

Mauritania

Number Out of School
243,000

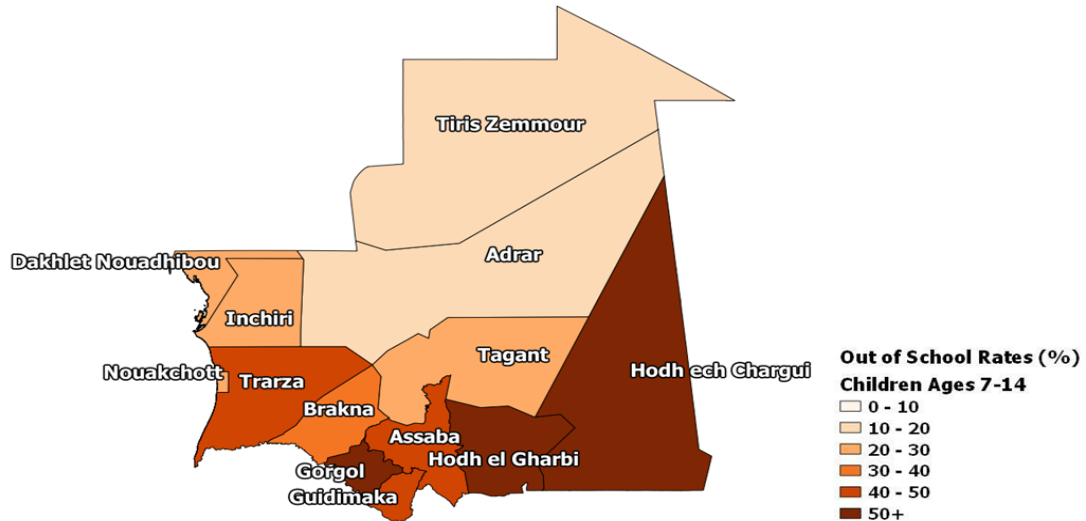
Percent Out of School
39%

Out of School Children of the Population Ages 7-14

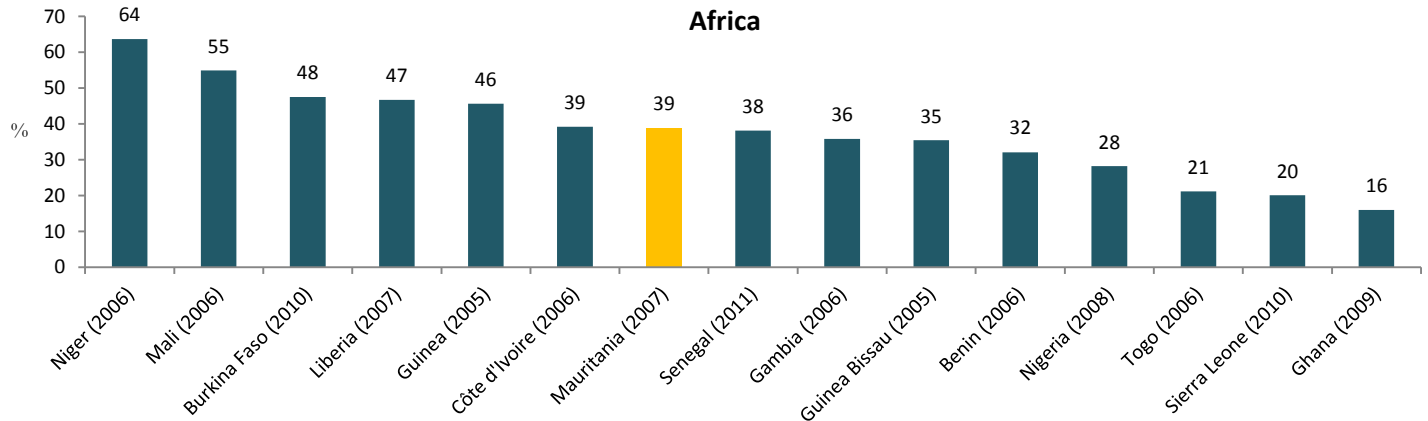
Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2007

Comparison of Rates of Out of School Children Ages 7-14 across Mauritania

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



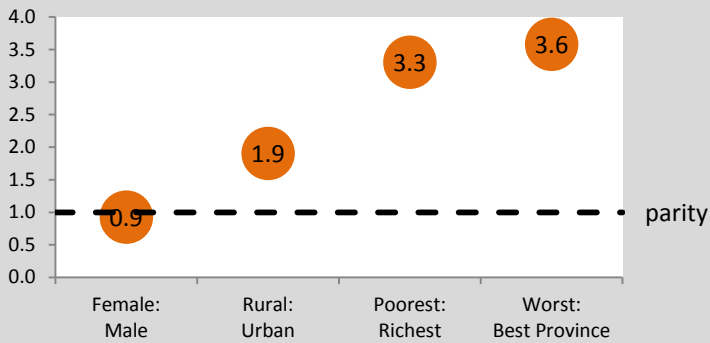
Comparison of Rates of Out of School Children According to the Most Recent Household Survey, Ages 7-14, West Africa



The Structure of the Education System in Mauritania

Mauritania has a 6-4-3 formal education structure as of 2011 with an official primary school entry age of six. In principle, primary school is free and compulsory. Students sit for the Certificat d'Études Primaires (CEP) at the end of grade 6, the Brevet d'Études du Premier Cycle (BEPC) at the end of grade 10, and the Baccalauréat at the end of grade 12. (UNESCO IBE, World Data on Education. Revised 12/2010). UIS indicates that the structure of education changed from 6-3-3 in 2007 to 6-4-2 in 2008, and then from 6-4-2 in 2010 to 6-4-3 in 2011.

Parity Indices



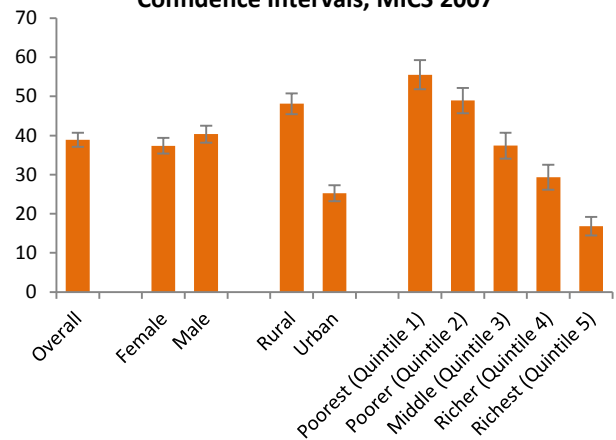
- Parity indices provide information about the greatest sources of inequality in a population. The graph at left provides ratios of different estimates of children aged 7-14 who are out of school. It shows, for example, that the out of school rate in rural areas is 1.9 times higher than that in urban areas.

- For Mauritania, the greatest disparity in out of school rates is between children from provinces with the highest and lowest school participation rates. Children from the worst performing province are 3.6 times as likely to be out of school as children from the best.

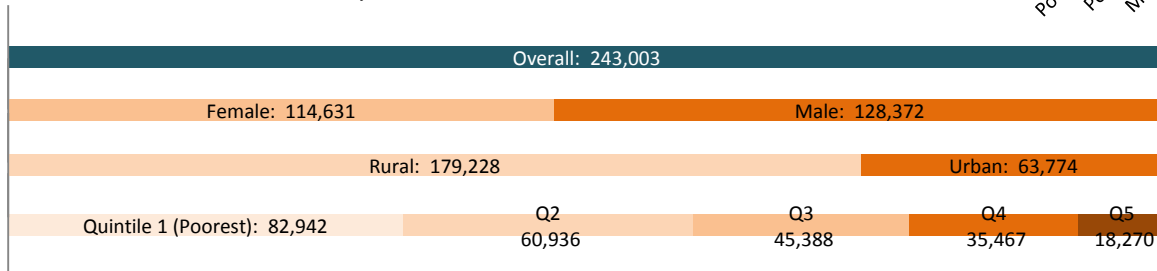
Out of School Children by Individual and Household Characteristics

- Fewer girls (37% or 114,631) are out of school than boys (40% or 128,372) in Mauritania.
- Out of school rates for children from rural areas (48%) are higher than those for children from urban areas (25%). In terms of absolute numbers, there are more children out of school in rural areas (179,228) than in urban areas (63,774).
- Out of school rates are highest for children in the poorest wealth quintile (56%).

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



Numbers of Out of School Children, MICS 2007



About Data Sources

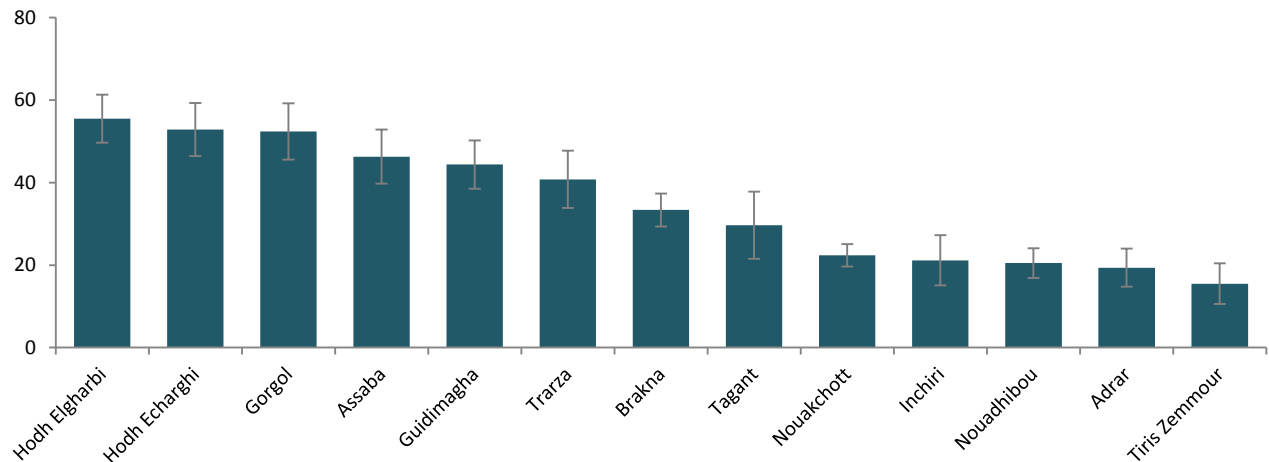
All out of school estimates presented in this profile are EPDC extractions of MICS data. MICS Surveys are led by UNICEF and are conducted every several years. They collect information on health, education, and other topics for households and individuals residing in those households. The 2007 Mauritania MICS Survey is representative at the national and subnational level. For more information, please see <http://www.childinfo.org/mics.html>.

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.

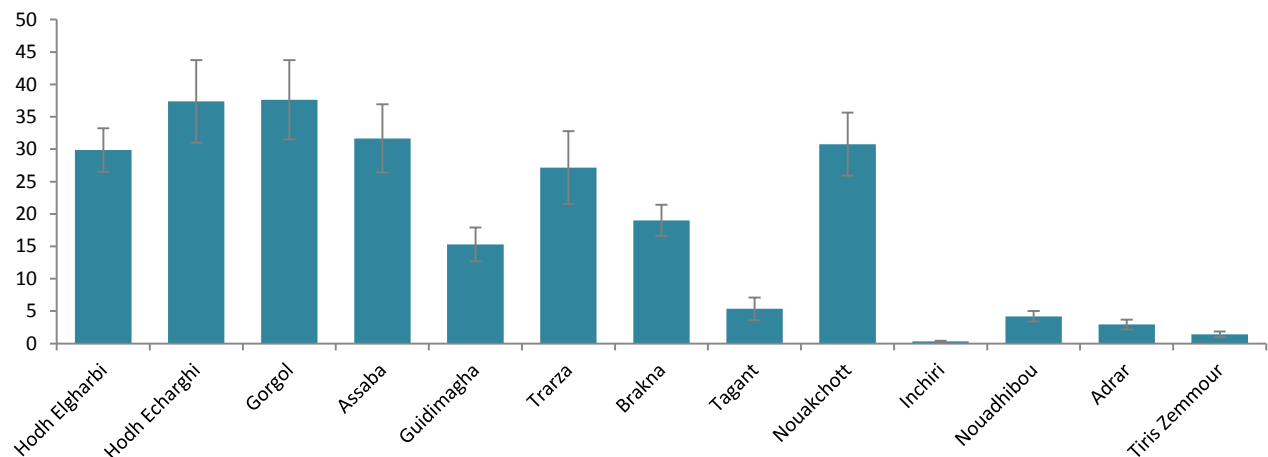
Out of School Children by Subnational Regions

- The subnational region with the highest percentage of children out of school is Hodh Elgharbi (55%). Tiris Zemmour has the lowest rate of school non-participation (15%).
- The highest numbers of out of school children are located in Gorgol (37,631). Inchiri has the lowest numbers of out of school children (323).

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



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



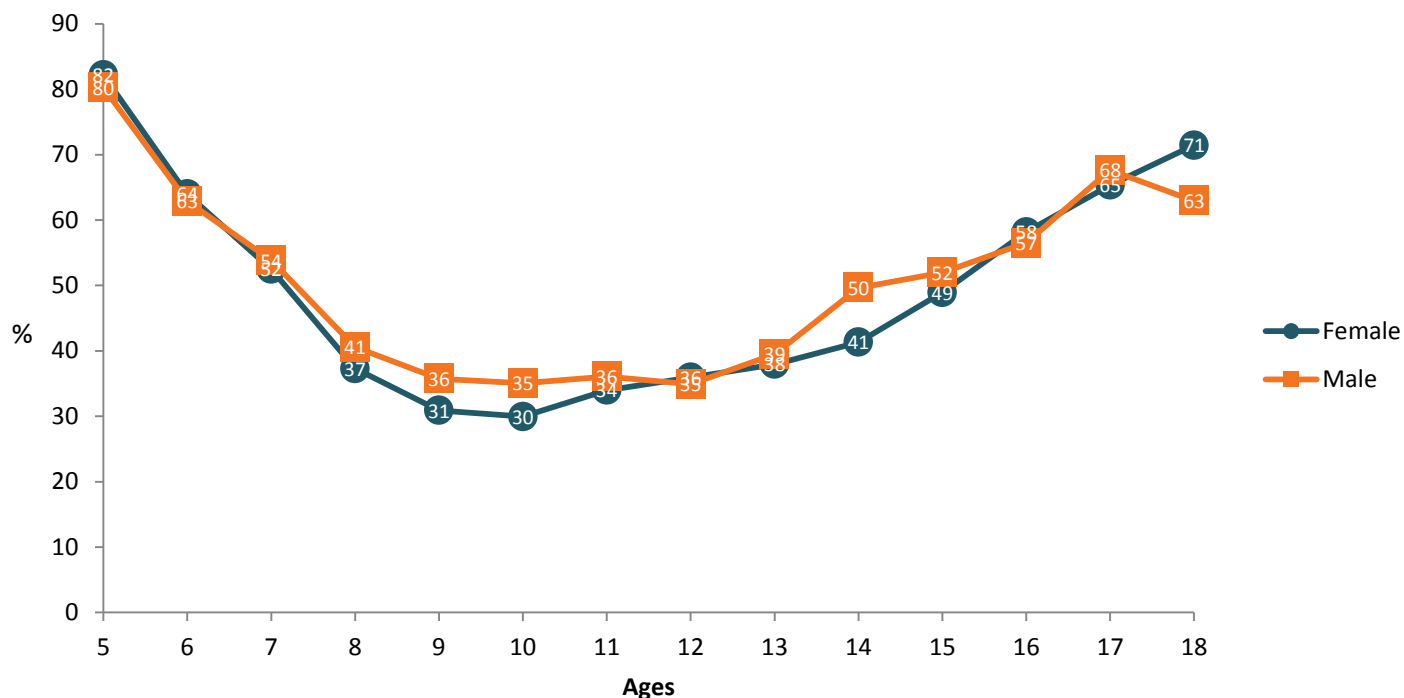
Why Ages 7-14?

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.

Out of School Rates by Age and Sex

- The official primary school entry age in Mauritania is age 6. At that age, 64% of girls and 63% of boys are out of school.
- At age 15, 49% of girls and 52% of boys are out of school.
- School participation is highest for girls at age 10 and for boys at age 12.

Out of School Rates, by Age and Sex



Summary of EPDC Methodology on Measuring Out of School Children

In this profile, EPDC presents estimates of the proportion and number of out of school children of the population ages 7-14 using household survey data. Along with relative and absolute estimates of out of school children, EPDC provides 95% confidence intervals for each estimate.

To create estimates of the proportion of out of school children for a particular school year, EPDC used birthdate information to identify children who were of a particular age range (7-14) on the month that the school year began. Children who had attended primary school or higher at any time during the school year were classified as 'in school;' Children who had not attended school at any time during the school year, or who had attended pre-school during that reference period were classified as 'out of school.' The proportion of children who are out of school is calculated as the number of children within the 7-14 age range who were classified as out of school divided by the number of children within the same age range.

To obtain the number of out of school children, the out-of-school rate is then applied to the estimated population of the same age range from the UN Population Division (EPDC obtained single-age population estimates to build the correct age range). UN Population Division figures are provided for mid-year each year, and EPDC uses the population figures from the year closest to the start of the school year in each country. Depending on a country's main academic calendar, the population figure may be from the year before the school participation year.

For more information on measurement of out of school children, please see the EPDC website at www.epdc.org.

EPDC Estimated Rates and Numbers of Out of School Children based on MICS 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	37	39	41	229,227	243,003	256,778
Sex						
Female	35	37	39	107,371	114,631	121,890
Male	38	40	43	119,531	128,372	137,213
Area						
Rural	45	48	51	167,025	179,228	191,432
Urban	23	25	27	57,384	63,774	70,165
Relative Wealth						
Poorest Quintile	52	56	59	72,537	82,942	93,347
Poorer Quintile	46	49	52	53,956	60,936	67,916
Middle Quintile	34	37	41	39,272	45,388	51,504
Richer Quintile	26	29	33	29,893	35,467	41,041
Richest Quintile	14	17	19	15,243	18,270	21,296
Regions						
Hodh Elgharbi	50	55	61	26,489	29,850	33,212
Hodh Echarghi	46	53	59	30,981	37,374	43,766
Gorgol	46	52	59	31,498	37,631	43,764
Assaba	40	46	53	26,425	31,670	36,914
Guidimagha	39	44	50	12,692	15,292	17,892
Trarza	34	41	48	21,509	27,145	32,781
Brakna	29	33	37	16,641	19,025	21,408
Tagant	22	30	38	3,600	5,346	7,091
Nouakchott	20	22	25	25,893	30,768	35,643
Inchiri	15	21	27	232	323	413
Nouadhibou	17	20	24	3,383	4,204	5,024
Adrar	15	19	24	2,180	2,942	3,704
Tiris Zemmour	11	15	20	990	1,434	1,878