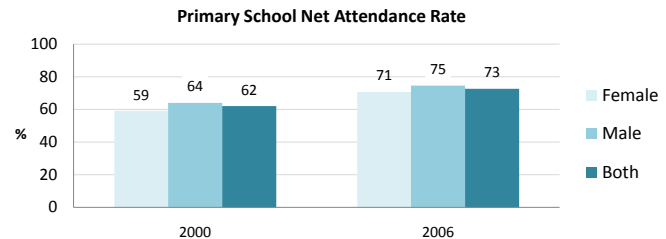
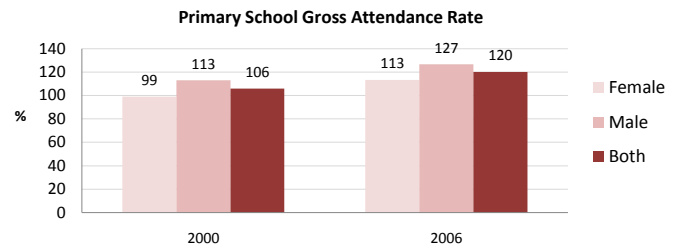


Primary School Net and Gross Attendance Rates, Laos

Over the course of six years between 2000 and 2006, primary school attendance rates have grown by more than ten percentage points. Laos has a large portion of out-of-age students in primary school.

- 73% of children in primary school age 6-10 attend primary school at the appropriate age with 75% for male and 71% for female.
- Students over or under the official primary school age range make up 47% of the primary school age population.
- There is gender disparity in favor of males in primary school attendance.



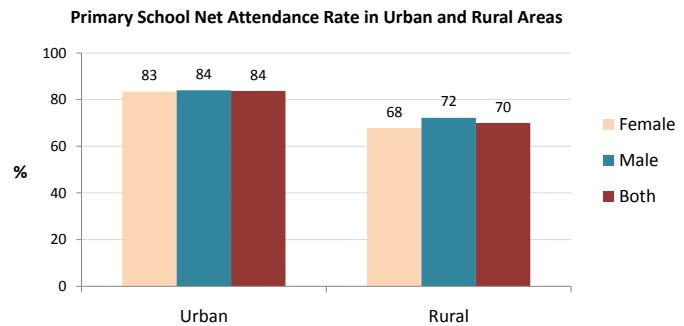
Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey

The net attendance ratio (NAR) is the percentage of the official primary school-age population that attends primary school. The gross attendance ratio (GAR) is the total number of students attending primary school - regardless of age - expressed as a percentage of the official primary school-age population. The primary NAR does not capture those students who have completed primary school and advanced to secondary school at an earlier age than the official age.

Primary School Net Attendance Rate in Urban and Rural Areas, Laos

Disparities in primary net attendance are notable between urban and rural areas.

- In urban areas, 84% of children of primary school age attend school, compared to 70% in rural areas.
- Male and female net attendance rates are nearly identical in urban areas, and reveal a slight divide in rural areas.

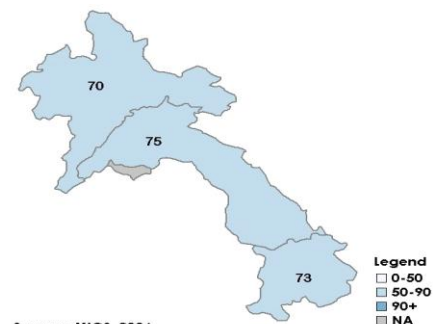
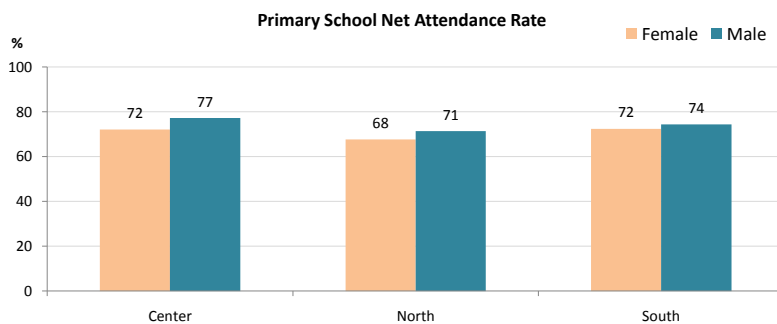


Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2006

Primary School Net Attendance Rate by Region, Laos

In Laos regional disparities in the primary school attendance rate are fairly low.

- Primary net attendance is highest in the Center region (75%); attendance is lowest in the North region (70%).
- In the Center region, the male/female attendance gap is slightly larger than in the North and South regions.
- Gender disparity is lowest in the South region and highest in the Center region.



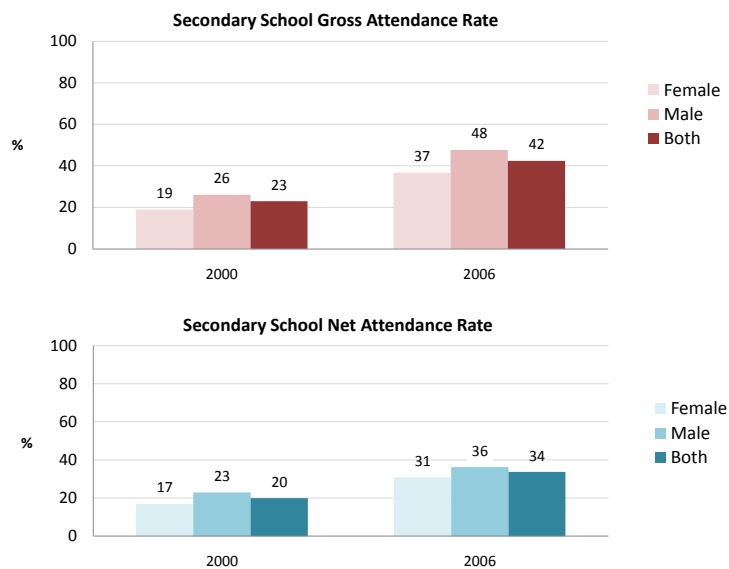
Source: MICS, 2006

Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2006

Secondary School Net and Gross Attendance Rates, Laos

At 34%, secondary school net attendance is less than half of primary net attendance (73%) in Laos in 2006, but it nearly doubled compared to the 2000 level.

- 34% of youth in secondary school age 11-16 attend secondary school at the appropriate age with 36% for males and 31% for females.
- Students over or under the official secondary school age range make up 9% of the secondary school age population.
- There is gender disparity in favor of males in secondary school attendance.

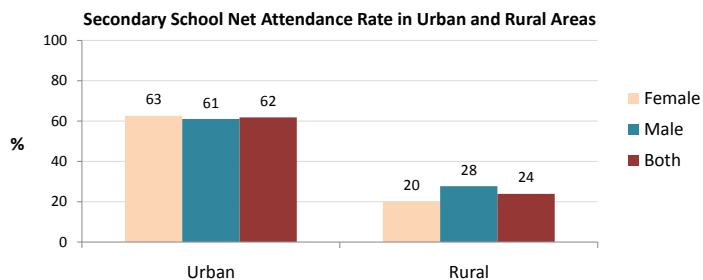


Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey

Secondary School Net Attendance Rate in Urban and Rural Areas, Laos

Children in urban areas are about three times as likely to attend secondary school than are children in rural areas.

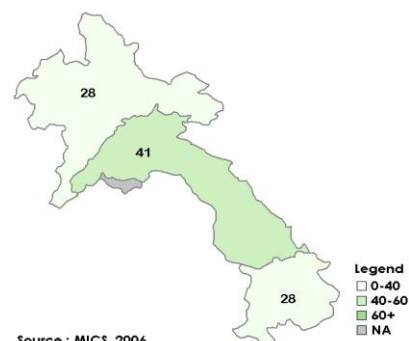
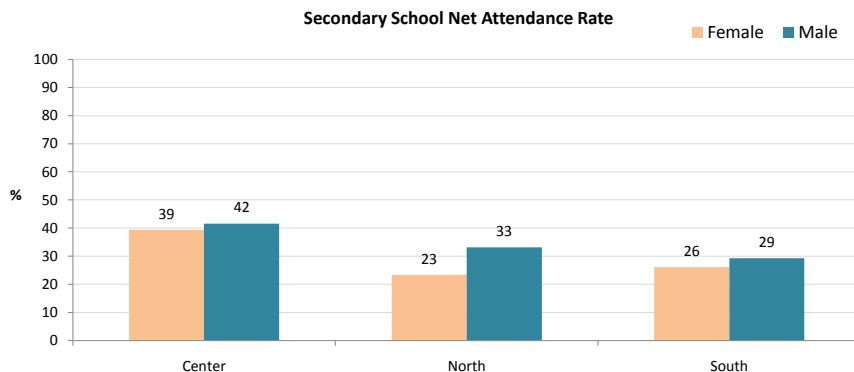
- In urban areas, 62% of children of secondary school age attend school, compared to 24% in rural areas.
- Male attendance slightly exceeds female attendance in rural areas, and genders are represented equally in urban areas.



Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2006

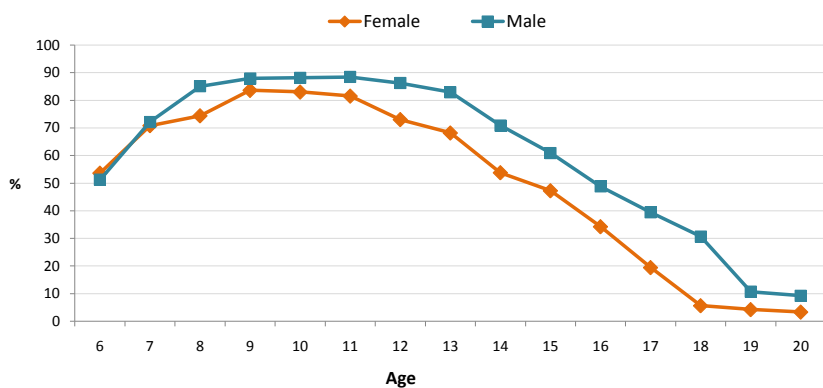
Secondary School Net Attendance Rate by Region, Laos

- Secondary net attendance is highest in the Center region (41%); attendance is lowest in the South region (28%).
- Gender disparity is highest in the North region and lowest in the Center region.



Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2006

School Attendance by Age and Sex, Laos

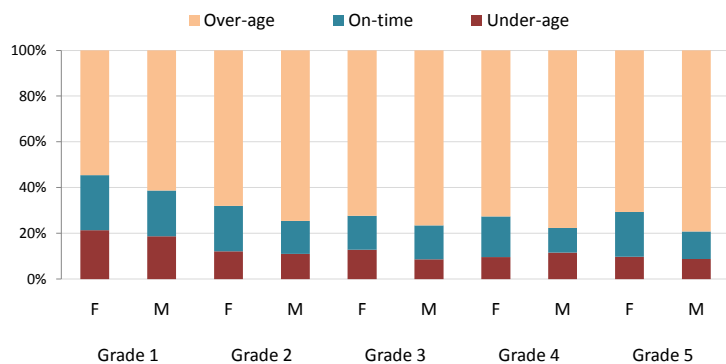


Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2006

- For females, the highest attendance rates are at age 9 (83%) and for males at ages 11 (86%).
- Beyond those ages, school attendance gradually declines to low 40% by age 16.

Over-Age, Under-Age, and On-Time Students in Primary School, Laos

Only about 17% of primary school students are in the appropriate GRADE for their age; the on-time proportion declines in the higher grades.



Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2006

- About 72% of the male primary school students and 66% of the female students are over-age by grade.
- About 12% of the male primary school students and 14% of the female students are under-age by grade.
- In this country, a significant portion of children enter primary school at an older age than the official age.

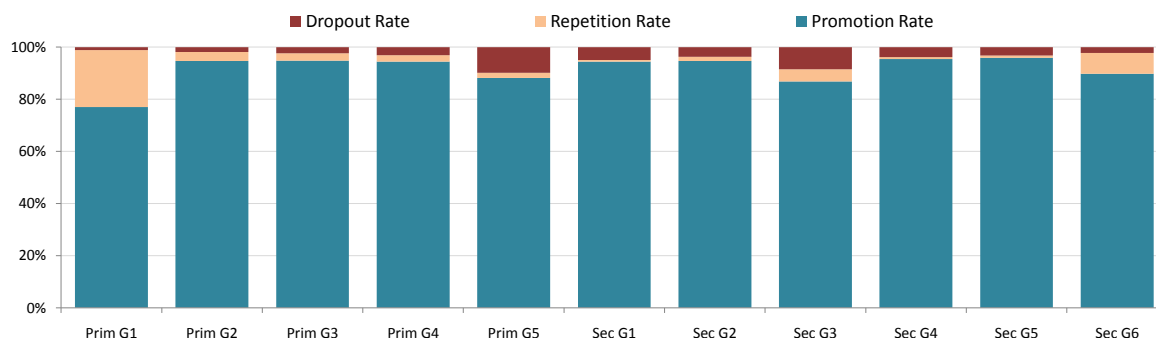
The Implications of Over-Age/Under-Age Students

For the system: Both late entry into primary school and grade repetition can cause children to be over-age for their grade. Early entry in primary school can be a cause of under-age attendance.

In the classroom: Large numbers of over-age and/or under-age students present a challenge for teachers who must teach a more diverse group with differing levels of maturity and school preparedness.

Repetition, Dropout, and Promotion Rates by Grade, Laos

- Repetition rate is highest in grade 1 of primary school (22%) and lowest in grade 1 of secondary school (1%).
- Dropout rate is highest in grade 5 of primary school (10%) and lowest in grade 1 of primary school (1%).

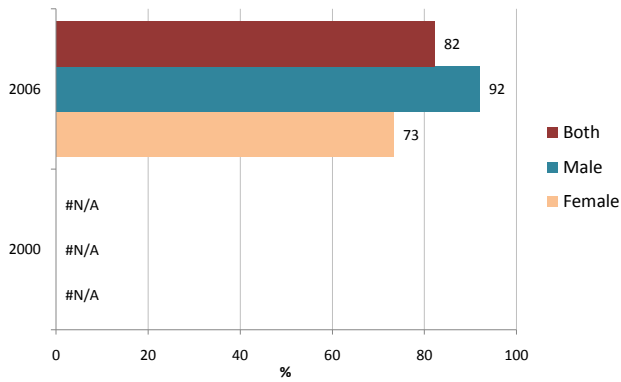


Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2006

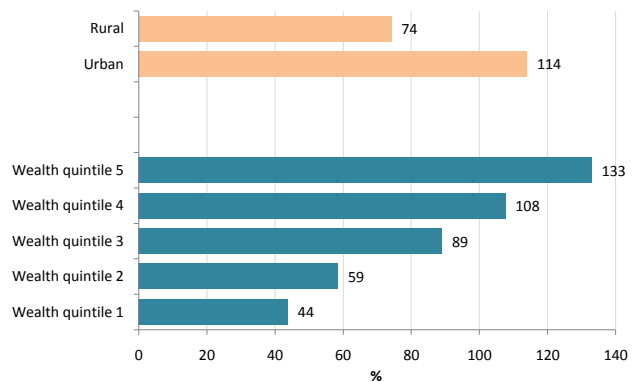
Primary School Completion Rates, Laos

- Primary school completion rate shows that approximately 4 out of 5 of children complete primary school.

- The probability of completing primary school is dramatically lower for children in rural areas and children in the poorest income quintile.



Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2006



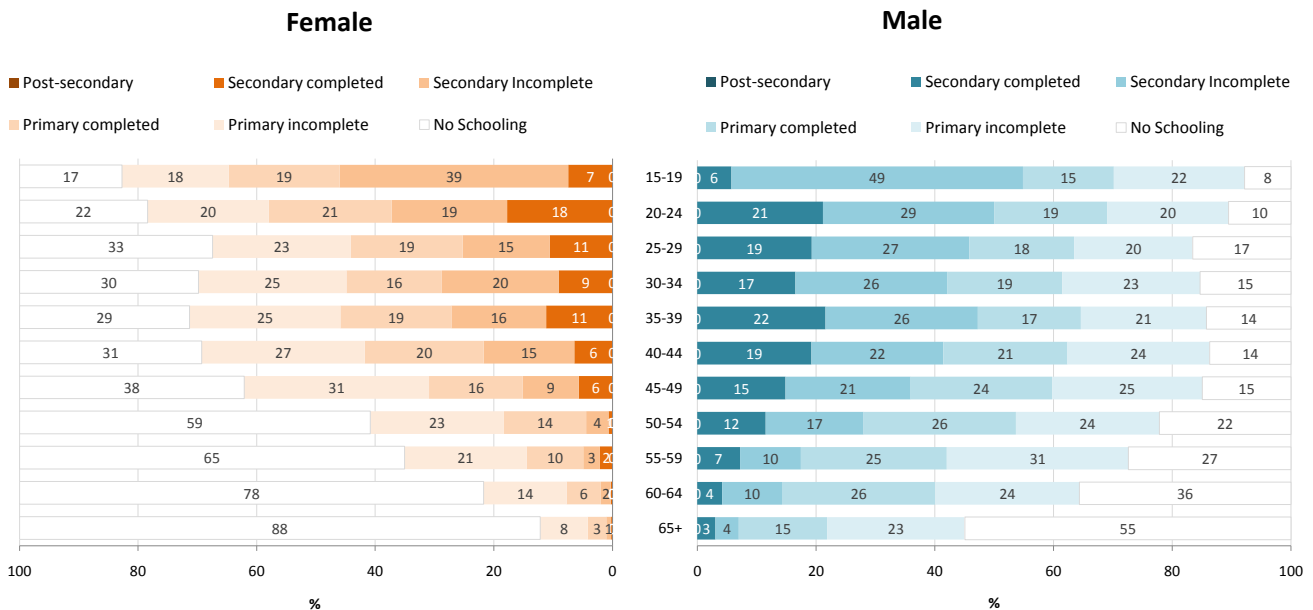
Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2006

The primary school completion rate is the total number of non-repeating students attending the last grade of primary school - regardless of age - expressed as a percentage of the official last grade of primary school-age population. This indicator doesn't capture students who have completed primary school and advanced to secondary school at an earlier age than official school age, which may be reflected in higher wealth quintiles in some countries with lower completion rates than those in lower wealth quintiles.

Educational Attainment, Laos

Males are better educated than women across all age groups.

- 92% of men and 83% of women who are 15-19 years old have attended school.
- Among the population aged 20-24 years old, 21% of men and 18% of women have completed secondary or higher.
- Men and women combined, the cohort that entered school 15 years ago (20-24 year olds) is more likely to have completed secondary school or higher than the age cohort that entered school 25 years ago (30-34 year olds).



Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2006

Female Literacy Rates, Laos

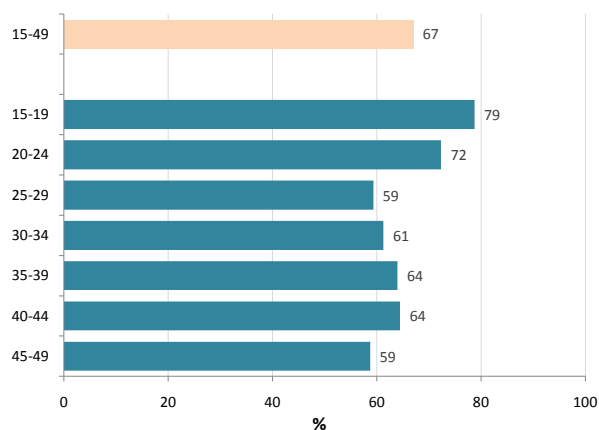
Female Literacy Rate (age 15-24)



Source: Demographic and Health Survey 2007

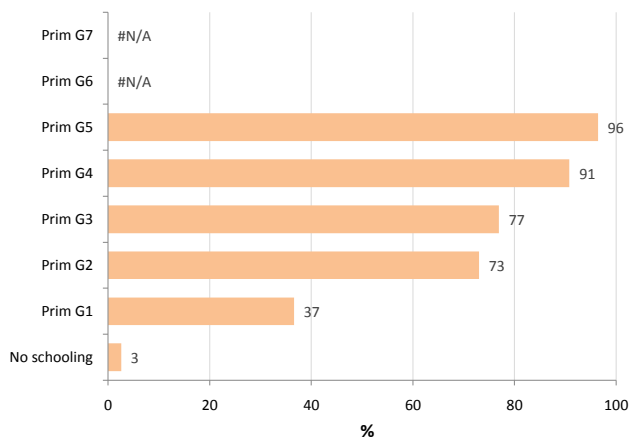
- 96% of women age 15-24 in urban areas can read, compared to 72% in rural areas.

Female Literacy Rate by Age



Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2006

Literacy Rate of Women 15-24 Years Old by Grade Completed



Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey 2006

- The percentage of women who can read is 59% among women age 45-49 and 79% among women age 15-19.
- 96% of women who completed grade 5 can read and literacy rate increases with level of education completed.