Primary School Net and Gross Attendance Rates, Ghana

Almost three quarters of primary school age children in Ghana attend school and gender parity in attendance has been achieved.

- 74% of children ages 6-11 attend primary school.
- 74% of boys ages 6-11 attend school, compared to 75% of girls.
- Net attendance rates increased since 2003 but they are still at the same level as they were in 1998.

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, Ghana

Only about 21% of primary school students are in the appropriate grade for their age; the on-time proportion declines in the higher grades.

- 70% of the male primary school students and 67% of the female students are over-age.
- The percentage of males who are over-age ranges from 58% to 78%. The percentage for females ranges from 58% to 78%.
- About 11% 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.

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, Ghana

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

- In urban areas, 80% of children of primary school age attend school, compared to 70% in rural areas.
- No significant gender disparity can be observed in either urban or rural areas.

Primary School Net Attendance Rate by Region, Ghana

There are some regional disparities in primary school attendance in Ghana.

- Primary net attendance is highest in the Ashanti region (86%); attendance is lowest in the Northern region (53%).
- Gender disparity is lowest in the Ashanti region and highest in the Upper East region.
- In 1 of the 10 regions, only a half of children of primary school age attends school.

Source: Demographic and Health Survey, 2008
Secondary School Net and Gross Attendance Rates, Ghana

Less than a half of secondary school age youth attends school. No significant gender disparity in attendance can be observed.

- 43% of youth ages 12-17 attend secondary school.
- 43% of males ages 12-17 attend school, compared to 44% of females.
- Students over or under the official secondary school age range make up 15% of the secondary school age population.
- Secondary school gross attendance rates slowly increased in 15 years from 34% in 1993 to 58% in 2008.

Secondary School Net Attendance Rate in Urban and Rural Areas, Ghana

There are significantly more youth attending secondary school in urban than in rural areas.

- In urban areas, 53% of children of secondary school age attend school, compared to 35% in rural areas.
- No significant gender disparity can be observed in either urban or rural areas.
Secondary School Net Attendance Rate by Region, Ghana

- Secondary net attendance is highest in the Ashanti region (54%); attendance is lowest in the Northern region (26%).
- Gender disparity is highest in the Western region and lowest in the Greater Accra region.

School Attendance by Age and Sex, Ghana

- 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 females, the highest attendance rate is at age 9 (90%), while for males the highest attendance rate is at age 12 (90%).

Repetition, Dropout, and Promotion Rates by Grade, Ghana

- Repetition rate ranges from 0% in grade 6 of secondary school to 5% in grade 1 of secondary school.
- Dropout rate is highest in grade 3 of secondary school (61%) and lowest in grade 6 of secondary school (0%).
Primary School Completion Rates, Ghana

- Primary school completion rate more than doubled between 1993 and 2008.
- The probability of completing primary school is not different in urban than rural areas, and does not seem to depend on the wealth of the student's household.

Educational Attainment, Ghana

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, 19% of men and 33% of women have no education.
- 7% of men and 10% of women who are 15-19 year old have never attended school.
- Only 6% of the population aged 15 years old and above have post-secondary education.

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.
Female Literacy Rates, Ghana

- 86% of women age 15-24 in urban areas can read, compared to 68% in rural areas.

- The percentage of women who can read is 48% among women age 45-49 and 82% among women age 15-19.

- 25% of women who completed grade 4 can read and literacy rate increases with level of education completed.