

Information on household survey-based education statistics in the UIS Data Centre

The following symbols are used:

... No data available or data removed based on <25 unweighted observations

DATA SOURCES

Household survey-based education indicators are calculated primarily from data from Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) and Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS). MICS surveys are carried out with the support of UNICEF to assist countries in collecting and analysing data for monitoring the situation of children and women. More information on MICS is available at <http://data.unicef.org>

DHS surveys are designed to collect, analyse and disseminate nationally-representative data on population, health and nutrition in less-developed countries. More information on DHS is available at <http://dhsprogram.com>

In a small number of cases, other survey programmes are used. For Brazil, household survey-based indicators are calculated from the *Pesquisa Nacional por Amostra de Domicílios* (PNAD).

The particular survey used for a given country and year can be seen by clicking the (i) symbol beside an indicator value in the UIS Data Centre.

REFERENCE YEAR

The reference year for the data point is the academic year referred to in the survey questionnaire on current school attendance. Where a given reference period is spread across two calendar years, the later year is cited. For example, the school year 2011/2012 is presented as 2012. This practice is consistent with the reference year used in UIS education data from administrative sources.

TECHNICAL NOTES

Household survey-based education data and indicators on school attendance

Measurement of school participation

Household survey sources

School participation in household surveys and censuses is commonly measured by whether pupils or students attended a given grade or level of education at least one day during the academic reference year. Therefore, indicators of school participation derived from household survey data refer to attendance, e.g. “net attendance rate” or “adjusted net attendance rate”. An

out-of-school child is a child who did not attend formal primary or secondary school at any time during the reference academic year.

Administrative data sources

School participation in administrative data sources, such as the data reported by Member States in response to the annual UIS education survey, is measured by whether pupils or students are officially registered in a given grade or level of education during the academic reference year. Therefore, indicators of school participation derived from administrative data refer to enrolment, e.g. “net enrolment rate” or “adjusted net enrolment rate”. An out-of-school child is a child who was not enrolled in formal primary or secondary school during the reference academic year.

Definitions of household survey-based education indicators

Net attendance rate: Total number of students in the theoretical age group for a given level of education attending that level, expressed as a percentage of the total population in that age group. Comparable administrative data-based indicator: Net enrolment rate.

Adjusted net attendance rate, primary: Total number of students of the official primary school age group who attended primary or secondary education at any time during the reference academic year, expressed as a percentage of the corresponding population. Comparable administrative data-based indicator: Adjusted net enrolment rate, primary.

Total net attendance rate, lower secondary: Total number of students of the official lower secondary school age group who attended primary or secondary education at any time during the reference academic year, expressed as a percentage of the corresponding population. Comparable administrative data-based indicator: Total net enrolment rate, lower secondary.

Rate of out-of-school children of primary school age (household survey data): Number of children of official primary school age who did not attend primary or secondary school at any time during the reference academic year, expressed as a percentage of the number of official primary school age children in the household survey sample. Children attending pre-primary or non-formal education are considered out of school.

Rate of out-of-school adolescents of lower secondary school age (household survey data): Number of children of official lower secondary school age who did not attend primary or secondary school at any time during the reference academic year, expressed as a percentage of the number of official lower secondary school age children in the household survey sample. Children attending pre-primary or non-formal education are considered out of school.

Age data methodology

The data collection period for international household survey programmes like the DHS and MICS may not be aligned with the academic year. This can create distortions in the age data used to calculate education indicators. Education systems generally define the intended or ‘official’ ages for a given level of education based on the age of the child at the beginning of the academic year. In other words, the reference date for ages is the start month of the academic year.

By contrast, household surveys may collect data on the educational status and age of children many months after the start of the school year. The reference date for age information is the date the survey data were collected, which means it varies among households. Considering the gap between the start of the school year for which attendance data are collected and the date on which the survey was carried out is crucial for accurate calculations of education indicators.

To minimise the associated error, the UIS takes different measures depending on the number of months between the start of the academic reference year and the time of survey data collection.

- Where information is available on the birth month and year of school-age children, data are recoded as the age at the start of the academic reference year.
- If only the age in years is available and data for the majority of observations were collected six or more months after the start of the school year, one full year is subtracted from the age recorded during data collection (adjusted age = recorded age – 1). For example, if the school year starts on 1 September and data for the majority of observations were collected in March of the following year or later, the ages will be adjusted.
- If only the age in years is available and data for the majority of observations were collected five months or less after the start of the school year, age data are used as recorded. For example, if the school year starts on 1 September and data for the majority of observations were collected during the period up to February of the following year, the recorded ages are used without adjustment.

ISCED recalculation of household survey data for education indicators

The age ranges associated with education levels are based on the International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED). The education levels and grades used in the calculation of education indicators are consistent with each country's ISCED mapping. For more information, see <http://www.uis.unesco.org/isced>

Treatment of missing data

All observations with missing information on age, whether the child is currently attending school, and the current education level attended are omitted from the calculation of education indicators.

Indicator values which are based on fewer than 25 unweighted observations are suppressed and appear as “No data available”, identified by the symbol “...” in data tables.

Disaggregation

Data from household surveys are usually disaggregated by sex, location and household wealth quintile. The location (urban or rural) is defined according to national standards, which may differ across countries. Household wealth quintiles are usually determined with the help of an asset index, calculated from assets owned by individual households (housing material, water and sanitation, appliances, vehicles, livestock, etc.).

Differences between administrative and household survey data

The UIS Data Centre features estimates on out-of-school children calculated from both administrative and household survey sources. Administrative records and household surveys are two data sources which differ in fundamental ways: who collects the data, as well as how, when and for what purpose. As a result, the out-of-school children estimates calculated from one data source may not match those based on other data sources.