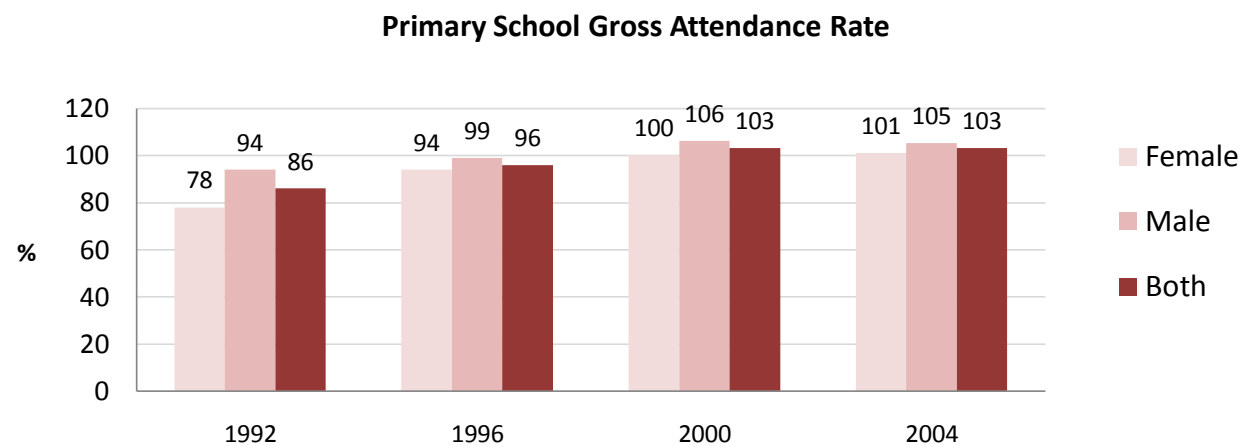
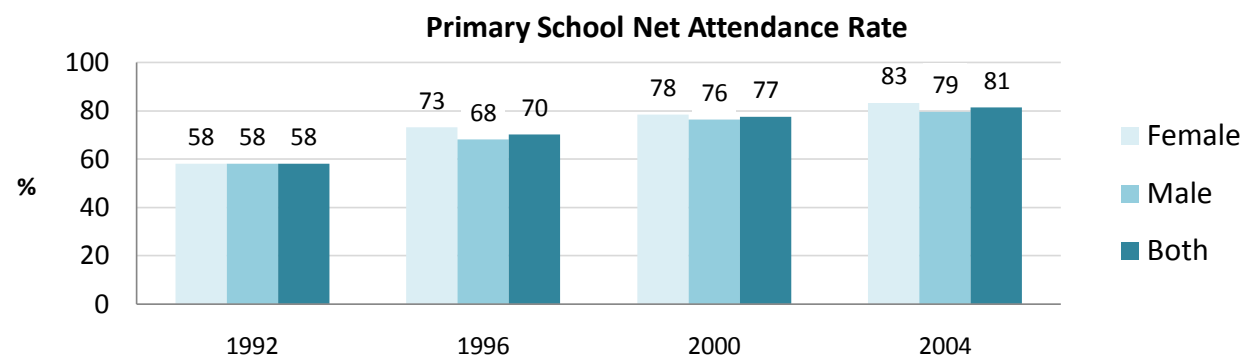


## Primary School Net and Gross Attendance Rates, Malawi

More than three quarter of school age children in Malawi attend primary school with slightly more females than males attending.

- 81% of children ages 6-13 attend primary school.
- 79% of boys ages 6-13 attend school, compared to 83% of girls.
- Primary school net attendance rate gradually increased over the years, from 58% in 1992 to 81% in 2004.

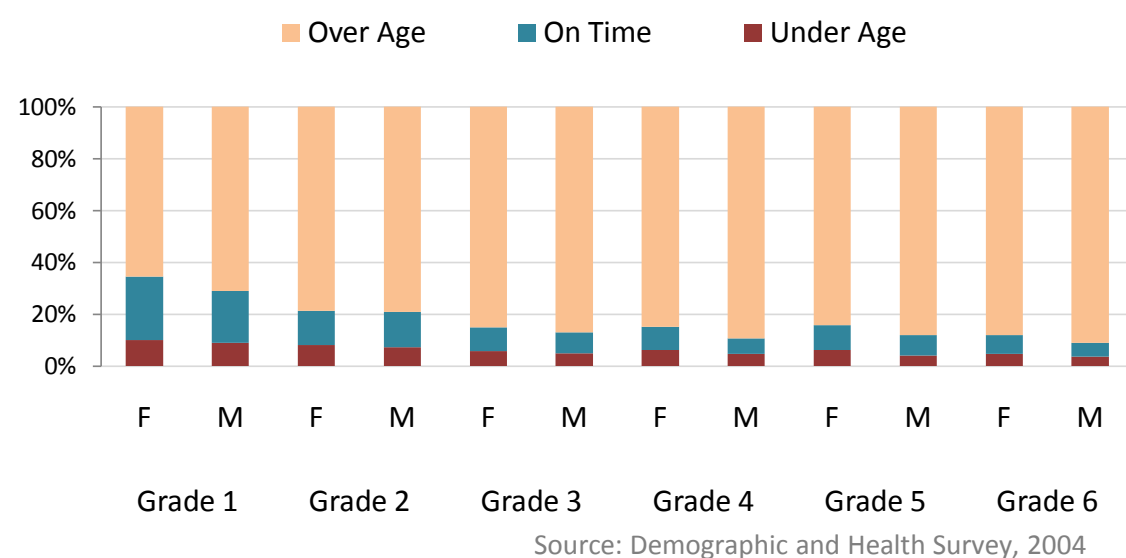


Many children attending primary school are outside of the official age range. This is reflected in the difference between net and gross attendance rates. This can have tremendous impact on the educational infrastructure, the experience in the classroom, and educational planning.

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.

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

Only about 13% of primary school students are in the appropriate grade for their age; the on-time proportion declines in the higher grades.



- 82% of the male primary school students and 78% of the female students are over-age.
- The percentage of males who are over-age ranges from 71% to 91%. The percentage for females ranges from 65% to 88%.
- About 7% of primary school students are younger than the official age for the grade that they are attending.

### 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. High repetition rates indicate inefficiency in the education system.

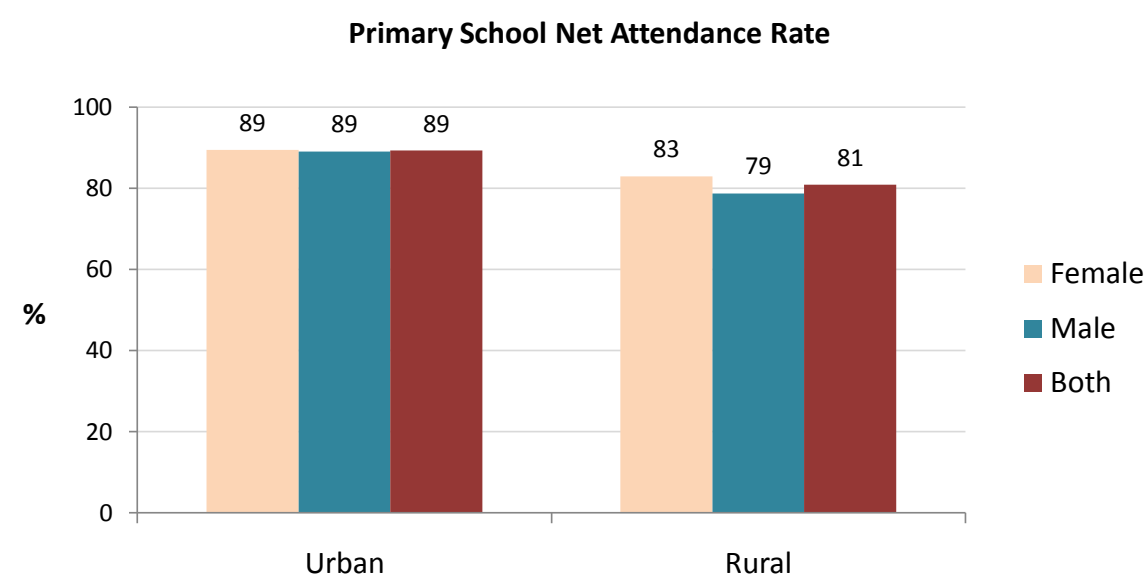
*In the classroom:* Large numbers of over-age students present a challenge for teachers who must teach a more diverse group with differing levels of maturity and school preparedness.

Students are considered to be on time if they are at the official age for the grade; over age if they are one or more years older; and under age if they are one or more years younger.

## Primary School Net Attendance Rate in Urban and Rural Areas, Malawi

Children in urban areas are more likely to attend school than children in rural areas.

- In urban areas, 89% of children of primary school age attend school, compared to 81% in rural areas.



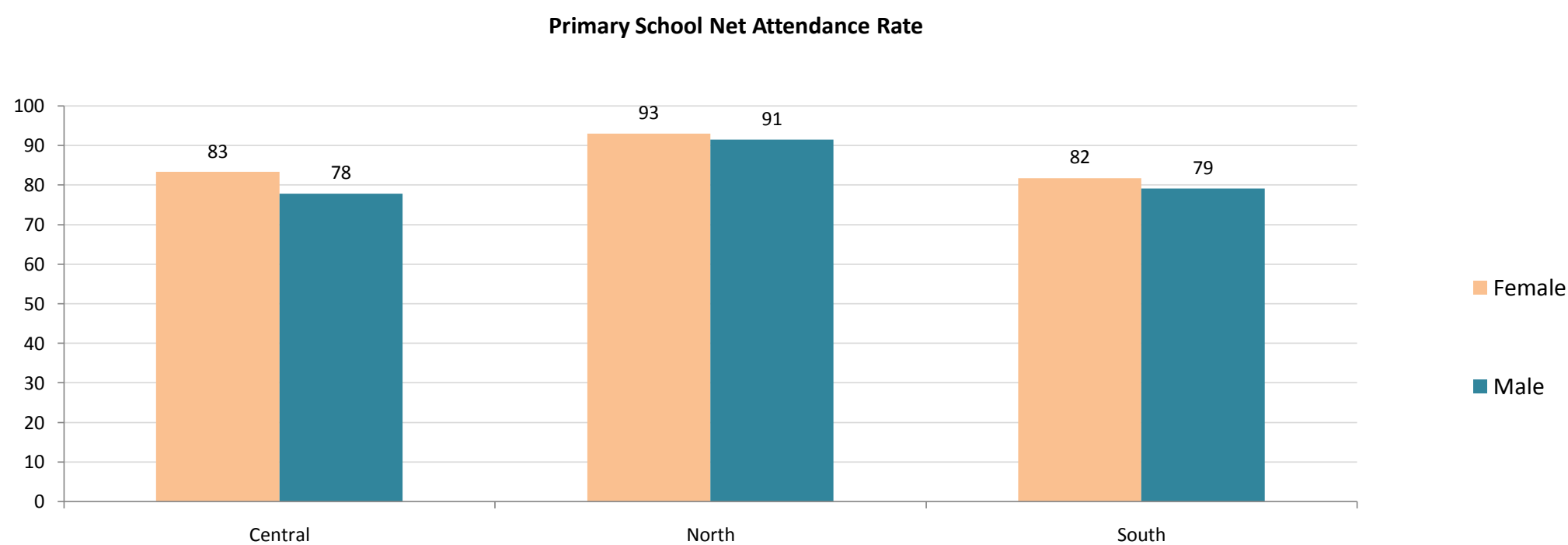
Source: Demographic and Health Survey, 2004

- No significant gender disparity can be observed in either urban or rural areas.

## Primary School Net Attendance Rate by Region, Malawi

There are not large regional disparities in primary school attendance in Malawi.

- Primary net attendance is highest in the North region (92%); attendance is lowest in the South region (80%).
- Gender disparity is lowest in the North region and highest in the Central region.
- In all 3 regions of Malawi more than three quarters of school age children attend primary school.

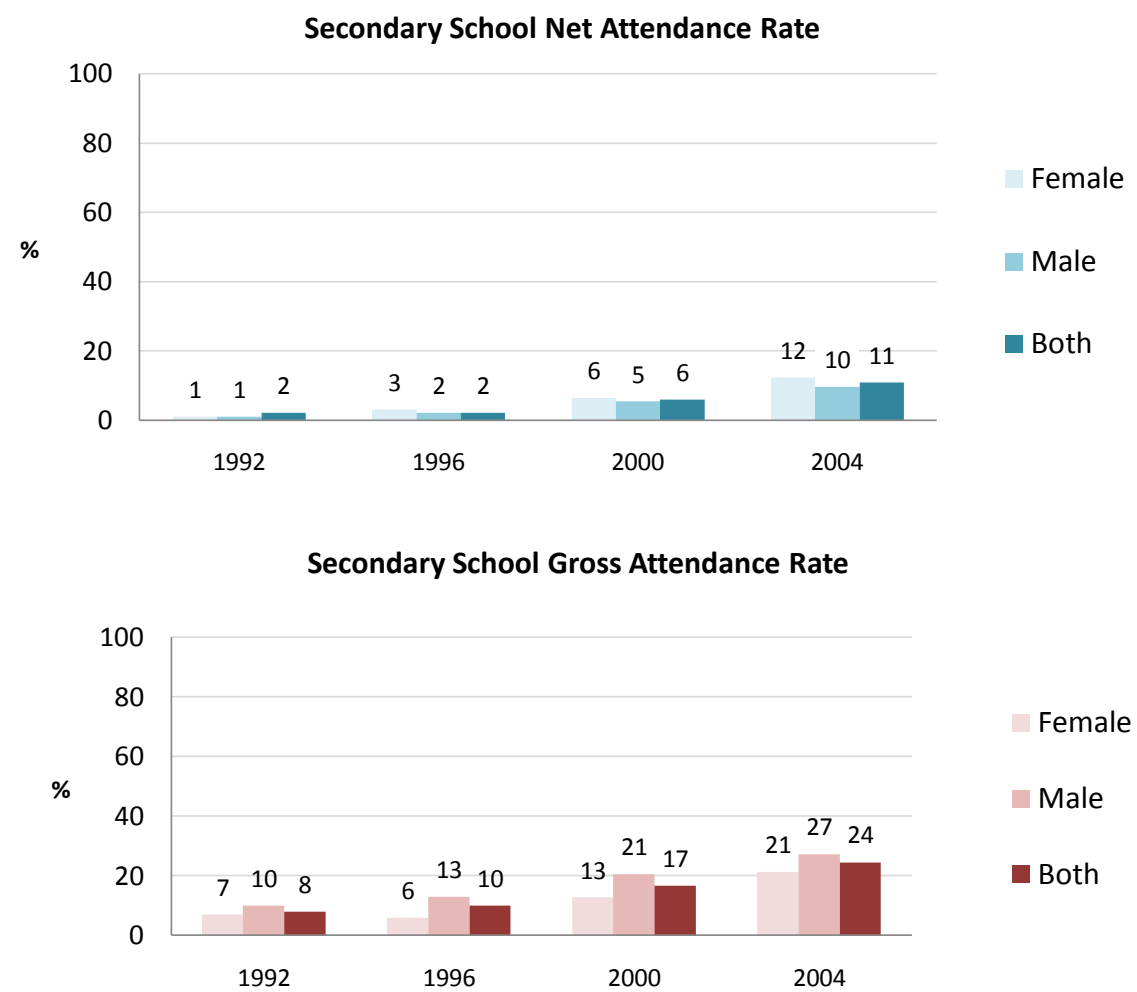


Source: Demographic and Health Survey, 2004

## Secondary School Net and Gross Attendance Rates, Malawi

Despite high primary school attendance rates, secondary school net attendance rate remains low at 11%.

- 11% of youth ages 14-17 attend secondary school.
- 10% of males ages 14-17 attend school, compared to 12% of females.
- Students over or under the official secondary school age range make up 14% of the secondary school age population.
- In 12 years secondary school net attendance rate increased by only 9 percentage points, from 2% in 1992 to 11% in 2004.

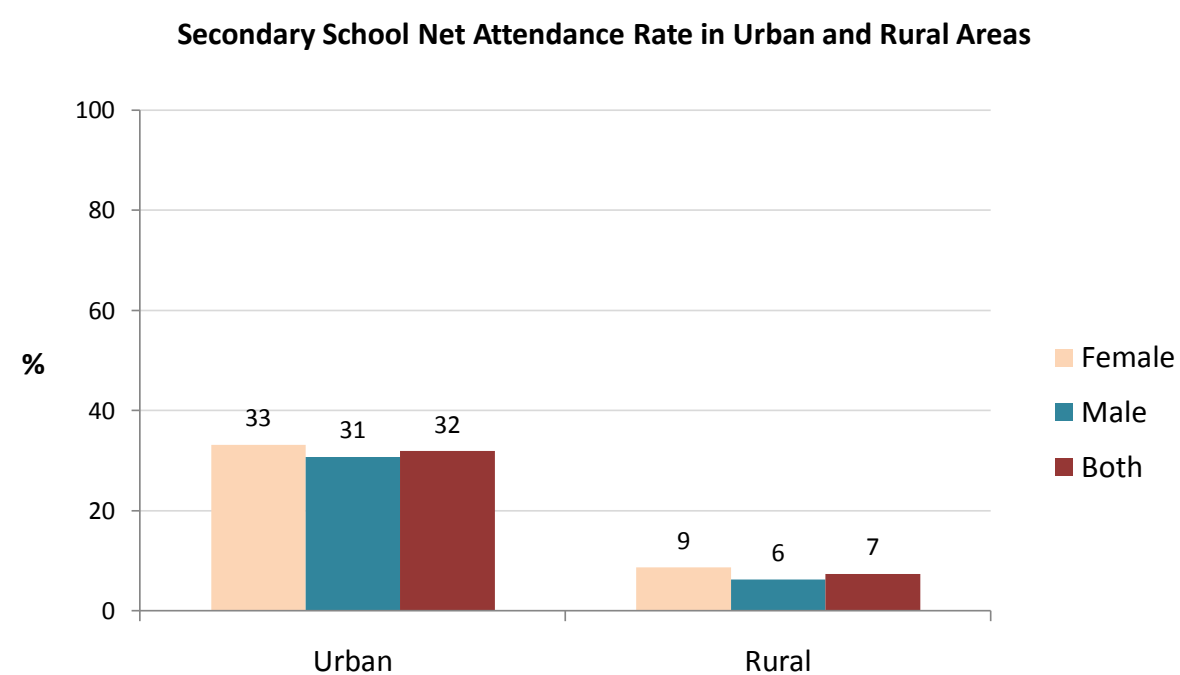


Source: Demographic and Health Survey

## Secondary School Net Attendance Rate in Urban and Rural Areas, Malawi

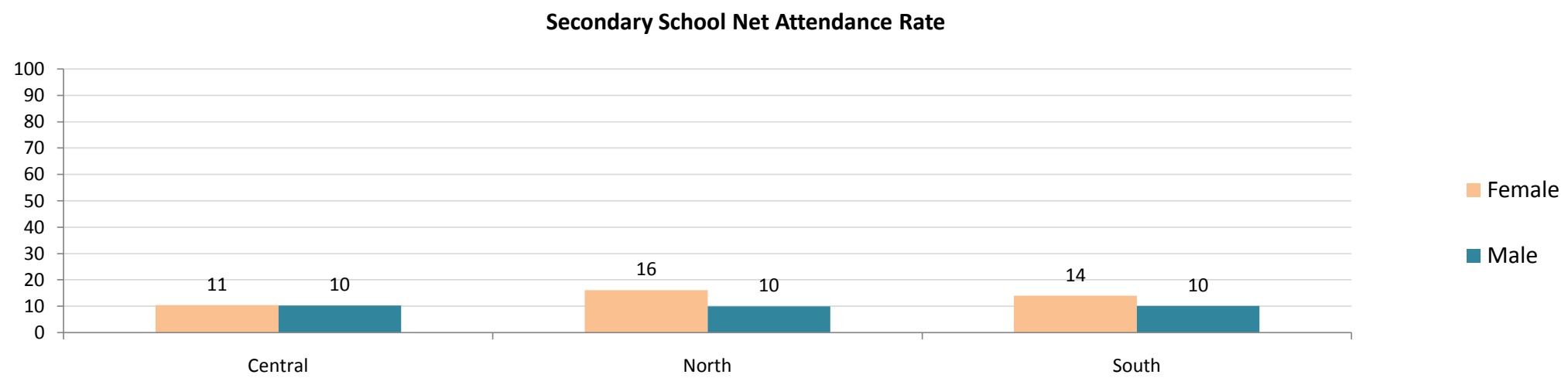
There are almost five times more youth attending secondary school in urban areas as compared to rural areas.

- In urban areas, 32% of children of secondary school age attend school, compared to 7% in rural areas.
- Gender disparity in favor of females can be observed in rural areas.
- Much more effort needs to be placed on increasing secondary education, especially in rural areas.



Source: Demographic and Health Survey, 2004

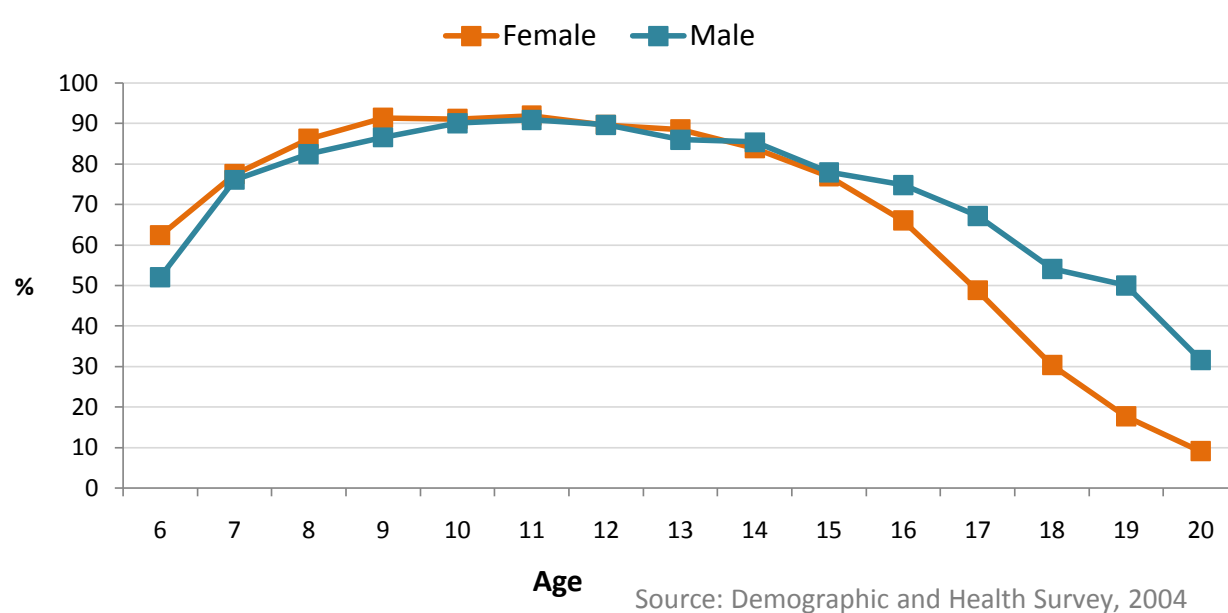
## Secondary School Net Attendance Rate by Region, Malawi



Source: Demographic and Health Survey, 2004

- Secondary net attendance is highest in the North region (13%); attendance is lowest in the Central region (10%).
- Gender disparity is highest in the North region and lowest in the Central region.

## School Attendance by Age and Sex, Malawi

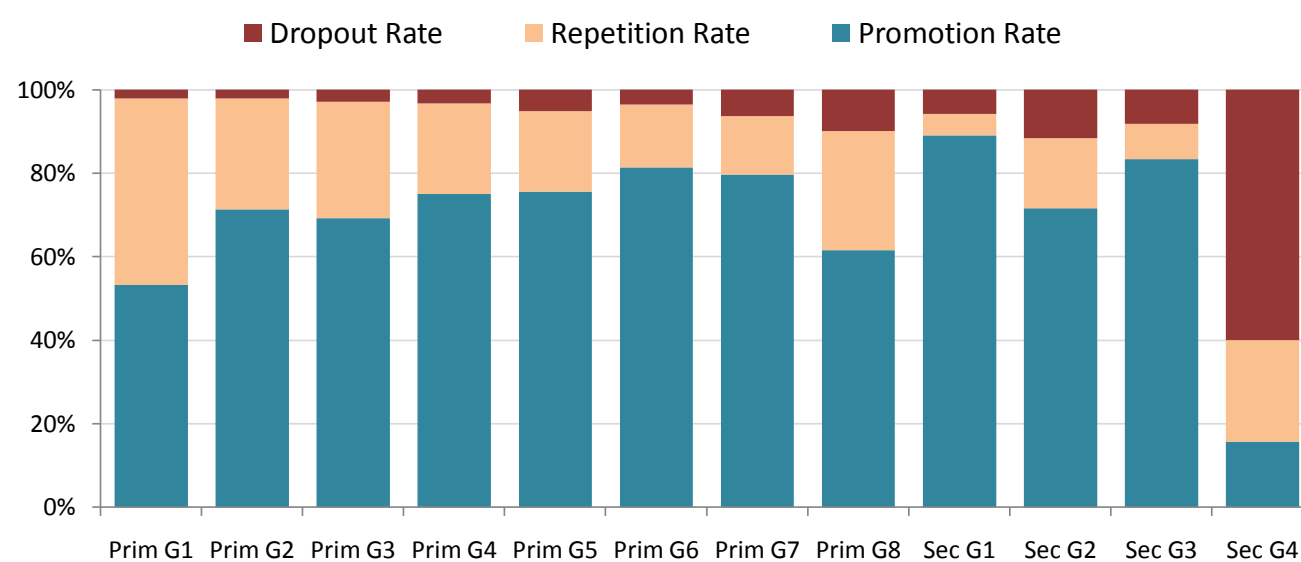


Source: Demographic and Health Survey, 2004

- There are as many girls as boys attending school up to age 15, in older age groups the percentage of boys attending school is higher than girls.
- For both females and males, the highest attendance rate is at age 11, 92% and 91% respectively.

## Repetition, Dropout, and Promotion Rates by Grade, Malawi

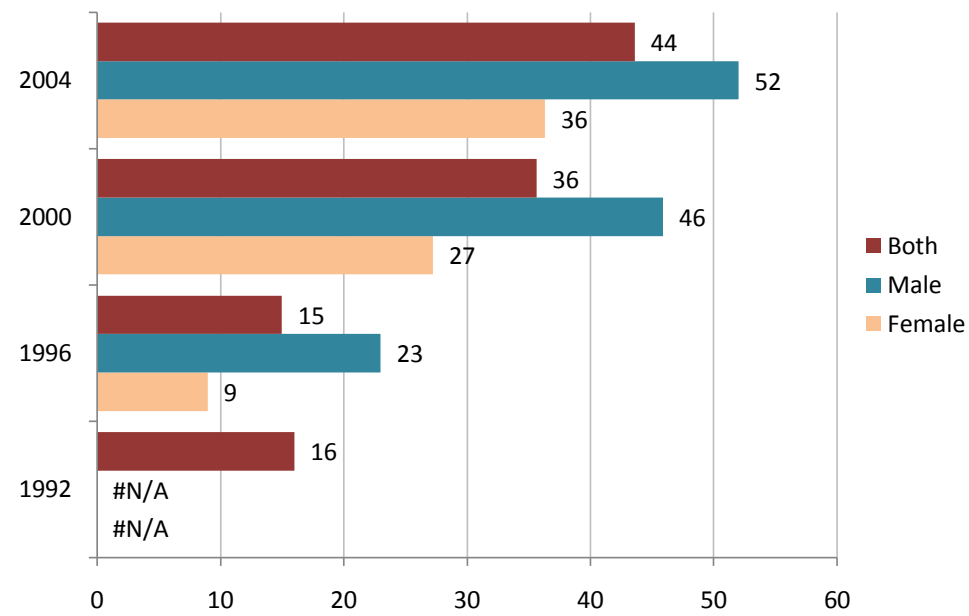
- Repetition rate ranges from 5% in grade 1 of secondary school to 45% in grade 1 of primary school.
- Dropout rate is highest in grade 4 of secondary school (60%) and lowest in grade 1 of primary school (2%).



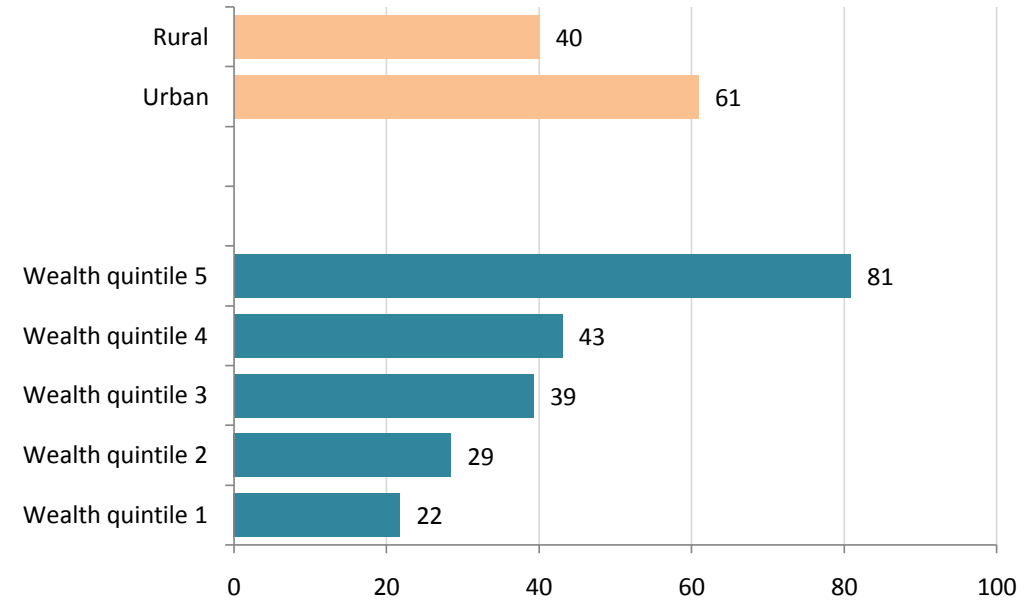
Source: Demographic and Health Survey, 2004

## Primary School Completion Rates, Malawi

- Primary school completion rates increased rather slowly from 16% in 1992 to 44% in 2004.
- The probability of completing primary school is much higher in urban than rural areas, and increases with the relative wealth of the student's household.



Source: Demographic and Health Survey



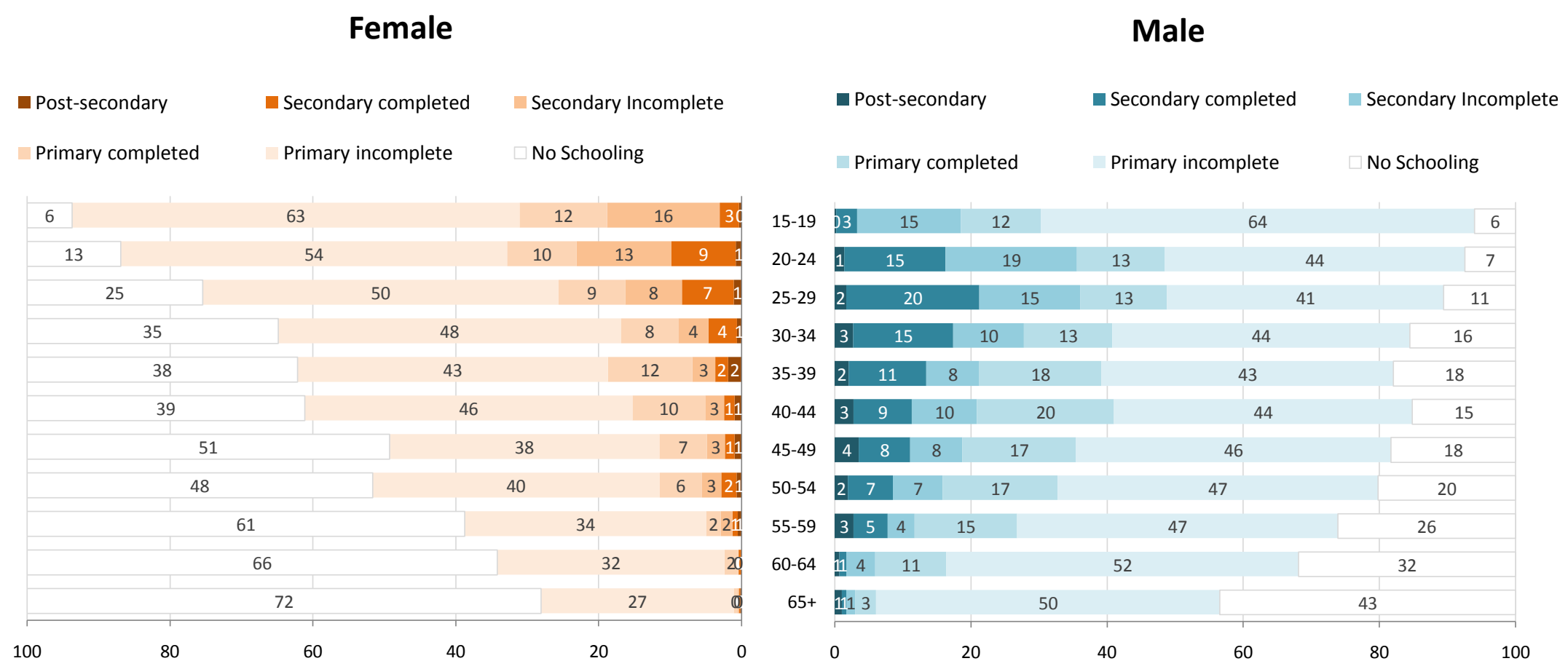
Source: Demographic and Health Survey, 2004

The primary school completion rate is the total number of 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.

## Educational Attainment, Malawi

Males are better educated than women across older age groups, the gender gap disappears among 15-19 year olds.

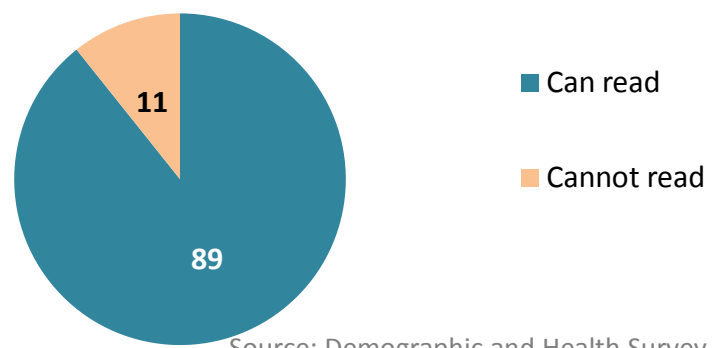
- Among the population aged 15 years old and above, 15% of men and 32% of women have no education.
- 6% of men and 6% of women who are 15-19 year old have never attended school.
- Only 1% of the population aged 15 years old and above have post-secondary education.



Source: Demographic and Health Survey, 2004

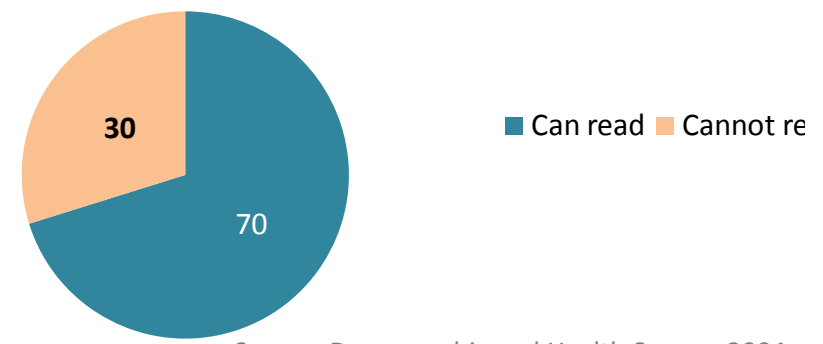
## Female Literacy Rates, Malawi

### Female Literacy Rate, Urban



Source: Demographic and Health Survey, 2004

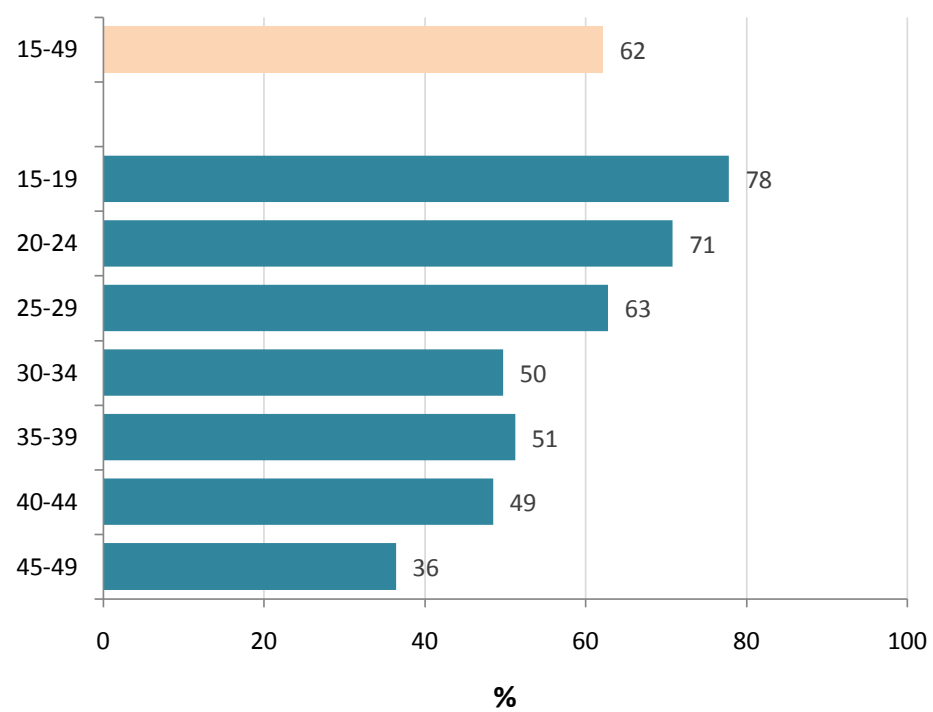
### Female Literacy Rate, Rural



Source: Demographic and Health Survey, 2004

- 89% of women age 15-24 in urban areas can read, compared to 70% in rural areas.
- The percentage of women who can read is 36% among women age 45-49 and 78% among women age 15-19.

### Female Literacy Rate by Age



Source: Demographic and Health Survey, 2004