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## UK facing housing gap "twice the size of Birmingham" by 2021

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The UK faces a housing gap of 886,000 homes by 2021, according to new research undertaken by the Association for Consulting and Engineering (ACE).

If the housebuilding market is not reformed, the UK will be facing a gap "equivalent to a missing city two times the size of Birmingham," ACE warns.

The research, which reflects Office of National Statistics projections, reveals that families in the UK are already facing a housing gap equivalent to a city the size of Portsmouth. By 2021 it will have grown to twice the size of Birmingham, leaving the country with a housing gap worth £185bn.

The research paper notes that the problem may be more severe than predicted because of the definitions of some of the data available. ACE says there may be a "hidden demand" for housing as high-occupancy rented housing only counts as one household in the study.

Dr Nelson Ogunshakin OBE, ACE's chief executive, said: "The housing market has broken down over decades because we have not built enough homes for people - and the consequences of that are already being felt.

"There are presently 650,000 over-crowded households in England. Meanwhile the proportion of people under 34, which includes most new parents, who own their own home has dropped from 61.5% to 39.8% in just two decades. Our new analysis shows that if we don't overhaul the market to enable more homes to be built, the problems will only worsen."

The full research paper is available to view [here](#).

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