



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



## Thematic Report on Children, Adolescent & Youth 2022 Liberia Population and Housing Census





## **Disclaimer** Thematic Report: Children, Adolescents and Youth - 2022 LPHC

Dear Reader,

I am pleased to present this document as a highlight summary of the upcoming Thematic Report on Children, Adolescents and Youth 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,

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



# Outline

- ⇒ Background and Context
- ⇒ Objective
- ⇒ Methodology
- ⇒ Limitations
- ⇒ Population Size and Distribution
- ⇒ Housing Characteristics
- ⇒ Literacy & Educational Attainment
- ⇒ Children, Adolescents and Youth with Disabilities
- ⇒ Policy Implication and Recommendation



## Background and Context

- Historical evidence show high rates of overage enrolment, high dropouts and out-of-school children
- In 2013, 71.2 percent of Liberians experienced multi-dimensional poverty affecting children the most
- More than 85 per cent of Liberia's social safety net budget comes from donor contributions, any cuts affect delivery of essential services to the most vulnerable, including children.
- UNICEF and other Development Partners support institutions dealing with children's issues (For example, essential services, capacity strengthening, etc.)



## Background and Context; **Concept of Children, Adolescents and Youth (CAY)**

- The definition of children, adolescents and youth differ from country to country
- This report considered the UN, the 1986 Constitution of Liberia, the Liberia National Youth Policy definitions of children, adolescent and youth
- Based on this, the following age categorizations were used: Children 0-9, 0-15 and 0-17 years, Adolescents 10-19 years and Youth 15-24 and 15-35 years
- These age groups have been adapted to the age limits set by the 2022 Census questionnaire



## Background and Context; Importance of Children, Adolescents and Youth (CAY) data analysis

- To identify the unique differences in the characteristics of children, adolescents and youth within the population
- To inform policy makers in designing policies that could effectively address their specific needs
- It allows institutions responsible for their welfare and development to conceive and implement programs in an integrated manner to ensure no one is left behind
- To bridge the data gap between previous censuses and the 2022 census



## Objectives

- To differentiate children, adolescents and youth in Liberia based on their respective demographic, social and economic characteristics
- Examine the composition of the three groups of the population in relation to the total population and highlight implications for the socio-economic development of the country
- Study the extent to which available social services are accessible to these young people
- Examine the locality and county differentials in the growth and development of children, adolescents and the youth



## Methodology

- The analysis utilized basic descriptive analytical methods to present results
- Tables with percentages and graphs have been used to describe the characteristics of children, adolescents and youth





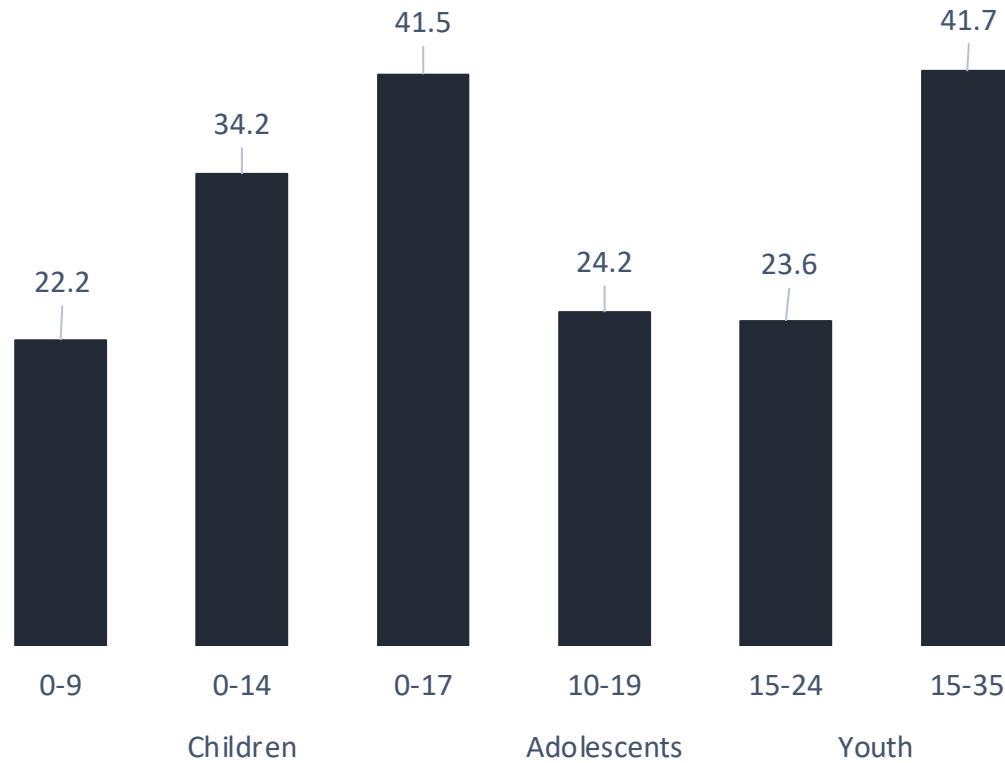
## Limitations

- The 2022 report on children, adolescents and youth, use different age categorisations from previous reports which covered only adolescents and youth (children were excluded).
- Therefore, comparison and trend analysis are not possible.



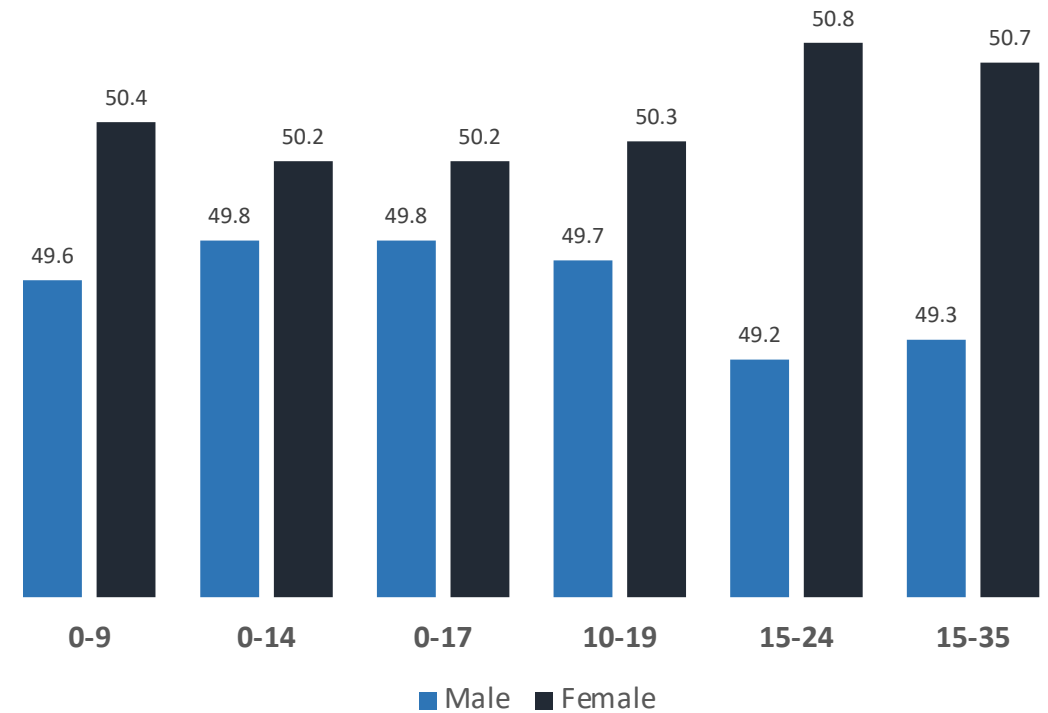
# Population Size and Distribution

### Distribution of children, adolescents and youth



41.5% of Liberia population are children aged 0-17, 24.2% are adolescents and 41.7% are youth aged 15-35 years.

### Distribution of children, adolescents and youth by sex

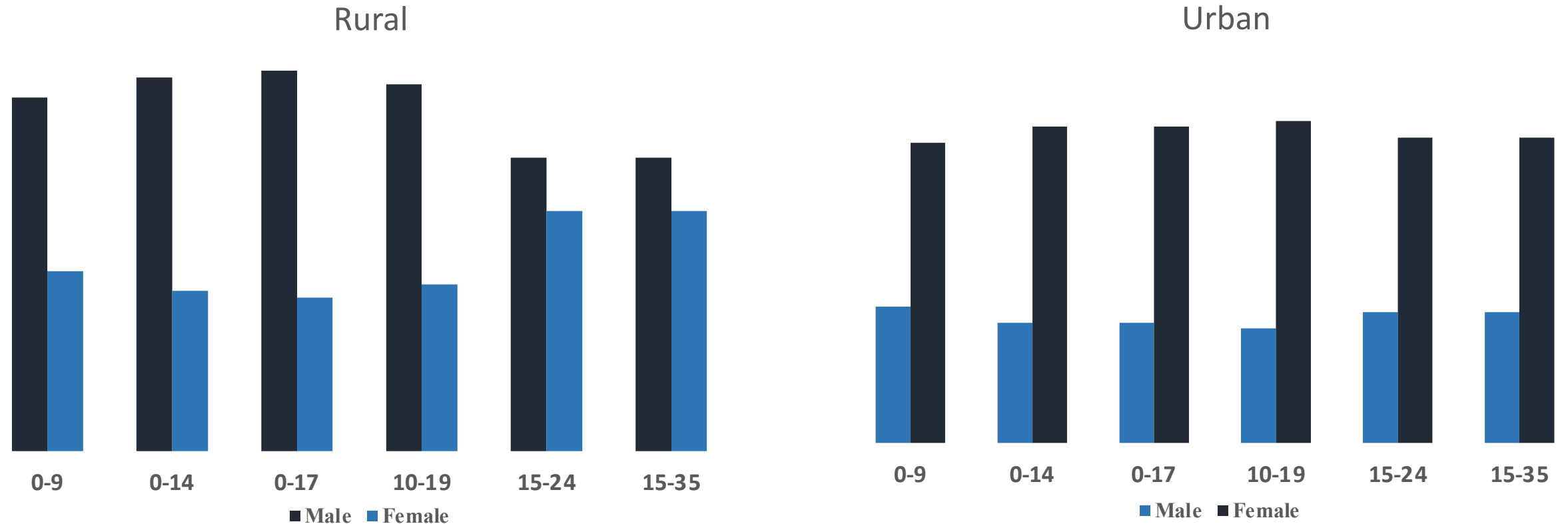


For each of the age groups, females are more than their male counterparts



# Population Size and Distribution

## Distribution of children, adolescents and youth by sex and place of residence



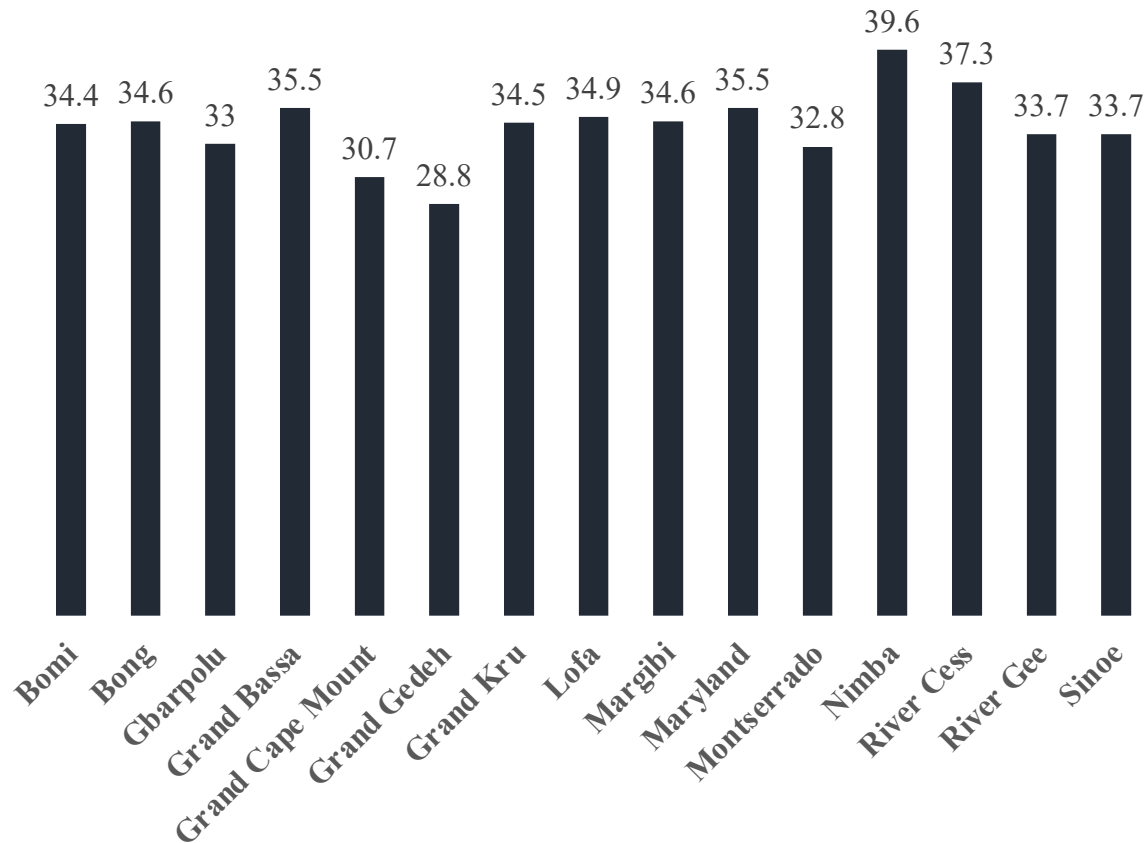
Proportion of males is higher than females in rural areas for all age groups

Proportion of females is higher than males in urban areas for all age groups



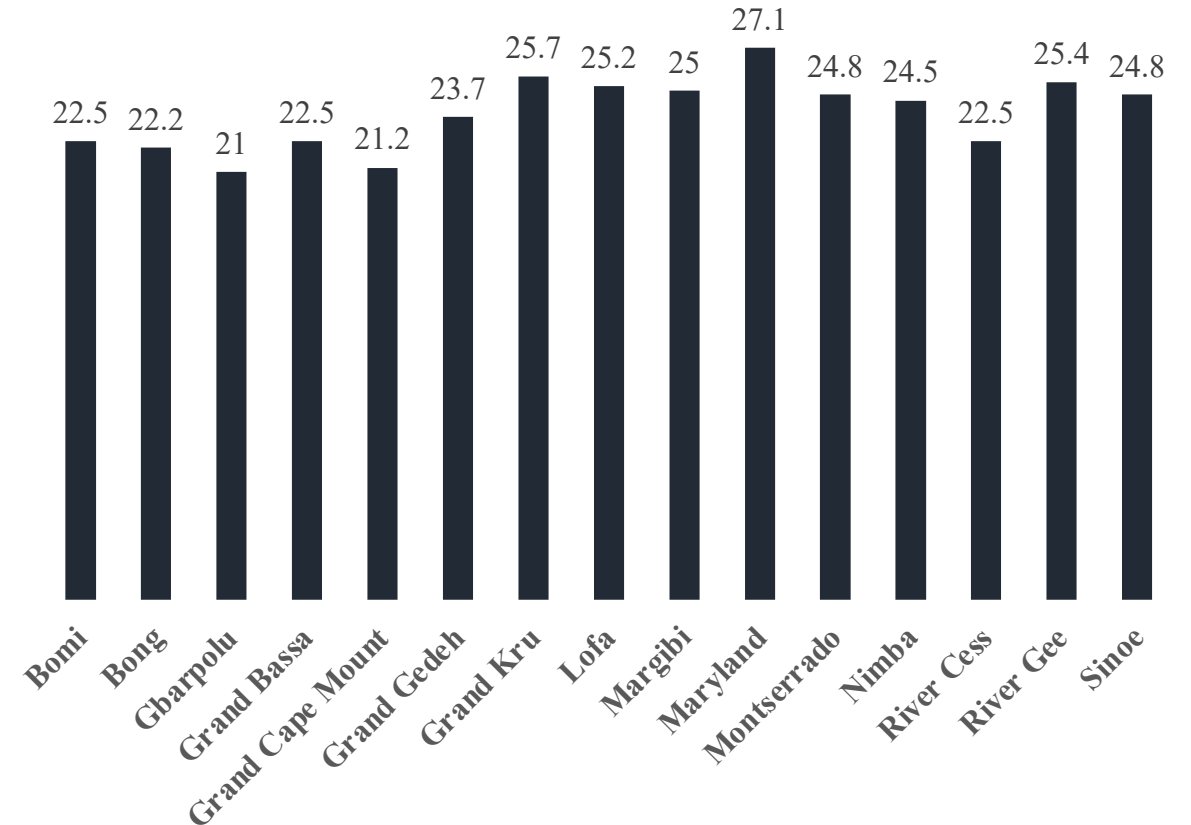
# Population Size and Distribution

### Distribution of children aged 0-14 years as percentage of county population



Grand Gedeh County has the lowest proportion (29%) of children aged 0-14 years while Nimba County has the highest (40%)

### Percentage distribution of adolescents as percentage of county population

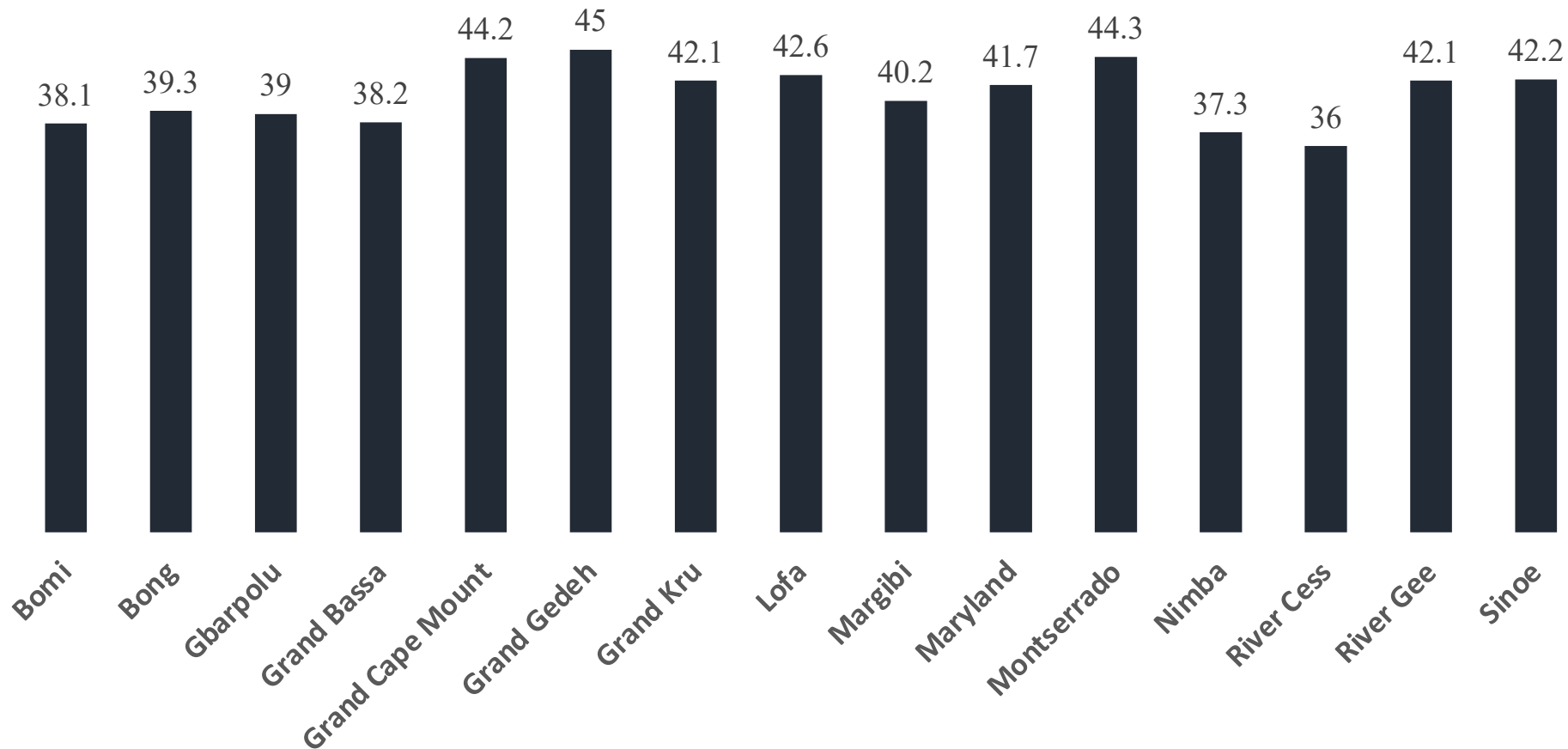


Gbarpolu County has a fifth of its population as adolescents, while Maryland County has 27.1% of its population as adolescents.



# Population Size and Distribution

## Distribution of youth 15-35 years as percentage of county population



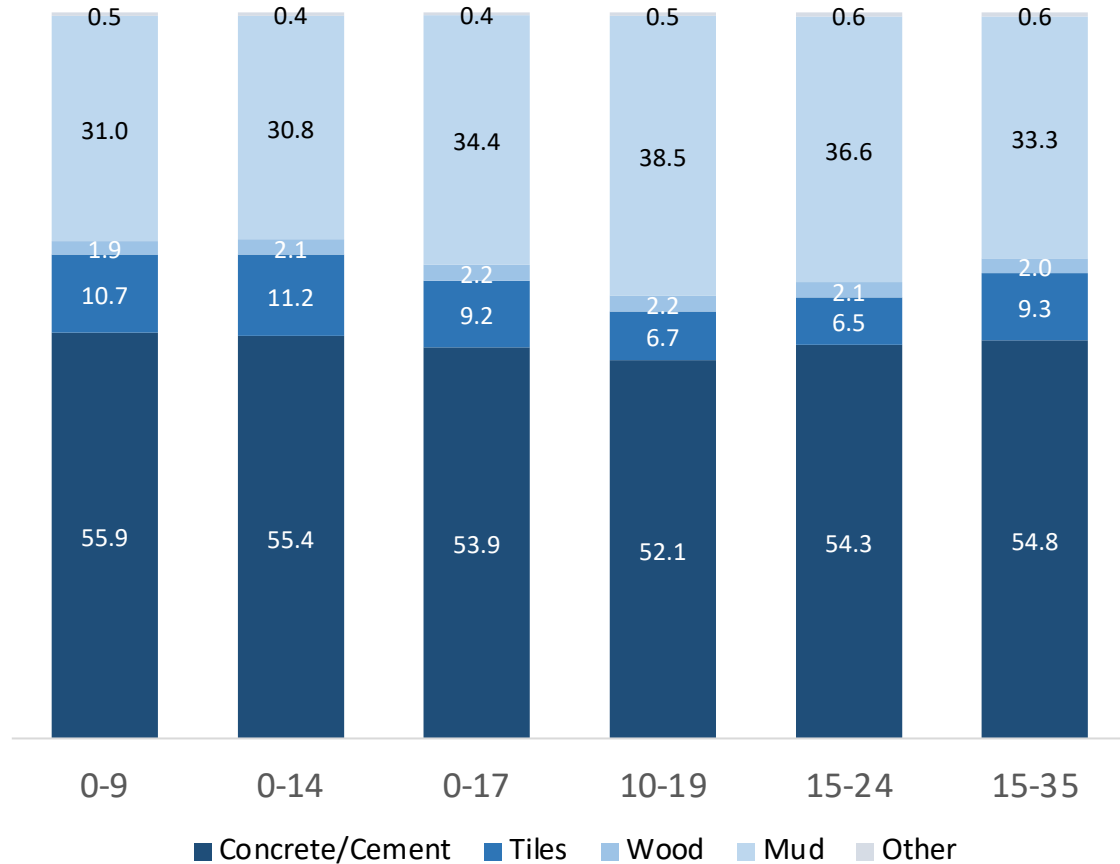
River Cess County has the lowest proportion (36%) of youth 15-35 years

Grand Gedeh County has the highest proportion (45%) youth 15-35 years



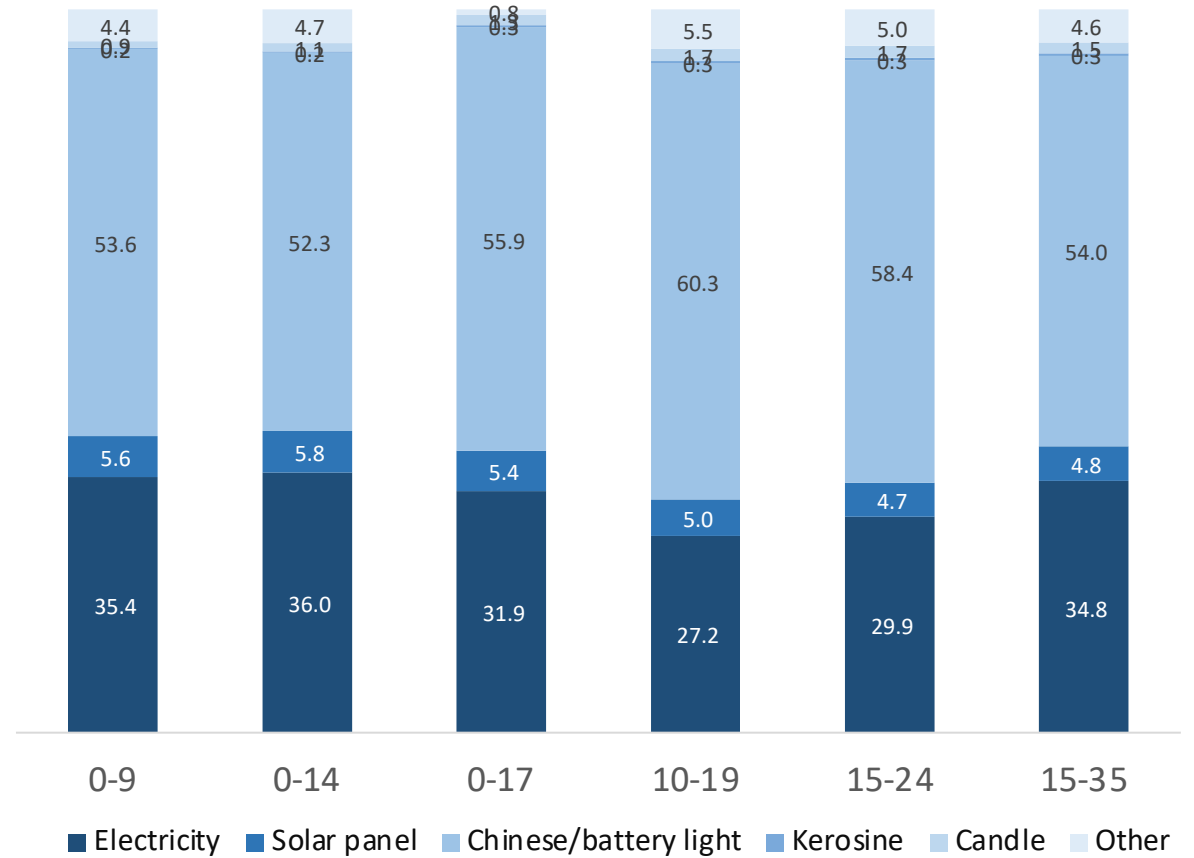
# Housing Characteristics

**Distribution of children, adolescents and youth by age group and main construction material of floor.**



Over 30 % each of children, adolescents and youth live in structures with mud as main material used for floor.

**Distribution of children, adolescents and youth by age group and main source of lighting.**

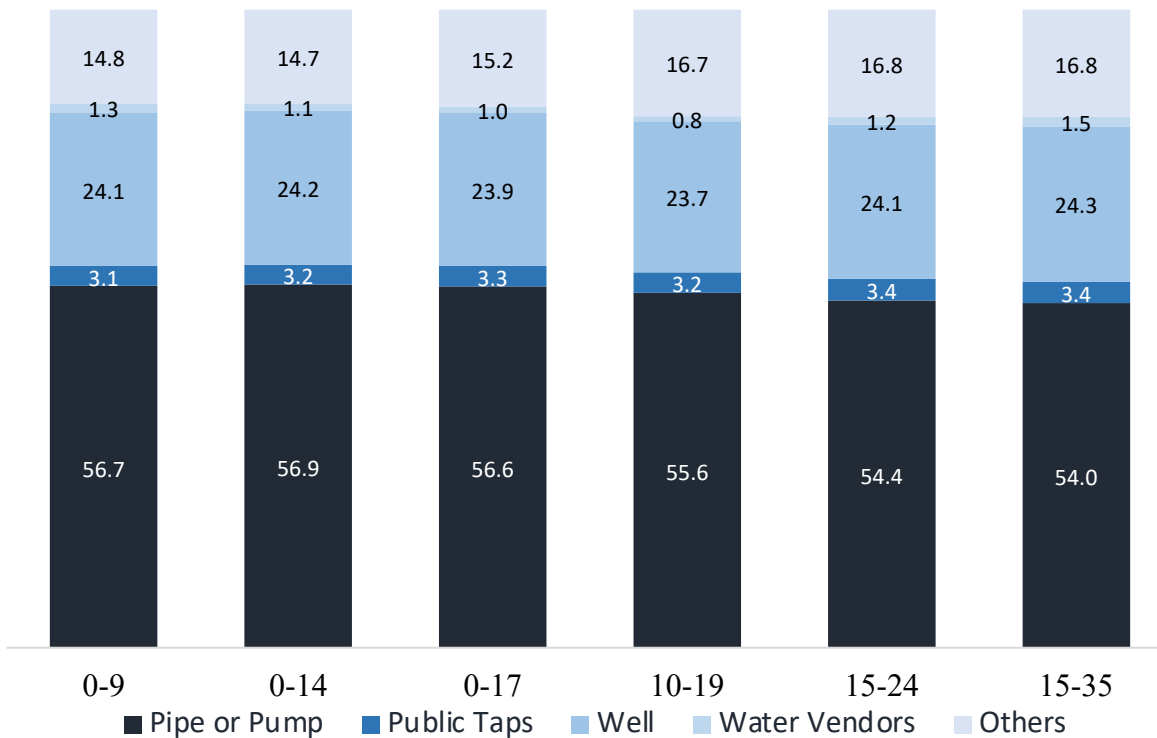


More than half each of children, adolescents and youth live in houses whose main source of lighting is rechargeable light popularly called Chinese light.



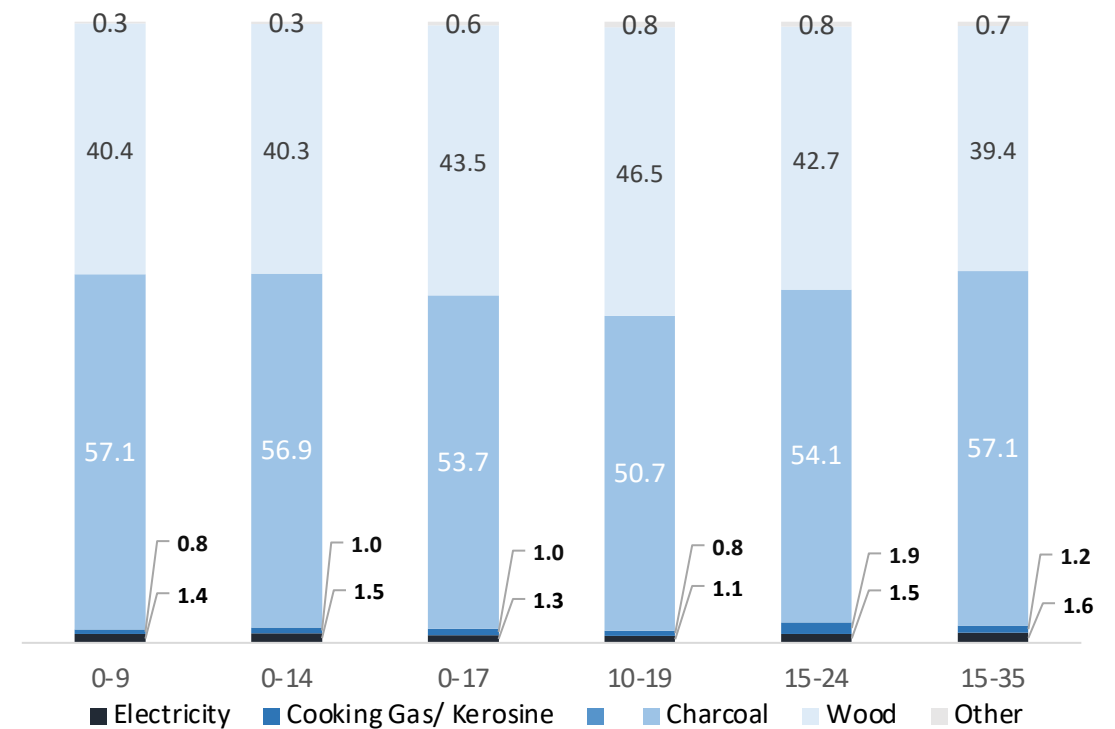
# Housing Characteristics

**Distribution of children, adolescents and youth by age group and main source of drinking water**



- Over two-fifths each of children, adolescents and youth live in houses with pipe indoors
- At least one-in-ten children, adolescents and youth each live in houses with open well or river/lake as main Source of drinking water

**Distribution of children, adolescents and youth by age group and main source of cooking fuel**

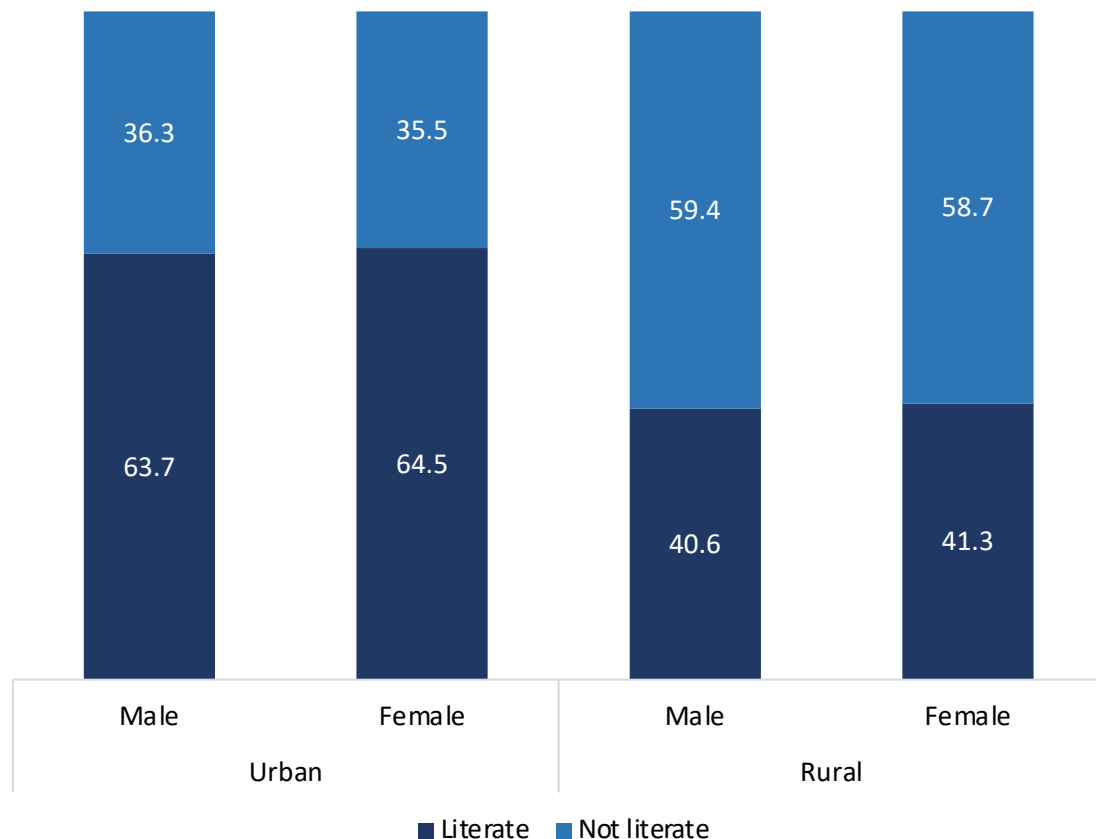


Main source of cooking fuel for households was charcoal (over 50%) followed by wood fuel (about 40%)



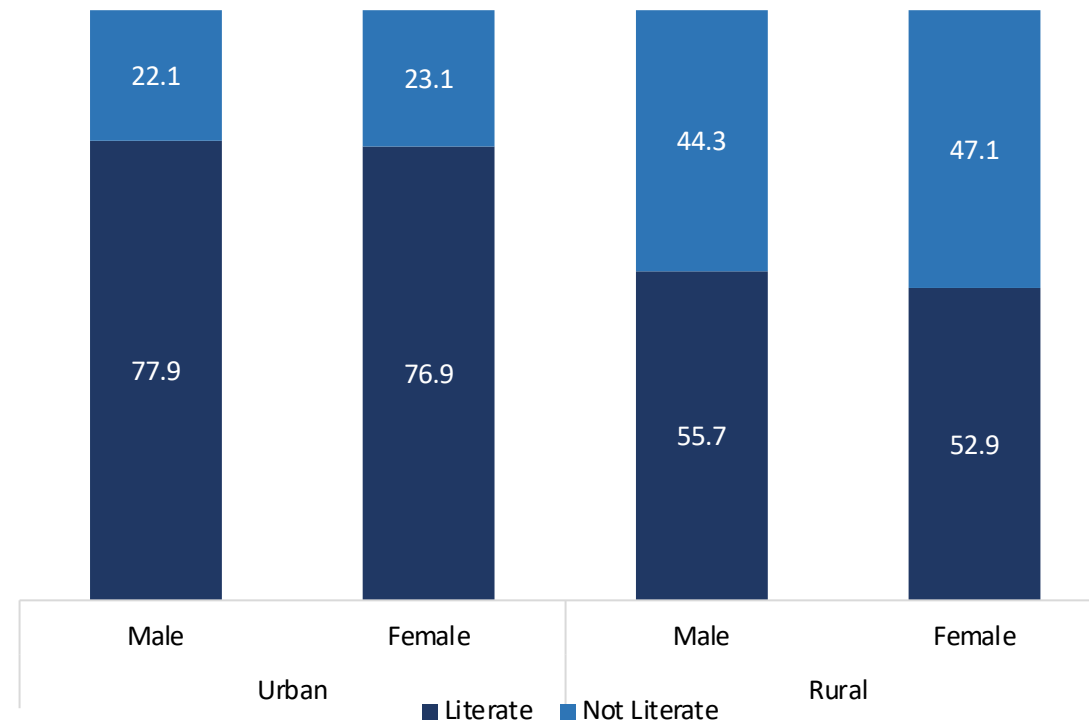
# Literacy and Educational Attainment: Literacy level of Children and Adolescents by sex and place of residence

### Literacy level of children 5-14 years by sex and place of residence



Children in urban areas were more literate than their rural counterparts

### Literacy level of Adolescents 10 -19 years by sex and place of residence



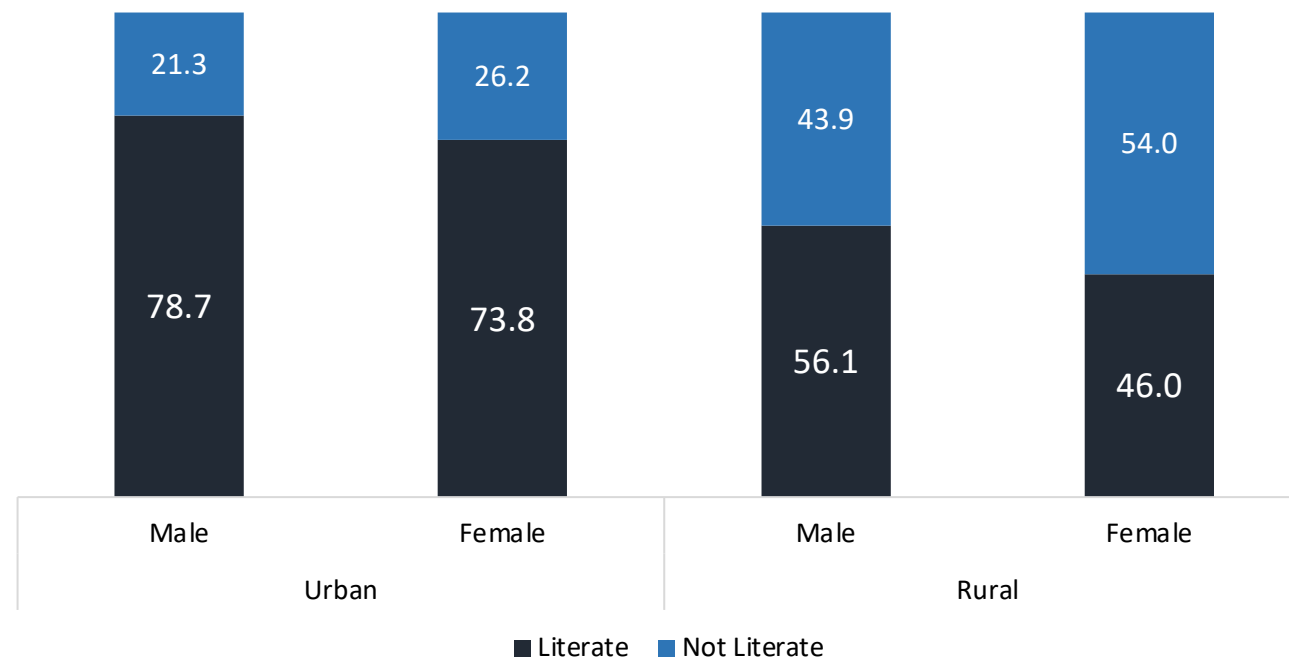
Male adolescents were more literate than female adolescents





## Literacy and Educational Attainment: Literacy level of Youth by sex and place of residence

### Literacy level of youth 15-35 years by sex and place of residence

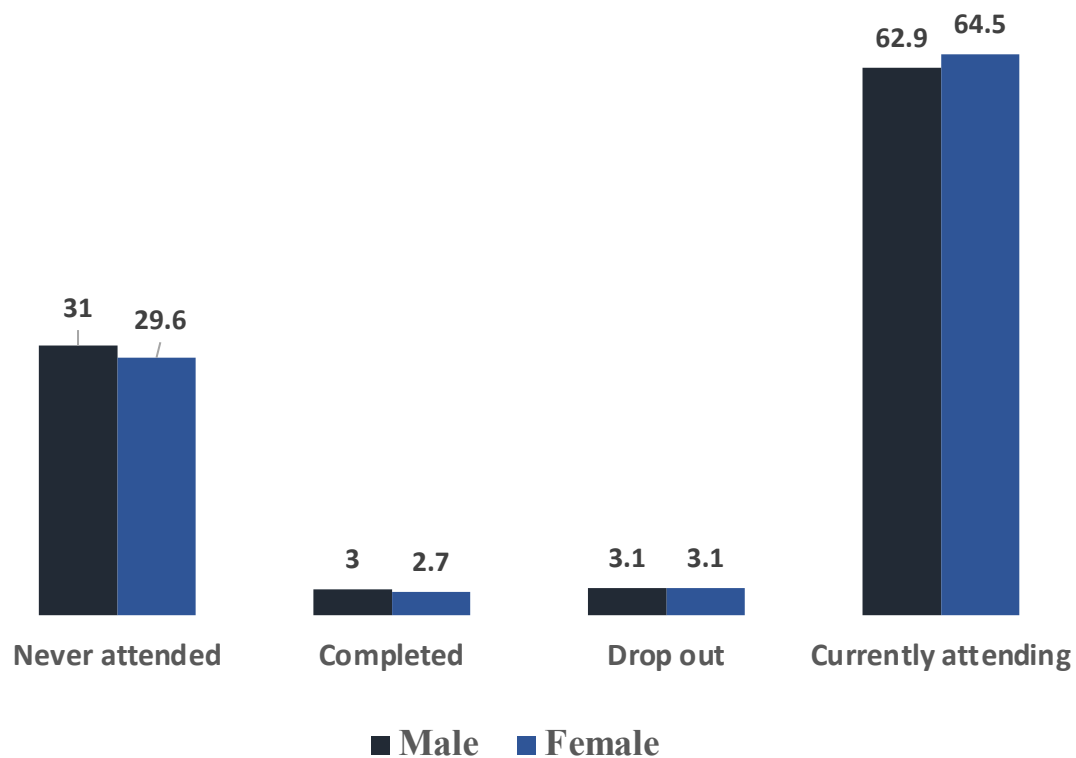


Literacy was higher among male youth than female youth aged 15-35 years



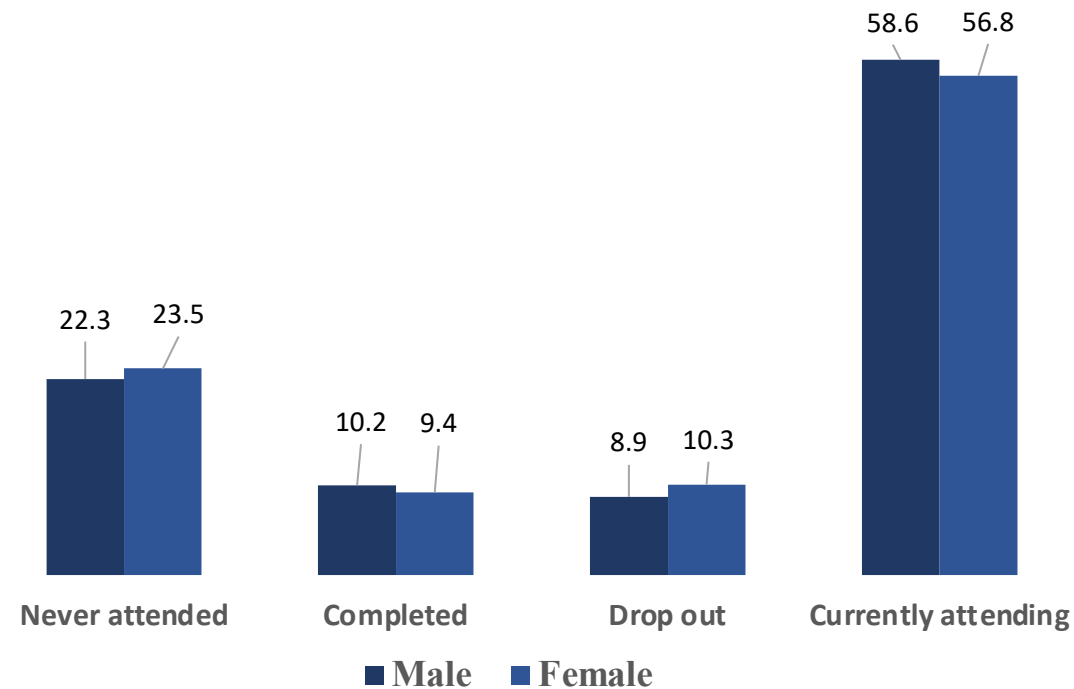
# Literacy and Educational Attainment: Children and Adolescents School Attendance by Sex

## Children 3-17 years school attendance by sex



3.1% each of male and female children aged 3-17 years were school drop outs.

## Adolescents school attendance by sex

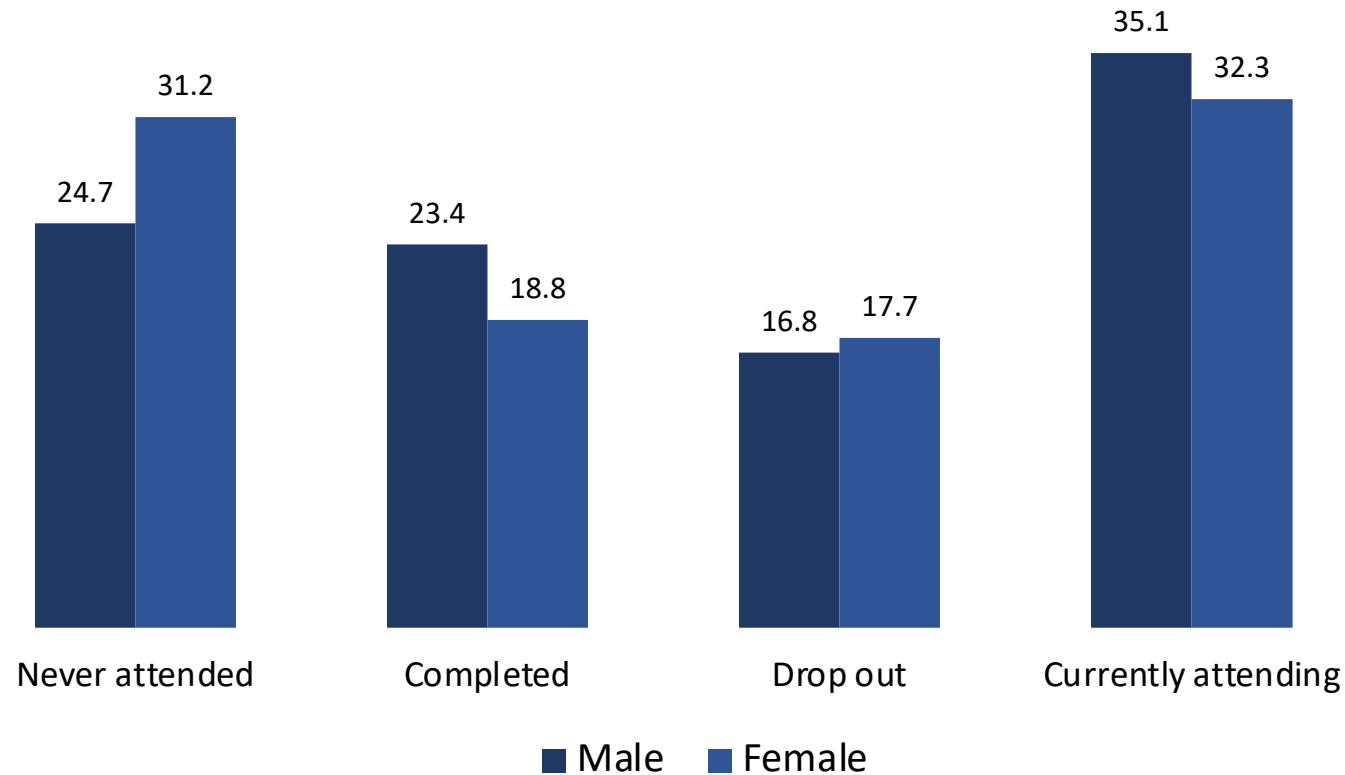


- A little over a fifth of adolescents had never attended school
- Female adolescents drop out constituted 10.3% compared to 8.9% of male adolescents



## Literacy and Educational Attainment: School Attendance of Youth 15 – 35 Population by Sex

Youth 15-35 years and school attendance by sex



Almost a third (31.2%) of female youth aged 15-35 years had never attended school compared to a quarter (24.7%) of the male youth

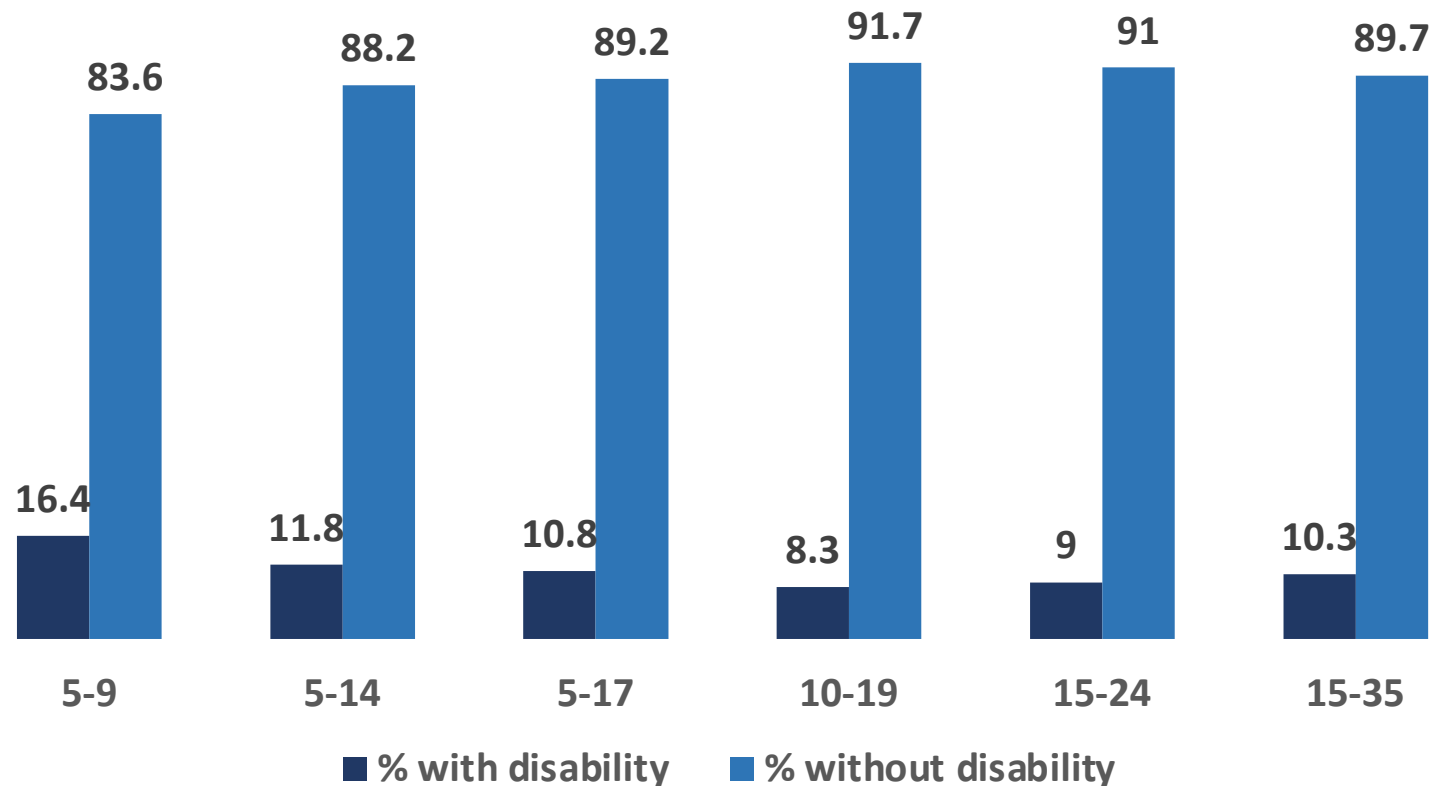
Almost 20% of either male or female youth aged 15-35 years were drop out

# **Disability and children, adolescents and youth**



## Population of Children, Adolescents and Youth with Disabilities

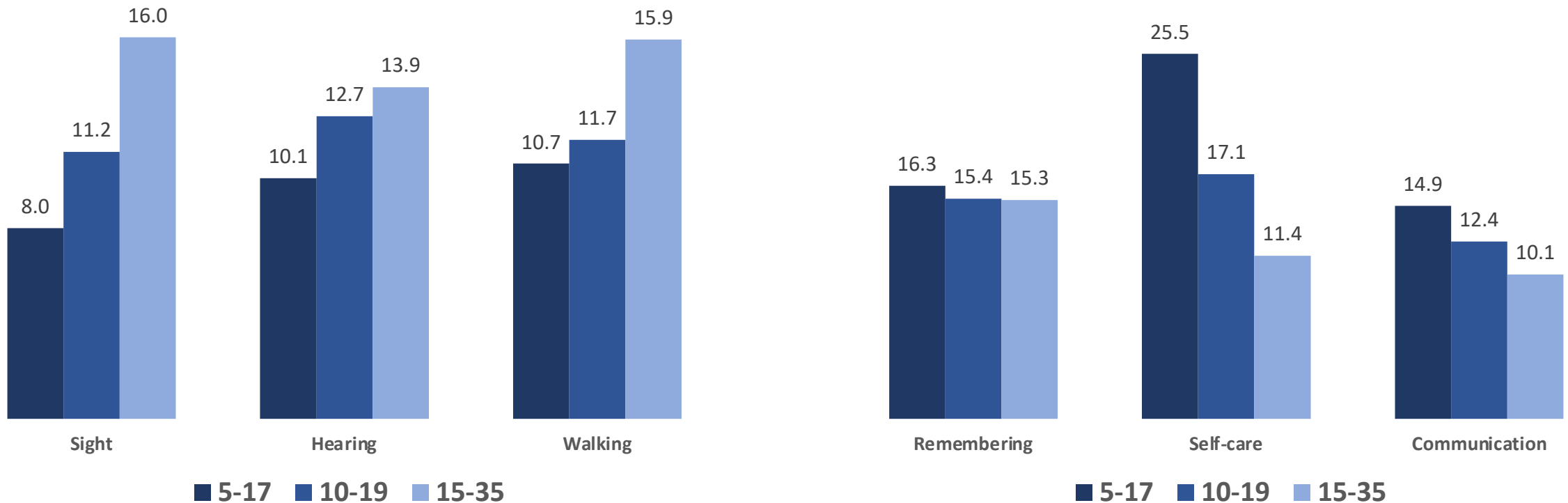
### Proportion of Children, adolescent and youth with disabilities



At least 8 out of every 10 children, adolescents and youth have no disability



## Children, Adolescents and Youth with Disabilities by Types of Disability

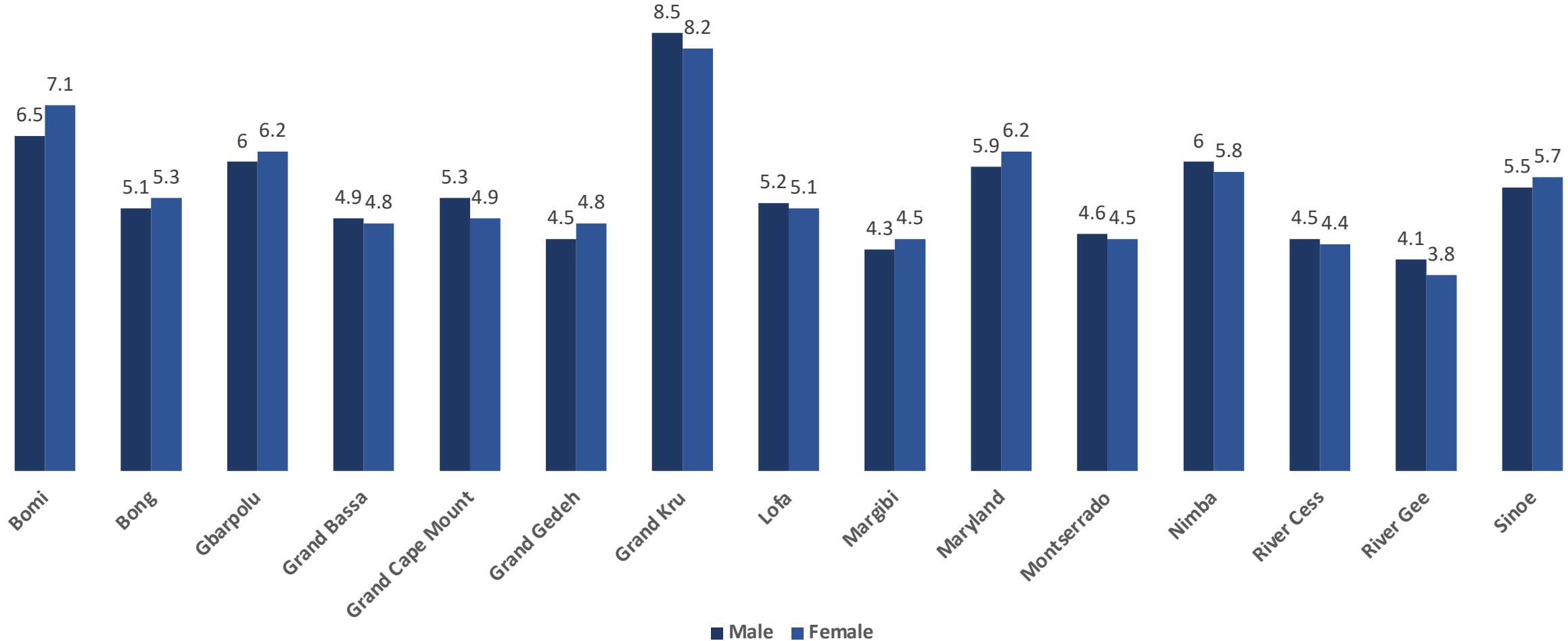


Youth aged 15-35 years have disability associated with sight (16.0%) and walking (16.0%)

A quarter of children aged 5-17 years are not able to take care of themselves.



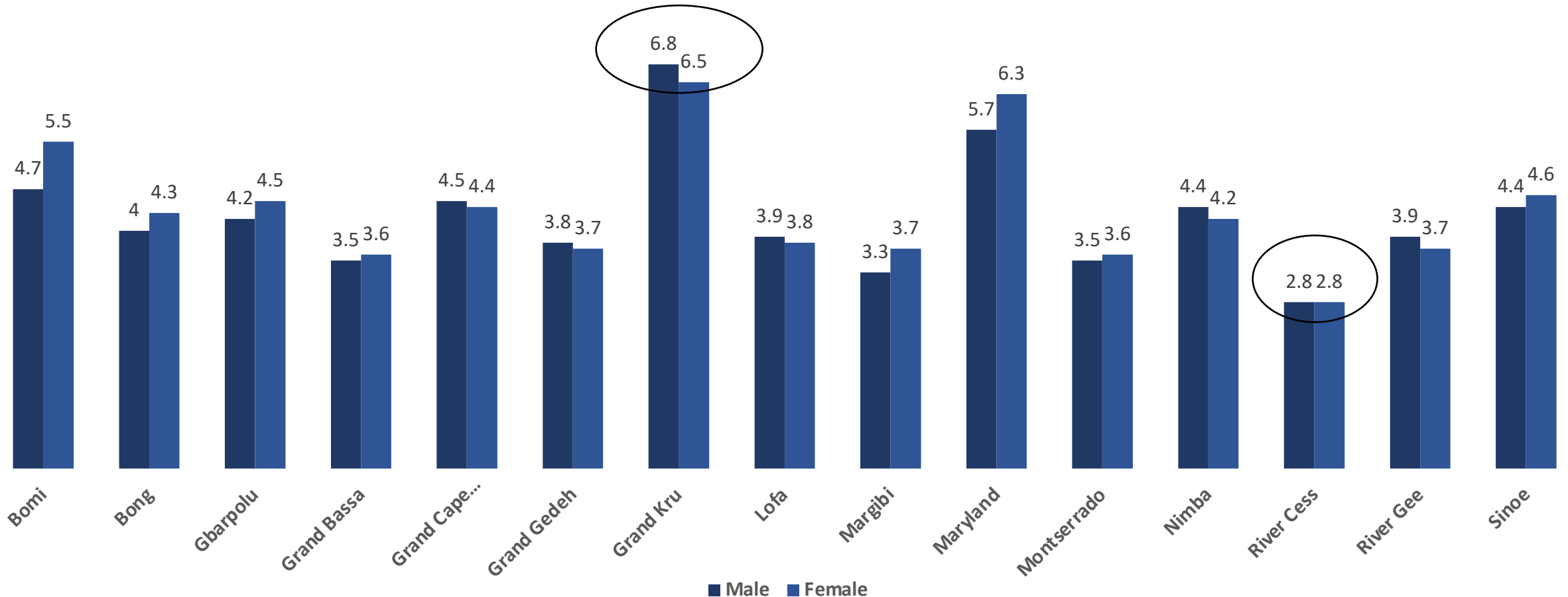
# Children, Adolescents and Youth with Disability; Children 5-17 years with disability by sex and county



Grand Kru County reported the highest proportion of children with disability



# Children, Adolescents and Youth with Disability; Adolescents with disability by sex and county

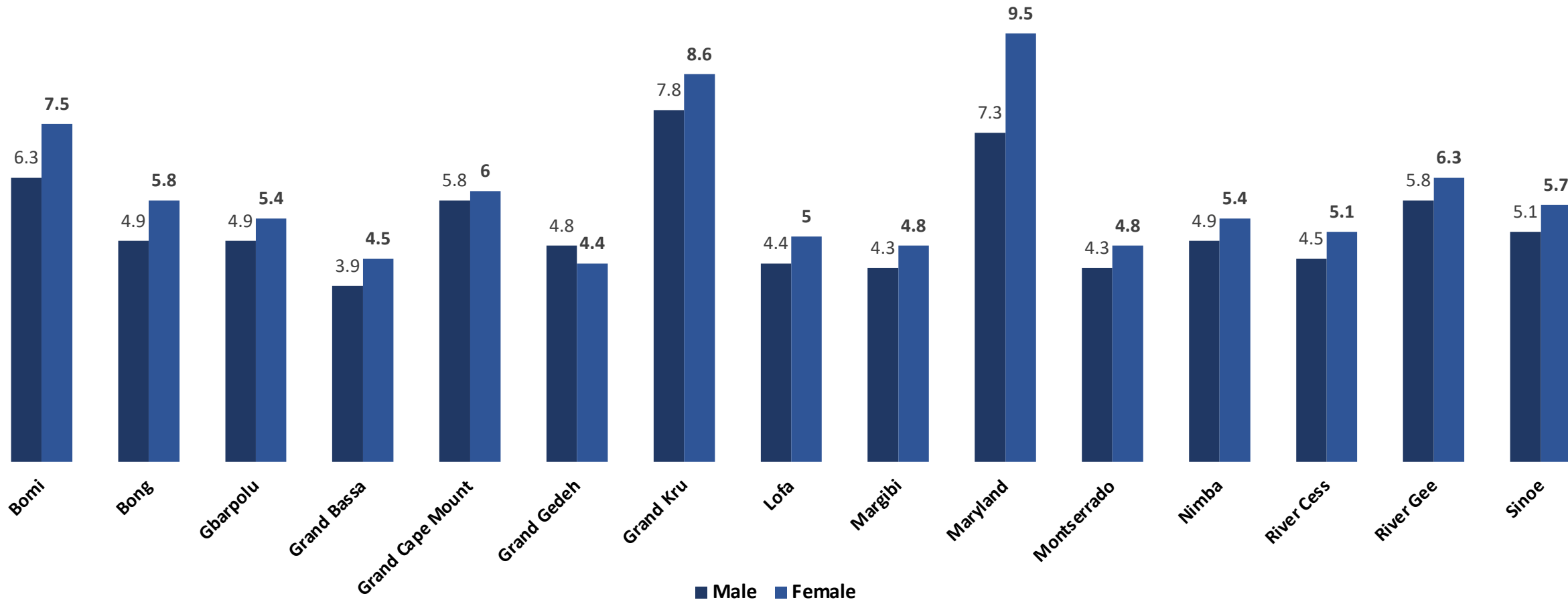


Grand Kru County reported the highest proportion of both male and female adolescents with disability. River Cess reported the lowest





# Children, Adolescents and Youth with Disability; Youth 15 -35 with disability by sex and county



Maryland reported the highest proportion (9.5%) of female youth with disability

Grand Kru reported the highest (7.8%) for male youth



## Policy Implication and Recommendation

- The large population of young people constitute a burden on the state, regarding their education and health.
  - The National Population Policy, the National Youth Policy and all other policies on children, adolescents, and youth should be revised, funded and effectively implemented
- High proportion of children with no education and adolescents and youth school drop-out
  - The government should provide incentives such as one free meal in schools to entice children to enroll in schools
- Mud floors, unprotected water sources, lack of reliable source of lighting, and use of fire for cooking wood would adversely affect the health Liberians.
  - The National Housing Authority be strengthened and adequately funded to invest in the construction of affordable rental housing facilities
- The data suggest the existence of child labor in Liberia and this will affect the holistic development of the children
  - Institutional mechanisms and operations for enforcement of child labor laws be strengthened
  - Further investigation is recommended
- Wide variations exist in household ownership of computers and mobile phones between urban and rural areas. This will cause knowledge gap in ICT in the rural areas.
  - The government should work with Telecommunication companies in Liberia (LTA), the LEC and mobile phone service providers to decentralize their services to rural areas.
- The 2022 LPHC did not collect data on births and deaths registration for assessment of their coverage.
  - Appropriate questions on births and deaths registration should be included in the next census