## Primary School Net and Gross Attendance Rates, Nigeria

Almost two thirds of school age children in Nigeria attend primary school. Boys are slightly more likely to attend than girls.

- $62 \%$ of children ages 6-11 attend primary school.
- 65\% of boys ages 6-11 attend school, compared to $59 \%$ of girls.
- There has not been much progress in primary school attendance in Nigeria in 18 years, with net attendance rates increasing from 54\% in 1990 to only 62\% in 2006.



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, Nigeria

Only about 20\% of primary school students are in the appropriate grade for their age; the on-time proportion declines in the higher grades.


- $41 \%$ of the male primary school students and $37 \%$ of the female students are over-age.
- The percentage of males who are overage ranges from $32 \%$ to $48 \%$. The percentage for females ranges from $29 \%$ to 47\%.
- About $40 \%$ of primary school students are younger that 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.

Primary School Net Attendance Rate
Children in urban areas are more likely to attend school than children in rural areas.

- In urban areas, 74\% of children of primary school age attend school, compared to $57 \%$ in rural areas.

- Gender disparity appears to be slightly higher in rural areas than in urban areas.


## Primary School Net Attendace Rate by Region, Nigeria

There are large regional disparities in primary school attendance in Nigeria.

- $\quad$ Primary net attendance is highest in the South East region (81\%); attendance is lowest in the North West region (43\%).
- Gender disparity is lowest in the South South region and highest in the North West region.
- In 2 of the 6 regions, less than a half of children of primary school age attends school.

Primary School Net Attendance Rate


Less than a half of secondary school age youth attends school. Males are slightly more likely to attend than females.

- $49 \%$ of youth ages 12-17 attend secondary school.
- $51 \%$ of males ages 12-17 attend school, compared to $46 \%$ of females.
- Students over or under the official secondary school age range make up $24 \%$ of the secondary school age population.
- Secondary school net attendance rates gradually increased in 18 years from 20\% in 1990 to 49\% in 2008.




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

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

- In urban areas, 64\% of children of secondary school age attend school, compared to $41 \%$ in rural areas.
- Gender disparity in favor of males appears to be higher in rural areas than in urban areas.


Secondary School Net Attendance Rate


Source: Demographic and Health Survey, 2008

- Secondary net attendance is highest in the South West region (69\%); attendance is lowest in the North East region (25\%).
- Gender disparity is highest in the North West region and lowest in the South West region.


## School Attendance by Age and Sex, Nigeria



- The percentage of males attending school is higher than females at every grade.
- For both females and males the highest attendance rate is at age $10,75 \%$ and $81 \%$ respectively.


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

- Repetition rate ranges from $2 \%$ in grade 1 of secondary school to $15 \%$ in grade 6 of secondary school.
- Dropout rate is highest in grade 6 of primary school (12\%) and lowest in grade 2 of primary school (0\%).

- Primary school completion rates decreased from 88\% in 2003 to 71\% in 2008.
- The probability of completing primary school is higher in urban than rural areas and does seem to be correlated with the wealth of the student's household.



Source: Demographic and Health Survey
Source: Demographic and Health Survey, 2008
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, Nigeria

Males appear to be better educated than women across all age groups.

- Among the population aged 15 years old and above, $27 \%$ of men and $43 \%$ of women have no education.
- $15 \%$ of men and $25 \%$ of women who are 15-19 year old have never attended school.
- Only $10 \%$ of the population aged 15 years old and above have post-secondary education.


Female Literacy Rates, Nigeria

## Female Literacy Rate, Urban



Female Literacy Rate, Rural


- $85 \%$ of women age $15-24$ in urban areas can read, compared to $53 \%$ in rural areas.
- The percentage of women who can read is $32 \%$ among women age $45-49$ and $68 \%$ among women age 15-19.

- $34 \%$ of women who completed grade 4 can read and literacy rate increases with level of education completed.

