LIBERIA INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS AND GEO-INFORMATION SERVICES
(LISGIS)

Thematic Report on Gender

2022 Liberia Population and Housing Census

Dear Reader,

I am pleased to present this document as a highlight summary of the upcoming Thematic Report on Gender from the 2022 Liberia Population and Housing Census (LPHC). This summary offers a snapshot of the key findings and insights that will be detailed in the final report.

Please note that the full report is currently undergoing finalization, which includes comprehensive editing, formatting, graphic designing, and proofreading. The finalized version will replace this document once it is completed.

We appreciate your patience and look forward to sharing the complete report with you soon.

Best regards,

Johnson Q. Kei
Deputy Director General for Information and Coordination
Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Services (LISGIS)

⇒ Introduction

⇒ Context of the analysis

⇒ SDGs and Gender

⇒ Objectives

⇒ Methodology

⇒ Key Findings

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Introduction

- Censuses, unlike other traditional surveys are important because they provide national level data on key indicators that are needed to track progress of government and other program activities

- They allow for the examination of crucial issues that pertain to the well-being of men and women countrywide on key sectors like education, health, the economy among others

- The gender thematic report provides important data that are associated with men and women with regards to key socio-economic (SES), demographic and household indicators

- It provides vital data needed for national and county level programming by contributing to reducing the data deficiency gap on gender related issues in Liberia

- Gender refers to culturally constructed differences between men and women and it changes over time

- Gender is socially constructed, sex is biologically determined

- In many societies, one's sex at birth determine the gender roles that are associated with that sex

- Using data from the 2022 LPHC we draw on how these sex differences have implications for access to resources, gender equality and the general well-being of men and women in Liberia

- The data responds to key human security issues by bridging the gender data gap on key indicators.

- The report provides essential data for tracking the progress:
    - Four strategic outcomes of the United Nations Sustainable Development Framework Guidance (UNSDFG)
    - Goals and objectives of Agriculture Roads Rule of law Education Sanitation/health and Tourism Agenda (ARREST)

- The gender thematic report will provide essential data for tracking the human development report (HDR)

- HDR tracks gender parity in education, access to electricity, improved water and toilet sources etc

- The gender thematic report will highlight key commitments that the government of Liberia has made specifically to the AADPD@10 and the ICPD@30

Context of the Analysis

- Liberia's population continues to grow from **3,476,608** in **2008** to **5,250,187** in **2022**

- The population consists of **49.6% females** and **50.4% males**

- Urban residents (54.5%), rural residents (45.5%)

- Total Fertility Rate (TFR) is 3.9 children per woman

- Modern contraceptive prevalence has increased to 24% in 2019-20 from 19% in 2013

- In urban areas 21% of males age 6 years and above have no education compared to their counterparts in the rural areas with 41%

- 31% of females in urban areas age 6 years and above have no education compared to their counterparts in the rural areas with 57% (Hodge-Snead & CO, 2017)

- High maternal mortality

- Improvement in infant, child and under-five deaths

- Women in the informal sector due high levels of illiteracy, lack of employable skills as well of home and family care responsibilities

- Significant gender differences in employment status. 61% of women and 81 % of men are currently employed (LISGIS, 2021)

- Affirmative Action Bill or Equal Representation and Participation Act of Liberia, which establishes a quota for women (30 percent) in Parliament

- Women's share of seats in parliament is 9.7% 2023 UNDP 2023 Human

- Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf became the first elected female head of state in Liberia and Africa

- Between 2018 -2023, there are 15 male ministers of cabinet compared to 5 female ministers of cabinet

- The normalization of violence in several political and social domains

- Harmful practices like Female Genital Cutting (FGC) and child marriage among others have cultural underpinnings

- The Domestic Violence Act in (2019) seeks to abolish all forms of violence against women, children and men

- The 2023 UNDP Human Development Report shows a gender inequality index (GII) score of 0.650, ranking it 161 of 166 in 2022

- 1.4: By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership, and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology, and financial services, including microfinance

- 3.1: By 2030, reduce the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 per 100,000 live births.

- 3.2: End preventable deaths of newborns and children under 5 years of age

- 3.8: Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services, and access to safe, effective, quality, and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all

- 4.1: Ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable, and quality primary and secondary education

- 4.2: Ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care, and preprimary education so that they are ready for primary education

- 4.3: Ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational, and tertiary education, including university

- 4.5: Eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, and children in vulnerable situations

- 4.6: Ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy

- 5.1: End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere

- 5.2: Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation
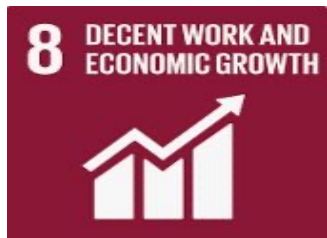
- 8.5: By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value

- 10.2: By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic, and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, or economic or other status

The report:

- Analyzed gender disparities in households with regards socio-economic characteristics

- Examined gender differences in demographic characteristics

- Analyzed gender disparities in households with regards to specific household condition

- Investigated gender disparity of vulnerable populations

- Provides recommendations for future policy formulation and development planning
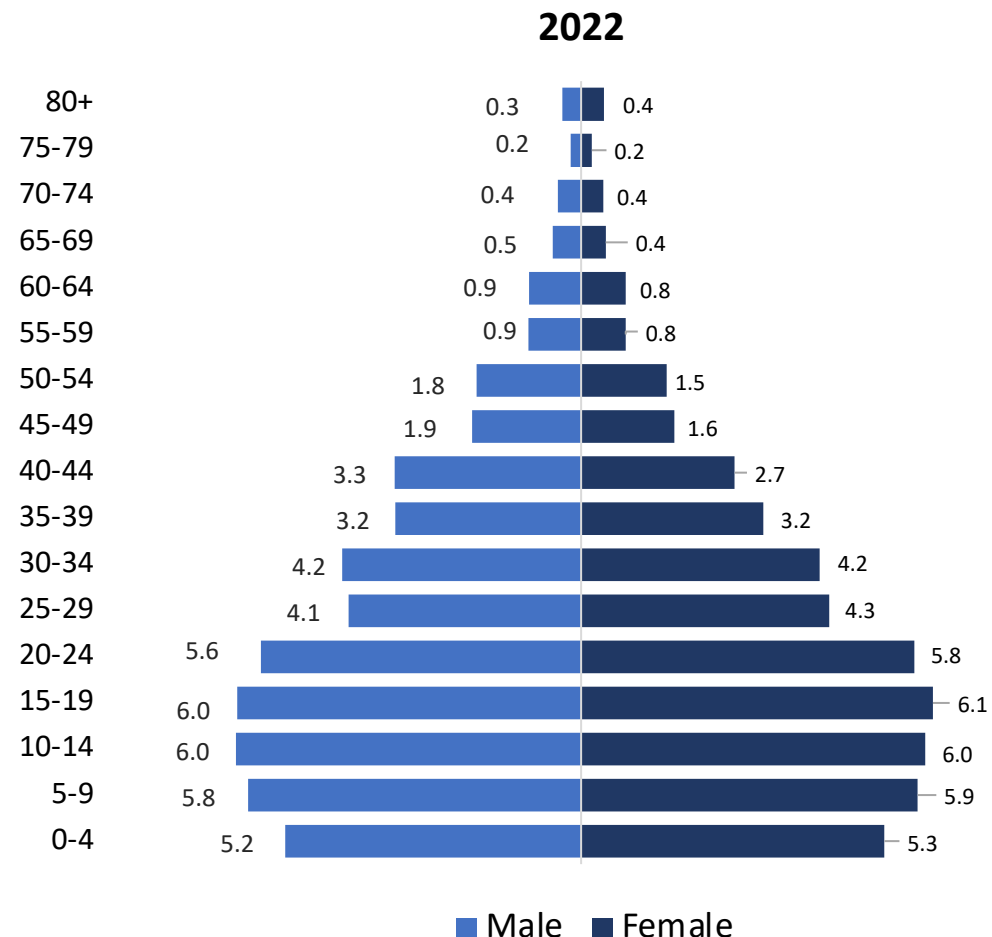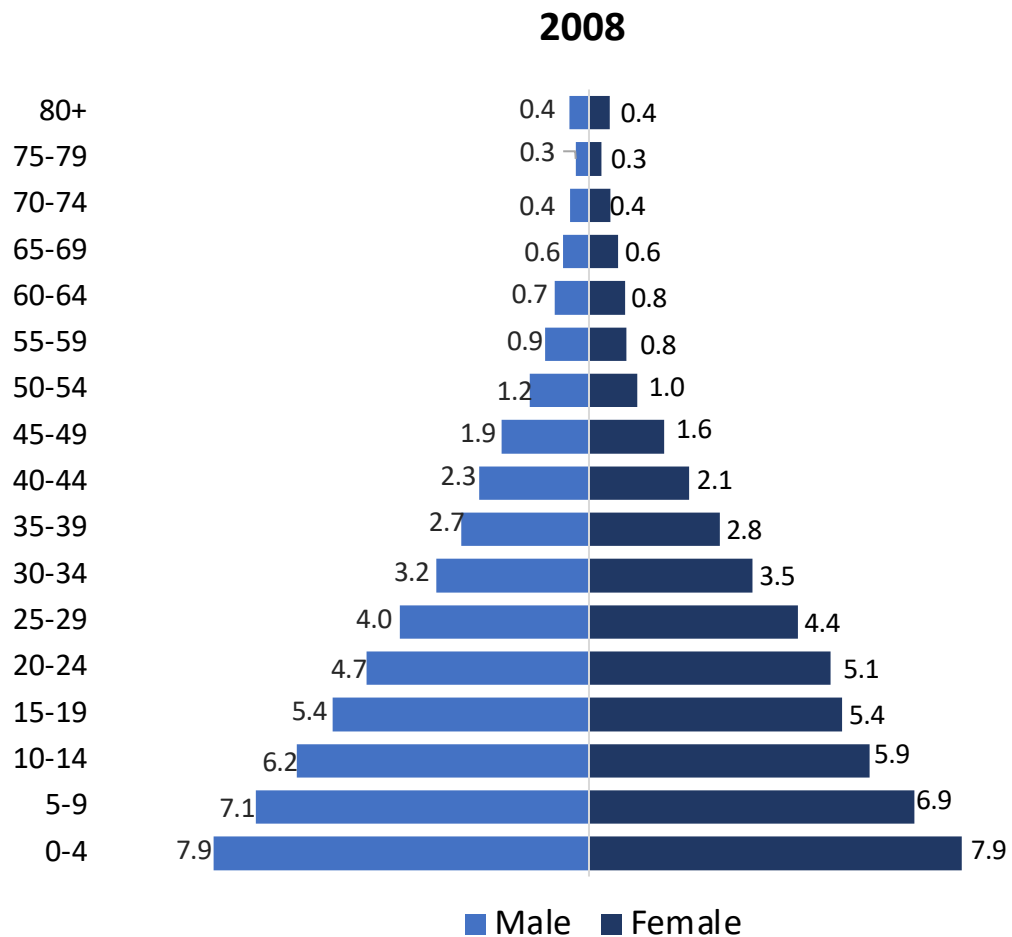
Methodology

- **Data Sources**
  - Main source of data - **2022 Liberia Population and Housing Census (LPHC)**
  - Other complementary data sources- past census, past demographic and health surveys

- **Analyses**
  - The analyses focused on sex differences with regards to key socio-economic and demographic indicators
  - Thus, two units of analyses were used: at the household and individual levels

Vital indicators
  - Household size, tenure of household, main source of fuel for lighting and cooking in the household, ownership of essential household amenities, and proximity to key services etc
  - At the individual level, level of education, marital status, crude death rates, age specific death rate and disability
  - Graphs and tables to present frequencies and cross-tabulations
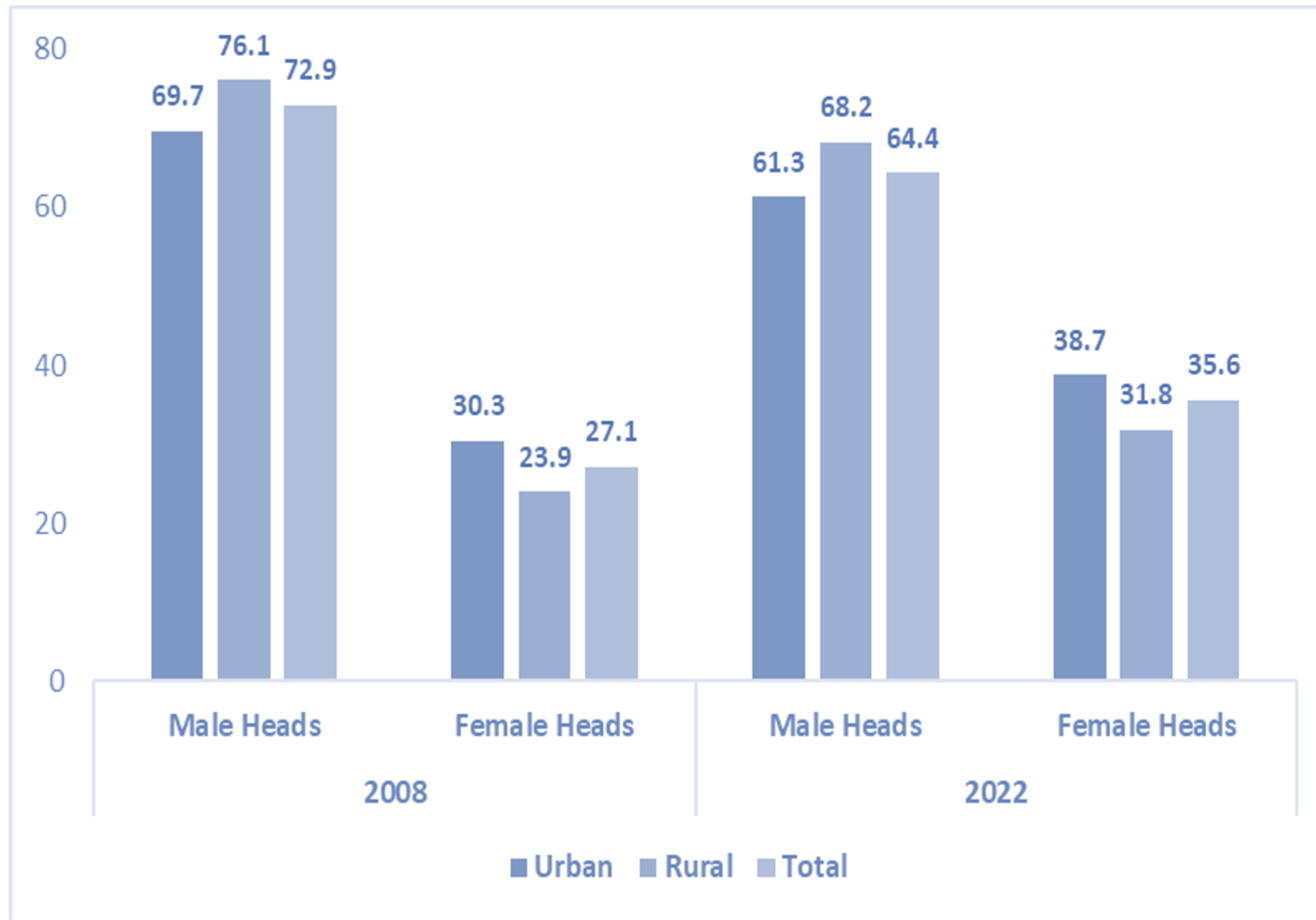 - The analyses focus on trends, patterns and distributions

2008

Age	Male	Female
80+	0.4	0.4
75-79	0.3	0.3
70-74	0.4	0.4
65-69	0.6	0.6
60-64	0.7	0.8
55-59	0.9	0.8
50-54	1.2	1.0
45-49	1.9	1.6
40-44	2.3	2.1
35-39	2.7	2.8
30-34	3.2	3.5
25-29	4.0	4.4
20-24	4.7	5.1
15-19	5.4	5.4
10-14	6.2	5.9
5-9	7.1	6.9
0-4	7.9	7.9

■ Male ■ Female

2022

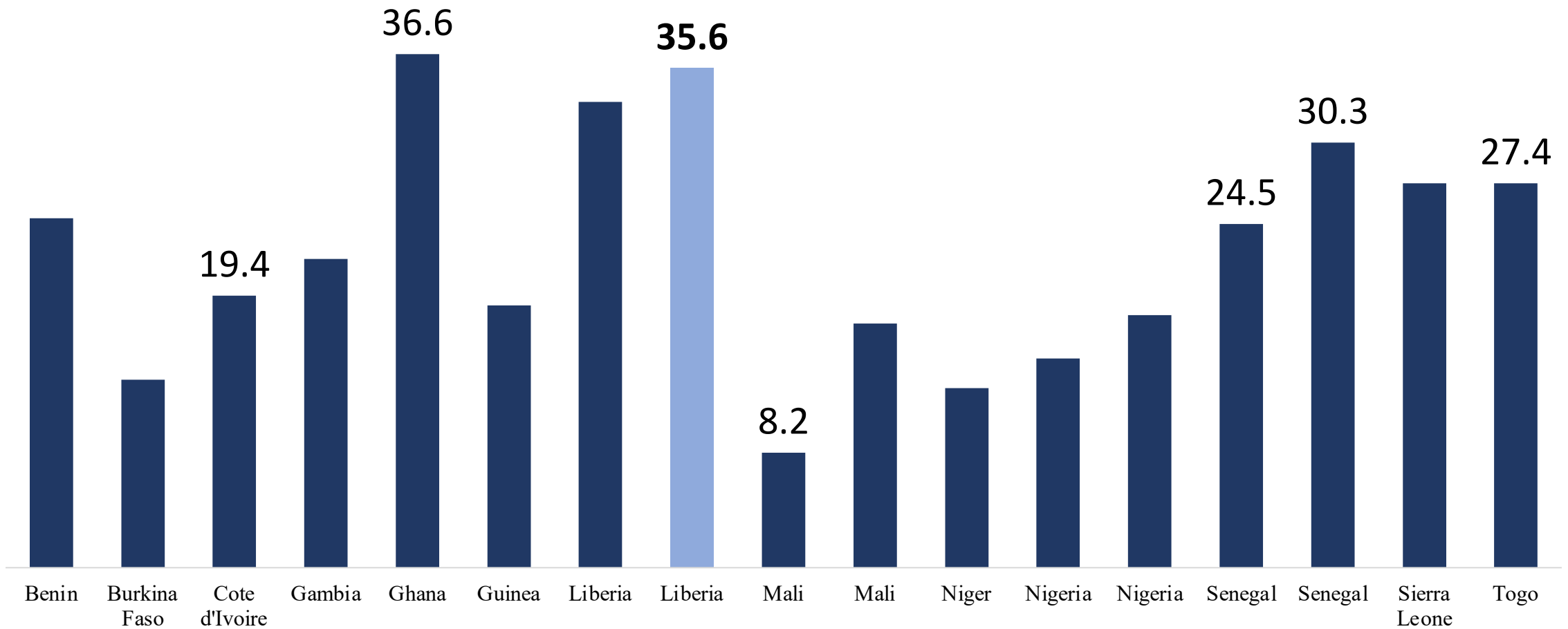| Age	Male	Female
80+	0.3	0.4
75-79	0.2	0.2
70-74	0.4	0.4
65-69	0.5	0.4
60-64	0.9	0.8
55-59	0.9	0.8
50-54	1.8	1.5
45-49	1.9	1.6
40-44	3.3	2.7
35-39	3.2	3.2
30-34	4.2	4.2
25-29	4.1	4.3
20-24	5.6	5.8
15-19	6.0	6.1
10-14	6.0	6.0
5-9	5.8	5.9
0-4	5.2	5.3

■ Male ■ Female

35.6% of households headed by females

64.4% of households headed by males

Key Findings: % Female Headed Households in selected Countries

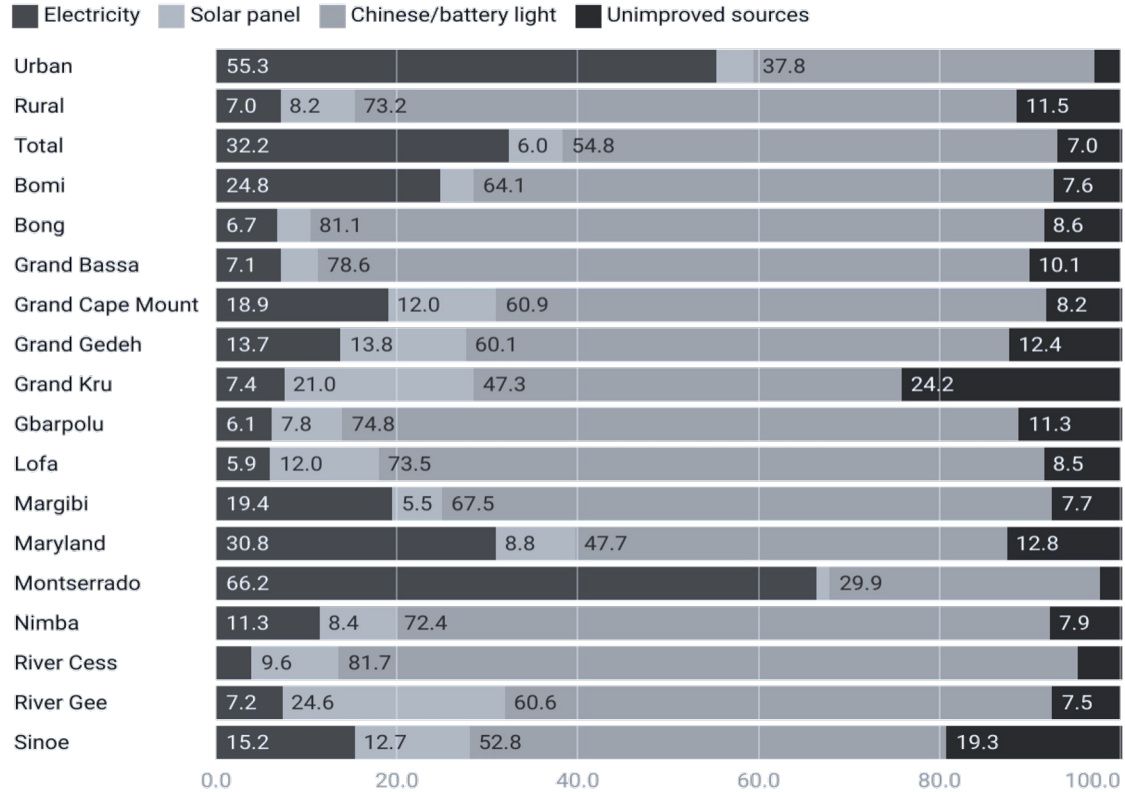Trend in household size by gender of household head
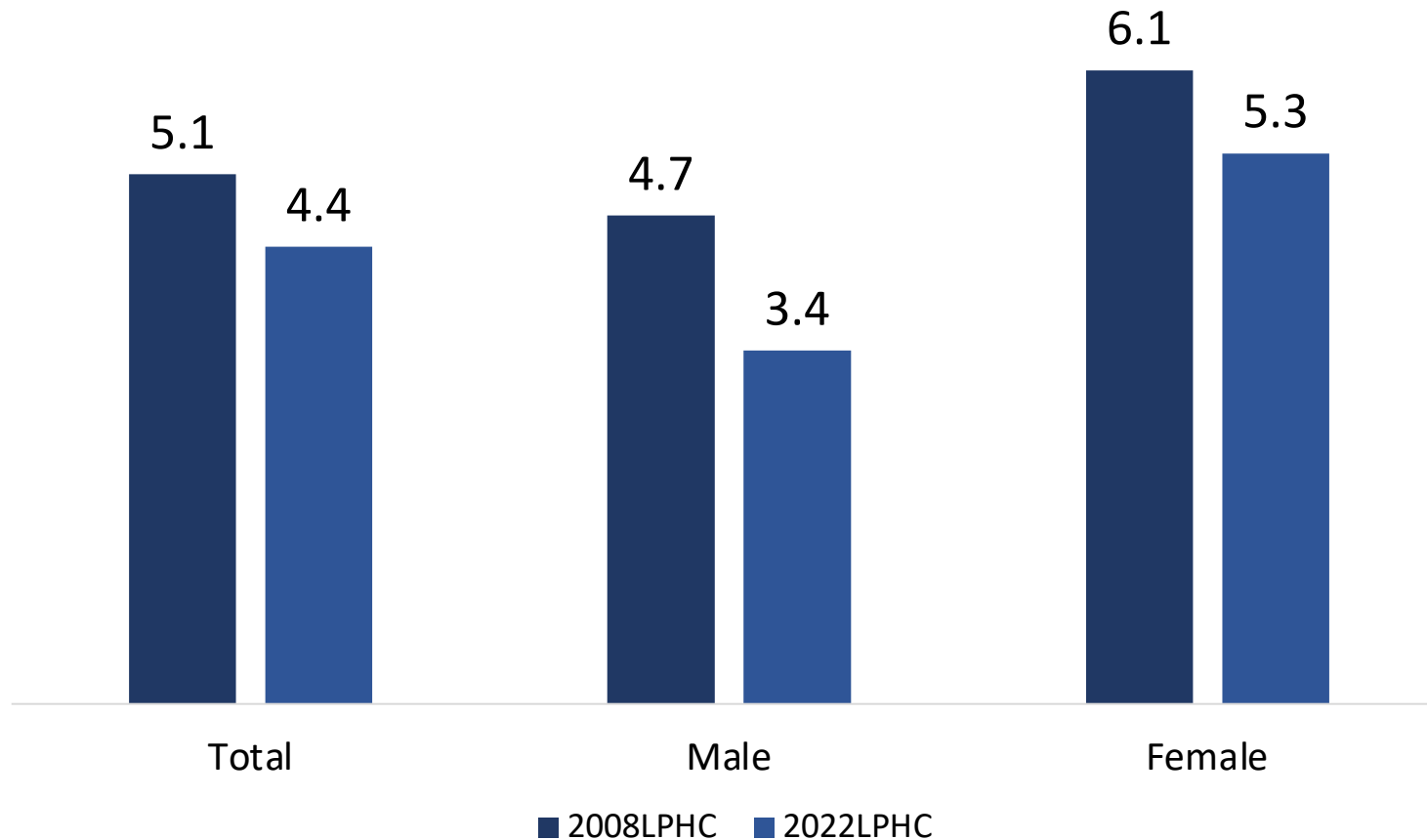
- The average household size in Liberia was 4.4. from 5.1 in 2008

- The mean household size for male-headed households was 3.4 compared to 4.7 in 2008

- This is nearly double the mean household size of female headed households (6.1) compared to 5.3 in 2008
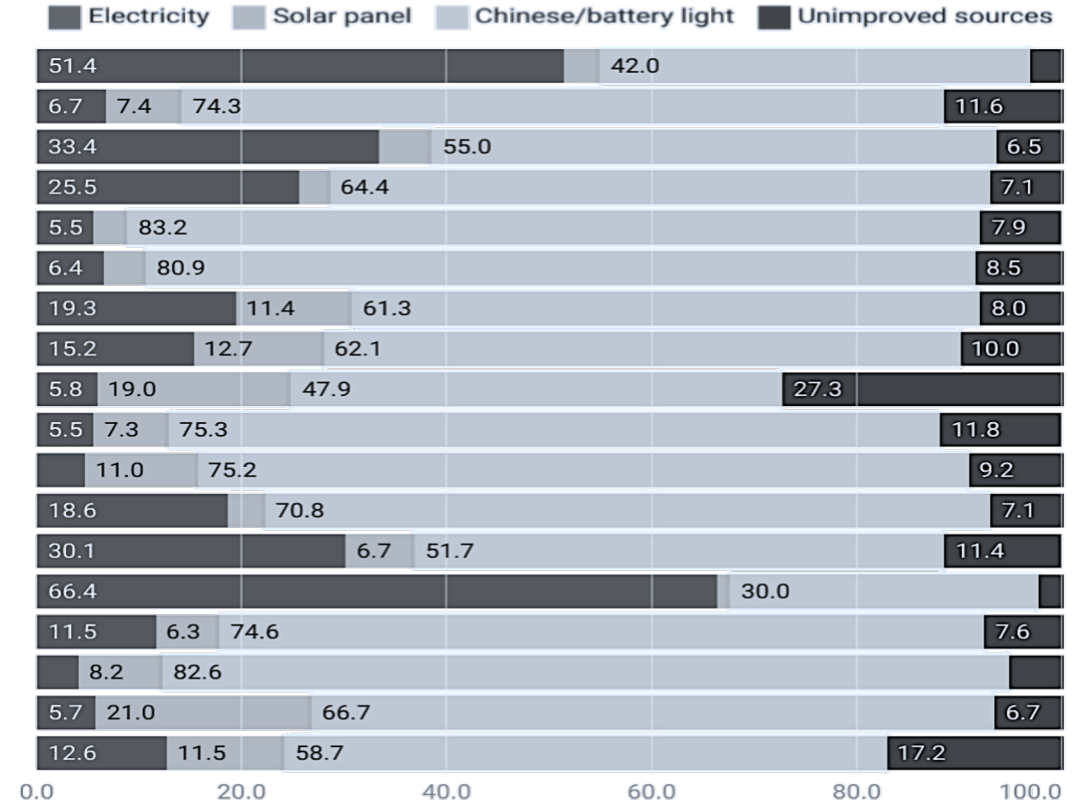
Male headed households

■ Electricity ■ Solar panel ■ Chinese/battery light ■ Unimproved sources

Region	Electricity	Solar panel	Chinese/battery light	Unimproved sources
Urban	55.3	37.8		
Rural	7.0	8.2	73.2	11.5
Total	32.2	6.0	54.8	7.0
Bomi	24.8		64.1	7.6
Bong	6.7		81.1	8.6
Grand Bassa	7.1		78.6	10.1
Grand Cape Mount	18.9	12.0	60.9	8.2
Grand Gedeh	13.7	13.8	60.1	12.4
Grand Kru	7.4	21.0	47.3	24.2
Gbarpolu	6.1	7.8	74.8	11.3
Lofa	5.9	12.0	73.5	8.5
Margibi	19.4	5.5	67.5	7.7
Maryland	30.8	8.8	47.7	12.8
Montserrado	66.2	29.9		
Nimba	11.3	8.4	72.4	7.9
River Cess		9.6	81.7	
River Gee	7.2	24.6	60.6	7.5
Sinoe	15.2	12.7	52.8	19.3

Female headed households

■ Electricity ■ Solar panel ■ Chinese/battery light ■ Unimproved sources

Region	Electricity	Solar panel	Chinese/battery light	Unimproved sources
Urban	51.4	42.0		
Rural	6.7	7.4	74.3	11.6
Total	33.4		55.0	6.5
Bomi	25.5		64.4	7.1
Bong	5.5		83.2	7.9
Grand Bassa	6.4		80.9	8.5
Grand Cape Mount	19.3	11.4	61.3	8.0
Grand Gedeh	15.2	12.7	62.1	10.0
Grand Kru	5.8	19.0	47.9	27.3
Gbarpolu	5.5	7.3	75.3	11.8
Lofa		11.0	75.2	9.2
Margibi	18.6		70.8	7.1
Maryland	30.1	6.7	51.7	11.4
Montserrado	66.4	30.0		
Nimba	11.5	6.3	74.6	7.6
River Cess		8.2	82.6	
River Gee	5.7	21.0	66.7	6.7
Sinoe	12.6	11.5	58.7	17.2

- Among male headed households 32.2% rely on electricity for lighting
- Among female headed household 33.4%
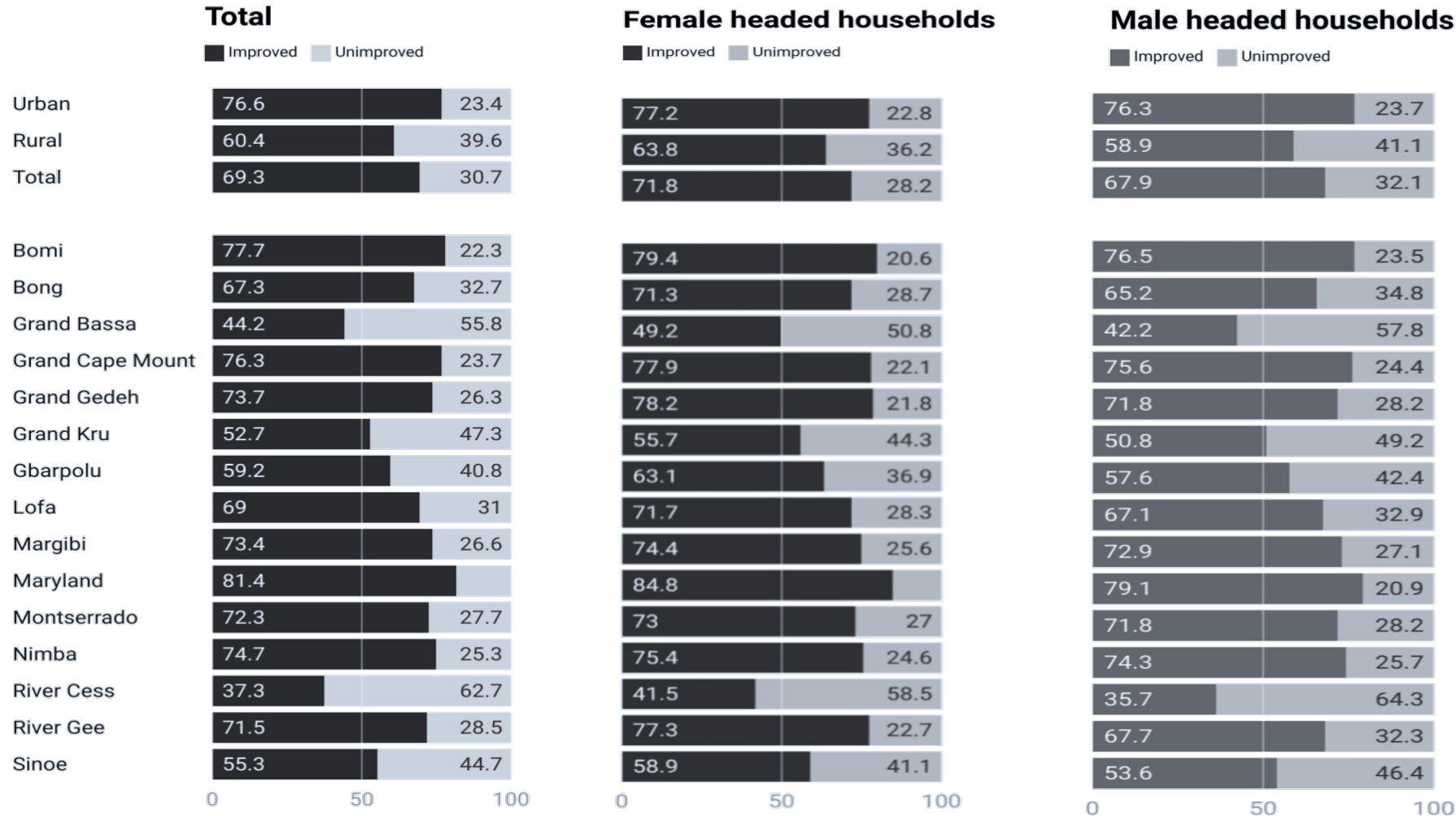- Rural female - 7.4%
- Urban female - 51.4%

	Total	Male headed household	Female headed households
Total	96.9	96.6	97.3
Urban	95.1	94.5	96
Rural	99	99	99.1
Bomi	98.5	98.4	98.7
Bong	99.1	99	99.4
Grand Bassa	98.7	98.6	98.9
Grand Cape Mount	96.7	96.3	97.4
Grand Gedeh	98.2	98.2	98.3
Grand Kru	98.2	97.9	98.7
Gbarpolu	99.3	99.4	99.3
Lofa	99.1	99.1	99.1
Margibi	98.1	97.9	98.4
Maryland	97.7	97.3	98.3
Montserrado	94.1	93.6	94.9
Nimba	98.8	98.7	99
River Cess	99.6	99.6	99.8
River Gee	99.3	99.2	99.4
Sinoe	97.3	97.1	97.7

Wood/charcoal as main source of fuel for cooking is nearly universal

# Key Findings: Gender and Household Main Source of Drinking Water

Total

Improved | Unimproved

	Improved	Unimproved
Urban	76.6	23.4
Rural	60.4	39.6
Total	69.3	30.7
Bomi	77.7	22.3
Bong	67.3	32.7
Grand Bassa	44.2	55.8
Grand Cape Mount	76.3	23.7
Grand Gedeh	73.7	26.3
Grand Kru	52.7	47.3
Gbarpolu	59.2	40.8
Lofa	69	31
Margibi	73.4	26.6
Maryland	81.4	
Montserrado	72.3	27.7
Nimba	74.7	25.3
River Cess	37.3	62.7
River Gee	71.5	28.5
Sinoe	55.3	44.7

Female headed households

Improved | Unimproved

	Improved	Unimproved
	77.2	22.8
	63.8	36.2
	71.8	28.2
	79.4	20.6
	71.3	28.7
	49.2	50.8
	77.9	22.1
	78.2	21.8
	55.7	44.3
	63.1	36.9
	71.7	28.3
	74.4	25.6
	84.8	
	73	27
	75.4	24.6
	41.5	58.5
	77.3	22.7
	58.9	41.1

Male headed households

Improved | Unimproved

	Improved	Unimproved
	76.3	23.7
	58.9	41.1
	67.9	32.1
	76.5	23.5
	65.2	34.8
	42.2	57.8
	75.6	24.4
	71.8	28.2
	50.8	49.2
	57.6	42.4
	67.1	32.9
	72.9	27.1
	79.1	20.9
	71.8	28.2
	74.3	25.7
	35.7	64.3
	67.7	32.3
	53.6	46.4

7 in 10 (69.3 %) households have access to improved sources of drinking water

71.8 percent of female headed households have access to improved drinking water sources

67.9 percent of male headed household
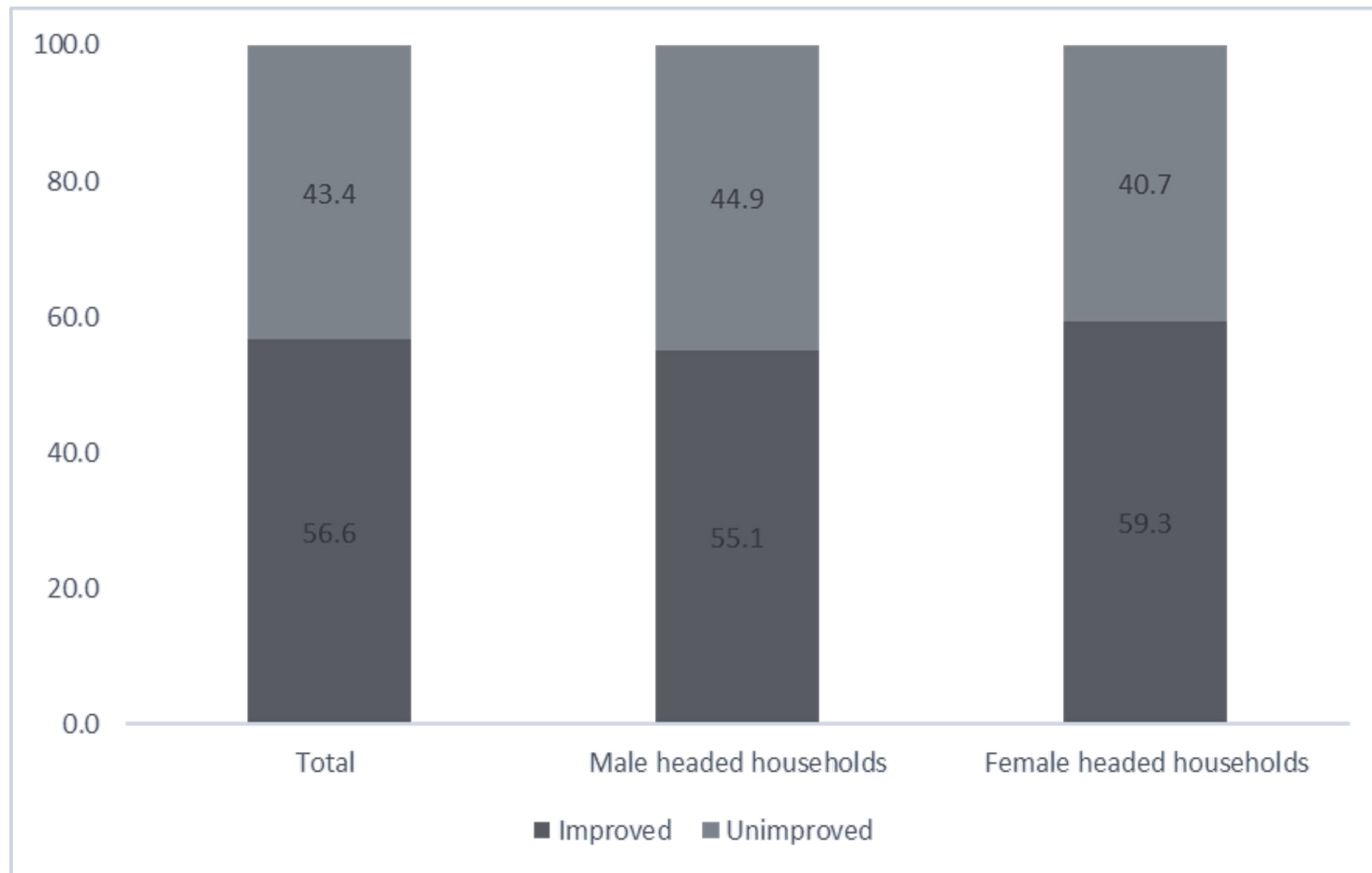
- In Liberia 56.6% of households use improved toilet facilities

- Among male headed households - 55.1%

- Among female headed households 59.3% rely on improved toilet facilities

Distance from the household to the nearest health facility by gender and locality

Legend: Less than 20mins | 20 to 39mins | 40 to 59 mins | 1 hour or over

	Total	Urban	Rural
Total	39.5	51.1	25.4
	20.5	26.1	13.7
	10.3	11.1	9.5
	29.7	11.7	51.4
Male headed households	38.6	51.5	24.6
	19.9	26	13.2
	10.2	10.9	9.4
	31.3	11.6	52.9
Female headed households	41.1	50.5	27.2
	21.6	26.3	14.8
	10.7	11.3	9.7
	26.6	11.9	48.4
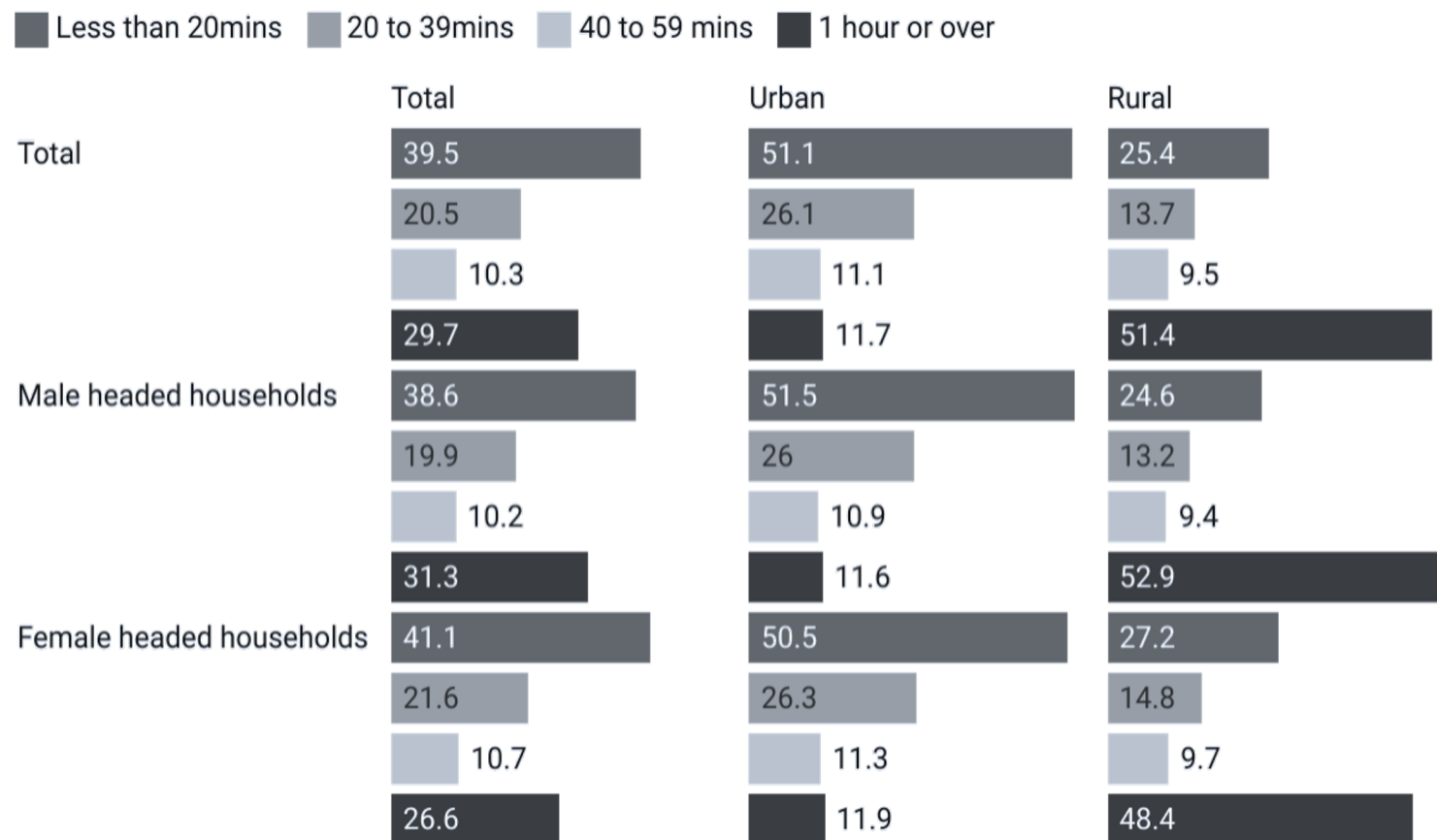
- 38.6% of male household heads indicated that the distance from their household to their nearest health facility is less than 20 minutes
- 41.1% of female household heads reported same
- 51.5% of male household heads in urban
- 24.6% of female household heads in rural

Distance from the household to the nearest primary school by gender and locality
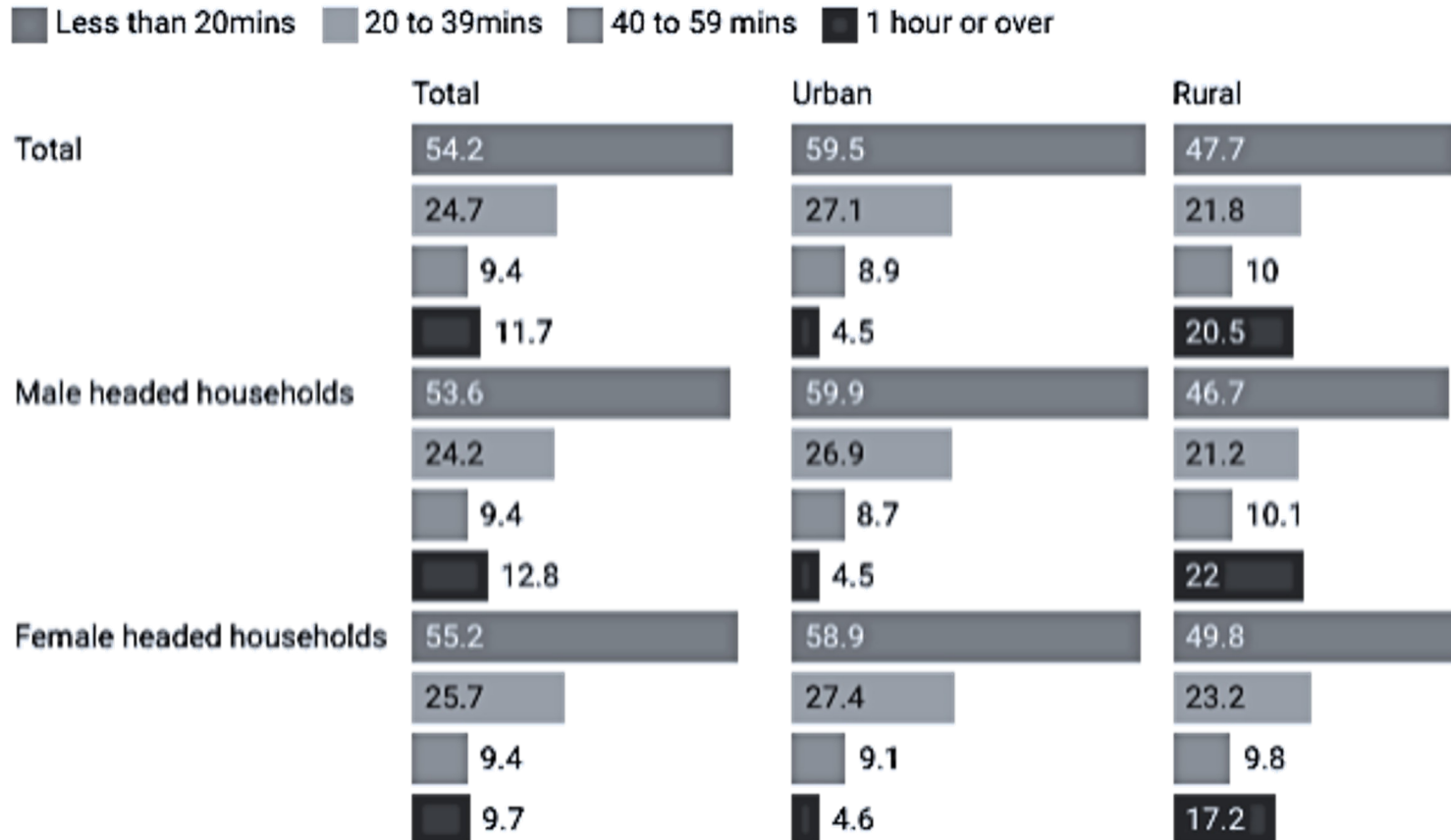
More than half (54.2%) of all households in Liberia indicated that the distance from household to the nearest primary school is less than 20 mins.

17.2% of female household heads in rural areas indicated that distance from the households to the nearest primary school is 1 hour or over

4.6% of female-headed households in urban areas reported the same

Distance from the household to the nearest water source by gender and locality
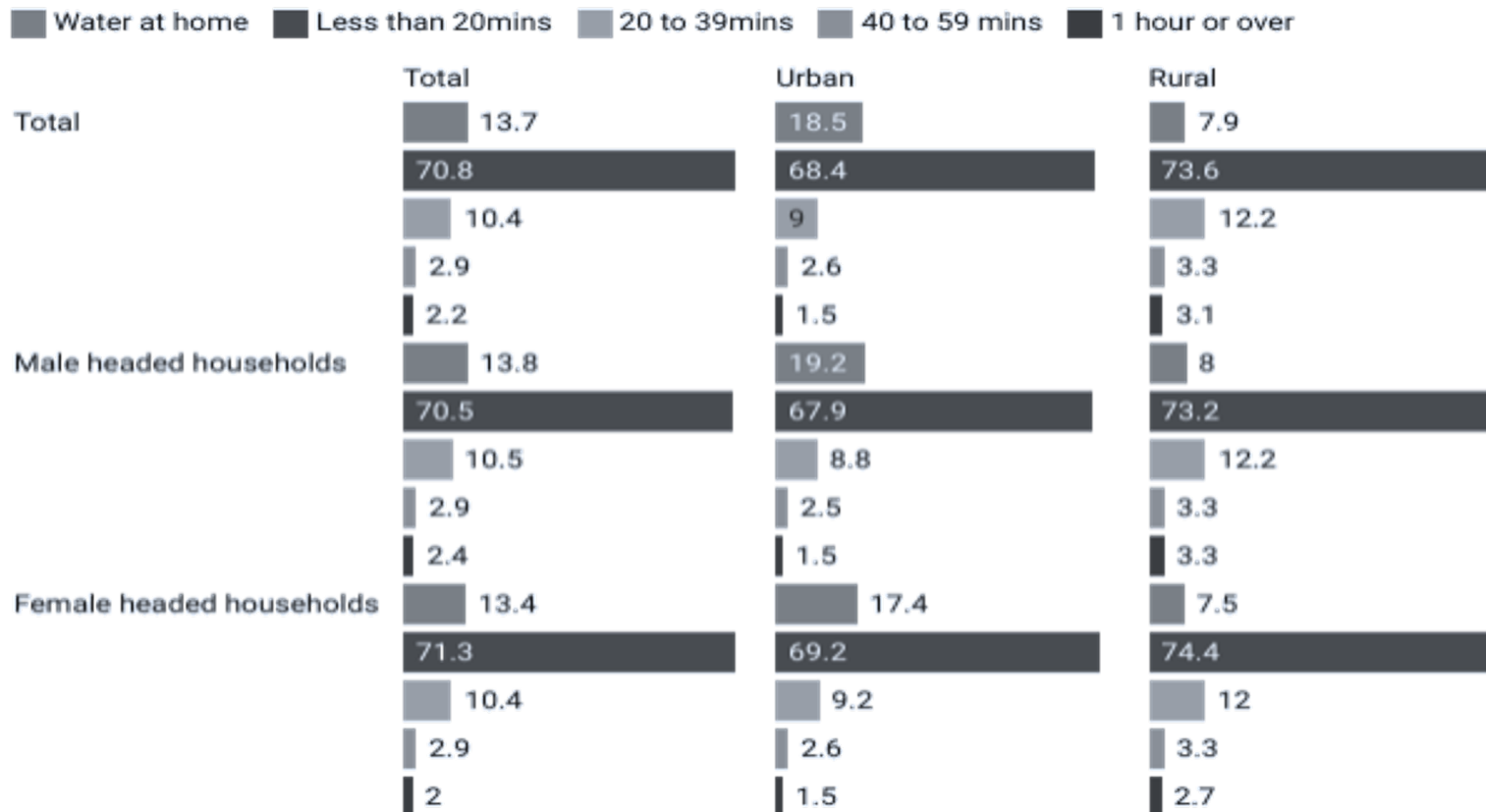
In Liberia, 13.7% of households have water at home
19.2% of male household households in urban areas have water at home
8% of male household heads in rural areas have water at home
17.4% of female household head in urban areas have water at home
7.5% of female household head in rural areas have water at home

Marital status by gender
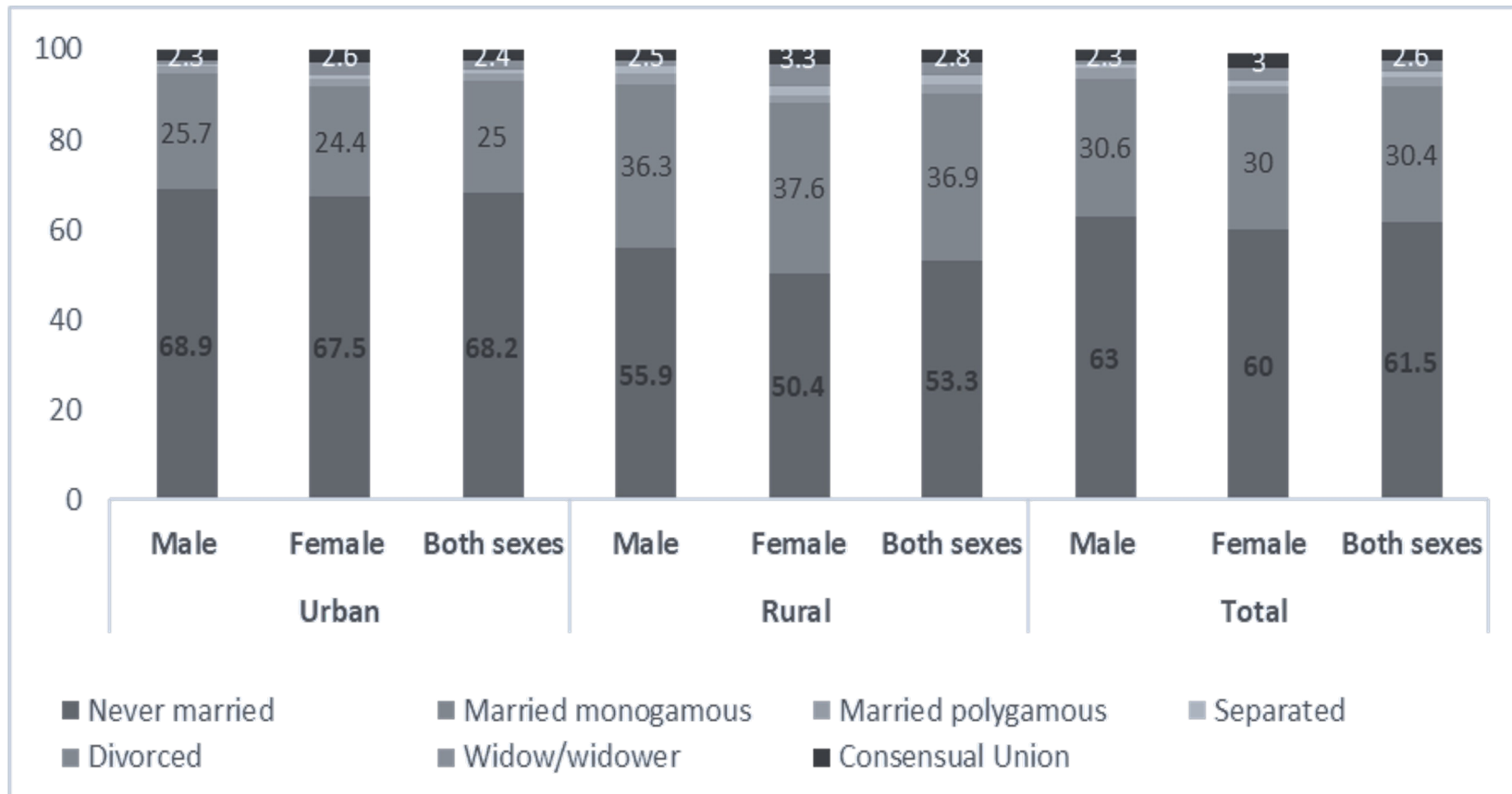
- Nearly equal percent of males and females were currently married

- More widowed (3.0%) females than males (0.7%)

- **Child marriage**

- 3.8% (9,483) of females

- 1.4% (4,715) of males 12-17 years currently married

Trend in mean age at marriage in Liberia
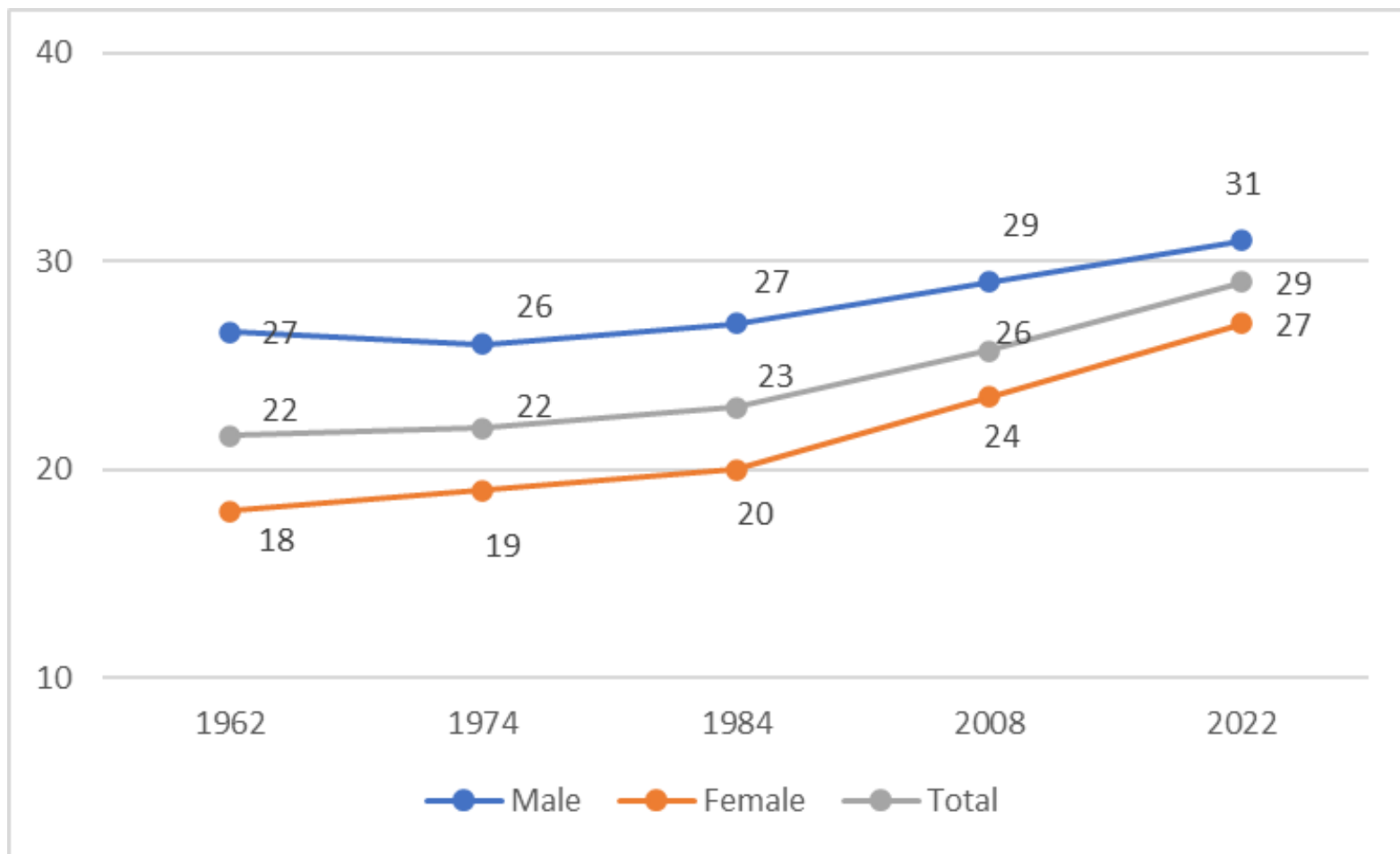
- The mean age at marriage for males and females has been increasing
- Males getting married 16 years after they turn 15 years
- Females on average get married 12 years after turning 15 years

Pattern of adolescent childbearing in Liberia, 2022

Age	Number of women	Live Births in the last 12 months	Percent who have had a live birth in the last 12 months	Percent who have begun childbearing
12	71,014	12	0.02	1.00
13	63,633	37	0.06	1.27
14	66,148	115	0.17	1.77
15	61,454	370	0.60	2.77
16	60,911	986	1.62	5.49
17	68,187	2049	3.00	10.23
18	63,601	2716	4.27	17.50
19	68,691	3823	5.57	26.31
12 - 19	523,639	10108	1.93	8.39

1.93% of adolescents girls 12-19 years had a live birth 12 months preceding the census
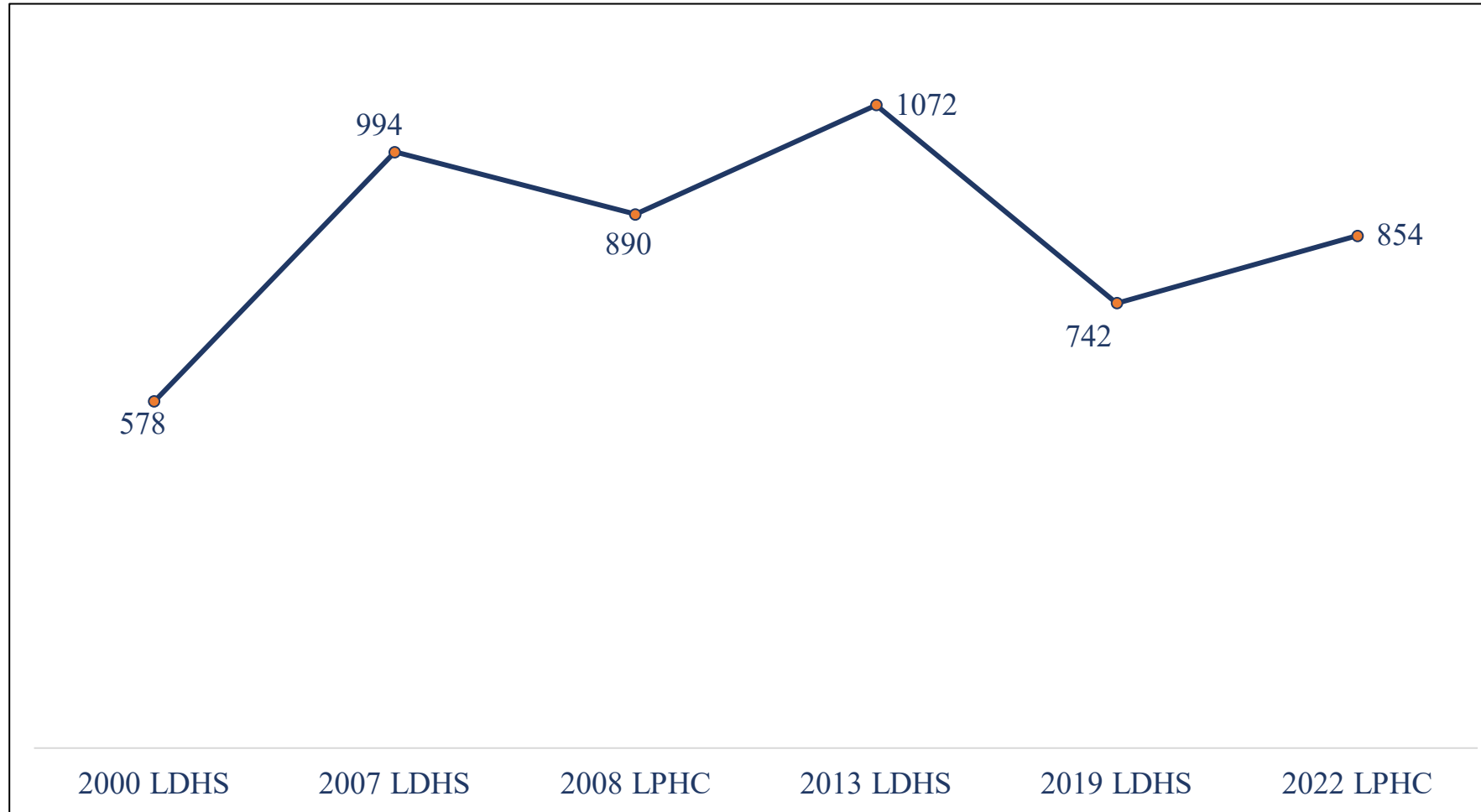
- SDGs 3.1 reduce the global MMR to less than 70 per 100,000
- live births by 2030

- In Liberia MMR - 854 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births recorded

Rural-Urban Differences in Life Expectancy at birth

61.2 years
Female Average

55.6 years
Male Average
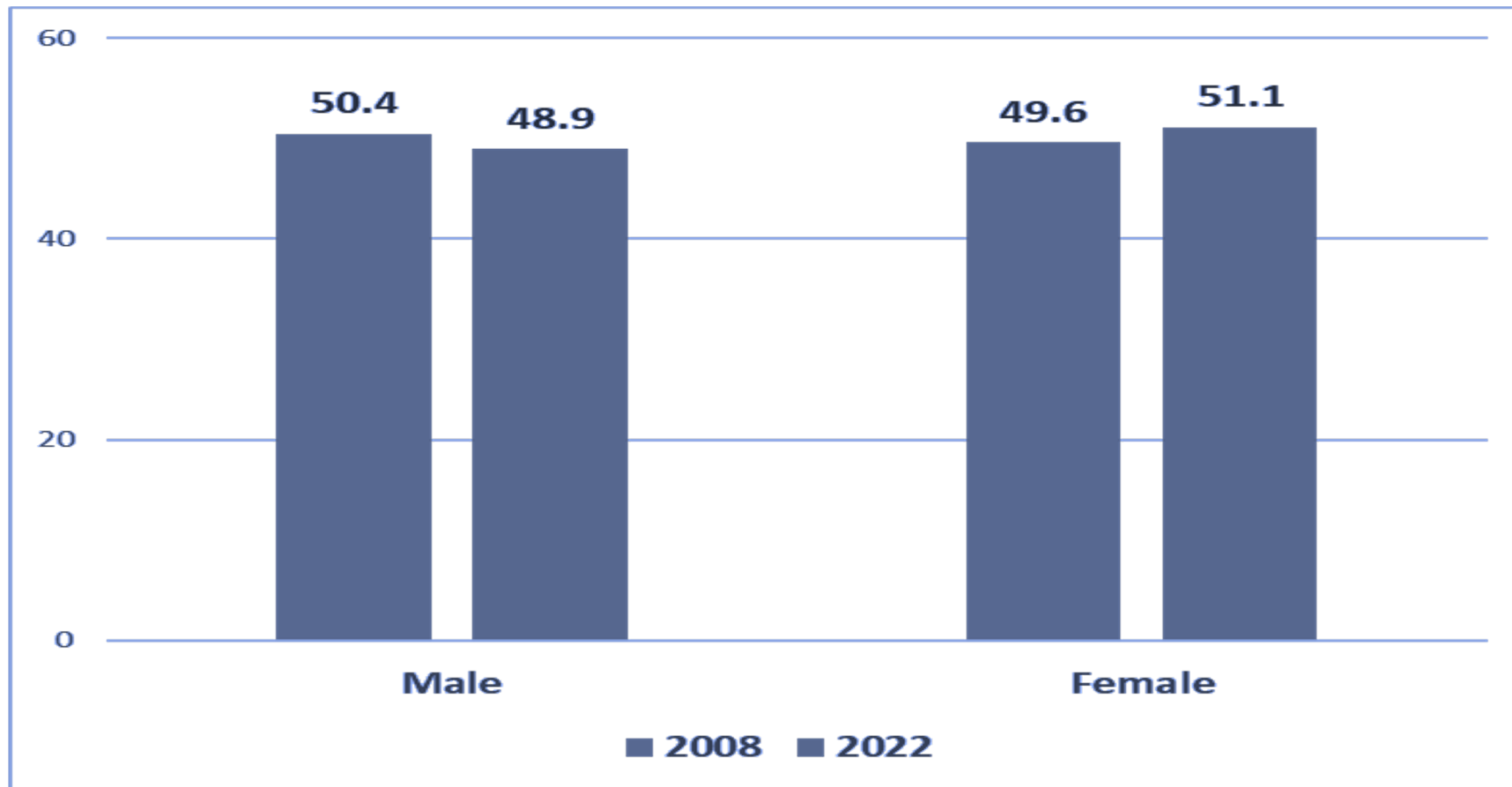
Average life expectancy in **Liberia is 58 years**

59.1

56.4

55.8

54.2

Urban

Rural

■ Male ■ Female
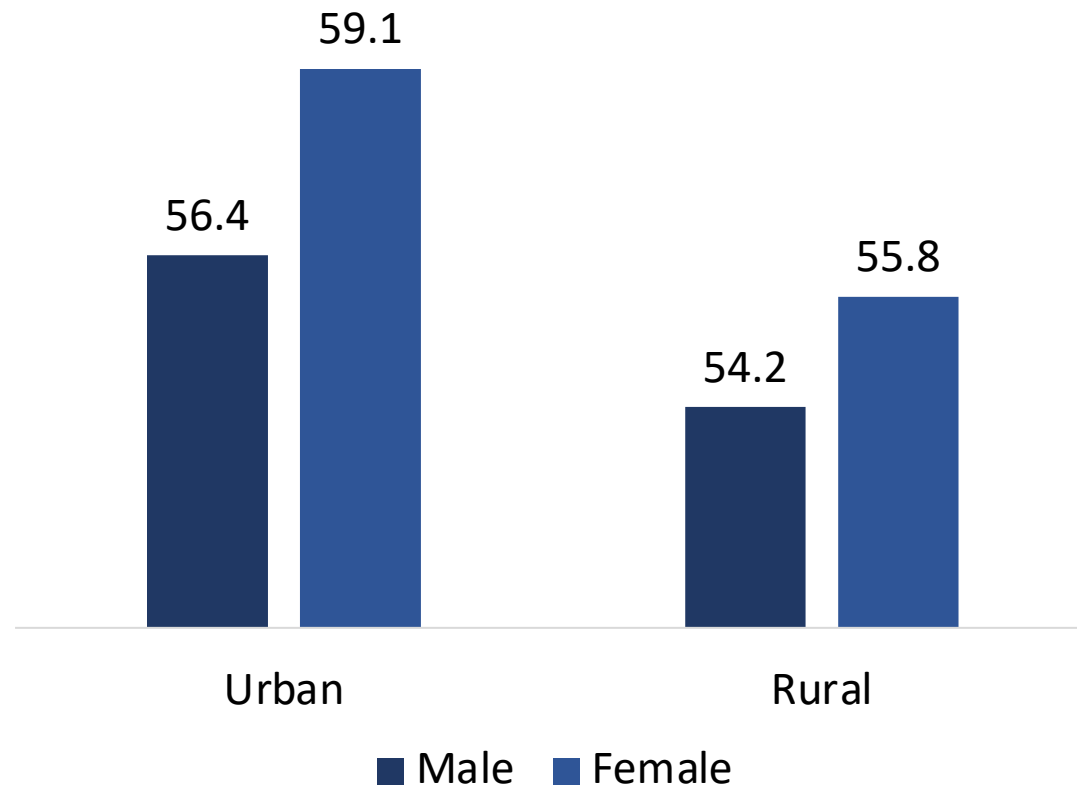
Migrant Population Distribution by Gender in Liberia, 2008-2022

Female migrants
51.1% (1,402,508)

	Male	Female	Gender Gap
Urban	73.5	65.4	8
Rural	48.7	37.1	11.7
Total	62	53.1	8.9
Bomi	54.9	43.8	11.1
Bong	46.6	36.1	10.5
Gbarpolu	47.9	34.7	13.2
Grand Bassa	45.1	35.6	9.5
Grand Cape Mount	44.3	36.5	7.8
Grand Gedeh	58.8	51.2	7.5
Grand Kru	59.4	46.4	12.9
Lofa	52.9	40.8	12.2
Margibi	61.4	51.5	9.9
Maryland	63	52.5	10.5
Montserrado	75.7	68.1	7.6
Nimba	60.5	50.2	10.2
River Cess	52.9	37.1	15.8
River Gee	59.3	47.2	12.1
Sinoe	53.6	41.8	11.8
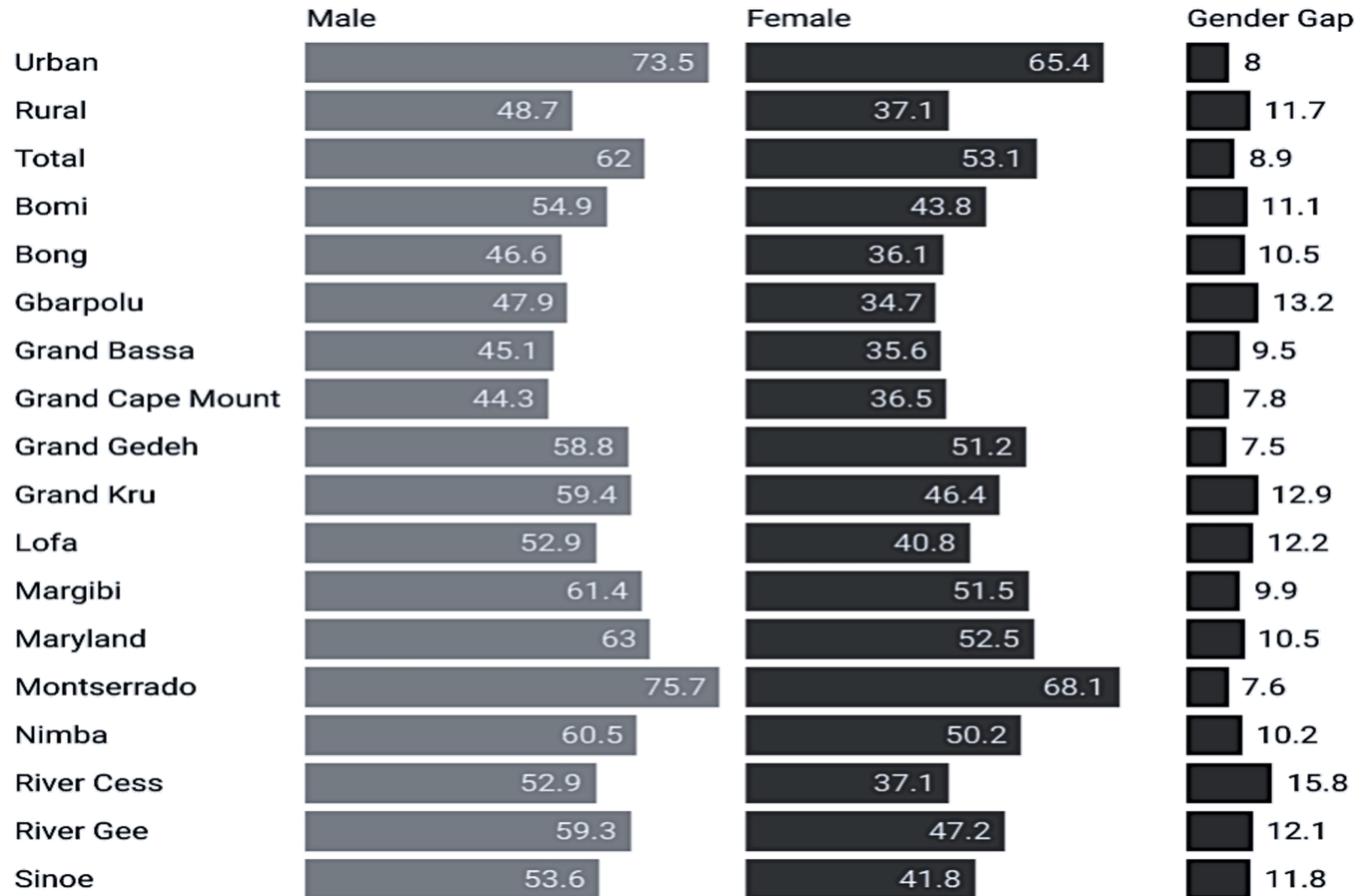
53.1% the population of females is literate

62% the population of males is literate

Legend: Never attended | Completed | Drop-out | Currently attending

	Urban	Rural	Total
Male	18.5	44.1	30.4
	28.7	11.6	20.8
	11.9	16.7	14.2
	40.8	27.6	34.6
Female	25.8	55.5	38.9
	19.8	5.6	13.5
	12.9	12.6	12.8
	41.5	26.3	34.8
Total	22.2	49.6	34.6
	24.2	8.7	17.2
	12.4	14.7	13.5
	41.2	27	34.7
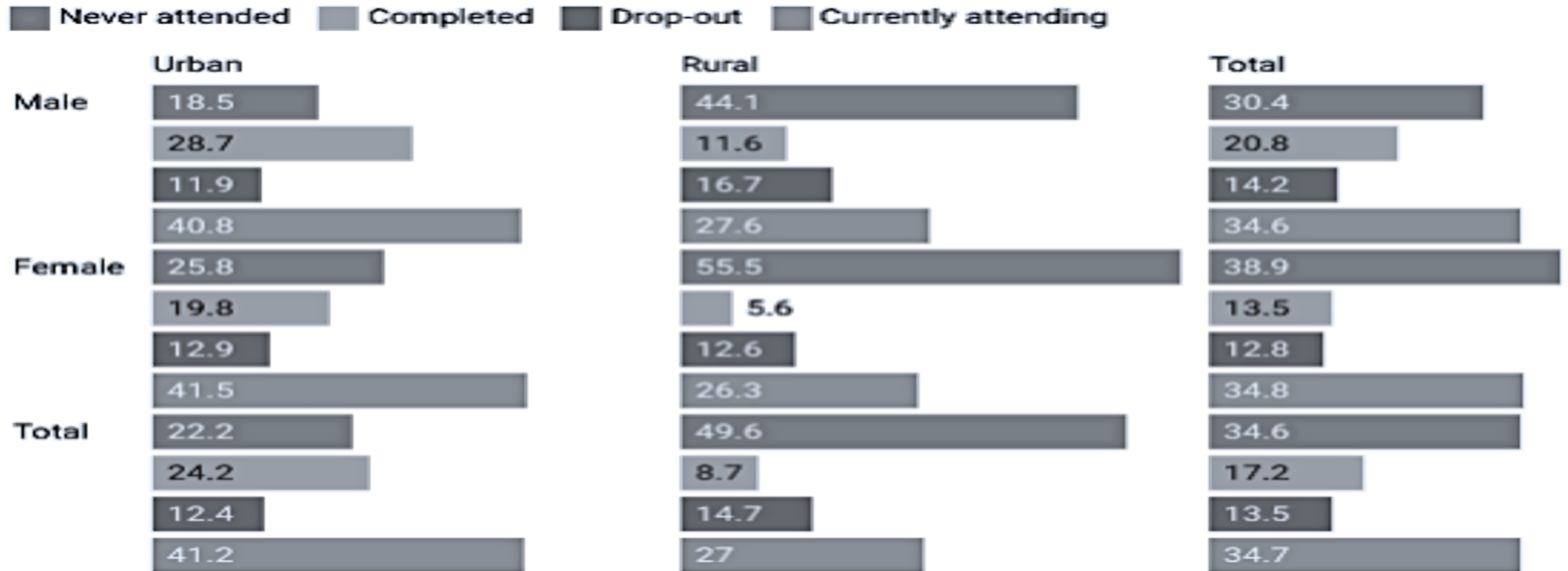
- 30.4% of males - never been to school
- 38.9% of females - never been to school
- 18.5% of urban males - never been to school
- 44.1% of rural males - never been to school
- 25.8% of urban females - never been to school
- 55.5% of rural females - never been to school

Legend: None | Preschool | Primary | Secondary | Tertiary

	Urban	Rural	Total
Male None	21	46.1	32.7
Preschool	11.8	10.8	11.3
Primary	24.5	23.6	24.1
Secondary	33.6	17.6	26.2
Tertiary	9.1	1.9	5.7
Female None	28.5	57.6	41.3
Preschool	12.5	10.9	11.8
Primary	26.2	21	23.9
Secondary	28.1	9.9	20.1
Tertiary	4.8	0.6	3
Total None	24.8	51.6	36.9
Preschool	12.1	10.8	11.5
Primary	25.4	22.3	24
Secondary	30.8	13.9	23.2
Tertiary	6.9	1.3	4.4
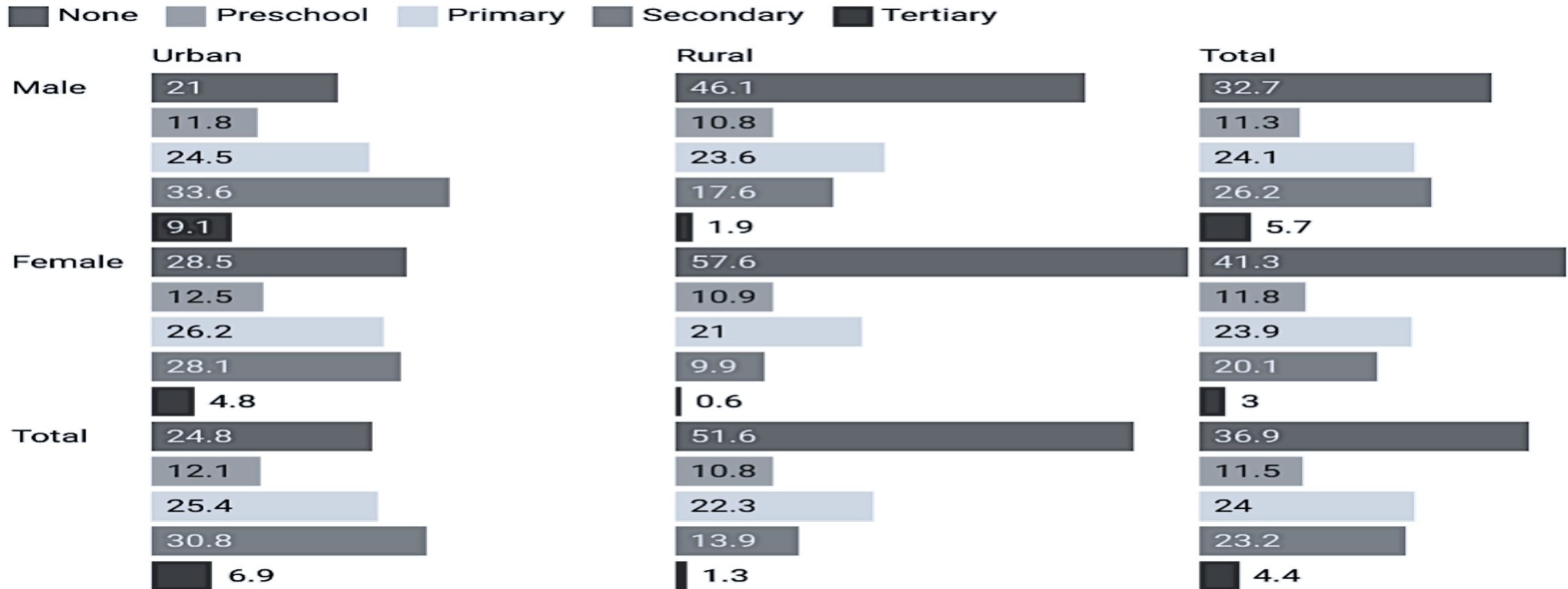
- In Liberia, 4.4% of the entire population has tertiary education.
- Among females, 3.0% have tertiary education
- 5.7% of males have tertiary education
- 9.1% of urban male population have tertiary education

- 1.9% of rural male population have tertiary education
- 4.8% of urban female population have tertiary education.
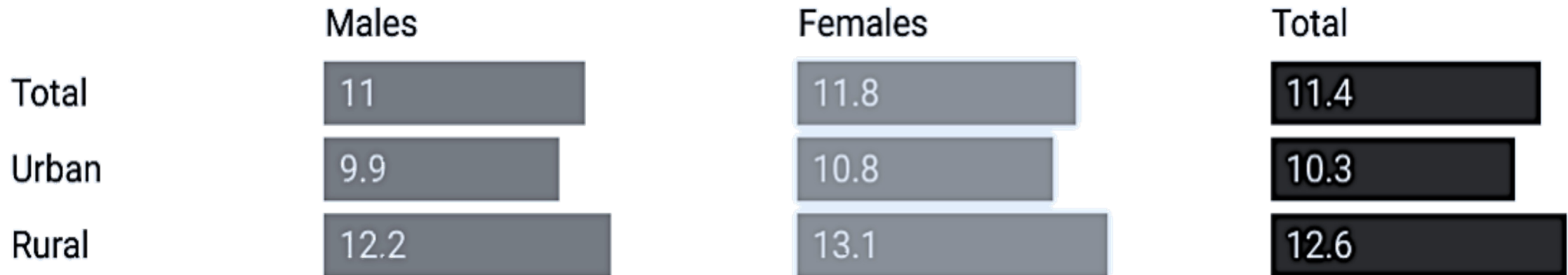- 0.6% of rural female population have tertiary education
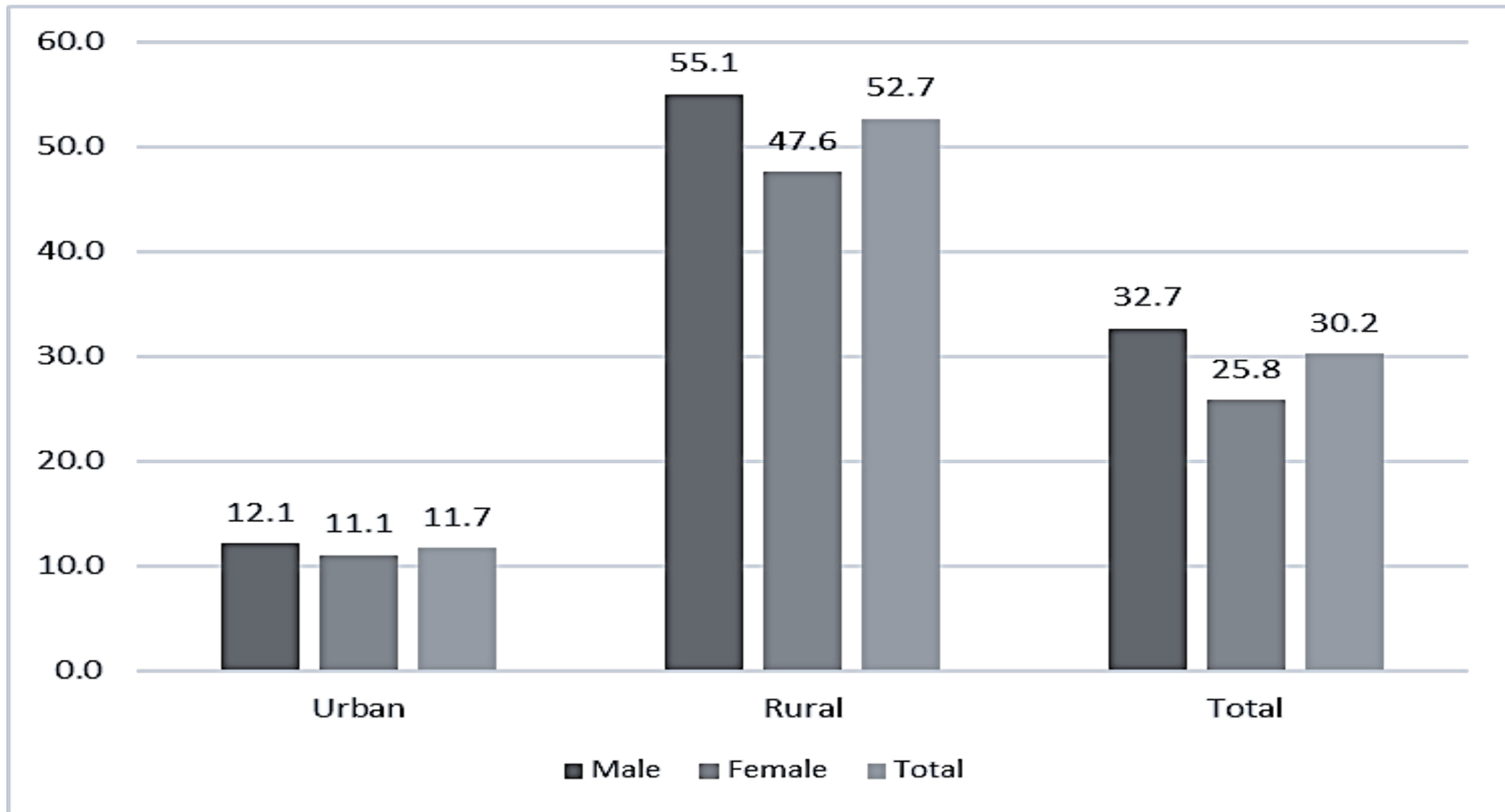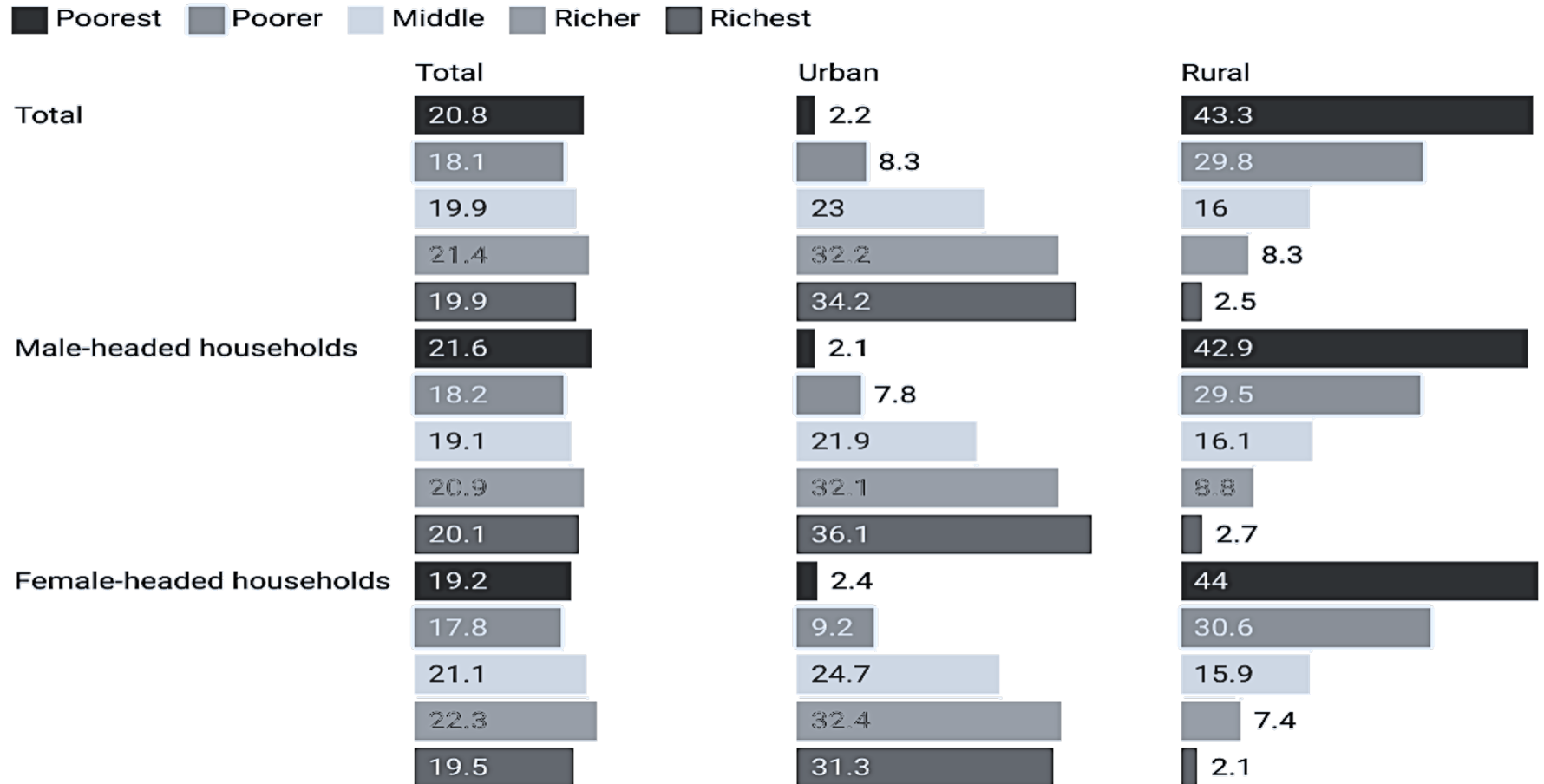
For male heads of households in urban areas, 2.1% are in the poorest wealth group

In rural areas for more than two in five (42.9%) are in the poorest wealth group

For female household heads in urban areas 2.4% are in the poorest wealth group
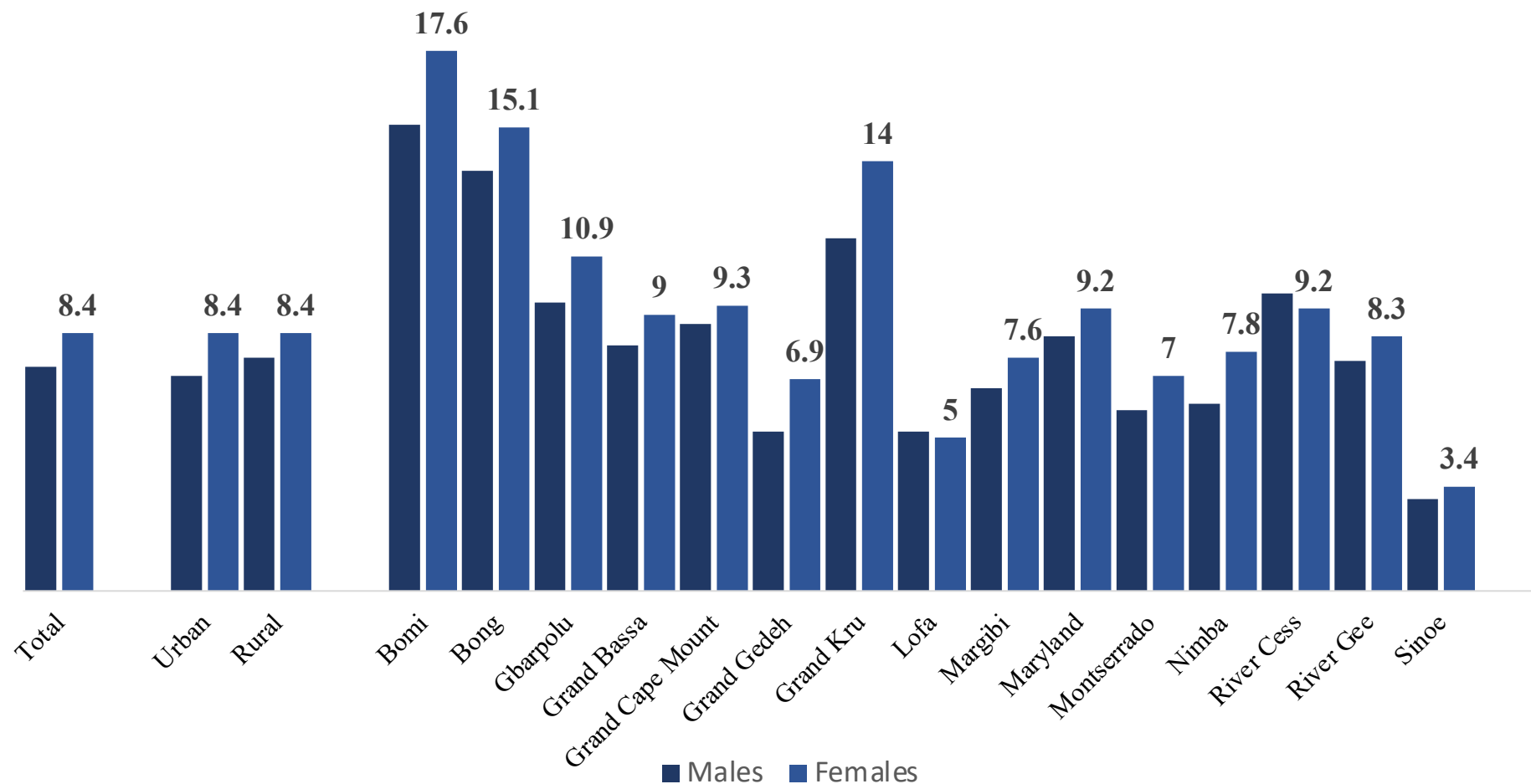
- 11.4 percent of the total population of Liberia 5 years and older have varying degrees of difficulty in performing activities such as seeing, hearing, communicating, walking or climbing stairs, concentrating or remembering, and selfcare
- Relatively higher among females (11.8%) than males (11.0%).

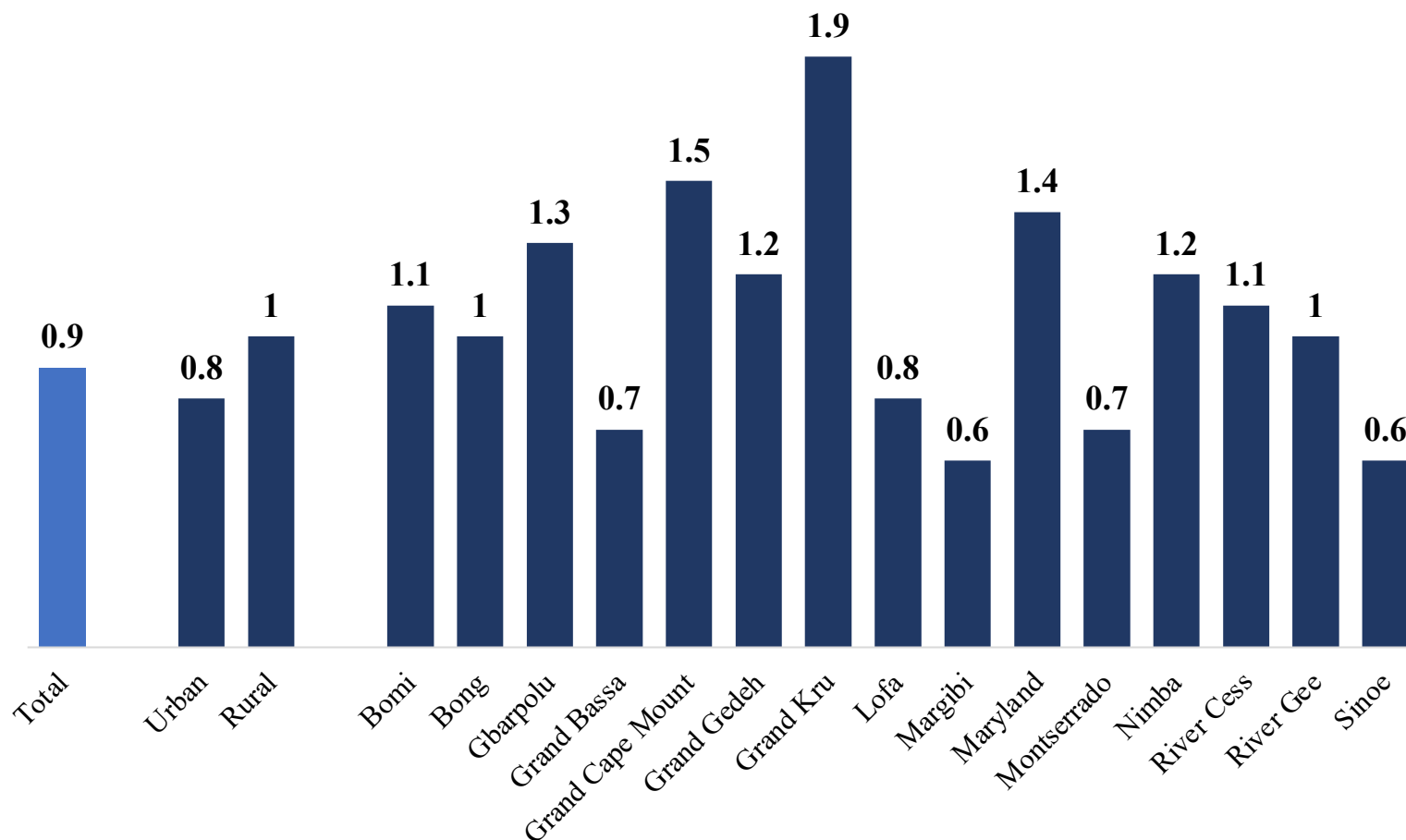Knowledge of fistula by gender, place and county of residence

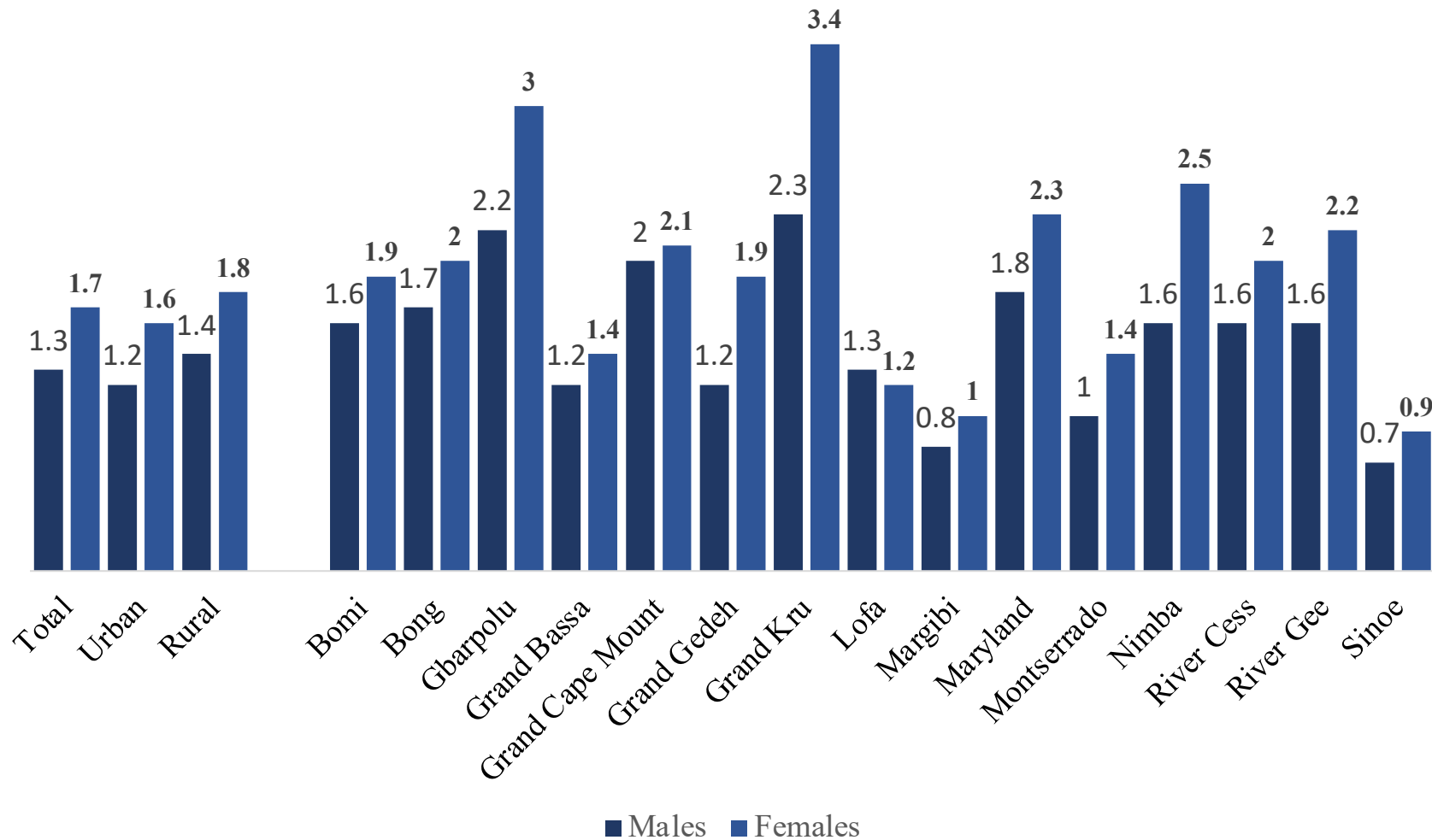8.4% of females have heard about fistula compared to 7.3% of males

Women 15 years and above ever-experienced fistula by place and county

0.9 percent of females 15 years and above have ever experienced fistula with slight variation between rural (1.0%) and urban (0.8%) areas

1.7% know someone who has ever experienced fistula compared to 1.3 percent of males, a plausible indication that fistula incidence in Liberia could be slightly higher than was reported.

Education

o The Ministry of Education in collaboration with key stakeholders should continue to promote gender equality in education and improve access to quality education in rural areas. Targeted interventions could include:
- Expanding infrastructure
- Providing targeted scholarships and incentives for girls' education
- implementing literacy programs tailored to the needs of rural communities

o The Ministry of Education should continue to expand access to secondary and vocational training institutions specifically for those in rural areas and for girls.

Economic Development

o Government should continue to implement the Affirmative Action Bill or Equal Representation and Participation Act of Liberia

o The Government of Liberia should continue to embark on rural development initiatives and poverty alleviation programs to stimulate economic growth and create employment opportunities
- Invest in agriculture
- Invest in small-scale industries

o Provide livelihood assistance and skills training to households in the poorest wealth groups, in rural areas and for both males and females

o Equal value on contribution of males and females in migration discussions terms of remittances must be emphasised

o Social protection programs on healthcare, basic income and food security as emphasised in ARREST Agenda should continue to be implemented equitably to support vulnerable populations

Health

o Ministry of Health should continue to provide community health centres and safe water resources particularly in rural counties to eliminate NCDs and reduce maternal and childhood deaths

o Expand community health facilities especially to rural counties and provide well-trained community health professionals

o Mobile clinics could be employed to hard to reach areas

o Health education programs should be used to raise awareness about preventive health behaviours and early detection of diseases

o Hygiene promotion and behaviour change campaigns should also male headed households

o National Health Policy & Plan (NHPP 2011- 2021) and Health Sector Strategic Plan (HSSP) 2022-2026 should be effectively updated and implemented to address High maternal mortality, Childhood mortality, Fistula etc.

Access to Amenities

o The Government of Liberia should continue to make budgetary allocation to social projects that improve upon access to:
  • health facilities for maternal and child health
  • primary healthcare needs
  • potable water
  • schools
  • improved cookstoves which will reduce the inhalation of smoke from using biomass fuels which disproportionally affects women and girls

Child Marriage

o Education and awareness campaigns could be intensified to highlight:
  • potential benefits of later marriage
  • poor consequences of child marriage using various channels such as media activities and also through grassroot engagements led by Ministry of Gender and civil society

o Government could partner relevant agencies to provide alternative opportunities like education, vocational and technical training to girls with focus on rural communities

o The Ministries of Gender, Health and Education continue to provide quality rights-based and adolescent and youth-friendly family planning services and information

Future Studies

o Questions on marriage and divorce registration could be explored in the next census

o Explore socio-cultural barriers to civic registration of marriage and divorce

o Specific research projects to address fistula, childhood and maternal deaths.