

## Reporting Summary

Nature Portfolio wishes to improve the reproducibility of the work that we publish. This form provides structure for consistency and transparency in reporting. For further information on Nature Portfolio policies, see our [Editorial Policies](#) and the [Editorial Policy Checklist](#).

Please do not complete any field with "not applicable" or n/a. Refer to the help text for what text to use if an item is not relevant to your study. For final submission: please carefully check your responses for accuracy; you will not be able to make changes later.

### Statistics

For all statistical analyses, confirm that the following items are present in the figure legend, table legend, main text, or Methods section.

n/a Confirmed

- The exact sample size ( $n$ ) for each experimental group/condition, given as a discrete number and unit of measurement
- A statement on whether measurements were taken from distinct samples or whether the same sample was measured repeatedly
- The statistical test(s) used AND whether they are one- or two-sided  
*Only common tests should be described solely by name; describe more complex techniques in the Methods section.*
- A description of all covariates tested
- A description of any assumptions or corrections, such as tests of normality and adjustment for multiple comparisons
- A full description of the statistical parameters including central tendency (e.g. means) or other basic estimates (e.g. regression coefficient) AND variation (e.g. standard deviation) or associated estimates of uncertainty (e.g. confidence intervals)
- For null hypothesis testing, the test statistic (e.g.  $F$ ,  $t$ ,  $r$ ) with confidence intervals, effect sizes, degrees of freedom and  $P$  value noted  
*Give  $P$  values as exact values whenever suitable.*
- For Bayesian analysis, information on the choice of priors and Markov chain Monte Carlo settings
- For hierarchical and complex designs, identification of the appropriate level for tests and full reporting of outcomes
- Estimates of effect sizes (e.g. Cohen's  $d$ , Pearson's  $r$ ), indicating how they were calculated

*Our web collection on [statistics for biologists](#) contains articles on many of the points above.*

### Software and code

Policy information about [availability of computer code](#)

Data collection

Web scraping was performed using Python 3.9+ with BeautifulSoup 4.11+ and requests 2.28+ libraries. Geographic data processing utilized GeoPandas 0.14+ and Shapely 1.8+. All data collection strictly adhered to platform terms of service.

Data analysis

Statistical analyses were conducted using Python 3.9+ environment with scikit-learn 1.3+ (machine learning), statsmodels 0.14+ (statistical modeling), and SciPy 1.9+ (statistical tests). Spatial analysis employed GeoPandas 0.14+ and PostGIS 3.2+. Visualization used matplotlib 3.7+ and seaborn 0.12+.

For manuscripts utilizing custom algorithms or software that are central to the research but not yet described in published literature, software must be made available to editors and reviewers. We strongly encourage code deposition in a community repository (e.g. GitHub). See the Nature Portfolio [guidelines for submitting code & software](#) for further information.

### Data

Policy information about [availability of data](#)

All manuscripts must include a [data availability statement](#). This statement should provide the following information, where applicable:

- Accession codes, unique identifiers, or web links for publicly available datasets
- A description of any restrictions on data availability
- For clinical datasets or third party data, please ensure that the statement adheres to our [policy](#)

Population census data: China's National Bureau of Statistics (Sixth and Seventh National Population Census)

Administrative boundaries: National Platform for Common Geospatial Information Services (Tianditu)

Global Human Settlement Layer: EU Copernicus Programme (GHS-UCDB R2019A)

Housing stock data: Real estate platforms (Anjuke, Beike, Fang.com) under terms of service

Processed datasets: Available from corresponding authors upon reasonable request

Raw platform data: Cannot be shared due to platform restrictions

## Research involving human participants, their data, or biological material

Policy information about studies with [human participants or human data](#). See also policy information about [sex, gender \(identity/presentation\), and sexual orientation](#) and [race, ethnicity and racism](#).

### Reporting on sex and gender

This study analyzes aggregate population and housing data at provincial level. Individual-level demographic characteristics are not analyzed.

### Reporting on race, ethnicity, or other socially relevant groupings

This study focuses on spatial patterns of housing and population dynamics across Chinese provinces. Ethnic or racial groupings are not analyzed.

### Population characteristics

Aggregate population data from 28 Chinese provinces (approximately 1.4 billion people) over 2010-2020.

### Recruitment

Uses publicly available aggregate census data. No direct recruitment.

### Ethics oversight

All data are publicly available aggregate statistics. No individual-level data collected. Institutional ethics review committee approved.

Note that full information on the approval of the study protocol must also be provided in the manuscript.

## Field-specific reporting

Please select the one below that is the best fit for your research. If you are not sure, read the appropriate sections before making your selection.

Life sciences     Behavioural & social sciences     Ecological, evolutionary & environmental sciences

For a reference copy of the document with all sections, see [nature.com/documents/nr-reporting-summary-flat.pdf](https://nature.com/documents/nr-reporting-summary-flat.pdf)

## Life sciences study design

All studies must disclose on these points even when the disclosure is negative.

### Sample size

### Data exclusions

### Replication

### Randomization

### Blinding

## Behavioural & social sciences study design

All studies must disclose on these points even when the disclosure is negative.

### Study description

### Research sample

### Sampling strategy

### Data collection

### Timing

### Data exclusions

### Non-participation

### Randomization

# Ecological, evolutionary & environmental sciences study design

All studies must disclose on these points even when the disclosure is negative.

Study description	Housing utilization efficiency analysis across China's 28 provinces (2010-2020) using counterfactual causal inference and multilevel regression.
Research sample	All 28 Chinese provinces; 308 paired annual observations of housing construction vs. population growth.
Sampling strategy	Complete enumeration of all provinces. No sampling involved.
Data collection	Population data from national censuses and yearbooks. Housing stock via web scraping from real estate platforms. Administrative boundaries from official sources. Global urban settlement data from EU Copernicus Programme.
Timing and spatial scale	2010-2020 (11-year panel). Provincial level with nested analysis at prefecture/county levels.
Data exclusions	Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan excluded due to different administrative systems and data availability.
Reproducibility	Fully reproducible using provided code and publicly available datasets. Sensitivity analyses performed.
Randomization	Not applicable (observational study using administrative data).
Blinding	Not applicable (observational study using aggregate statistical data).

Did the study involve field work?  Yes  No

## Field work, collection and transport

Field conditions	
Location	
Access & import/export	
Disturbance	

## Reporting for specific materials, systems and methods

We require information from authors about some types of materials, experimental systems and methods used in many studies. Here, indicate whether each material, system or method listed is relevant to your study. If you are not sure if a list item applies to your research, read the appropriate section before selecting a response.

### Materials & experimental systems

n/a	Involved in the study
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Antibodies
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Eukaryotic cell lines
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Palaeontology and archaeology
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Animals and other organisms
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Clinical data
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Dual use research of concern
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Plants

### Methods

n/a	Involved in the study
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> ChIP-seq
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> Flow cytometry
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> MRI-based neuroimaging

## Antibodies

Antibodies used	
Validation	

## Eukaryotic cell lines

Policy information about [cell lines and Sex and Gender in Research](#)

Cell line source(s)

Authentication

Mycoplasma contamination

Commonly misidentified lines  
(See [ICLAC](#) register)

## Palaeontology and Archaeology

Specimen provenance

Specimen deposition

Dating methods

Tick this box to confirm that the raw and calibrated dates are available in the paper or in Supplementary Information.

Ethics oversight

Note that full information on the approval of the study protocol must also be provided in the manuscript.

## Animals and other research organisms

Policy information about [studies involving animals; ARRIVE guidelines](#) recommended for reporting animal research, and [Sex and Gender in Research](#)

Laboratory animals

Wild animals

Reporting on sex

Field-collected samples

Ethics oversight

Note that full information on the approval of the study protocol must also be provided in the manuscript.

## Clinical data

Policy information about [clinical studies](#)

All manuscripts should comply with the ICMJE [guidelines for publication of clinical research](#) and a completed [CONSORT checklist](#) must be included with all submissions.

Clinical trial registration

Study protocol

Data collection

Outcomes

## Dual use research of concern

Policy information about [dual use research of concern](#)

### Hazards

Could the accidental, deliberate or reckless misuse of agents or technologies generated in the work, or the application of information presented in the manuscript, pose a threat to:

No	Yes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public health
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	National security
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Crops and/or livestock
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Ecosystems
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Any other significant area

## Experiments of concern

Does the work involve any of these experiments of concern:

No	Yes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Demonstrate how to render a vaccine ineffective
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Confer resistance to therapeutically useful antibiotics or antiviral agents
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Enhance the virulence of a pathogen or render a nonpathogen virulent
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Increase transmissibility of a pathogen
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Alter the host range of a pathogen
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Enable evasion of diagnostic/detection modalities
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Enable the weaponization of a biological agent or toxin
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Any other potentially harmful combination of experiments and agents

## Plants

Seed stocks

Novel plant genotypes

Authentication

## ChIP-seq

### Data deposition

Confirm that both raw and final processed data have been deposited in a public database such as [GEO](#).

Confirm that you have deposited or provided access to graph files (e.g. BED files) for the called peaks.

Data access links

*May remain private before publication.*

Files in database submission

Genome browser session  
(e.g. [UCSC](#))

## Methodology

Replicates

Sequencing depth

Antibodies

Peak calling parameters

Data quality

## Flow Cytometry

### Plots

Confirm that:

- The axis labels state the marker and fluorochrome used (e.g. CD4-FITC).
- The axis scales are clearly visible. Include numbers along axes only for bottom left plot of group (a 'group' is an analysis of identical markers).
- All plots are contour plots with outliers or pseudocolor plots.
- A numerical value for number of cells or percentage (with statistics) is provided.

### Methodology

Sample preparation

Instrument

Software

Cell population abundance

Gating strategy

- Tick this box to confirm that a figure exemplifying the gating strategy is provided in the Supplementary Information.

## Magnetic resonance imaging

### Experimental design

Design type

Design specifications

Behavioral performance measures

Imaging type(s)

Field strength

Sequence & imaging parameters

Area of acquisition

Diffusion MRI

Used       Not used

### Preprocessing

Preprocessing software

Normalization

Normalization template

Noise and artifact removal

Volume censoring

### Statistical modeling & inference

Model type and settings

Effect(s) tested

Specify type of analysis:  Whole brain  ROI-based  Both

Statistic type for inference

(See [Eklund et al. 2016](#))

Correction

## Models & analysis

n/a Involved in the study

- Functional and/or effective connectivity
- Graph analysis
- Multivariate modeling or predictive analysis

Functional and/or effective connectivity

Graph analysis

Multivariate modeling and predictive analysis

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