

Zimbabwe

Out of School Children of the Population Ages 7-14

Number Out of School
234,000

Percent Out of School
9%

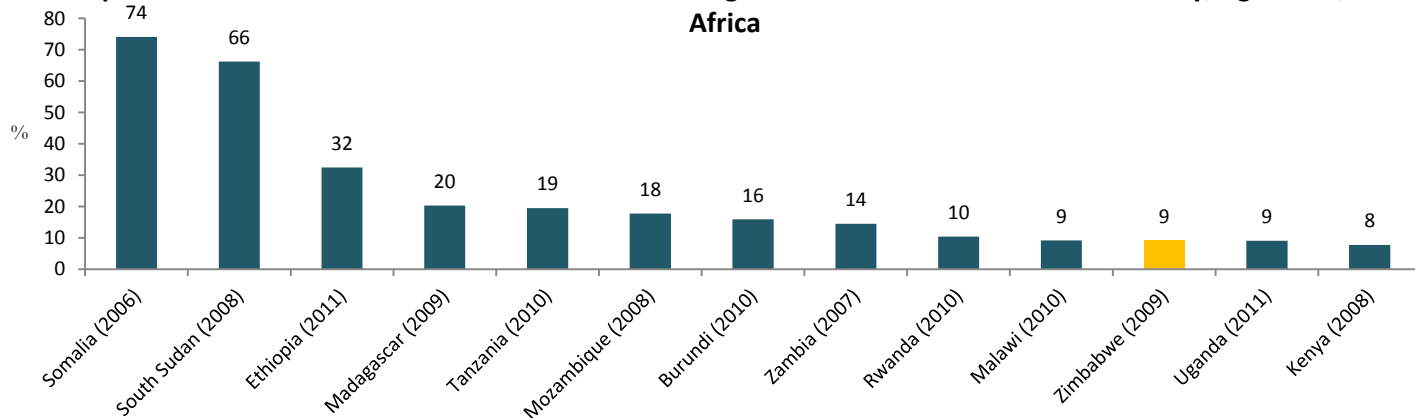
Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2009

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

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



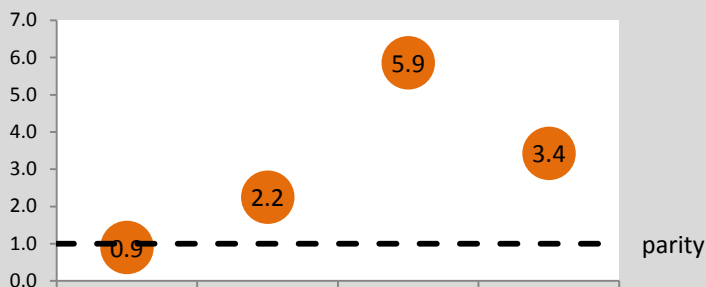
Comparison of Rates of Out of School Children According to the Most Recent Household Survey, Ages 7-14, East Africa



The Structure of the Education System in Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe has a 7-4-2 formal education structure. Primary school has an official entry age of six and a duration of seven grades. Secondary school is divided into two cycles: lower secondary consists of grades 8 - 11 and upper secondary consists of grades 12 - 13. Lower secondary education is referred to as the Ordinary Level (O-Level) cycle. Upper secondary is called the Advanced Level (A-Level) cycle. School is neither free nor compulsory in Zimbabwe. Students sit for the Grade Seven Certificate at the end of grade 7, the Zimbabwe General Certificate of Education, Ordinary-Level (ZGCE O-Level) at the end of grade 11, and the Higher School Certificate (HSC) or Advanced-level (A-level) examination at the end of grade 13. (UNESCO IBE, World Data on Education. Revised 8/2010).

Parity Indices



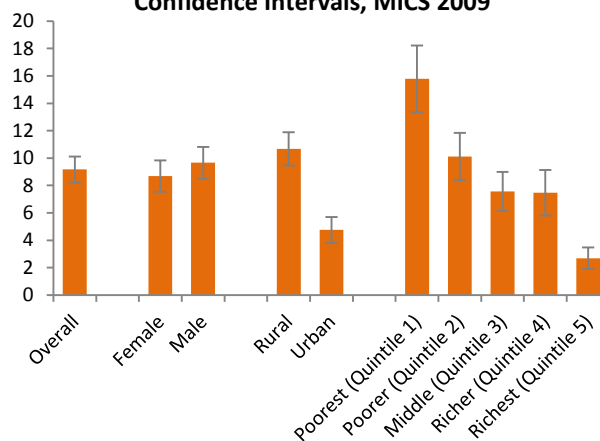
- Parity indices provide information about the greatest sources of inequality in a population. The graph at left provides ratios of different estimates of children aged 7-14 who are out of school. It shows, for example, that the out of school rate in rural areas is 2.2 times higher than that in urban areas.

- For Zimbabwe, the greatest disparity in out of school rates is between children from the poorest and richest quintiles. Children from the poorest quintile are 5.9 times as likely to be out of school as children from the richest quintile.

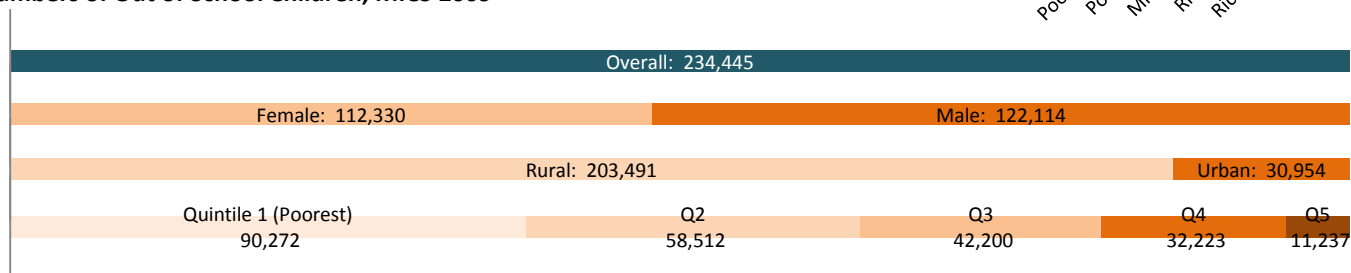
Out of School Children by Individual and Household Characteristics

- Fewer girls (9% or 112,330) are out of school than boys (10% or 122,114) in Zimbabwe.
- Out of school rates for children from rural areas (11%) are higher than those for children from urban areas (5%). In terms of absolute numbers, there are more children out of school in rural areas (203,491) than in urban areas (30,954).
- Out of school rates are highest for children in the poorest wealth quintile (16%).

Rates of Out of School Children (%), with 95% Confidence Intervals, MICS 2009



Numbers of Out of School Children, MICS 2009



About Data Sources

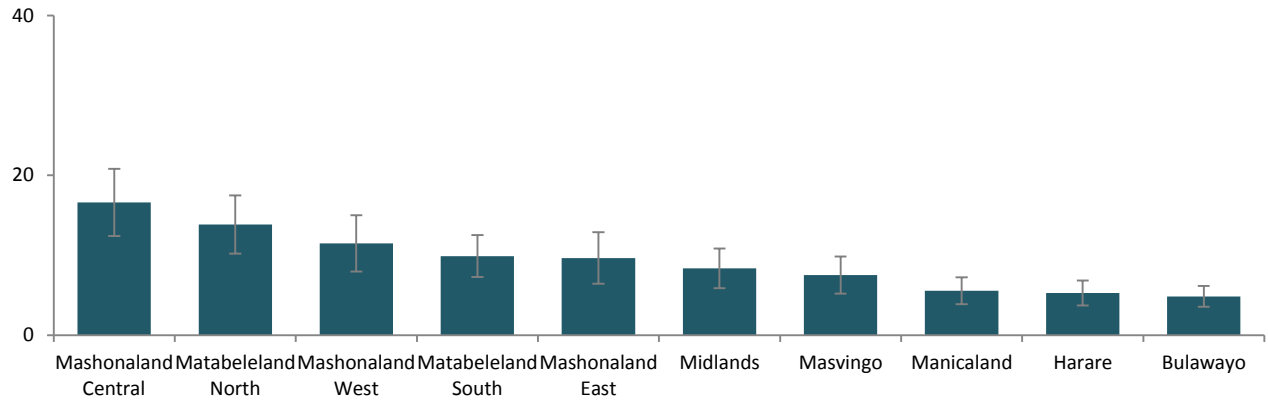
All out of school estimates presented in this profile are EPDC extractions of MICS data. MICS Surveys are led by UNICEF and are conducted every several years. They collect information on health, education, and other topics for households and individuals residing in those households. The 2009 Zimbabwe 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.

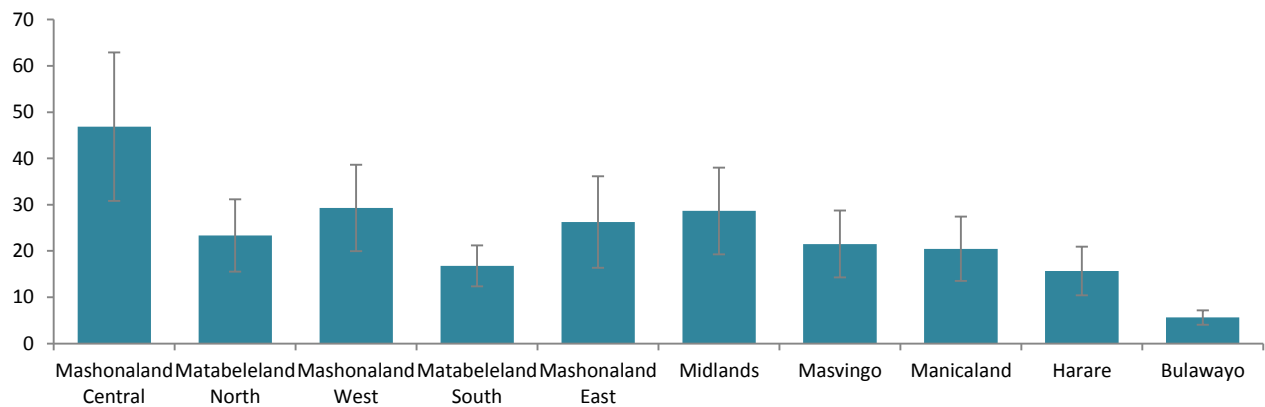
Out of School Children by Subnational Regions

- The subnational region with the highest percentage of children out of school is Mashonaland Central (17%). Bulawayo has the lowest rate of school non-participation (5%).
- The highest numbers of out of school children are located in Mashonaland Central (46,861). Bulawayo has the lowest numbers of out of school children (5,620).

Rates of Out of School Children by Subnational Region (%), with 95% Confidence Intervals, MICS 2009



Numbers of Out of School Children by Subnational Region (# in thousands), with 95% Confidence Intervals, MICS 2009



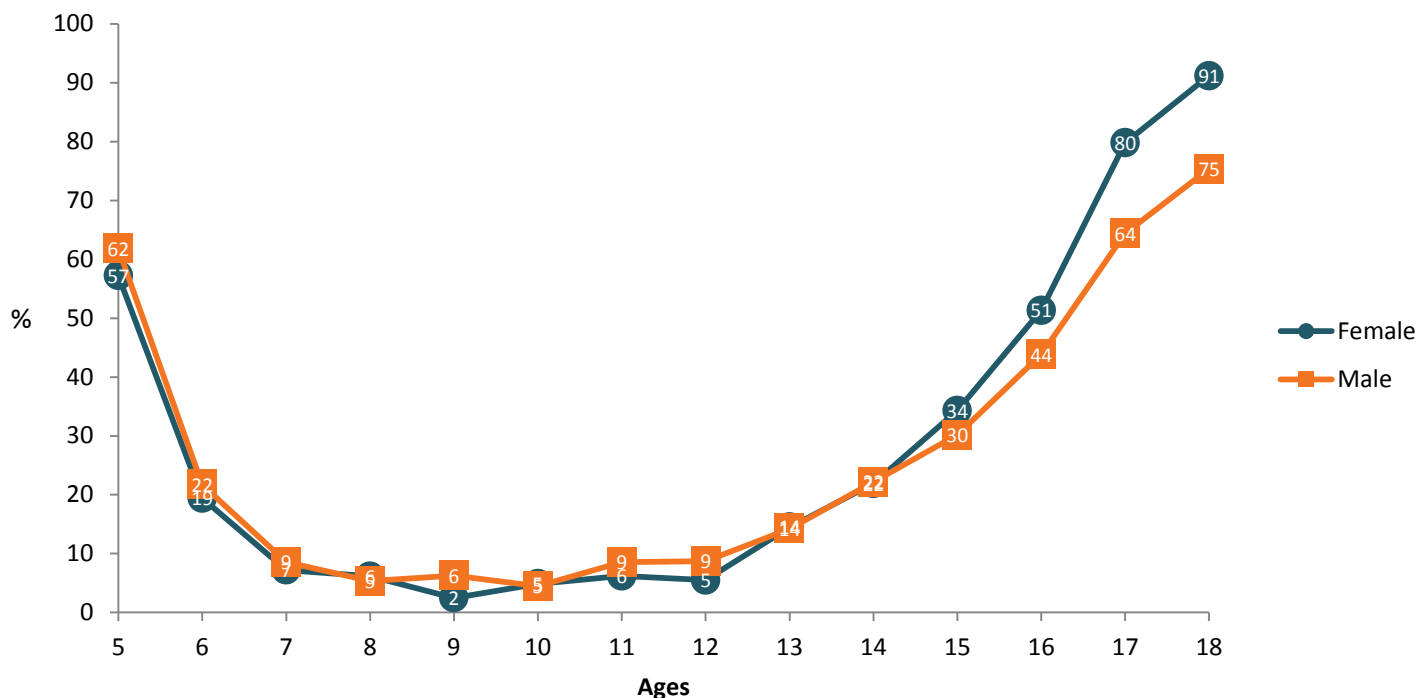
Why Ages 7-14?

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 Zimbabwe is age 6. At that age, 19% of girls and 22% of boys are out of school.
- At age 15, 34% of girls and 30% of boys are out of school.
- School participation is highest for girls at age 9 and for boys at age 10.

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 2009 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	8	9	10	207,244	234,445	261,646
Sex						
Female	8	9	10	96,169	112,330	128,492
Male	9	10	11	105,979	122,114	138,250
Area						
Rural	9	11	12	177,204	203,491	229,778
Urban	4	5	6	23,963	30,954	37,944
Relative Wealth						
Poorest Quintile	13	16	18	72,041	90,272	108,503
Poorer Quintile	8	10	12	47,101	58,512	69,924
Middle Quintile	6	8	9	33,628	42,200	50,773
Richer Quintile	6	7	9	24,155	32,223	40,291
Richest Quintile	2	3	3	7,726	11,237	14,749
Regions						
Mashonaland Central	12	17	21	30,832	46,861	62,890
Matabeleland North	10	14	17	15,524	23,338	31,152
Mashonaland West	8	11	15	19,974	29,308	38,642
Matabeleland South	7	10	13	12,358	16,768	21,177
Mashonaland East	6	10	13	16,348	26,247	36,147
Midlands	6	8	11	19,297	28,643	37,989
Masvingo	5	8	10	14,313	21,518	28,722
Manicaland	4	6	7	13,543	20,480	27,417
Harare	4	5	7	10,418	15,662	20,907
Bulawayo	4	5	6	4,047	5,620	7,193