# Zambia

## Out of School Children of the Population Ages 7-14

| Number Out of School | Percent Out of School |
|---|---|
| **376,000** | **14%** |

Source: Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) 2007

### Comparison of Rates of Out of School Children Ages 7-14 across Zambia

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



Out of School Rates (%)
Children Ages 7 - 14
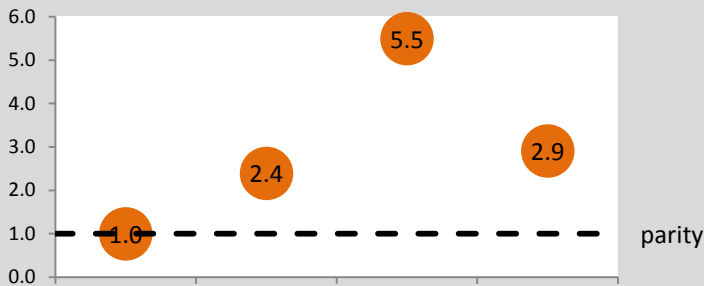- ☐ 0 - 5
- 5 - 10
- 10 - 15
- 15 - 20
- 20 - 25
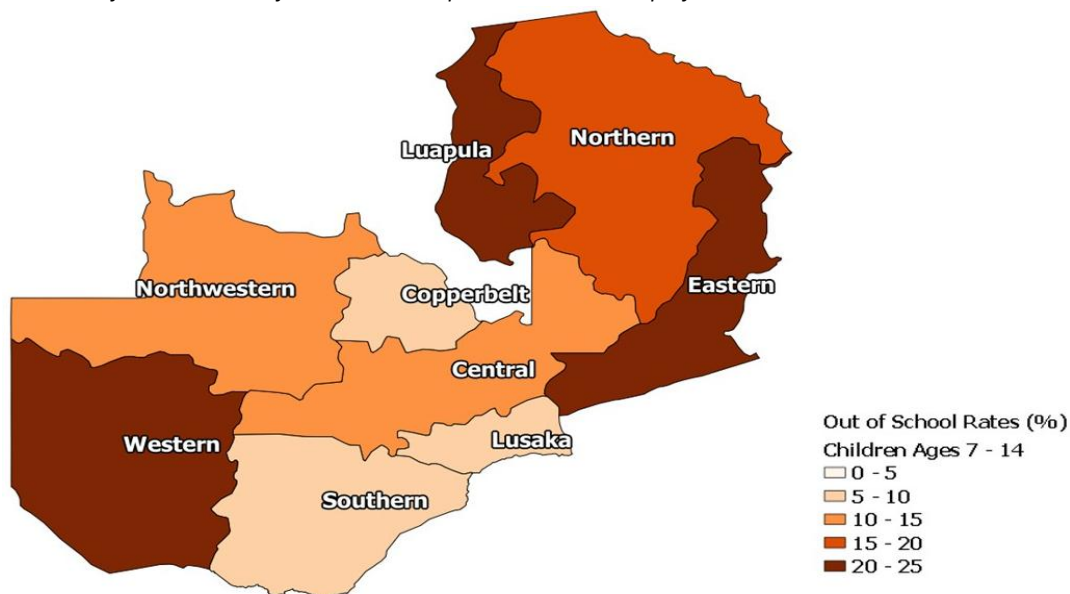
### Comparison of Rates of Out of School Children According to the Most Recent Household Survey, Ages 7-14, East Africa
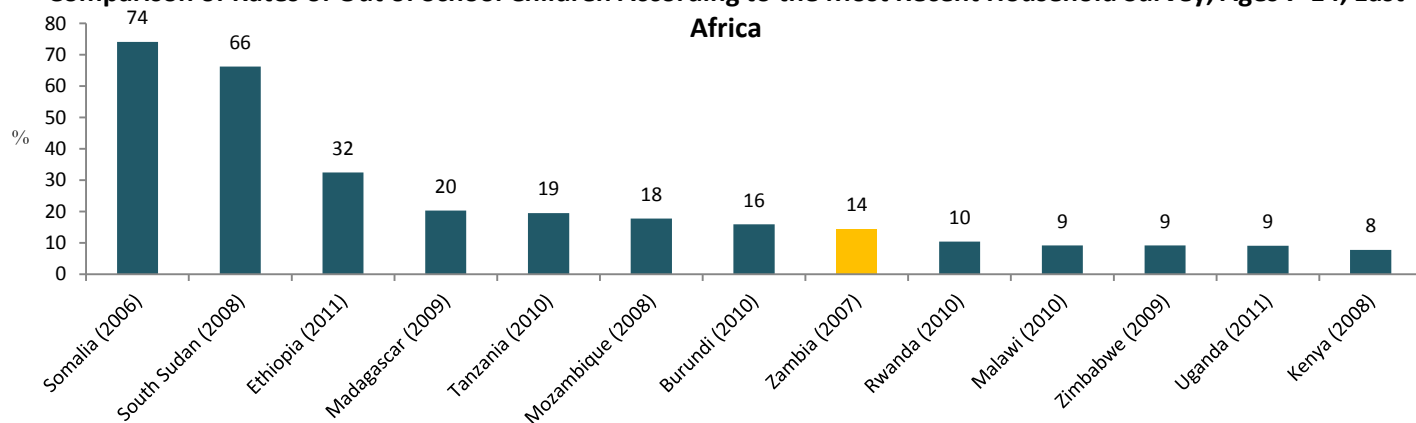


### The Structure of the Education System in Zambia

Zambia has a 7-2-3 formal education structure. Primary school has an official entry age of seven and a duration of seven grades. Secondary school is divided into two cycles: lower secondary consists of grades 8 - 9, and upper secondary consists of grades 10 - 12. Students sit for the Primary School Leaving Certificate Examination at the end of grade 7, an exam to enter upper secondary at the end of grade 9, and School Certificate Examination at the end of grade 12. (UNESCO IBE, World Data on Education. Revised 8/2010). Primary school is free in Zambia, but school attendance is not compulsory (United States Department of Labor, 2010 Findings on the Worst Forms of Child Labor, 3 October 2011).

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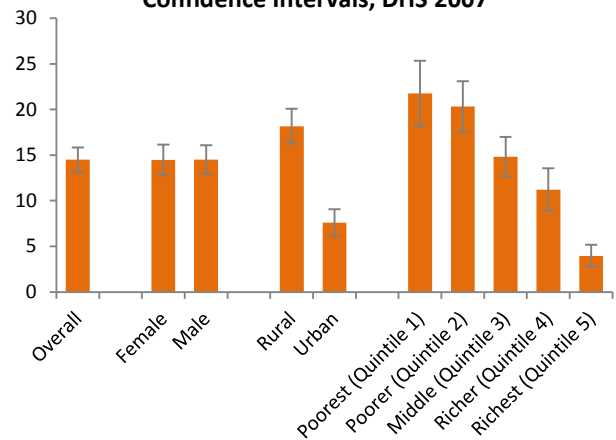*Making sense of data to improve education for development*

## 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 2.4 times higher than that in urban areas.

● For Zambia, the greatest disparity in out of school rates is between children from the poorest and richest quintiles. Children from the poorest quintile are 5.5 times as likely to be out of school as children from the richest quintile.
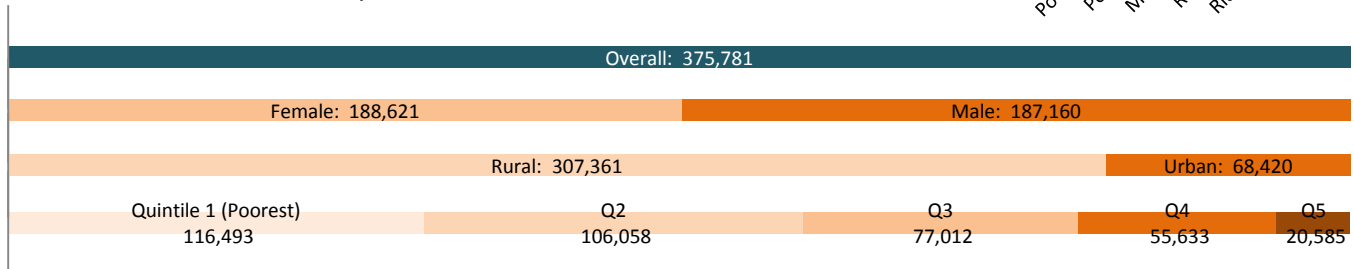
## Out of School Children by Individual and Household Characteristics

● Fewer girls (14% or 188,621) are out of school than boys (15% or 187,160) in Zambia.

● Out of school rates for children from rural areas (18%) are higher than those for children from urban areas (8%). In terms of absolute numbers, there are more children out of school in rural areas (307,361) than in urban areas (68,420).

● Out of school rates are highest for children in the poorest wealth quintile (22%).

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



### Numbers of Out of School Children, DHS 2007



Overall: 375,781

Female: 188,621 | Male: 187,160

Rural: 307,361 | Urban: 68,420

| Quintile 1 (Poorest) | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Q5 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 116,493 | 106,058 | 77,012 | 55,633 | 20,585 |

## 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 Zambia 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 Western (23%). Copperbelt has the lowest rate of school non-participation (8%).

● The highest numbers of out of school children are located in Eastern (87,457). Northwestern has the lowest numbers of out of school children (22,513).

**Rates of Out of School Children by Subnational Region (%), with 95% Confidence Intervals, DHS 2007**
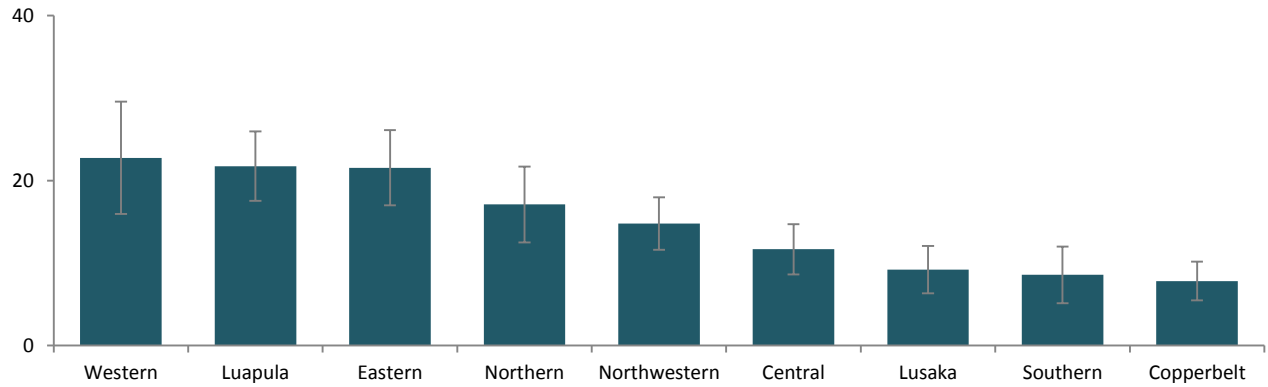


**Numbers of Out of School Children by Subnational Region (# in thousands), with 95% Confidence Intervals, DHS 2007**
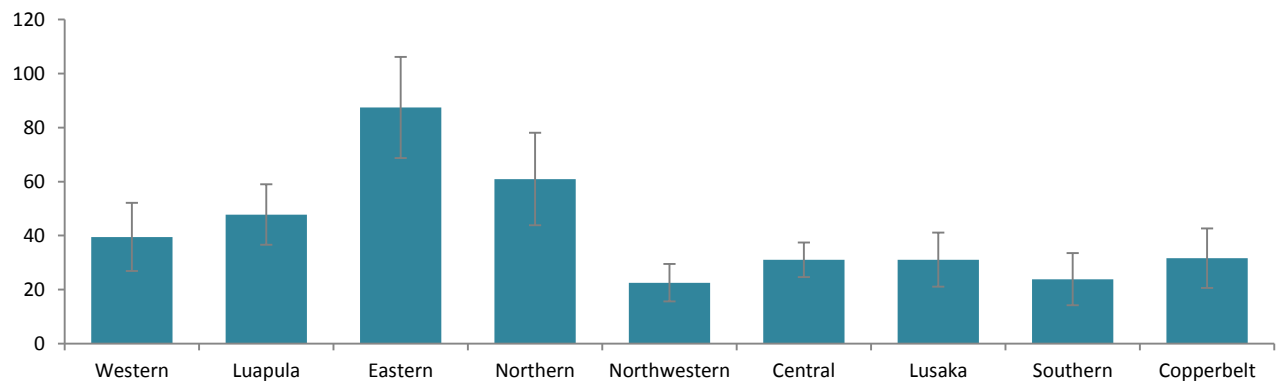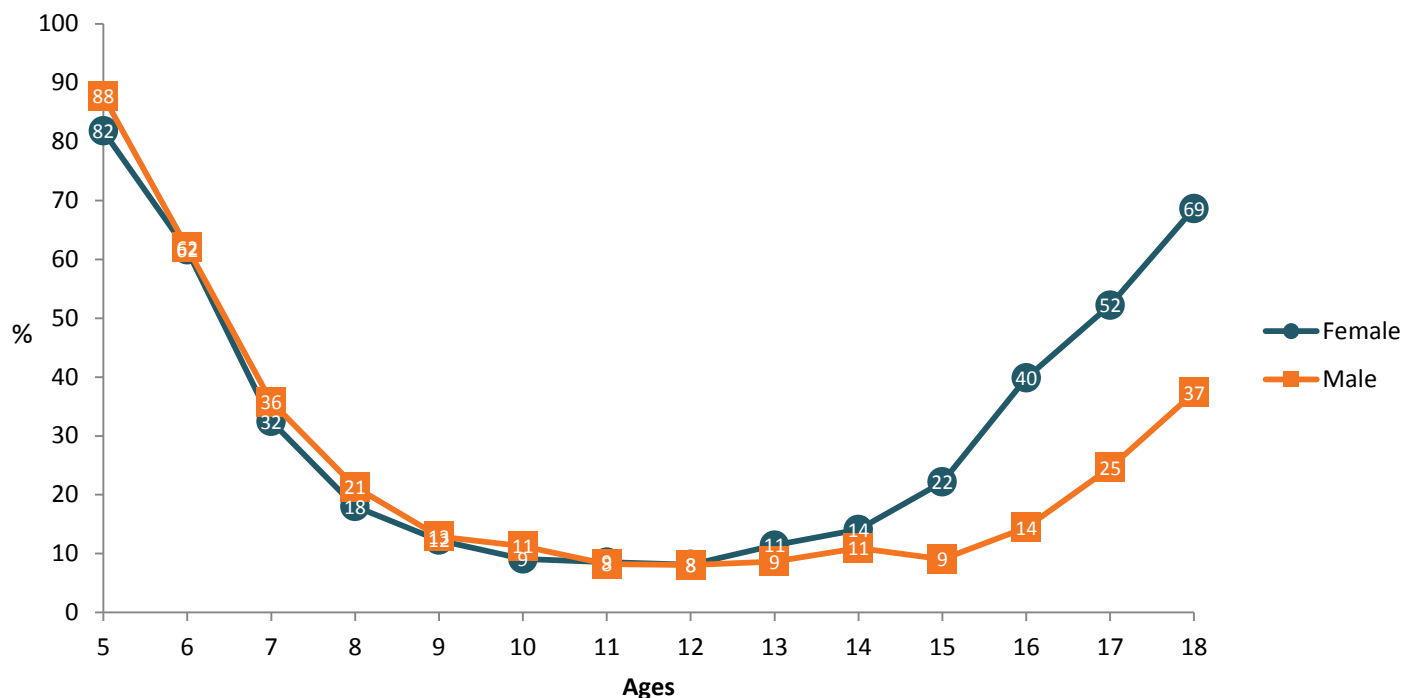


**Why Ages 7-14?**

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.

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## Out of School Rates by Age and Sex

● The official primary school entry age in Zambia is age 7. At that age, 32% of girls and 36% of boys are out of school.

● At age 15, 22% of girls and 9% of boys are out of school.

● School participation is highest for girls at age 12 and for boys at age 12.

**Out of School Rates, by Age and Sex**

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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** | 13 | **14** | 16 | 339,263 | **375,781** | 412,299 |
| **Sex** | | | | | | |
| Female | 13 | **14** | 16 | 166,153 | **188,621** | 211,089 |
| Male | 13 | **15** | 16 | 165,915 | **187,160** | 208,405 |
| **Area** | | | | | | |
| Rural | 16 | **18** | 20 | 273,855 | **307,361** | 340,867 |
| Urban | 6 | **8** | 9 | 53,897 | **68,420** | 82,943 |
| **Relative Wealth** | | | | | | |
| Poorest Quintile | 18 | **22** | 25 | 93,447 | **116,493** | 139,539 |
| Poorer Quintile | 18 | **20** | 23 | 88,401 | **106,058** | 123,715 |
| Middle Quintile | 13 | **15** | 17 | 63,977 | **77,012** | 90,046 |
| Richer Quintile | 9 | **11** | 14 | 41,196 | **55,633** | 70,071 |
| Richest Quintile | 3 | **4** | 5 | 14,058 | **20,585** | 27,111 |
| **Regions** | | | | | | |
| Western | 16 | **23** | 30 | 26,874 | **39,484** | 52,095 |
| Luapula | 18 | **22** | 26 | 36,561 | **47,761** | 58,962 |
| Eastern | 17 | **22** | 26 | 68,682 | **87,457** | 106,232 |
| Northern | 13 | **17** | 22 | 43,869 | **60,953** | 78,038 |
| Northwestern | 12 | **15** | 18 | 15,580 | **22,513** | 29,445 |
| Central | 9 | **12** | 15 | 24,665 | **31,058** | 37,452 |
| Lusaka | 6 | **9** | 12 | 21,037 | **31,065** | 41,094 |
| Southern | 5 | **9** | 12 | 14,192 | **23,847** | 33,502 |
| Copperbelt | 5 | **8** | 10 | 20,597 | **31,642** | 42,686 |