More than three quarters of primary school age children in Zimbabwe attend school and gender parity in attendance has been achieved.

- $85 \%$ of children ages 6-12 attend primary school.
- $85 \%$ of boys ages 6-12 attend school, compared to $86 \%$ of girls.
- No gender disparity can be observed in either net or gross attendance rates.


Primary School Gross Attendance Rate


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, Zimbabwe

Only about 32\% of primary school students are in the appropriate grade for their age; the on-time proportion declines in the higher grades.


- $62 \%$ of the male primary school students and $56 \%$ of the female students are over-age.
- The percentage of males who are overage ranges from $52 \%$ to $66 \%$. The percentage for females ranges from $48 \%$ to $58 \%$.
- About 9\% 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 and rural areas are equally likely to attend school.

- In urban areas, $88 \%$ of children of primary school age attend school, compared to $85 \%$ in rural areas.

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


## Primary School Net Attendace Rate by Region, Zimbabwe

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

- $\quad$ Primary net attendance is highest in the Masvingo region (90\%); attendance is lowest in the Mashonaland Central region (80\%).
- Gender disparity is lowest in the Matabeleland South region and highest in the Midlands region.
- In all 10 regions more than three quarters of primary school age children attend school.

Primary School Net Attendance Rate


Less than a half of secondary school age youth attends school. Males are not more likely to attend than females.

- $45 \%$ of youth ages 13-18 attend secondary school.
- 44\% of males ages 13-18 attend school, compared to $45 \%$ of females.
- 

Students over or under the official secondary school age range make up 5\% of the secondary school age population.

- No gender disparity can be observed in either net or gross attendance rates.


Secondary School Gross Attendance Rate


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

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

- In urban areas, $60 \%$ of children of secondary school age attend school, compared to $39 \%$ in rural areas.
- In urban areas, more males than females attend secondary school. In rural areas, slightly more females than males attend.


- Secondary net attendance is highest in the Bulawayo region (64\%); attendance is lowest in the Matabeleland North region (31\%).
- Gender disparity is highest in the Midlands region and lowest in the Mashonaland East region.


## School Attendance by Age and Sex, Zimbabwe



- There are as many girls as boys attending school up to age 14 , 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 $10,96 \%$ and $95 \%$ respectively.


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

- Repetition rate ranges from $1 \%$ in grade 1 of secondary school to $81 \%$ in grade 7 of primary school.
- Dropout rate is highest in grade 6 of secondary school (78\%) and lowest in grade 1 of primary school (2\%).

- Primary completion rate is slightly higher among males (106\%) than females (99\%).
- The probability of completing primary school is similar in urban and rural areas and does not seem to be highly correlated with the wealth of the student's household.



Source: Demographic and Health Survey
Source: Demographic and Health Survey, 2006
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, Zimbabwe

Males are better educated than women across older age groups, the gender gap disappears among 1519 year olds.

- Among the population aged 15 years old and above, $5 \%$ of men and $11 \%$ of women have no education.
- $1 \%$ of men and $1 \%$ of women who are $15-19$ year old have never attended school.
- Only $4 \%$ of the population aged 15 years old and above have post-secondary education.


Female Literacy Rates, Zimbabwe

## Female Literacy Rate, Urban



Female Literacy Rate, Rural


- $99 \%$ of women age $15-24$ in urban areas can read, compared to $95 \%$ in rural areas.
- The percentage of women who can read is $70 \%$ among women age 45-49 and 96\% among women age 15-19.


## Female Literacy Rate by Age



Source: Demographic and Health Survey, 2006

