Cameroon

Out of School Children of the Population Ages 7-14

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

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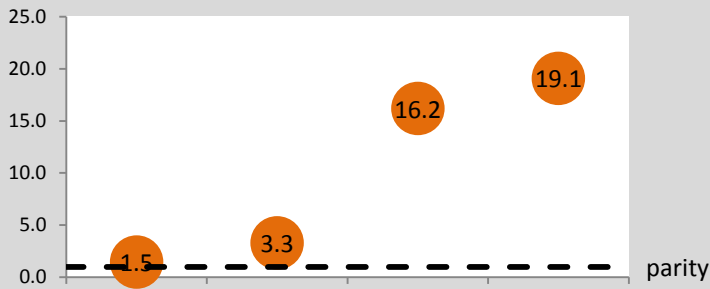

Out of School Rates (%)
Children Ages 7-14
- 0 - 10
- 10 - 20
- 20 - 30
- 30 - 40
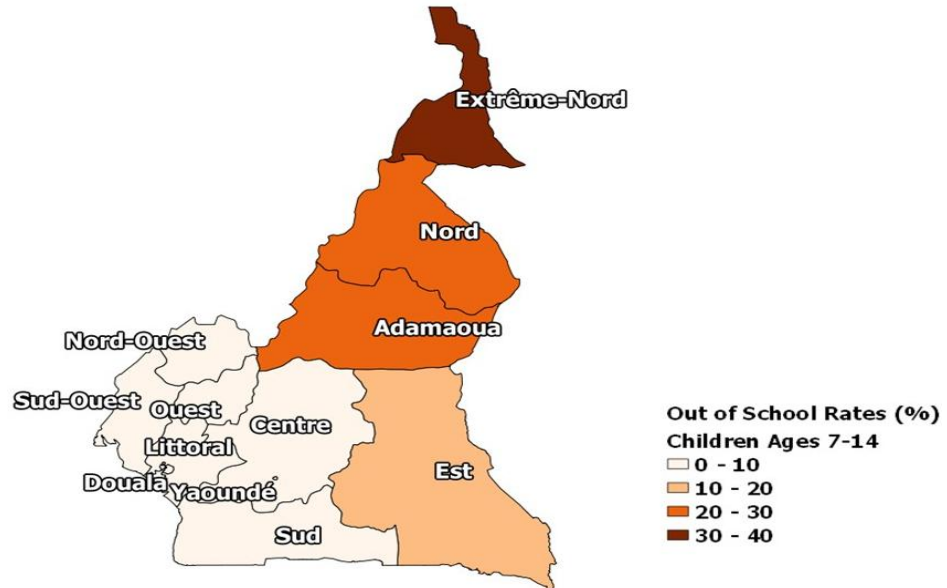
Comparison of Rates of Out of School Children According to the Most Recent Household Survey, Ages 7-14, Central Africa
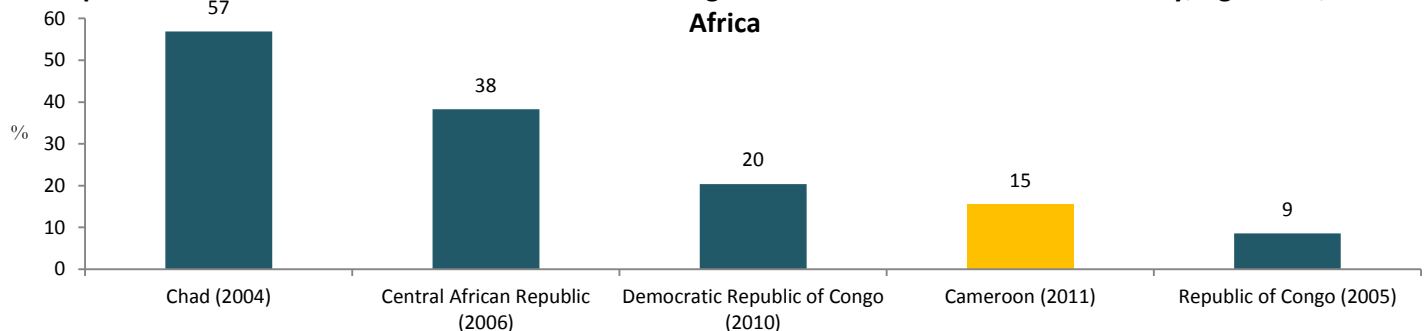
The Structure of the Education System in Cameroon

Cameroon has two official education structures - each according to the legacy of British or French colonial control in different geographic areas. Both structures have a primary entry age of 6 and primary duration of 6. The systems diverge at the secondary level: The Anglophone school structure is 5-2 and the Francophone school structure is 4-3. (UNESCO IBE, World Data on Education. Revised 12/2010). Of Cameroon's 12 regions, two are associated with the British legacy system (Nord-Ouest and Sud-Ouest) and ten with the French legacy system. EPDC assumes that school structure distribution coincides with this delineation, which would mean that roughly 85% of the 2004 school aged population are associated with the Francophone system. For simplicity, EPDC uses this 6-4-3 structure for all regions in DHS extractions.

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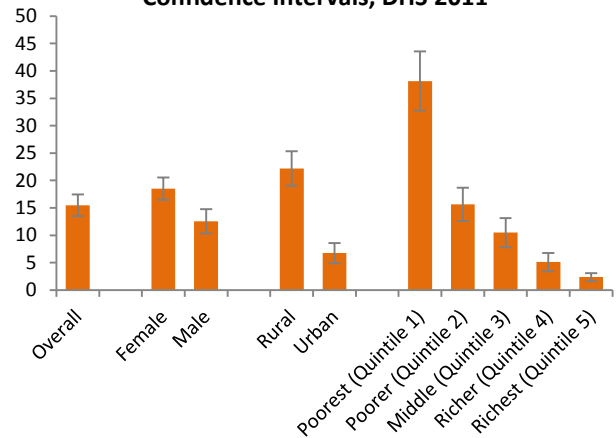*Making sense of data to improve education for development*

Parity Indices

● 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 3.3 times higher than that in urban areas.

● For Cameroon, 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 19.1 times as likely to be out of school as children from the best.
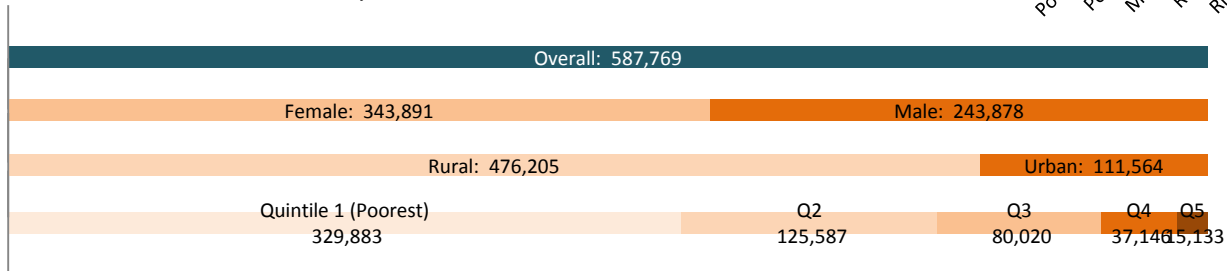
Out of School Children by Individual and Household Characteristics

● More girls (18% or 343,891) are out of school than boys (12.6% or 243,878) in Cameroon.

● Out of school rates for children from rural areas (22%) are higher than those for children from urban areas (7%). In terms of absolute numbers, there are more children out of school in rural areas (476,205) than in urban areas (111,564).

● Out of school rates are highest for children in the poorest wealth quintile (38%).

Rates of Out of School Children (%), with 95% Confidence Intervals, DHS 2011

Numbers of Out of School Children, DHS 2011

Overall: 587,769

Female: 343,891 — Male: 243,878

Rural: 476,205 — Urban: 111,564

Quintile 1 (Poorest) 329,883 | Q2 125,587 | Q3 80,020 | Q4 37,146 | Q5 15,133

About Data Sources

All out of school estimates presented in this profile are EPDC extractions of Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) data. DHS Surveys are conducted every several years and collect information on health, education, and other topics for households and individuals residing in those households. The 2011 Cameroon DHS Survey is representative at the national and subnational level. For more information, please see http://www.measuredhs.com/.

Estimates of out of school children from household surveys can be expected to differ from administrative estimates, such as those from the UNESCO Institute for Statistics and national government agencies, because of differences between these sources in data collection and estimation methods for measuring school participation. For more information on the differences between these data sources, please see www.epdc.org.

Out of School Children by Subnational Regions

● The subnational region with the highest percentage of children out of school is Extrême-Nord (40%). Douala has the lowest rate of school non-participation (2%).

● The highest numbers of out of school children are located in Extrême-Nord (330,615). Sud has the lowest numbers of out of school children (2,433).

Rates of Out of School Children by Subnational Region (%), with 95% Confidence Intervals, DHS 2011
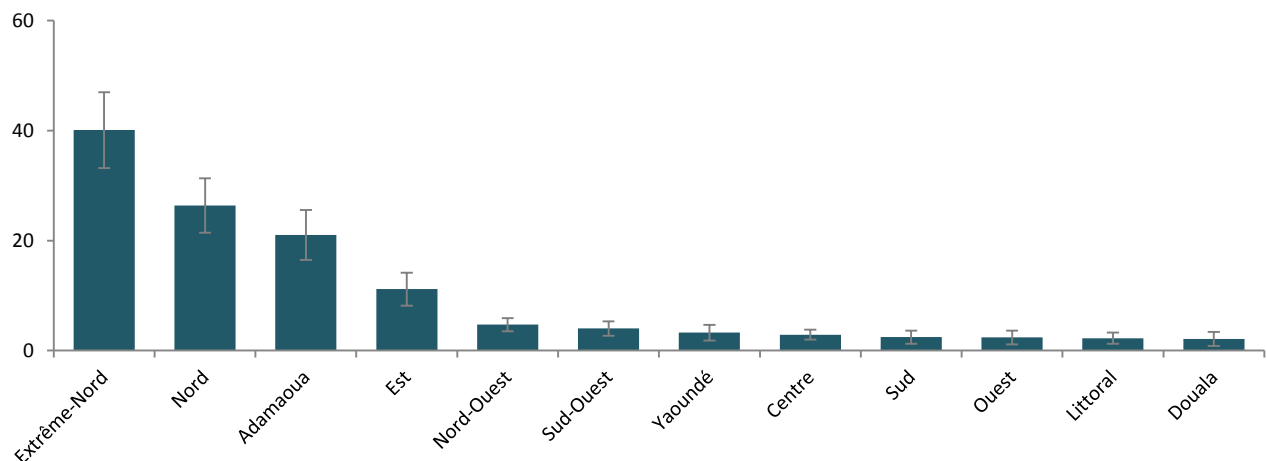
Numbers of Out of School Children by Subnational Region (# in thousands), with 95% Confidence Intervals, DHS 2011
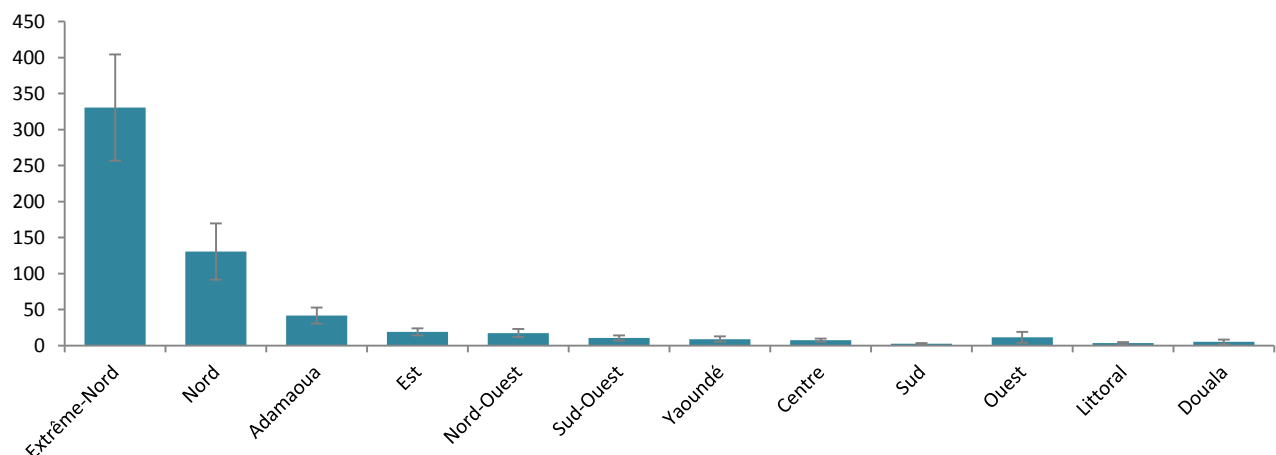
Why Ages 7-14?

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.

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Out of School Rates by Age and Sex

● The official primary school entry age in Cameroon is age 6. At that age, 26% of girls and 27% of boys are out of school.

● At age 15, 32% of girls and 21% 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
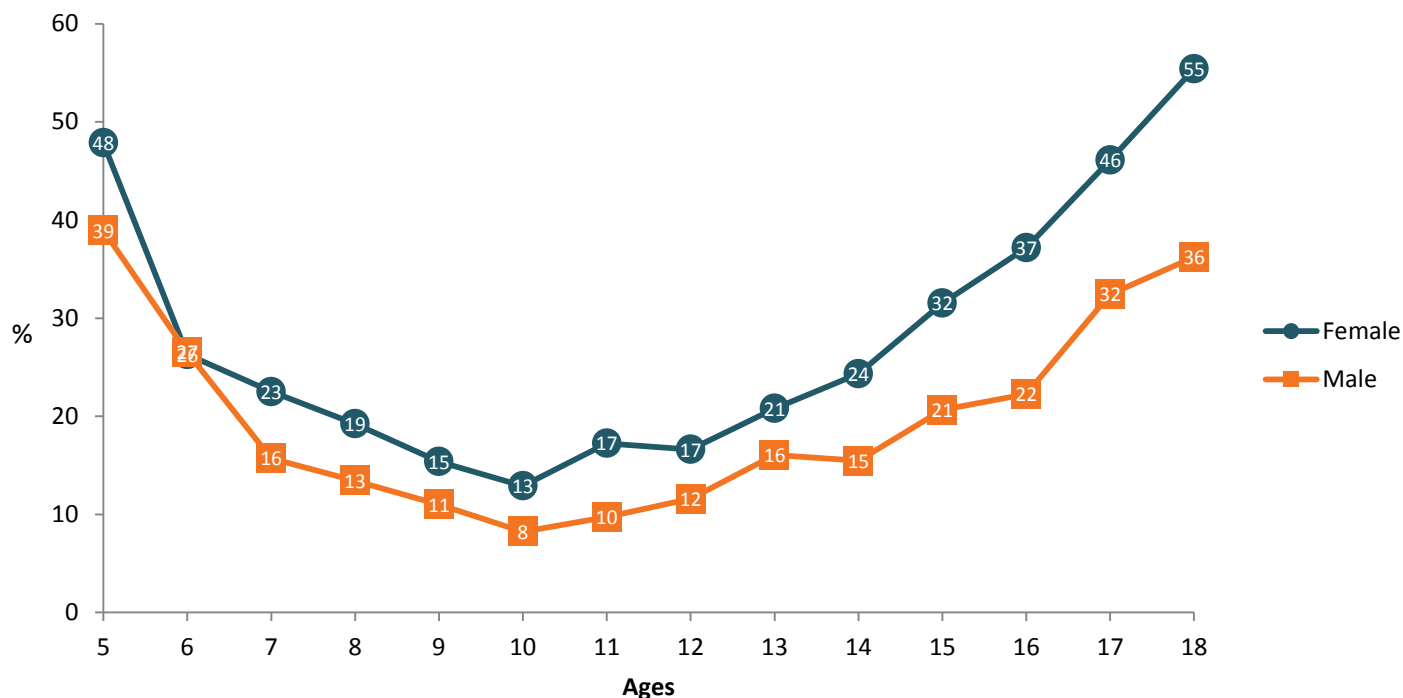
Summary of EPDC Methodology on Measuring Out of School Children

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.

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EPDC Estimated Rates and Numbers of Out of School Children based on DHS 2011 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	14	**15**	17	502,740	**587,769**	672,798
Sex						
Female	16	**18**	21	299,232	**343,891**	388,550
Male	10	**13**	15	196,588	**243,878**	291,168
Area						
Rural	19	**22**	25	398,864	**476,205**	553,546
Urban	5	**7**	9	76,233	**111,564**	146,896
Relative Wealth						
Poorest Quintile	33	**38**	44	265,872	**329,883**	393,895
Poorer Quintile	13	**16**	19	97,145	**125,587**	154,028
Middle Quintile	8	**11**	13	53,759	**80,020**	106,280
Richer Quintile	3	**5**	7	23,949	**37,146**	50,344
Richest Quintile	2	**2**	3	10,339	**15,133**	19,927
Regions						
Extrême-Nord	33	**40**	47	256,964	**330,615**	404,267
Nord	21	**26**	31	91,428	**130,492**	169,556
Adamaoua	16	**21**	26	30,416	**41,482**	52,549
Est	8	**11**	14	14,222	**19,078**	23,934
Nord-Ouest	4	**5**	6	11,919	**17,401**	22,883
Sud-Ouest	3	**4**	5	6,912	**10,468**	14,025
Yaoundé	2	**3**	5	5,049	**8,877**	12,706
Centre	2	**3**	4	5,064	**7,401**	9,738
Sud	1	**2**	4	1,273	**2,433**	3,593
Ouest	1	**2**	4	3,743	**11,277**	18,812
Littoral	1	**2**	3	1,694	**3,214**	4,733
Douala	1	**2**	3	1,844	**5,030**	8,215