
Abi Gharaq District	855	2.9	3029	2.3	2582	8.4	8640	8.1
Al-Mahaweel District	1055	3.6	3737	3	2659	8.6	9423	9
Al-Imam area	419	1.3	1575	1.2	692	2.2	2450	2.3
Al-Mashroo'a District	1032	3.5	4125	3.2	2192	7.1	8246	7.8
Nile District	205	0.6	820	1	2342	7.6	4049	3.8

Al-Hashimya District Centre	1147	3.9	4587	3.5	0	0	0	0
Al-Qasim District	2264	7.7	9055	7	2245	7.3	8441	8
Al-Midhatiya District	1542	5.2	6952	5.4	2052	7	7717	7.3
Al-Shomely District	533	1.8	1888	1.4	1755	6	6602	6.2
Al-Talie'a District	245	0.8	1015	1	837	2.7	2966	3
Al-Musaib District Centre	1977	6.7	7908	6	0	0	0	0
Al-Sada district	1043	3.5	4170	3.2	2524	8.2	8948	8.4
Jurof al-Sakher District	209	0.7	737	0.5	1176	3.8	4424	4.1
Al-Iskandarya District	3142	10.7	12577	10	1989	6.5	7479	7
The Total	29298	100	127912	100	30589	100	105442	100

**The Source:** from the researchers work who relied on:

- The Ministry of Planning, Central Agency for Statistics and Information Technology, Population Estimates for 2018, for the Babylon Governorate;
- The Form of the Questionnaire (field study).

## Conclusions

1. The temporal change of nuclear families for the years 1997, 2010, and 2018, shows a remarkable change in the urban and rural areas of the study. The lowest numbers and proportions of families were in 1997; in urban areas numbers reached 57,600 families, and in the countryside there were 56,143 families. The number of nuclear families increased slightly in 2010 from 1997, when in urban areas there were 80,510 families, and 66,816 families in the countryside.
2. The image of the temporal change differs in the size of the extended families for the three years. The highest numbers and proportions were recorded in 1997; in the urban areas there were 52,451 families, and 76,055 families in the countryside. The numbers and proportions of extended families decreased slowly in 2010 from 1997, when in urban areas there were 47,835 families, and 49,031 families in the countryside. In 2018, the proportions and numbers of the extended families decreased in a gradual

pattern, reaching 29,298 families in the urban area, and 30,589 families in the countryside.

3. The images of the spatial geographical distribution for the nuclear families in the urban areas differs according to the administrative units in the Babylon Governorate during the three years. The highest rates and number of nuclear families in 1997 were recorded in the Al-Hilla, and Al-Iskandria District Centres, reaching 26,468, and 6,020 families with rates of 46 per cent, and 10.4 per cent, respectively. The lowest rates were recorded in the areas of Al-Imam, Al-Tale'a, and Jurof Al-Sakhr. In 2010, the highest rates and numbers were recorded in the Al-Hillah, Al-Iskandria, and Al-Qasim District Centres with 41,017, 4,756, and 4,004 families, accompanied by rates of 51 per cent, ten per cent, and eight per cent. The lowest rates of nuclear families were recorded in the areas of Al-Imam, Al-Nile, Al-Tale'a, and Jurof Al-Sakhr. However, in 2018, the highest number of nuclear families were recorded in the Hilla, and Al-Iskandria District Centres with 63,044, and 12,577 families, at rates of 49.2 per cent, and ten per cent. Meanwhile, the lowest number of nuclear families were recorded in the areas of Al-Shomali, Al-Nile, Al-Tale'a, and Jurof Al-Sakhr.
4. The images of the spatial geographic distribution of the extended families in the countryside differ according to the administrative units in the Babylon Governorate during the three years. The highest rates and number of extended families in 1997 were recorded in the Al-Hilla, Al-Kifil, and Al-Mahaweel Districts, reaching 9,743, 7,640, and 6,309 families with rates of 15 per cent, 11.3 per cent, and 9.4 per cent. The lowest percentages were recorded in the Al-Tale'a, and Jurof al-Sakhr Districts. In 2010, the highest rates and numbers were recorded in the Al-Hilla, Al-Kifil, Al-Mahaweel, and Al-Qasim District Centres with 5,667, 5,004, 4,455, and 4,553 families, accompanied by rates of 11.5 per cent, 10.2 per cent, nine per cent, and nine per cent, respectively. The lowest rates were recorded for the extended family in the areas of Al-Tale'a, and Jurof al-Sakhr. However, in 2018, the highest number of nuclear families were recorded in the centre of the District of Hilla, and Al-Kifil, Abi Gharq, Al-Mahaweel and Al-Hindiya. The numbers reached 4,087, 3,457, 2,582, 2,659, and 2,524 families at rates of 13.3 per cent, 11.3 per cent, 8.4 per cent, 8.6 per cent, 8.2 per cent, and ten per cent, respectively.

## Suggestions

1. Work to balance the general distribution of extended and nuclear families in the governorate and reduce the discrepancy between administrative units so that they are at close levels. This requires raising the rates in the administrative units that placed in fourth position, in order to employ the workforce which is required to implement development plans and improve the economic level of the families in urban and rural areas.



2. Work on building a detailed database for the population of the Babylon Governorate according to the extended and nuclear families in the countryside and urban areas. By programming them in the computer periodically, it will serve researchers in the future.
3. Work on ensuring that there is a clear and announced population policy by the government regarding the numbers of extended and nuclear families and their characteristics for all governorates, and distributing them according to the administrative units in each governorate to help implement economic, social, and even political development plans.
4. Work in various ways and means to establish a centre or section for population studies based on modern technologies. Furthermore, to obtain benefit from academic scientific results, especially on population by the relevant government departments, including the Ministry of Planning, the Central Statistical Organization and the Governorate Council, and the Ministry of Education.



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## Appendix

### Good Greeting

This questionnaire is for research tagged “the size of extended and nuclear families in the Babylon Governorate for the years 1997, 2010, and 2018”. It is an analysis study in population geography, so please help us by answering the questions listed below, knowing that this information is used for scientific research purposes only.

### Put a Sign (X) Between the Two Parentheses after the Answer

- 1-Governorate of Babylon      2- The District .....      3- The Area.....
- 2- Environment                      Attended ( )                      Rural ( )
- 3- The academic achievement of the family is illiterate ( )    primary ( )    Intermediate ( )  
Preparatory school ( )    university ( )    high ( )
- 4- Job profession / earner ( )    employee ( )    merchant ( )
- 5- Type of family / extended family ( )                      nuclear( )
- 6-Average monthly household income / (0-200) .....,      (200-500) ....., (500-million).....