

CHILD-FRIENDLY REGIONAL PROFILE

Region Nine (9)

Upper Takutu- Upper Essequibo



Ministry of Communities
Building cohesive, empowered and
sustainable communities

unicef  | for every child

Published by

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

72 Brickdam, Georgetown,
Guyana.
South America.
www.unicef.org/guyana



Unicef Guyana & Suriname



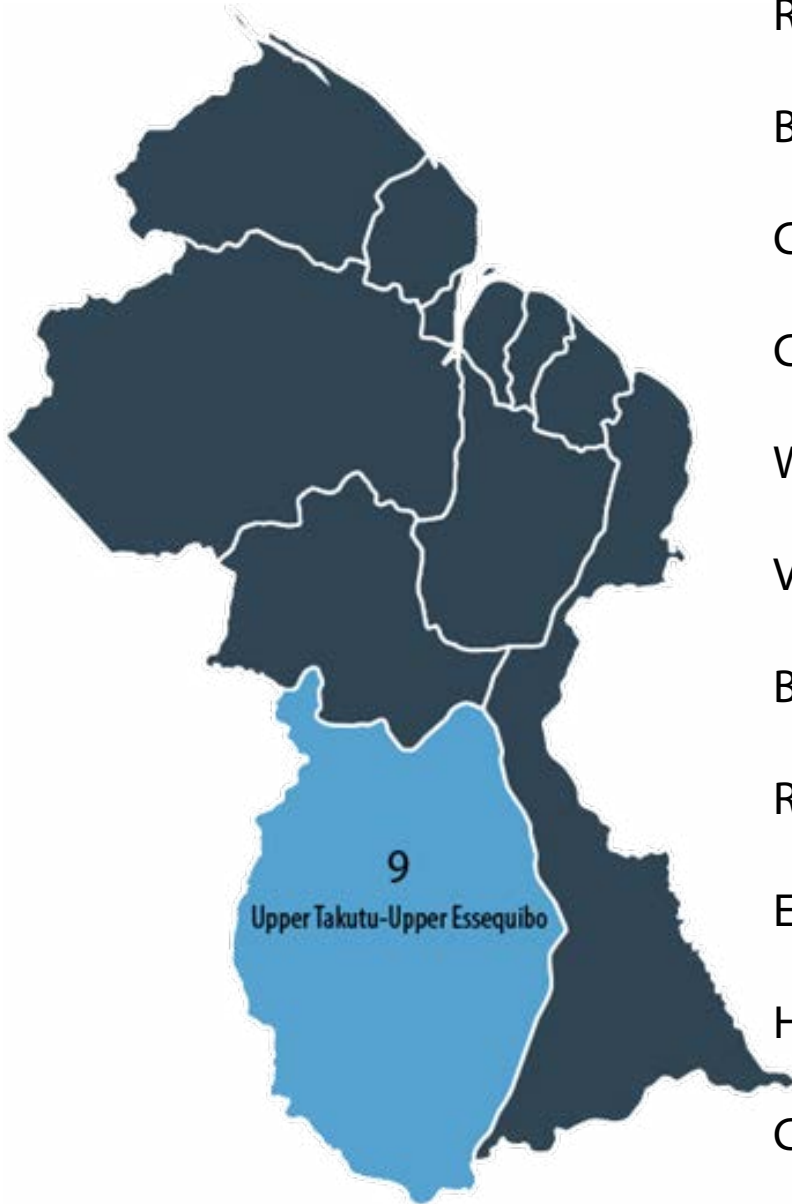
UNICEF GUYANA & SURINAME

United Nations Children's Fund

September 2017

unicef  for every child

Table of Contents



| | |
|----------------------------|----|
| Regional Profile | 4 |
| Background | 5 |
| Child Development | 7 |
| Child Protection | 8 |
| Water and Sanitation | 9 |
| Vaccinations | 10 |
| Breastfeeding | 11 |
| Reproductive Health | 12 |
| Education | 13 |
| Health | 14 |
| Conclusions | 15 |
| Annex | 16 |

There is no better investment in this world than investment in children.
— President David Granger, August 21, 2017

Region 9

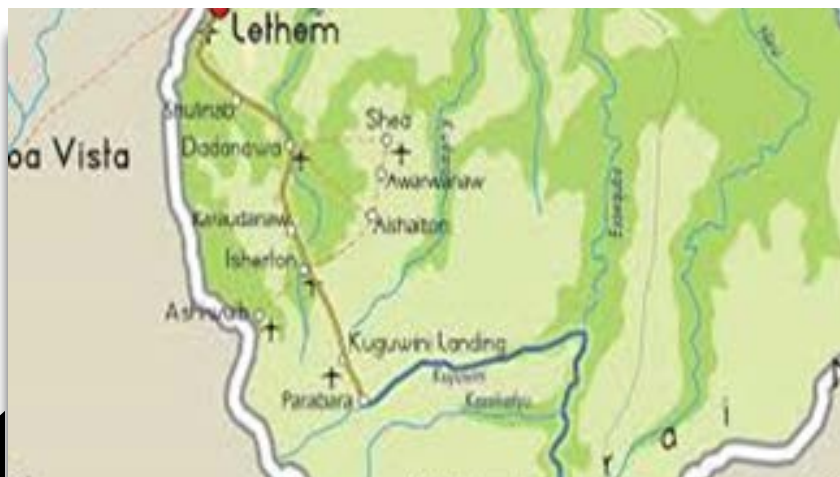
Upper Takutu-Upper Essequibo

The Kanuku and Kamao high-lands and the vast Rupununi savannahs make up the Upper Takutu-Upper Essequibo region. The forested Kanuku Mountains divide this Region in two sub-regions. The north savannahs are about 2,000 square miles in area and the south savannahs are 2,500 square miles.

The population of this region is 24,238 persons, who live in scattered Indigenous villages and land settlement schemes. Because of the grassy savannahs, the Rupununi is considered to be 'cattle country'. Most of the cattle are farmed to produce beef and a few are kept for milk. There are large ranches at Aishalon, Annai, Dadanawa and Karanambo. Much of the beef produced here is sold in neighbouring Brazil, because transportation to the other regions of Guyana, especially Region Four, is very expensive.

The people of this region also mine semiprecious stones among the foothills of the Kamao Mountains and among the Marundi Mountains. A wide variety of craft is produced in many of the 17 Indigenous villages and sold mainly to Brazil.

In Region Nine, you can see the Giant River Otter, the Arapaima (the largest freshwater fish in the world) and the black Cayman.



Location of Region 9 (Upper Takutu-Upper Essequibo)

Background

Context

The Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana and the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) are committed to the wellbeing and development of Guyanese children.

The Government at the national and sub-national levels is committed to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). UNICEF is the custodian or co-custodian of 10 of the SDG indicators (stunting, wasting/overweight, skilled attendance at birth, under five mortality, neonatal mortality, early childhood development, early marriage, FGM/C, child discipline and sexual violence against children).

This commitment is demonstrated by their support for the generation and dissemination of evidence to inform the development of plans, policies, projects, and programmes to address equity gaps in areas of survival, lifelong learning, protection, and participation of children.

Need for Developmental Data

Building sustainable communities is part of the Ministry of Communities' mandate. An essential component of sustainable communities is being child-friendly. This effort to develop child friendly regional data profiles is a repackaging of existing data from empirical sources in a way that is specific to a region and can be used by decision makers to the fullest extent possible, for the realisation of child rights. It can also assist in supporting the achievement of the SDGs.

Disaggregated data on social indicators are an essential component of evidence informed policies, plans, projects and programmes. It enables actors to effectively monitor progress toward the realisation of national and international goals and commitments and helps to measure whether these goals have been achieved and to what extent.

Data supports national and sub-national governance structures to focus their interventions on the most deprived thereby reducing inequities and identify capacity deprivations for corresponding capacity building initiatives.

This child-friendly regional profile compiled by the Government of Guyana through its Ministry of Communities, in collaboration with UNICEF, provides current information for all actors.

Methodology

The process of developing this profile was participatory and involved varied stakeholders.

Using the Multiple Cluster Indicators Survey (MICS) 2014 and other national surveys, consultations were carried out with the Regional Administration and other stakeholders to present the findings, seek consensus and validate the processes.

The data presented and the profile prepared represent a commitment by the Regional Administration and stakeholders to sustainable community development in a child friendly way.

The profile indicates areas of achievements and areas of deprivations, some of which are the lowest in the country.

Undoubtedly, the Regional Administration, national government, local actors and international development partners will work to address the issues the data unfolds.

Child Development

Fig. 1.1: Early Child Development Indexⁱ



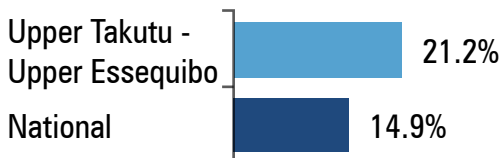
Fig. 1.2: Mother's Support for Learningⁱⁱ



Fig. 1.3: Availability of Playthingsⁱⁱⁱ



Fig. 1.4: Father's Support for Learning^{iv}



Achievements / Areas for Attention

73.6 percent of the children of the region are developmentally on track in at least three of the following four domains: literacy-numeracy, physical, social-emotional, and learning.

57.1 percent of mothers support learning in their children. This is more than two times higher than the father's support for learning and the national average which is just over 53 percent.

65.8 percent of the region's children had things for playing. Playthings are associated with both positive cognitive and social development in children.

21.2 percent of fathers supported learning in their children and suggests a high number of matrifocal households, which are also linked to poverty. Efforts should be made to improve this figure.

Child Protection

Fig. 2.1: Birth Registration^{vi}



Fig. 2.2: Child Labour^{vii}

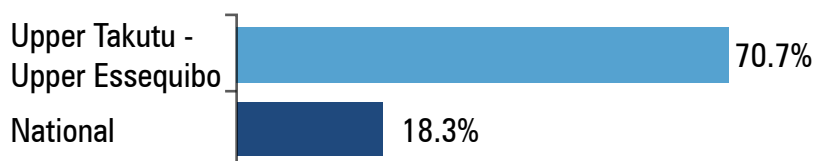


Fig. 2.3: Violent Discipline^{viii}



Fig. 2.4: Child Marriage Before Age 15 [Female]^{ix}



Fig. 2.5: Child Marriage Before Age 18 [Female]^x



Achievements /Areas for Attention

At 91.1 percent, Birth Registration in this region is slightly higher than the national average of 88.7 percent. Efforts should be made to realise 100 percent.

At 70.7 percent of children aged 5-17, in this region, are involved in child labour. This is 3.8 times higher than the national average. Child labour is associated with school attendance delinquency and/or school dropout. This area should be investigated and interventions developed children age 5-17 years who are involved in child labour and implemented in short order.

Violent discipline of children is high at 87.2 percent, higher than the national average and presents an area for attention by all actors.

Child Marriages are prevalent in this region, averaging at 6.1 percent before 15 and 41.3 percent, 17.1 percent higher than the national average, before age 18. Child marriages are linked to low educational achievement.

Water and Sanitation

Fig. 3.1: Place for Handwashing^{xi}



Fig. 3.2: Availability of Soap or Other Cleaning Detergents^{xii}



Fig. 3.3: Water Treatment^{xiii}

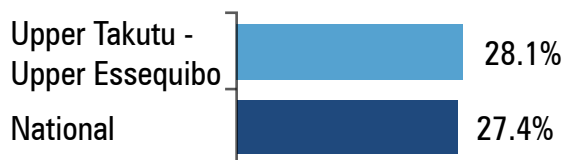


Fig. 3.4: Use of Improved Drinking Water Sources^{xiv}



Fig. 3.5: Use of Improved Sanitation^{xv}



Achievements /Areas for Attention

84.3 percent of the households in this region have made provisions for a place for handwashing. This number must increase for the achievement of this SDG.

The region placed the highest of the ten administrative regions with 90.7 percent of its population having soap or any other cleansing agent being available to them for sanitation purposes.

28.1 percent of the population undertake some form of water treatment. Un-treated water is linked to high incidences of diseases and water-borne illnesses.

Only 42 percent of the population have improved drinking sources. This indicator needs improvement for the achievement of the SDG on sanitation.

Only 58.7 percent percent of the region's residents had improved sanitation facilities. This is significantly less than the national average of 86.9 percent. Improved sanitation is linked to better overall health and well-being.

Vaccinations

Fig. 4.1: Polio Immunisation Coverage^{xvi}



Fig. 4.2: Tuberculosis Immunisation Coverage^{xvii}

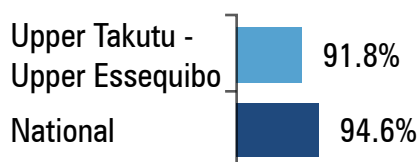


Fig. 4.3: Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus (DPT) Immunisation Coverage (Pentavalent)^{xviii}

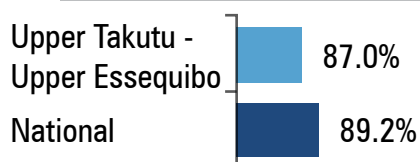


Fig. 4.4: Measles Immunisation Coverage^{xix}

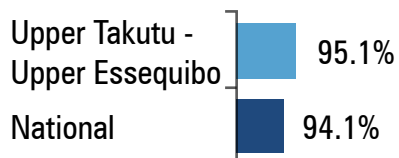
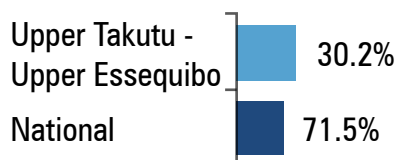


Fig. 4.5: Yellow Fever Immunisation Coverage^{xx}



Achievements / Areas for Attention

Childhood immunisation against Polio is 87 percent and lower than the national average. Efforts should be made to achieve the goal of 100 percent.

Tuberculosis immunisation is high, 91.8 percent. This is slightly lower than the national average.

DPT immunisation in the region is 87 percent, which is less than the national average. raising this to 100 percent should be the goal.

At 95.1 percent, measles immunization in this region is higher than the national average but lower than the goal of 100.

Yellow fever immunisation is 30.2 percent which is the lowest coverage among all the regions. The national average is more than two times higher and therefore this is an area that needs urgent attention.

Breastfeeding

Fig. 5.1: Child Ever Breastfed^{xxi}

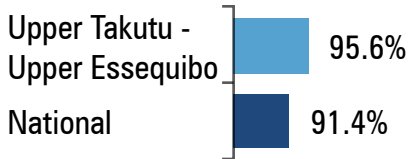


Fig. 5.2: Age appropriate Breastfeeding^{xxii}

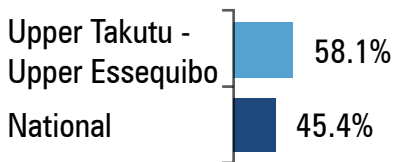
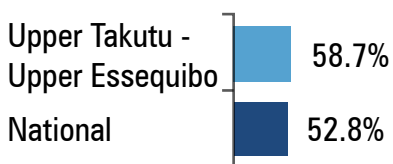


Fig. 5.3: Exclusive Breastfeeding Under Six Months^{xxiii}



Fig. 5.4: Early Initiation of Breastfeeding^{xxiv}



Achievements /Areas for Attention

95.6 percent of the population of infants in the region were breastfed at least once. However, breastfeeding overall is an area in need of urgent attention.

58.1 percent of children age 0-23 months appropriately fed. This should be encouraged as other areas of breastfeeding are targeted for improvement.

The breastfeeding indicators for the region are low. The goal is 100 percent exclusive breastfeeding under six months. Efforts should be focused on increasing this indicator since it has an impact on the future health of children and their social development.

The region places the highest in exclusive breastfeeding at 48.8 percent but this is less than half the goal of 100 percent.

Early initiation of breastfeeding i.e. within one hour of birth is 58.7 percent in this region. Though higher than the national average, it is still low even after considering health and other factors.

Reproductive Health

Achievements / Areas for Attention

Fig. 6.1: Antenatal Care Coverage^{xxvi}

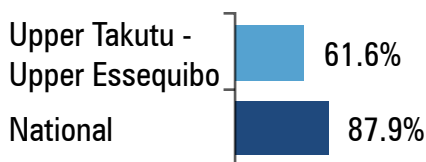


Fig. 6.2: Postnatal Health Check for Newborns^{xxvii}

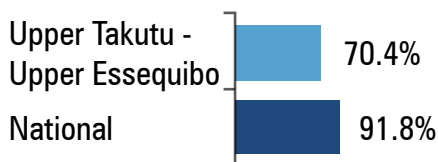


Fig. 6.3: Adolescent Birth Rate^{xxviii}

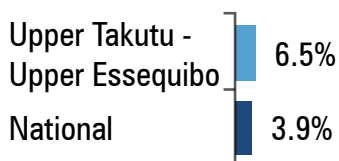
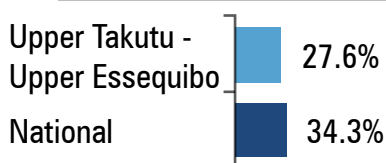


Fig. 6.4: Early Child Bearing^{xxix}



Fig. 6.5: Contraceptives Prevalence Rate^{xxx}



The indicators show that the region is not on track with its reproductive health capacities in both its prenatal and postnatal care of children.

Antenatal care coverage, which has an impact on both the health of the woman and child is satisfactory at 61.6 percent but significantly lower than the national average of 87.9 percent. Postnatal health check for newborns is satisfactory at 70.4 percent but is significantly lower than the national average of 91.8 percent.

At 6.5 percent, adolescent birth rate is almost twice the national average of 3.9 percent. This area is in need of some interventions.

Early child bearing at 29.3 percent is in need of urgent attention. Early child bearing has consequences for the health of both mother and child. In hinterland regions such as Region 9, access to the necessary specialised care may not always be available in the region.

27.6 percent of the region's population use contraceptives. Contraceptive use is linked to social and health benefits for mother, child and the family.

Education

Achievements / Areas for Attention

Fig. 7.1: School Readiness^{xxx1}

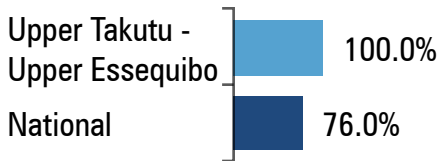


Fig. 7.2: Primary Completion Rate^{xxxii}

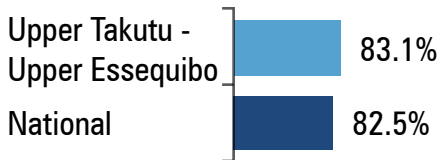


Fig. 7.3: Transition Rate to Secondary School^{xxxiii}

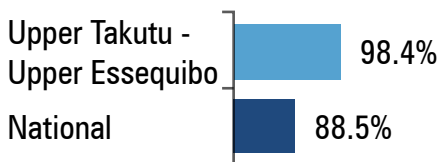


Fig. 7.4: Availability of Children's Books^{xxxiv}



The indicators of education observed in the region overall is high indicating that the region is on track in meeting the exclusive goal of 100 percent. School readiness and school completion rates are high at 100 percent and 83.1 percent respectively.

This indicator is high at 98.4 percent and higher than the national average.

The availability of learning materials and resources needed for a successful and fulfilling school life can be increased. More than 70 percent of the region's children do not have adequate children's books. Only 23.7 has children books. The availability of children's books is linked to support for learning, higher IQs in children and higher school performance.

Health

Fig. 8.1: Use of Tobacco [Male]^{xxxv}

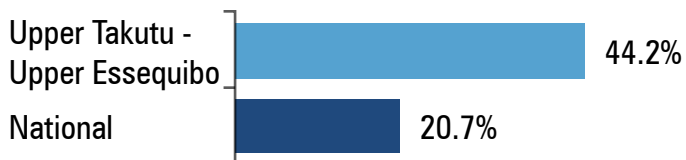


Fig. 8.2: Smoking Before Age 15 [Male]^{xxxvi}



Fig. 8.3: Use of Alcohol [Male]^{xxxvii}

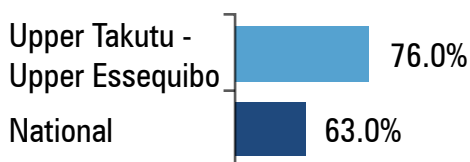
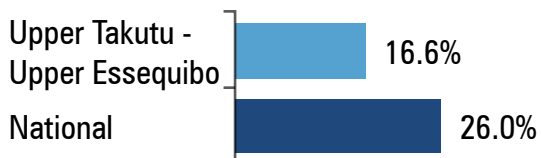


Fig. 8.4: Use of Alcohol [Female]^{xxxviii}



Achievements / Areas for Attention

42.2 percent of the males in the region use tobacco, more than double the national average.

Smoking before age 15 among males, essentially children, is also high at 16.9 percent and more than national average which is 9.4 percent.

76.0 percent of males in the region use alcohol and is a cause of concern as it can lead to unwanted social consequences including violence against women and children.

22.8 percent of males below the age of 15 use alcohol.

16.6 percent of females in the region use alcohol and this should be a cause for concern. Alcohol use among females whilst pregnant leads to developmental health problems for the foetus.

Conclusions

This child-friendly profile represents an important first step in the presentation of regional aggregated indicators of women and children.

It can be an important addition to the resources on the achievement of national goals and policies.

It is hoped that the resource will be used by all actors in the achievement of a more child-friendly society.

As this is a first step, the Ministry of Communities welcomes your feedback and response to the document. Feedback will allow us to improve future editions.

Annex

- i. Number of children age 36-59 months who are developmentally on track in at least three of the following four domains: literacy-numeracy, physical, social-emotional, and learning. Total number of children age 36-59 months.
- ii. Number of children age 36-59 months whose biological mother has engaged in four or more activities to promote learning and school readiness in the last 3 days. Total number of children age 36-59 months.
- iii. Number of children under age 5 who play with two or more types of playthings. Total number of children under age 5.
- iv. Number of children age 36-59 months whose biological father has engaged in four or more activities to promote learning and school readiness in the last 3 days. Total number of children aged 36-59 months.
- v. Number of children under age 5 who have three or more children's books. Total number of children under age 5.
- vi. Number of children under age 5 whose births are reported registered. Total number of children under age 5.
- vii. Number of children age 5-17 years who are involved in child labour Total number of children age 5-17 years.
- viii. Number of children age 1-14 years who experienced psychological aggression or physical punishment during the last one month. Total number of children age 1-14.
- ix. Number of women age 15-49 years who were first married or in union before age 15. Total number of women age 15-49
- x. Number of women age 20-49 years who were first married or in union before age 18. Total number of women age 20-49
- xi. Number of households with a specific place for hand washing where water and soap or other cleansing agent are present. Total number of households.
- xii. Number of households with soap or other cleansing agent. Total number of households.
- xiii. Number of household members in households using unimproved drinking water who use an appropriate treatment method. Total number of household members in households using unimproved drinking water sources
- xiv. Number of household members using improved sources of drinking water. Total number of household members.
- xv. Number of household members using improved sanitation facilities which are not shared. Total number of household members.
- xvi. Number of children age 12-23 months who received the third dose of OPV vaccine (OPV3) by their first birthday. Total number of children aged 12-23 months.
- xvii. Number of children age 12-23 months who received BCG vaccine by their first birthday. Total number of children aged 12-23 months.
- xviii. Number of children age 12-23 months who received the third dose of DPT vaccine (DPT3) by their first birthday. Total number of children aged 12-23 months.
- xix. Number of children age 24-35 months who received measles vaccine by their second birthday. Total number of children aged 24-35 months.
- xx. Number of children age 24-35 months who received yellow fever vaccine by their second birthday. Total number of children aged 24-35 months.
- xxi. Number of women with a live birth in the last 2 years who breastfed their last live-born child at any time. Total number of women with a live birth in the last 2 years.
- xxii. Number of children age 0-23 months appropriately fed during the previous day. Total number of children aged 0-23 months.
- xxiii. Number of infants under 6 months of age who are exclusively breastfed Total number of infants under 6 months of age.
- xxiv. Number of women with a live birth in the last 2 years who put their last newborn to the breast within one hour of birth. Total number of women with a live birth in the last 2 years.
- xxv. Number of children age 0-23 months appropriately fed during the previous day. Total number of children aged 0-23 months.

xxvi. Number of women age 15-49 years with a live birth in the last 2 years who were attended during their last pregnancy that led to a live birth

(a) at least once by skilled health personnel and

(b) at least four times by any provider. Total number of women age 15-49 years with a live birth in the last 2 years.

xxvii. Number of last live births in the last 2 years who received a health check while in facility or at home following delivery, or a post-natal care visit within 2 days after delivery. Total number of last live births in the last 2 years.

xxviii. Age-specific fertility rate for women age 15-19 years

xxix. Number of women age 20-24 years who had at least one live birth before age 18. Total number of women aged 20-24

xxx. Number of women age 15-49 years currently married or in union who are using (or whose partner is using) a (modern or traditional) contraceptive method. Total number of women age 15-49 years who are currently married or in union.

xxxi. Number of children in first grade of primary school who attended pre-school during the previous school year. Total number of children attending the first grade of primary school.

xxxii. Number of children attending the last grade of primary school (excluding repeaters). Total number of children of primary school completion age (age appropriate to final grade of primary school).

xxxiii. Number of children attending the last grade of primary school during the previous school year who are in the first grade of secondary school during the current school year. Total number of children attending the last grade of primary school during the previous school year.

xxxiv. Number of children under age 5 who have three or more children's books. Total number of children under age 5.

xxxv. Number of men age 15-49 years who smoked cigarettes, or used smoked or smokeless tobacco products at any time during the last one month. Total number of men age 15-49 years.

xxxvi. Number of men age 15-49 years who smoked a whole cigarette before age 15. Total number of men aged 15-49.

xxxvii. Number of men age 15-49 years who had at least one alcoholic drink at any time during the last one month. Total number of men age 15-49 years

xxxviii. Number of women age 15-49 years who had at least one alcoholic drink at any time during the last one month. Total number of women age 15-49 years

xxxix. Number of men age 15-49 years who, at least once a week, read a newspaper or magazine, listen to the radio, and watch television. Total number of men age 15-49 years.

xl. Number of women age 15-49 years who, at least once a week, read a newspaper or magazine, listen to the radio, and watch television. Total number of men age 15-49 years.

xli. Number of young men age 15-24 who used the internet during the last 12 months. Total number of men aged 15-24.

xlii. Number of young women age 15-24 who used the internet during the last 12 months. Total number of women aged 15-24.

Notes
