Liberia

Out of School Children of the Population Ages 7-14

Number Out of School	Percent Out of School
311,000	**47%**

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

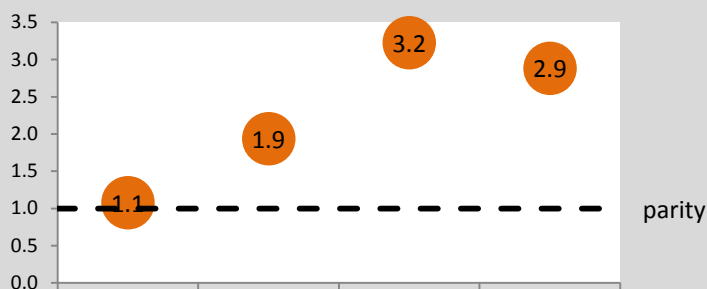*Exact estimated rates and 95% confidence intervals for estimates are provided later in the profile.*

Out of School Rates (%)
- 0 - 15
- 15 - 30
- 30 - 45
- 45 - 60
- 60 - 75
- 75 - 90
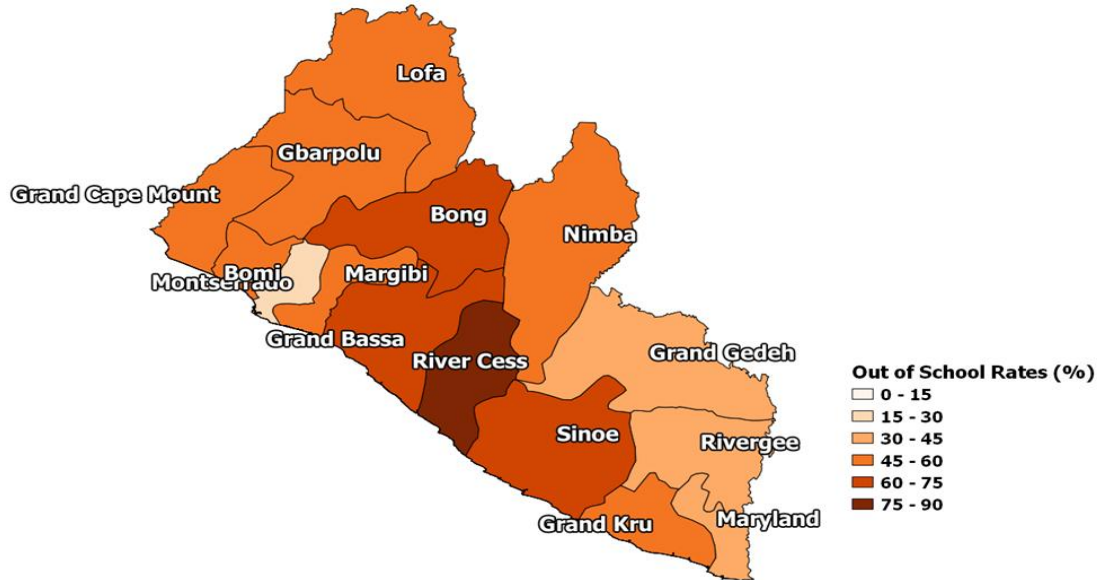
Comparison of Rates of Out of School Children According to the Most Recent Household Survey, Ages 7-14, West Africa

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
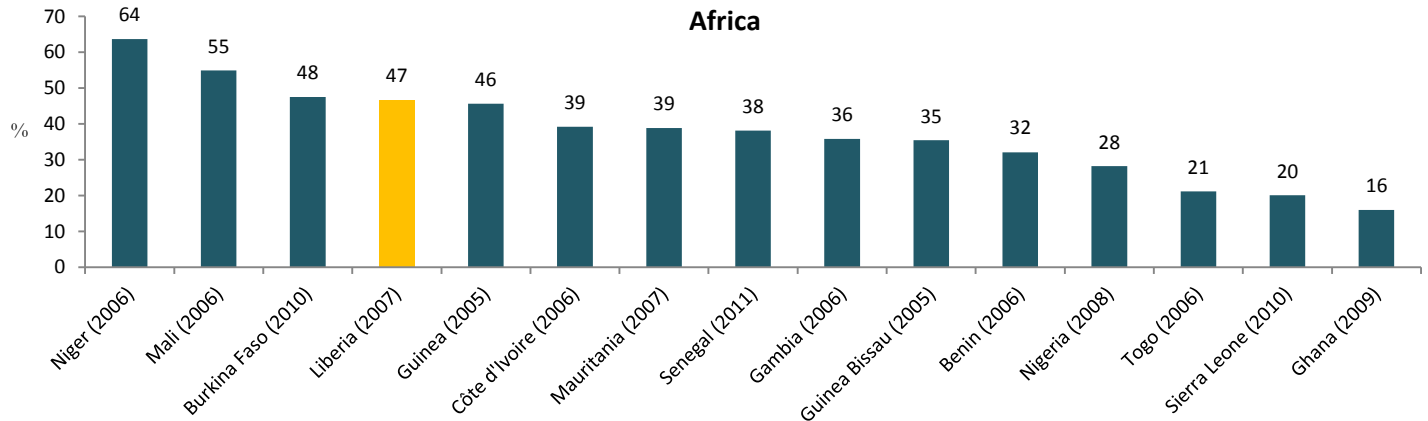
The Structure of the Education System in Liberia

Liberia has a 6-3-3 formal education structure with an official primary school entry age of six. In principle, primary and secondary education is free (though please note that IBE interprets the Education Law of 2001 as legislating compulsory education between the ages of 6 and 16 while the US Department of Labor interprets this same law as legislating compulsory education through age 12). Students sit for exams at the end of grade 6, at the end of grade 9, and at the end of grade 12. (UNESCO IBE, World Data on Education. Revised 9/2010; US Department of Labor, 2010 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor).

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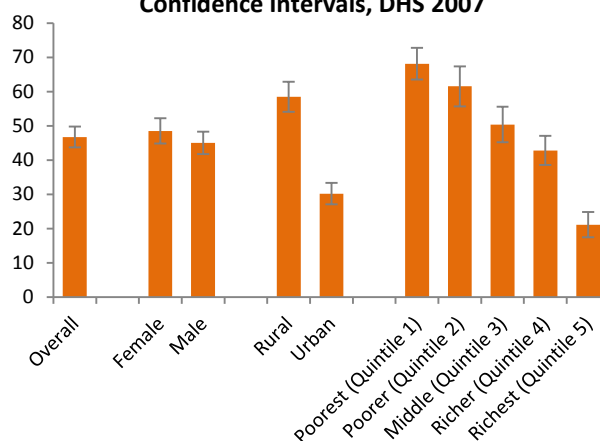*Making sense of data to improve education for development*

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 1.9 times higher than that in urban areas.

● For Liberia, the greatest disparity in out of school rates is between children from the poorest and richest quintiles. Children from the poorest quintile are 3.2 times as likely to be out of school as children from the richest quintile.
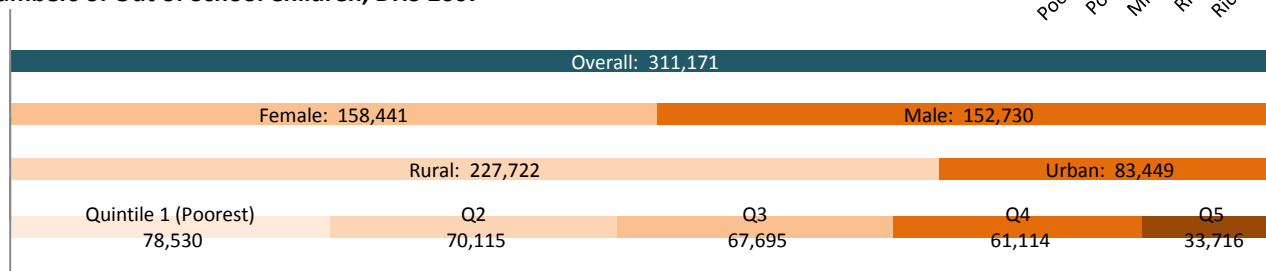
Out of School Children by Individual and Household Characteristics

● More girls (49% or 158,441) are out of school than boys (45% or 152,730) in Liberia.

● Out of school rates for children from rural areas (58%) are higher than those for children from urban areas (30%). In terms of absolute numbers, there are more children out of school in rural areas (227,722) than in urban areas (83,449).

● Out of school rates are highest for children in the poorest wealth quintile (68%).

Rates of Out of School Children (%), with 95% Confidence Intervals, DHS 2007

Numbers of Out of School Children, DHS 2007

Overall: 311,171

Female: 158,441 | Male: 152,730

Rural: 227,722 | Urban: 83,449

| Quintile 1 (Poorest)	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5
78,530	70,115	67,695	61,114	33,716

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 2007 Liberia 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 River Cess (81%). Montserrado has the lowest rate of school non-participation (28%).

● The highest numbers of out of school children are located in Montserrado (63,162). Gbarpolu has the lowest numbers of out of school children (4,441).

Rates of Out of School Children by Subnational Region (%), with 95% Confidence Intervals, DHS 2007
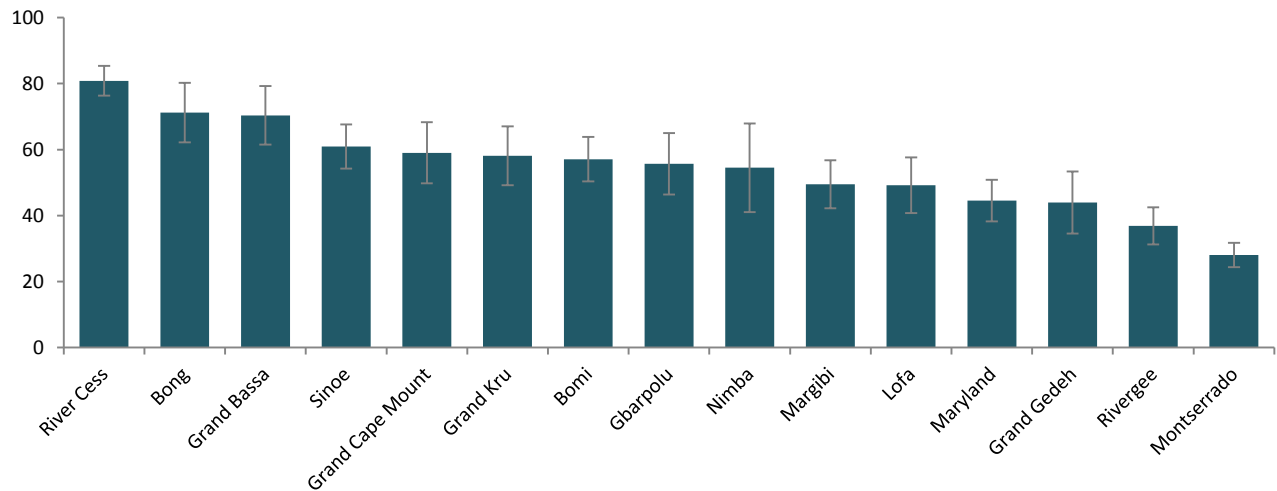
Numbers of Out of School Children by Subnational Region (# in thousands), with 95% Confidence Intervals, DHS 2007
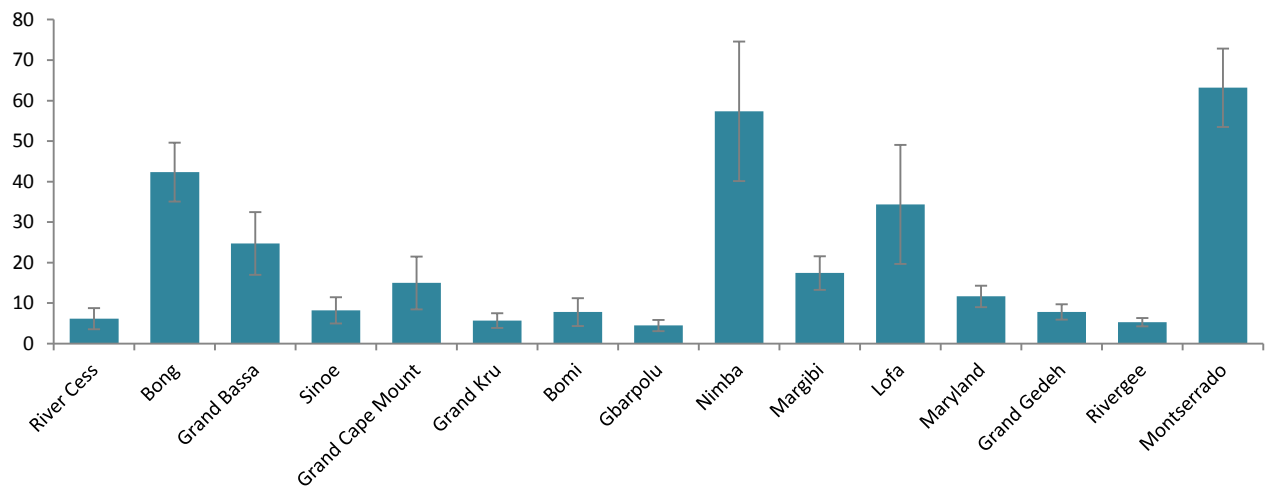

Why Ages 7-14?

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 Liberia is age 6. At that age, 92% of girls and 89% of boys are out of school.

● At age 15, 28% of girls and 18% of boys are out of school.

● School participation is highest for girls at age 14 and for boys at age 16.

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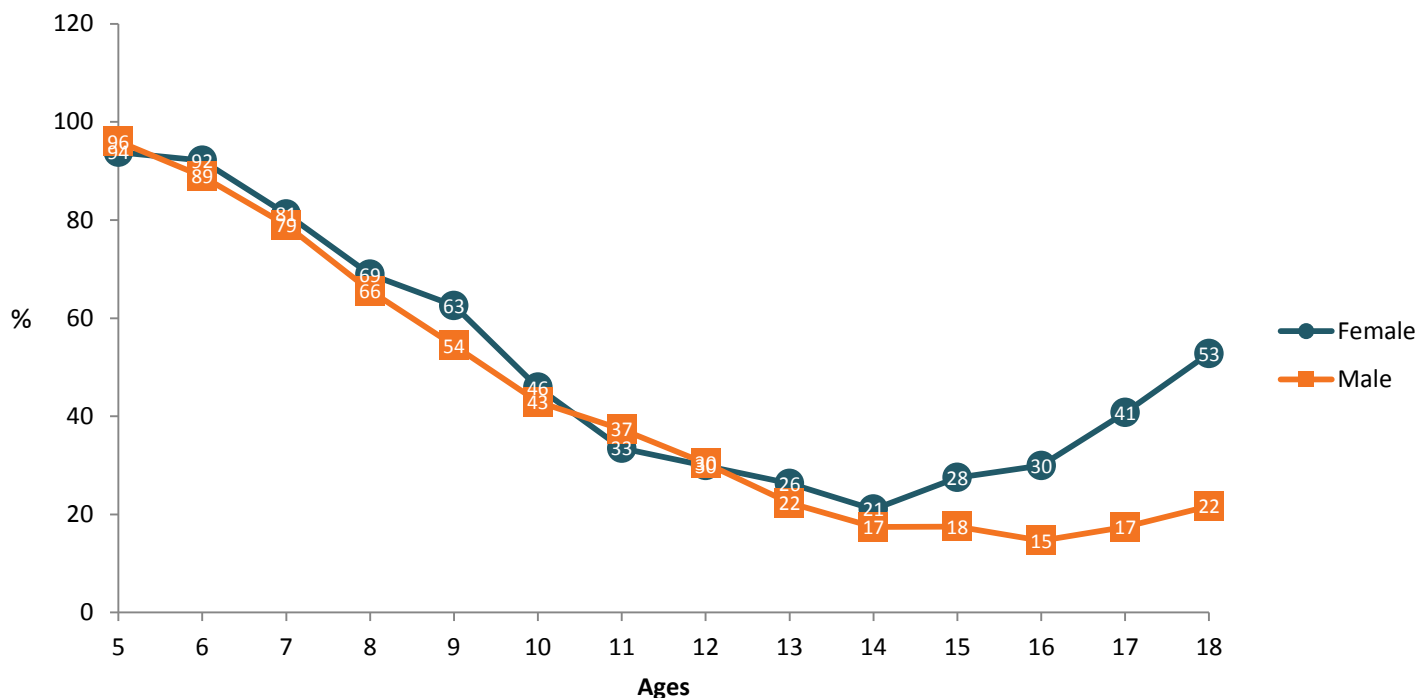
Summary of EPDC Methodology on Measuring Out of School Children

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 2007 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	44	**47**	50	282,426	**311,171**	339,915
Sex						
Female	45	**49**	52	142,336	**158,441**	174,546
Male	42	**45**	48	135,969	**152,730**	169,490
Area						
Rural	54	**58**	63	201,018	**227,722**	254,425
Urban	27	**30**	33	72,809	**83,449**	94,088
Relative Wealth						
Poorest Quintile	64	**68**	73	62,338	**78,530**	94,723
Poorer Quintile	56	**62**	67	58,073	**70,115**	82,157
Middle Quintile	45	**50**	56	54,475	**67,695**	80,915
Richer Quintile	39	**43**	47	50,539	**61,114**	71,689
Richest Quintile	17	**21**	25	26,991	**33,716**	40,441
Regions						
River Cess	76	**81**	85	3,528	**6,128**	8,728
Bong	62	**71**	80	35,038	**42,312**	49,586
Grand Bassa	61	**70**	79	16,983	**24,708**	32,433
Sinoe	54	**61**	68	4,946	**8,202**	11,459
Grand Cape Mount	50	**59**	68	8,415	**14,960**	21,506
Grand Kru	49	**58**	67	3,842	**5,664**	7,487
Bomi	50	**57**	64	4,304	**7,767**	11,229
Gbarpolu	46	**56**	65	3,078	**4,441**	5,803
Nimba	41	**54**	68	40,090	**57,333**	74,576
Margibi	42	**49**	57	13,254	**17,412**	21,570
Lofa	41	**49**	58	19,684	**34,374**	49,064
Maryland	38	**45**	51	9,006	**11,656**	14,306
Grand Gedeh	35	**44**	53	5,879	**7,781**	9,683
Rivergee	31	**37**	42	4,239	**5,270**	6,300
Montserrado	24	**28**	32	53,457	**63,162**	72,868