Benin

Out of School Children of the Population Ages 7-14

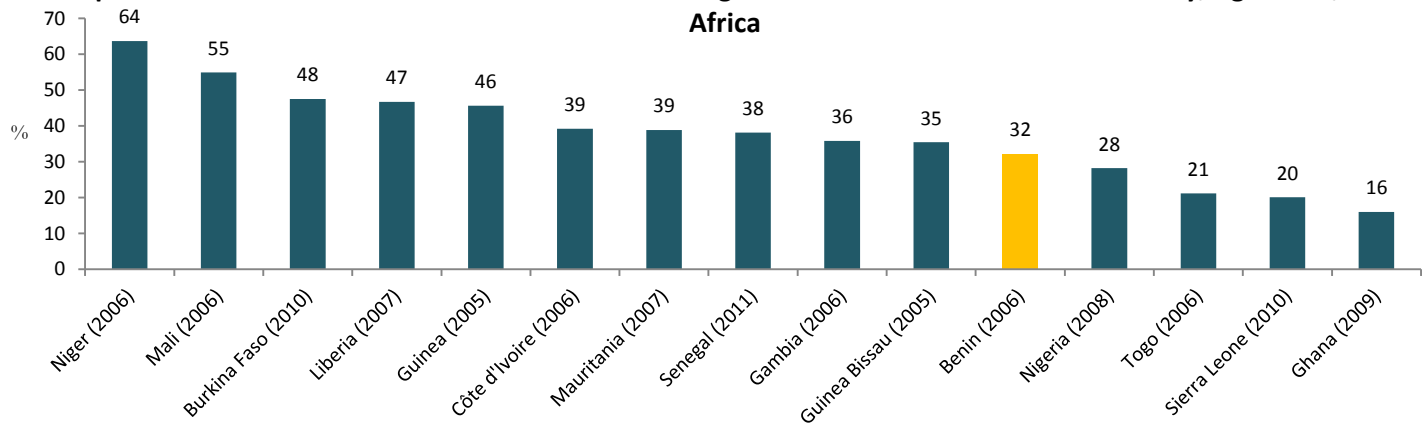| Number Out of School	Percent Out of School
516,000	**32%**

Source: Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) 2006

Comparison of Rates of Out of School Children Ages 7-14 across Benin

Exact estimated rates and 95% confidence intervals for estimates are provided later in the profile.
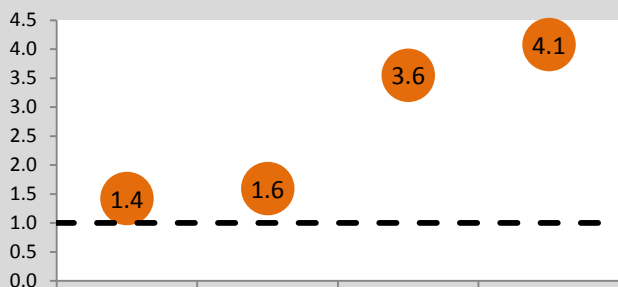

Out of School Rates (%)
Children Ages 7-14
- 0 - 10
- 10 - 20
- 20 - 30
- 30 - 40
- 40 - 50
- 50 - 60
- 60+
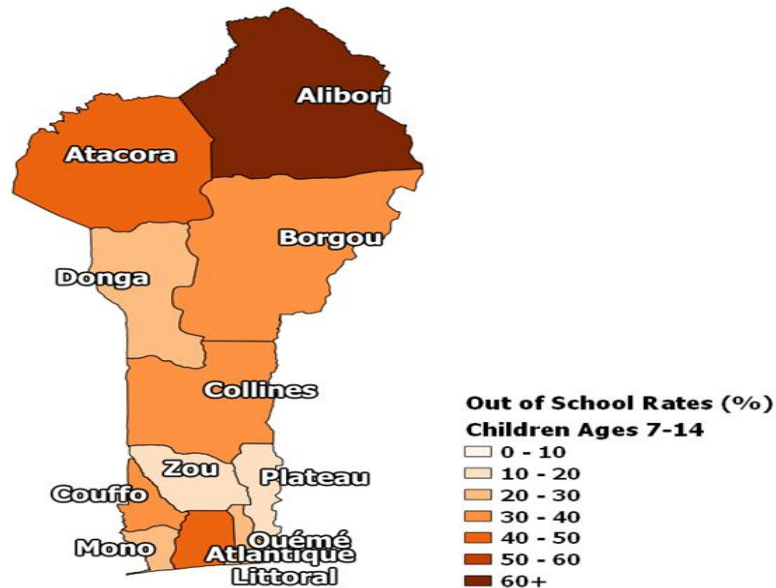
Comparison of Rates of Out of School Children According to the Most Recent Household Survey, Ages 7-14, West Africa

Country (Year)	%
Niger (2006)	64
Mali (2006)	55
Burkina Faso (2010)	48
Liberia (2007)	47
Guinea (2005)	46
Côte d'Ivoire (2006)	39
Mauritania (2007)	39
Senegal (2011)	38
Gambia (2006)	36
Guinea Bissau (2005)	35
Benin (2006)	32
Nigeria (2008)	28
Togo (2006)	21
Sierra Leone (2010)	20
Ghana (2009)	16

The Structure of the Education System in Benin

Benin has a 6-4-3 formal education structure with an official primary school entry age of six. In principle, primary education school is free and compulsory. (UNESCO IBE, World Data on Education. Revised 11/2010).

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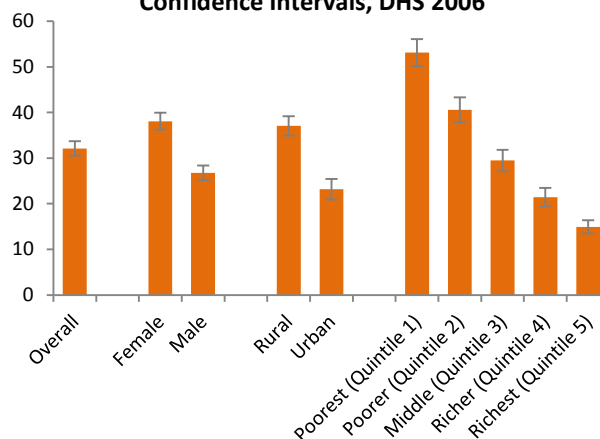
Parity Indices

parity

● Parity indices provide information about the greatest sources of inequality in a population. The graph at left provides ratios of different estimates of children aged 7-14 who are out of school. It shows, for example, that the out of school rate in rural areas is 1.6 times higher than that in urban areas.

● For Benin, the greatest disparity in out of school rates is between children from provinces with the highest and lowest school participation rates. Children from the worst performing province are 4.1 times as likely to be out of school as children from the best.
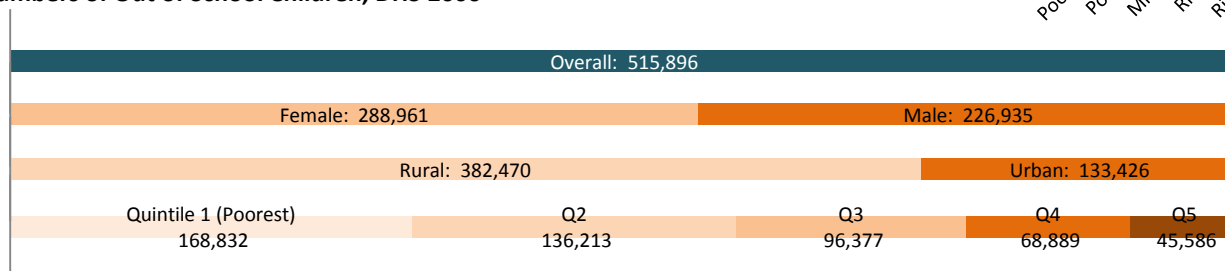
Out of School Children by Individual and Household Characteristics

● More girls (38% or 288,961) are out of school than boys (26.8% or 226,935) in Benin.

● Out of school rates for children from rural areas (37%) are higher than those for children from urban areas (23%). In terms of absolute numbers, there are more children out of school in rural areas (382,470) than in urban areas (133,426).

● Out of school rates are highest for children in the poorest wealth quintile (53%).

Rates of Out of School Children (%), with 95% Confidence Intervals, DHS 2006
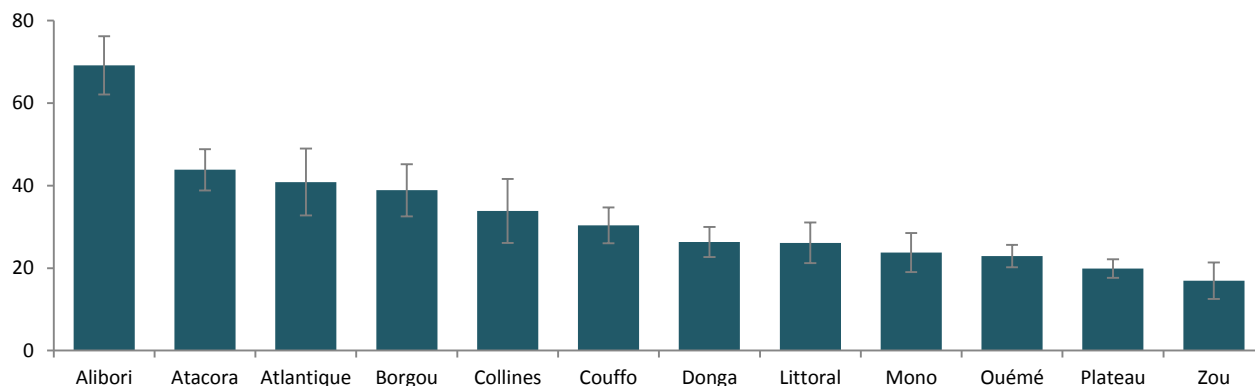

Numbers of Out of School Children, DHS 2006

Overall: 515,896				
Female: 288,961		Male: 226,935		
Rural: 382,470		Urban: 133,426		
Quintile 1 (Poorest) 168,832	Q2 136,213	Q3 96,377	Q4 68,889	Q5 45,586

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Out of School Children by Subnational Regions

● The subnational region with the highest percentage of children out of school is Alibori (69%). Zou has the lowest rate of school non-participation (17%).

● The highest numbers of out of school children are located in Alibori (79,459). Zou has the lowest numbers of out of school children (16,154).

Rates of Out of School Children by Subnational Region (%), with 95% Confidence Intervals, DHS 2006

Numbers of Out of School Children by Subnational Region (# in thousands), with 95% Confidence Intervals, DHS 2006
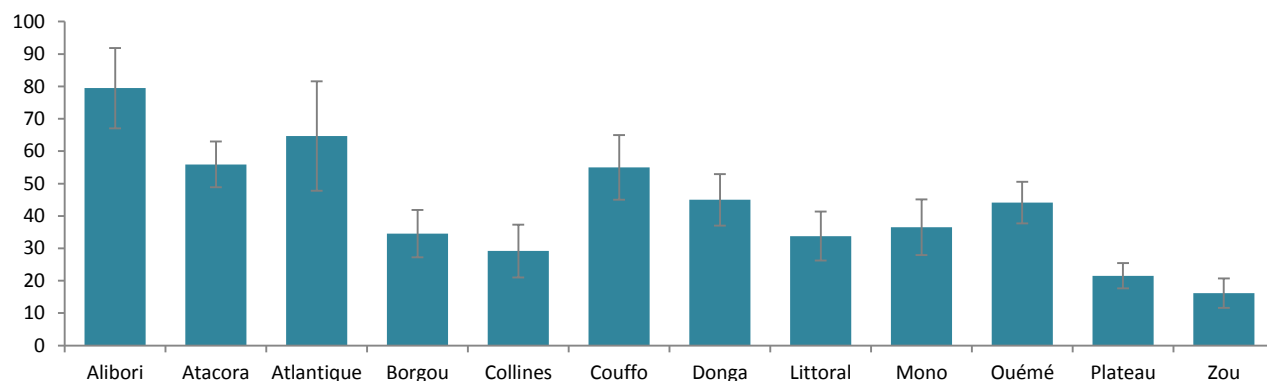

Why Ages 7-14?

EPDC presents data for ages 7-14. This age group captures the bulk of basic compulsory education in most countries, aids cross-national comparability of estimates, and conveys the normative international frameworks set by the Convention on the Rights of the Child and supported by the ILO Minimum Age Convention.

Out of School Rates by Age and Sex

● The official primary school entry age in Benin is age 6. At that age, 45% of girls and 40% of boys are out of school.

● At age 15, 51% of girls and 32% of boys are out of school.

● School participation is highest for girls at age 10 and for boys at age 10.

Out of School Rates, by Age and Sex
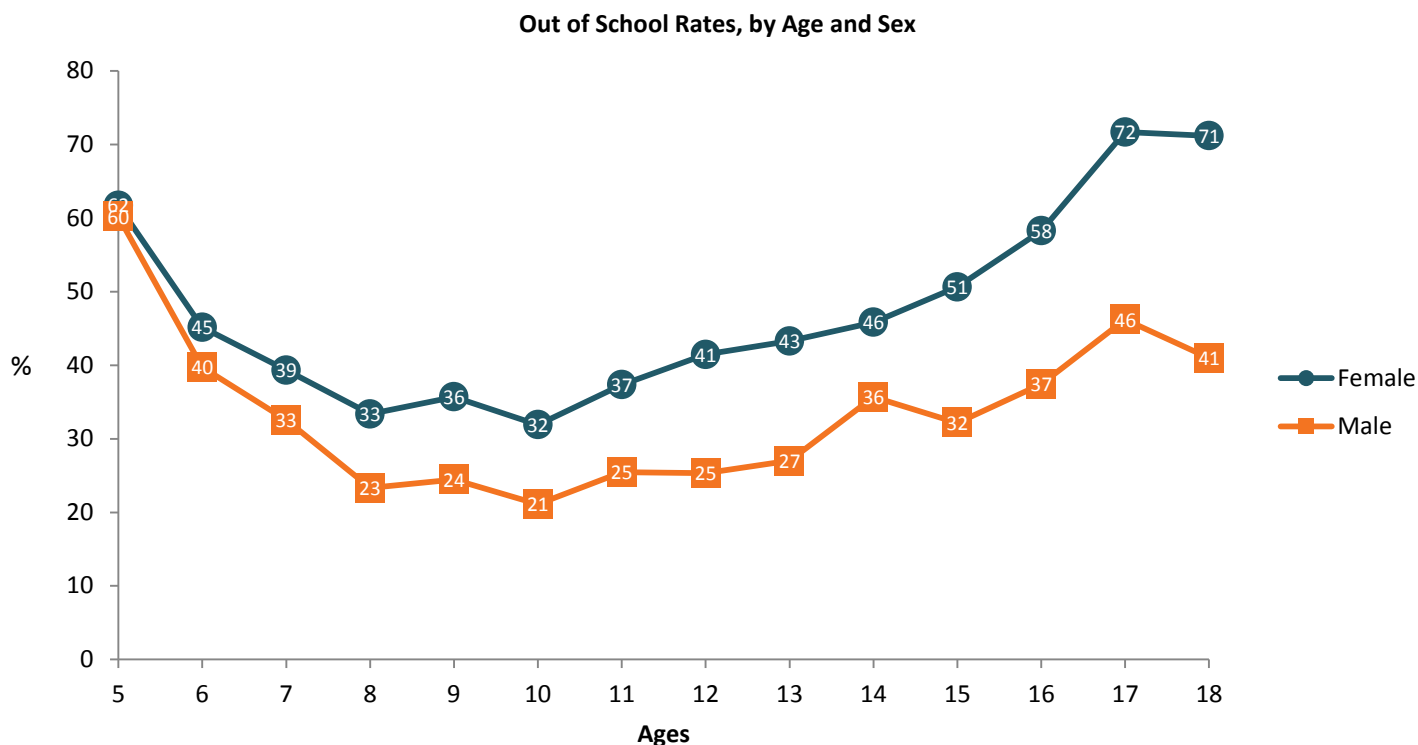
Summary of EPDC Methodology on Measuring Out of School Children

In this profile, EPDC presents estimates of the proportion and number of out of school children of the population ages 7-14 using household survey data. Along with relative and absolute estimates of out of school children, EPDC provides 95% confidence intervals for each estimate.

To create estimates of the proportion of out of school children for a particular school year, EPDC used birthdate information to identify children who were of a particular age range (7-14) on the month that the school year began. Children who had attended primary school or higher at any time during the school year were classified as 'in school;' Children who had not attended school at any time during the school year, or who had attended pre-school during that reference period were classified as 'out of school.' The proportion of children who are out of school is calculated as the number of children within the 7-14 age range who were classified as out of school divided by the number of children within the same age range.

To obtain the number of out of school children, the out-of-school rate is then applied to the estimated population of the same age range from the UN Population Division (EPDC obtained single-age population estimates to build the correct age range). UN Population Division figures are provided for mid-year each year, and EPDC uses the population figures from the year closest to the start of the school year in each country. Depending on a country's main academic calendar, the population figure may be from the year before the school participation year.

For more information on measurement of out of school children, please see the EPDC website at www.epdc.org.

EPDC Estimated Rates and Numbers of Out of School Children based on DHS 2006 Presented with 95% Confidence Intervals

	Lower limit of 95% confidence interval	Estimated proportion of out of school children of the population ages 7-14 (%)	Upper limit of 95% confidence interval	Lower limit of 95% confidence interval	Estimated number of out of school children of the population ages 7-14 (#)	Upper limit of 95% confidence interval
National	31	**32**	34	484,579	**515,896**	547,213
Sex						
Female	36	**38**	40	270,757	**288,961**	307,166
Male	25	**27**	28	210,597	**226,935**	243,273
Area						
Rural	35	**37**	39	355,198	**382,470**	409,742
Urban	21	**23**	25	118,032	**133,426**	148,820
Relative Wealth						
Poorest Quintile	50	**53**	56	149,985	**168,832**	187,678
Poorer Quintile	38	**41**	43	121,393	**136,213**	151,033
Middle Quintile	27	**29**	32	85,962	**96,377**	106,792
Richer Quintile	19	**21**	23	60,466	**68,889**	77,312
Richest Quintile	14	**15**	16	39,081	**45,586**	52,091
Regions						
Alibori	62	**69**	76	67,037	**79,459**	91,881
Atacora	39	**44**	49	48,885	**55,931**	62,976
Atlantique	33	**41**	49	47,735	**64,660**	81,586
Borgou	33	**39**	45	27,208	**34,511**	41,813
Collines	26	**34**	42	21,054	**29,201**	37,349
Couffo	26	**30**	35	44,979	**54,969**	64,959
Donga	23	**26**	30	37,021	**44,985**	52,950
Littoral	21	**26**	31	26,267	**33,803**	41,338
Mono	19	**24**	29	27,936	**36,521**	45,107
Ouémé	20	**23**	26	37,741	**44,151**	50,561
Plateau	18	**20**	22	17,653	**21,551**	25,449
Zou	13	**17**	21	11,616	**16,154**	20,692