

This chapter presents information on some socioeconomic characteristics of the household population and the individual survey respondents, such as age, sex, education, and place of residence. The environmental profile of households in the 2005-06 ZDHS sample is also examined. Taken together, these descriptive data provide a context for the interpretation of demographic and health indices and can furnish an approximate indication of the representativeness of the survey.

The 2005-06 ZDHS collected information from all usual residents of a selected household (the *de jure* population) and persons who had stayed in the selected household the night before the interview (the *de facto* population). Because the difference between these two populations is small, to maintain comparability with other surveys, all tables in this report refer to the *de facto* population unless otherwise specified.

## 2.1 HOUSEHOLD POPULATION BY AGE, SEX, AND RESIDENCE

The 2005-06 ZDHS Household Questionnaire was used to collect data on the demographic and social characteristics of all usual residents of the sampled household and on visitors who had spent the previous night in the household.<sup>1</sup>

Table 2.1 shows the distribution of the 2005-06 ZDHS household population by five-year age groups, according to sex and urban-rural residence. The ZDHS households constitute a population of 40,805 individuals; 52 percent of the population are female and 48 percent are male. There are larger numbers of the population in the younger age groups than in the older age groups of each sex, particularly in rural areas.

The age-sex structure of the population is shown by use of a population pyramid in Figure 2.1. The pyramid has a wide but tapering base, a pattern that is consistent with a population experiencing a decline in fertility. The number of children under five is less than the number age five to nine years, a finding that is consistent with a recent fertility decline. The proportion of children under 15 years of age was around 44 percent in 2005-06, while that of persons over 65 years of age was about 5 percent.

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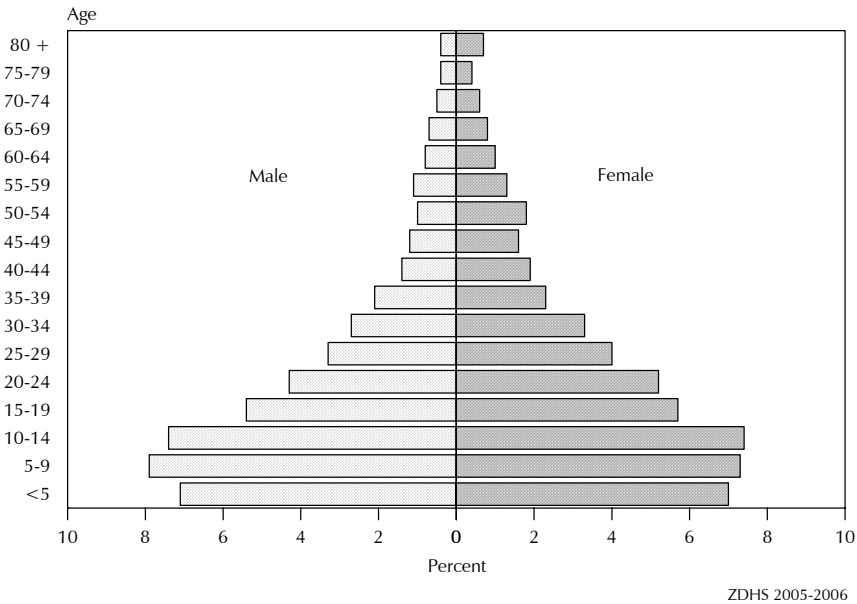
<sup>1</sup> A household refers to a person or group of related and unrelated persons who live together in the same dwelling unit(s), who acknowledge one adult male or female as head of household, who share the same housekeeping arrangements, and who are considered one unit. A member of the household is any person who usually lives in the household, and a visitor is someone who is not a usual member of the household but had slept in the household the night before the interview date. The household population presented in this chapter includes, unless otherwise stated, all usual members of the household who slept in the household the night before the survey and visitors (*de facto* population).

Table 2.1 Household population by age, sex, and residence

Percent distribution of the de facto household population by five-year age groups, according to sex and residence, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Age	Urban			Rural			Total		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
<5	12.0	11.8	11.9	16.4	14.1	15.2	15.0	13.4	14.1
5-9	12.7	11.2	11.9	18.3	15.2	16.6	16.5	13.9	15.1
10-14	11.5	11.0	11.2	17.3	15.6	16.4	15.5	14.2	14.8
15-19	10.4	13.7	12.1	11.9	9.7	10.7	11.4	10.9	11.2
20-24	12.6	14.1	13.4	7.2	8.1	7.7	9.0	10.0	9.5
25-29	9.7	9.9	9.8	5.5	6.7	6.1	6.8	7.7	7.3
30-34	8.3	7.5	7.9	4.4	5.8	5.1	5.7	6.3	6.0
35-39	6.3	6.1	6.2	3.4	3.7	3.6	4.3	4.5	4.4
40-44	3.9	4.4	4.1	2.4	3.2	2.8	2.9	3.6	3.2
45-49	3.3	2.8	3.0	2.3	3.1	2.7	2.6	3.0	2.8
50-54	3.0	2.9	3.0	1.6	3.8	2.7	2.0	3.5	2.8
55-59	2.2	1.3	1.8	2.3	3.0	2.7	2.3	2.4	2.4
60-64	1.5	1.3	1.4	1.8	2.1	1.9	1.7	1.8	1.7
65-69	1.2	0.7	0.9	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.6	1.4	1.5
70-74	0.6	0.6	0.6	1.4	1.5	1.4	1.1	1.2	1.2
75-79	0.3	0.3	0.3	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.8	0.8	0.8
80+	0.6	0.4	0.5	1.1	1.7	1.4	0.9	1.3	1.1
Number	6,226	6,688	12,914	13,215	14,674	27,891	19,441	21,361	40,805

Figure 2.1 Population Pyramid



## 2.2 HOUSEHOLD COMPOSITION

Table 2.2 shows that a female heads more than one in three households in Zimbabwe (38 percent). The proportion of female-headed households has increased slightly from 34 percent in the 1999 ZDHS to 38 percent 2005-06 ZDHS. The proportion of female-headed households also increased in urban areas (23 to 29 percent) and rural areas (39 to 43 percent) for the same time period. The average household size has increased slightly from 4.2 people in 1999 to 4.5 people in 2005-06. Urban households are, on average, slightly smaller (4.1 people) than rural households (4.6 people). Overall, 35 percent of households have foster children, as do 25 percent of urban households and 40 percent of rural households. This is an increase since 1999 when 21 percent of households had foster children with 11 percent in urban areas and 27 percent in rural areas. Foster children are those individuals under 15 years of age who have no natural parent in the household. The total number of households interviewed was 9,285 of which 66 percent and 34 percent were in rural and urban areas, respectively.

## 2.3 EDUCATION OF THE HOUSEHOLD POPULATION

### 2.3.1 EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

The educational level of household members is among the most important characteristics of the household because it is associated with many phenomena that have a significant impact on health-seeking behaviour, reproductive behaviour, use of contraception, and the health of children.

Table 2.3 shows the distribution of female and male household members age 6 years and above by the highest level of education ever attended (even if they did not complete that level) and the median number of years of education completed, according to age, urban-rural residence, province, and wealth quintile. Survey results show that the majority of Zimbabweans have attained some form of education. Generally, educational attainment is slightly higher for males than for females, with 91 percent of males having attended school versus 88 percent of females. However, in Zimbabwe there is very little difference by sex among other educational attainment indices. The percentage for males and females who had only some primary education is similar (42 percent for males and 43 percent for females). Likewise, 7 percent of males and 6 percent of females completed primary school but did not go on to the secondary level. Thirty-seven percent of males had some secondary schooling, compared with 36 percent of females. A relatively small amount of males (2 percent) and females (1 percent) completed secondary school and did not go on to attain any post-secondary education. The percentage of males (4 percent) and females (2 percent) in the 2005-06 ZDHS who had more than a secondary education remained the same as what was observed in the 1994 ZDHS.

Table 2.2 Household composition

Percent distribution of households by sex of head of household and by household size; and mean size of household, according to residence, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Characteristic	Residence		Total
	Urban	Rural	
<b>Household headship</b>			
Male	71.5	57.4	62.3
Female	28.5	42.6	37.7
<b>Number of usual members</b>			
0	0.2	0.1	0.1
1	11.0	9.7	10.1
2	13.1	10.3	11.3
3	18.4	15.2	16.3
4	20.5	16.9	18.1
5	13.9	16.3	15.5
6	9.8	11.1	10.6
7	6.4	8.1	7.5
8	3.5	5.1	4.5
9+	3.3	7.3	5.9
Percentage with foster children	25.1	39.7	34.6
Mean size of households	4.1	4.6	4.5
Number of households	3,201	6,084	9,285

Note: Table is based on de jure members, i.e., usual residents.

Table 2.3 Educational attainment of household population

Percent distribution of the de facto female and male household population age six and over by highest level of education attended or completed, according to background characteristics, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Background characteristic	No education	Some primary	Completed primary <sup>1</sup>	Some secondary	Completed secondary <sup>2</sup>	More than secondary	Don't know/missing	Number	Median number of years
<b>FEMALE</b>									
<b>Age</b>									
6-9	28.7	70.6	0.0	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.4	2,372	0.5
10-14	1.1	69.8	17.9	10.7	0.0	0.0	0.4	3,024	4.7
15-19	0.8	23.2	4.9	69.8	0.8	0.3	0.1	2,335	7.6
20-24	1.0	20.3	3.8	69.4	2.7	2.9	0.0	2,134	9.1
25-29	1.1	24.1	5.0	64.2	0.8	4.6	0.2	1,639	8.5
30-34	3.2	26.9	3.8	59.7	1.2	4.7	0.6	1,348	7.9
35-39	4.1	29.8	3.5	56.5	0.9	4.9	0.3	954	7.8
40-44	17.0	42.2	6.9	27.5	0.7	5.5	0.3	765	6.2
45-49	20.0	52.2	6.4	16.5	0.5	3.7	0.7	649	4.9
50-54	22.7	51.8	7.2	14.9	0.3	1.7	1.5	751	4.3
55-59	30.2	48.8	5.5	13.9	0.1	1.0	0.4	522	3.2
60-64	34.9	46.0	6.1	7.7	0.2	2.7	2.3	389	2.5
65+	53.8	36.2	3.0	3.3	0.3	1.0	2.5	1,008	0.0
<b>Residence</b>									
Urban	4.8	28.2	4.2	55.6	2.0	4.6	0.7	5,746	7.8
Rural	15.2	49.6	7.4	26.4	0.1	0.8	0.5	12,154	5.1
<b>Province</b>									
Manicaland	11.2	49.5	6.7	30.5	0.5	1.4	0.3	2,238	5.8
Mashonaland Central	19.8	44.6	8.2	25.9	0.3	1.1	0.2	1,781	4.8
Mashonaland East	14.0	43.6	7.0	32.9	0.2	1.6	0.7	1,710	5.8
Mashonaland West	14.9	44.2	6.1	31.5	0.4	1.8	1.1	1,679	5.6
Matabeleland North	17.7	50.9	6.0	23.6	0.4	1.2	0.1	1,275	5.1
Matabeleland South	12.2	47.9	7.3	28.4	0.7	2.7	0.9	1,042	5.8
Midlands	10.5	45.1	7.2	34.2	0.4	2.3	0.4	2,476	6.1
Masvingo	11.6	49.2	8.1	29.7	0.3	0.6	0.5	2,098	5.6
Harare	5.2	26.0	3.1	59.1	1.8	4.2	0.6	2,412	8.2
Bulawayo	4.5	28.3	3.6	56.6	2.7	3.3	1.0	1,187	7.8
<b>Wealth quintile</b>									
Lowest	22.2	53.8	7.6	15.9	0.0	0.0	0.3	3,443	3.9
Second	16.2	50.7	7.9	24.6	0.0	0.1	0.4	3,508	4.8
Middle	11.4	48.3	7.4	31.8	0.1	0.3	0.7	3,749	5.6
Fourth	6.5	37.0	5.4	47.8	0.5	2.1	0.5	3,368	6.8
Highest	3.8	25.1	3.5	57.1	2.8	7.1	0.7	3,832	8.8
Total	11.9	42.7	6.3	35.8	0.7	2.0	0.5	17,900	6.1

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Table 2.3—Continued

Percent distribution of the de facto female and male household population age six and over by highest level of education attended or completed, according to background characteristics, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Background characteristic	No education	Some primary	Completed primary <sup>1</sup>	Some secondary	Completed secondary <sup>2</sup>	More than secondary	Don't know/missing	Number	Median number of years
<b>MALE</b>									
<b>Age</b>									
6-9	31.4	67.8	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.5	2,552	0.4
10-14	1.2	73.6	16.7	7.9	0.0	0.0	0.6	3,007	4.2
15-19	0.6	24.2	6.9	66.3	1.2	0.4	0.3	2,219	7.3
20-24	0.8	17.1	4.1	65.3	6.7	5.7	0.2	1,742	9.2
25-29	1.1	18.5	3.2	64.8	4.0	8.3	0.1	1,329	9.2
30-34	1.2	16.0	2.9	68.2	2.8	8.9	0.1	1,106	9.2
35-39	1.5	14.4	1.7	69.1	2.7	10.6	0.1	844	9.3
40-44	4.6	31.5	4.8	46.3	0.7	12.0	0.0	556	7.6
45-49	8.0	43.1	8.7	32.2	0.6	6.7	0.6	504	6.6
50-54	7.1	44.9	6.3	34.4	1.3	5.4	0.6	397	6.4
55-59	13.3	38.6	10.3	30.5	1.0	4.2	2.1	445	6.1
60-64	18.5	41.4	8.0	27.1	0.6	4.2	0.2	325	5.6
65+	28.3	47.7	8.4	11.2	0.0	2.8	1.6	856	3.3
<b>Residence</b>									
Urban	4.3	26.2	4.0	53.4	3.9	7.7	0.6	5,310	8.8
Rural	10.7	49.4	8.0	29.2	0.6	1.7	0.4	10,574	5.5
<b>Province</b>									
Manicaland	8.6	43.8	9.5	32.6	1.4	3.7	0.4	1,925	6.0
Mashonaland Central	12.3	46.0	7.3	30.9	1.2	2.1	0.3	1,628	5.4
Mashonaland East	9.5	42.5	7.1	37.1	0.7	2.7	0.5	1,508	6.2
Mashonaland West	10.0	43.5	6.2	36.3	1.2	1.8	1.0	1,568	6.1
Matabeleland North	12.6	54.9	7.8	22.2	0.1	2.3	0.0	1,137	5.3
Matabeleland South	9.6	50.4	7.4	26.7	1.4	3.9	0.6	831	6.0
Midlands	9.0	44.0	6.4	35.6	1.5	3.1	0.4	2,207	6.1
Masvingo	7.2	48.3	7.5	33.8	1.0	2.1	0.2	1,797	6.0
Harare	4.3	24.0	4.1	55.5	3.8	7.7	0.4	2,248	9.1
Bulawayo	4.6	26.6	3.7	53.0	4.4	6.6	1.1	1,034	7.9
<b>Wealth quintile</b>									
Lowest	15.4	57.6	8.8	17.9	0.2	0.0	0.2	2,951	4.1
Second	11.4	51.0	8.1	28.4	0.2	0.5	0.4	3,051	5.3
Middle	8.3	46.0	7.7	35.3	1.0	1.1	0.6	3,113	6.0
Fourth	5.2	32.4	5.5	50.0	1.8	4.6	0.5	3,520	7.2
Highest	3.8	24.0	3.8	51.4	5.0	11.4	0.6	3,248	9.1
Total	8.6	41.6	6.7	37.3	1.7	3.7	0.5	15,883	6.3
Note: In Zimbabwe, primary level is referred to as grades 1-7. Secondary level is referred to as forms 1-6. With the primary and secondary levels combined, there is a total of 13 years of schooling.									
<sup>1</sup> Completed 7th grade at the primary level									
<sup>2</sup> Completed 6th grade at the secondary level									

The median number of years of educational attainment is six for both males and females. As expected, educational attainment is higher for all indicators in urban areas and among the population in the highest wealth quintile.

### 2.3.2 School Attendance Ratios

In Table 2.4, school attendance ratios by level of schooling, sex, residence, province, and wealth quintile for the population age 6 to 24 years are presented. The net attendance ratio (NAR) is an indicator of participation in schooling among children of official school age, and the gross attendance ratio (GAR) indicates the participation at each level of schooling among all children between the ages of 7 and 18 years. The GAR is nearly always higher than the NAR for the same level because the GAR includes participation by those who may be older or younger than the official age range for that level.<sup>2</sup> Data in Table 2.4 show that, among children age 7 to 12 years, 91 percent attended primary school, and 45 percent of children age 13 to 18 years attended secondary school. For primary education, nine in ten males and females were enrolled in school. For secondary education, among persons 13 to 18 years, males and females were almost equally likely to be in school (44 percent for males and 45 percent for females).

At the primary and secondary level, NARs in urban areas were higher than in rural areas. Consistent with this finding, attendance in primary education in the urban provinces (Harare and Bulawayo) is slightly higher than in other provinces, and the trend is the same for secondary education. Attendance is the highest among the wealthy households compared with the poor at both primary and secondary levels. While wealth is not a significant factor for attendance at the primary level, it has a greater impact on attendance at the secondary level. Among children age 7 to 12 years, no less than nine in ten children attended school at the primary level for all wealth quintiles. However, the data show that differentials vary greatly by wealth quintile at the secondary level. Only 24 percent of children age 13 to 18 attended secondary school in the lowest wealth quintile compared with 63 percent in the highest wealth quintile.

With reference to the GAR, the ratios are much higher than 100 for primary education, indicating that a large proportion of children over the age of 12 years are still attending primary school. For secondary education, the percentages are much lower than 100, indicating that many children age 13 to 18 years are not currently attending secondary school.

The gender parity index (GPI), or the ratio of the female to the male GAR at the primary and secondary levels, indicates the magnitude of the gender gap in attendance ratios. It is presented at both the primary and secondary levels and offers a summary measure of gender differences in school attendance rates. A GPI less than one indicates that a smaller proportion of females than males attend school. The GPI at the primary and secondary school levels are nearly equal (0.97 and 0.98, respectively). At the secondary level, there are marked differences in the GPI by place of residence and province. Table 2.4 also indicates that in the highest wealth quintile the gender gap is the widest (0.85), in contrast to children in the lowest wealth quintile (1.09) where more girls than boys attended secondary school.

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<sup>2</sup> Students who are over age for a given level of schooling may have started school over age, may have repeated one or more grades in school, or may have dropped out of school and later returned.

Table 2.4 School attendance ratios

Net attendance ratios (NAR) and gross attendance ratios (GAR) for the de jure household population by level of schooling and sex; and gender parity index, according to background characteristics, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Background characteristic	Net attendance ratio <sup>1</sup>			Gross attendance ratio <sup>2</sup>			Gender parity index <sup>3</sup>
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
<b>PRIMARY SCHOOL</b>							
<b>Residence</b>							
Urban	93.9	93.4	93.7	119.1	114.3	116.6	0.96
Rural	90.4	91.1	90.7	123.6	119.7	121.7	0.97
<b>Province</b>							
Manicaland	87.8	92.9	90.4	119.7	118.6	119.1	0.99
Mashonaland Central	88.3	84.5	86.5	121.2	125.0	123.0	1.03
Mashonaland East	93.4	94.1	93.7	129.4	124.7	127.2	0.96
Mashonaland West	88.5	83.9	86.3	122.9	110.5	116.9	0.90
Matabeleland North	89.5	94.0	91.6	116.8	118.6	117.7	1.02
Matabeleland South	92.5	91.3	91.9	118.7	114.6	116.5	0.97
Midlands	91.6	93.6	92.7	121.8	116.5	119.0	0.96
Masvingo	94.4	92.7	93.6	130.3	121.3	126.0	0.93
Harare	95.4	95.1	95.3	118.0	114.0	115.9	0.97
Bulawayo	93.9	94.5	94.2	124.8	119.9	122.3	0.96
<b>Wealth quintile</b>							
Lowest	88.9	90.1	89.5	122.0	117.4	119.8	0.96
Second	91.8	89.6	90.7	124.0	118.9	121.4	0.96
Middle	91.1	92.8	91.9	123.0	121.3	122.2	0.99
Fourth	90.9	91.8	91.3	123.6	115.8	119.8	0.94
Highest	94.8	95.0	94.9	119.6	117.3	118.4	0.98
Total	91.3	91.6	91.4	122.5	118.3	120.4	0.97
<b>SECONDARY SCHOOL</b>							
<b>Residence</b>							
Urban	63.4	55.8	59.2	71.9	63.0	67.0	0.88
Rural	37.4	39.7	38.5	42.9	43.0	42.9	1.00
<b>Province</b>							
Manicaland	47.1	42.9	45.1	54.8	47.3	51.3	0.86
Mashonaland Central	33.2	31.2	32.1	41.0	32.9	36.7	0.80
Mashonaland East	44.7	45.4	45.0	50.2	49.9	50.1	0.99
Mashonaland West	35.5	37.7	36.6	41.8	44.8	43.3	1.07
Matabeleland North	27.0	35.2	31.2	32.9	38.5	35.8	1.17
Matabeleland South	40.4	47.6	44.0	45.6	52.4	49.0	1.15
Midlands	42.4	50.7	46.4	48.3	53.3	50.7	1.10
Masvingo	45.8	41.9	43.9	51.4	45.7	48.6	0.89
Harare	62.1	55.2	58.3	67.7	61.2	64.2	0.90
Bulawayo	66.8	61.5	63.7	73.3	71.0	72.0	0.97
<b>Wealth quintile</b>							
Lowest	22.2	26.2	24.1	25.4	27.7	26.5	1.09
Second	37.0	36.3	36.6	42.0	38.6	40.3	0.92
Middle	47.8	49.7	48.7	52.1	54.2	53.1	1.04
Fourth	49.2	50.4	49.8	58.5	55.2	56.8	0.94
Highest	68.2	58.5	62.7	79.3	67.4	72.5	0.85
Total	44.1	44.8	44.5	50.4	49.3	49.9	0.98

<sup>1</sup> The NAR for primary school is the percentage of the primary-school-age (7-12 years) population that is attending primary school. The NAR for secondary school is the percentage of the secondary-school-age (13-18 years) population that is attending secondary school. By definition, the NAR cannot exceed 100 percent.

<sup>2</sup> The GAR for primary school is the total number of primary school students, expressed as a percentage of the official primary-school-age population. The GAR for secondary school is the total number of secondary school students, expressed as a percentage of the official secondary-school-age population. If there are significant numbers of overage and underage students at a given level of schooling, the GAR can exceed 100 percent.

<sup>3</sup> The gender parity index for primary school is the ratio of the primary school GAR for females to the GAR for males. The gender parity index for secondary school is the ratio of the secondary school GAR for females to the GAR for males.

### 2.3.3 Repetition and Dropout Rates

Repetition and dropout rates describe the flow of students through the school system. Table 2.5 shows the repetition and dropout rates of the de facto household population age 5 to 24 years who attended school in the previous school year by grade and form, according to sex and residence. The repetition rate is defined as the percentage of students in a given grade the previous year who repeated that same grade in the current school year. The dropout rate refers to the percentage of students in a given grade the previous school year who do not attend school in the current school year.

Repetition rates are highest in grade 1 (6 percent) and grade 7 (4 percent) and vary by place of residence, province, and wealth quintile. Repetition rates are generally higher among males than females. Table 2.5 also shows that repetition rates are higher for children in rural areas than they are in urban areas, except for grades 4 and 5. The repetitions rates in Mashonaland East are the highest for each grade level, except for grades 1 and 2 where the province has, respectively, the second and third highest percentage of repetition. The lowest and second lowest wealth quintiles have the highest percentages of repetition.

Table 2.5 indicates that the dropout rates increase with each grade level, culminating at a national rate of 18 percent for grade 7. Overall, dropout rates in grade 7 are high for both males and females throughout the country. In general, the rates are higher in rural than in urban areas. Mashonaland Central and Matabeleland North have the highest dropout rates for grade 7 (33 percent each). School dropouts at grade 7 are highest in poorest households (34 percent) and lowest in the wealthiest households (2 percent).

The age-specific attendance rates (ASARs) for the population age 5 to 24 years are presented in Figure 2.2 by age and sex. The ASAR indicates participation in schooling at any level, from primary to higher levels of education. The trends are the same for males and females. Approximately half of children attend school by age 6. For ages 8 to 12, nine out of ten children attend school. At age 13, attendance rates begin to decline as age increases.



Table 2.5 Grade repetition and dropout rates

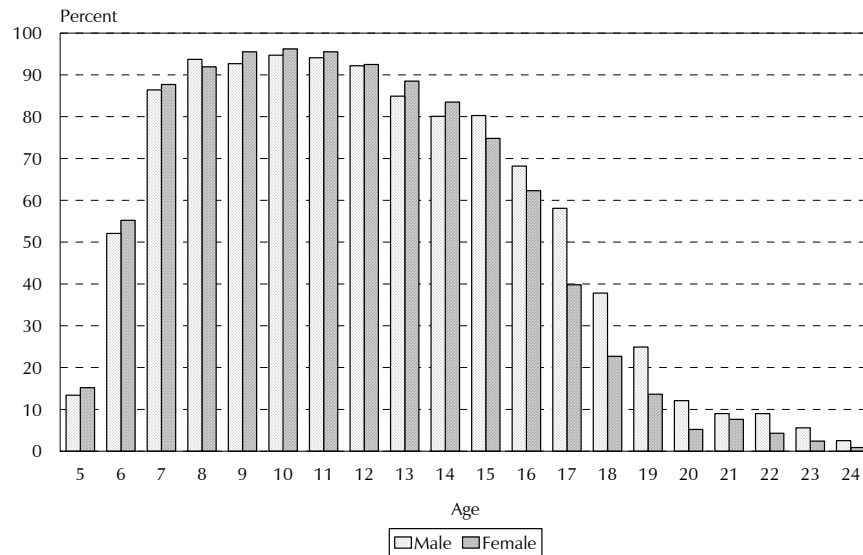
Repetition and dropout rates for the de jure household population age 5-24 years by school grade, according to background characteristics, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Background characteristic	School grade						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
REPETITION RATE <sup>1</sup>							
<b>Sex</b>							
Male	6.6	3.8	2.1	2.5	2.1	2.4	5.1
Female	6.1	1.1	2.8	1.6	1.5	2.2	2.8
<b>Residence</b>							
Urban	2.3	1.6	0.6	2.3	1.8	1.2	2.0
Rural	7.6	2.7	3.0	2.0	1.8	2.6	4.7
<b>Province</b>							
Manicaland	4.1	4.7	2.9	0.2	3.1	0.0	4.6
Mashonaland Central	11.6	2.5	0.0	2.3	0.0	1.3	1.0
Mashonaland East	11.2	4.4	6.4	6.3	5.8	6.5	9.3
Mashonaland West	3.4	0.3	5.9	0.7	0.9	0.7	2.0
Matabeleland North	4.4	1.1	1.6	2.0	0.8	4.1	7.0
Matabeleland South	3.6	2.3	1.8	3.3	1.4	0.8	1.3
Midlands	7.2	1.9	2.0	1.7	1.9	3.0	0.0
Masvingo	10.4	4.9	1.9	0.6	0.0	3.7	7.0
Harare	1.7	0.0	1.4	1.9	2.3	0.0	3.7
Bulawayo	0.0	0.0	0.0	4.8	1.1	1.7	2.3
<b>Wealth quintile</b>							
Lowest	10.1	3.4	2.8	2.3	1.2	3.7	4.1
Second	6.3	3.6	4.2	2.5	3.2	2.1	8.7
Middle	7.6	1.1	2.3	1.4	1.2	2.1	1.9
Fourth	2.8	2.9	0.9	0.7	1.3	1.3	2.7
Highest	1.6	0.8	1.0	3.3	1.8	1.9	2.2
Total	6.4	2.4	2.5	2.1	1.8	2.3	3.9
DROPOUT RATE <sup>2</sup>							
<b>Sex</b>							
Male	2.7	2.6	2.0	3.4	5.9	5.2	18.6
Female	1.8	4.0	4.7	3.4	3.5	4.9	17.5
<b>Residence</b>							
Urban	2.7	1.0	1.4	2.3	1.8	2.9	9.4
Rural	2.1	4.0	3.9	3.7	5.6	5.7	21.5
<b>Province</b>							
Manicaland	6.1	3.6	4.1	4.0	4.8	5.3	16.9
Mashonaland Central	4.4	10.6	9.5	6.4	12.8	4.8	33.3
Mashonaland East	0.0	0.8	0.9	2.6	0.7	1.1	13.5
Mashonaland West	1.9	4.1	5.6	1.7	7.1	7.7	21.5
Matabeleland North	0.5	2.5	0.0	2.8	4.3	4.7	33.0
Matabeleland South	4.2	1.7	3.1	3.7	4.4	6.3	18.4
Midlands	2.0	4.0	3.0	3.2	3.1	5.6	17.0
Masvingo	2.3	0.6	3.8	5.6	5.6	8.6	15.1
Harare	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	0.8	1.4	8.6
Bulawayo	0.0	1.4	0.0	1.3	0.0	1.9	5.9
<b>Wealth quintile</b>							
Lowest	2.9	4.1	4.2	5.9	8.9	9.2	33.6
Second	2.1	5.0	4.7	3.0	4.0	4.2	20.0
Middle	1.4	3.4	2.5	2.4	4.4	3.9	16.4
Fourth	3.7	2.5	3.8	4.3	3.3	5.1	16.6
Highest	1.1	0.4	0.4	0.8	1.6	2.1	2.4
Total	2.2	3.3	3.3	3.4	4.6	5.1	18.1

<sup>1</sup> The repetition rate is the percentage of students in a given grade in the previous school year who are repeating that grade in the current school year.

<sup>2</sup> The dropout rate is the percentage of students in a given grade in the previous school year who are not attending school.

**Figure 2.2 Age-specific Attendance Rates**



Note: Figure shows percentage of the de jure household population age 5-24 years attending school.

ZDHS 2005-2006

## 2.4 HOUSEHOLD CHARACTERISTICS

The physical characteristics and availability and accessibility of basic household facilities are important in assessing the general welfare and socioeconomic condition of the population. The 2005-06 ZDHS survey collected information on a range of housing characteristics. These data are presented for households and for the total de jure household population. The results are further disaggregated by residence.

### 2.4.1 Drinking Water

Table 2.6 shows information on drinking water. The source of drinking water is an indicator of the quality of the water. Sources that are likely to be of suitable quality are listed under “improved source,” while sources not of suitable quality are listed under “non-improved source.” The majority of households in Zimbabwe (78 percent) have access to an improved source of water (99 percent in urban areas and 67 percent in rural areas). Overall, 36 percent of households have water piped into the dwelling, yard, or plot, while 5 percent of households use a public tap or standpipe. In rural areas, boreholes are the main source of drinking water (38 percent), followed by unprotected and protected dug wells (18 percent and 17 percent, respectively).

Most households (87 percent) do not treat their drinking water. Of the selected urban households, 78 percent do not treat their water, compared with 91 percent in rural areas. Ten percent of households boil their water and 2 percent use bleach or chlorine.

<b>Table 2.6 Household drinking water</b>				
Percent distribution of households by source, time to collect, and person who usually collects drinking water, according to residence; the percent distribution of the de jure population by source, time to collect, and person who usually collects drinking water; the percentage of households by treatment of drinking water, according to residence; and the percentage of the de jure population by treatment of drinking water, Zimbabwe 2005-2006				
	Residence		Total	De jure population
	Urban	Rural		
<b>Source of drinking water</b>				
Improved source	99.4	67.1	78.2	75.8
Piped water into dwelling/yard/plot	92.7	6.1	36.0	32.9
Public tap/standpipe	4.5	5.7	5.3	4.1
Tube well or borehole	0.9	37.5	24.9	26.6
Protected dug well	1.3	17.1	11.6	11.8
Protected spring	0.0	0.7	0.4	0.5
Rainwater	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Non-improved source	0.6	32.9	21.8	24.1
Unprotected dug well	0.4	18.1	12.0	13.5
Unprotected spring	0.0	3.4	2.2	2.4
Tanker truck/cart with small tank	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.3
Surface water	na	11.0	7.2	7.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Time to obtain drinking water (round trip)</b>				
Water on premises	95.1	20.6	46.3	43.1
Less than 30 minutes	4.0	38.4	26.5	26.9
30 minutes or longer	0.8	40.4	26.8	29.4
Don't know/missing	na	0.6	0.4	0.5
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Person who usually collects drinking water</b>				
Adult female 15+	3.5	62.6	42.2	47.4
Adult male 15+	1.3	11.0	7.6	5.1
Female child under age 15	0.1	4.2	2.8	3.2
Male child under age 15	0.0	1.3	0.8	0.9
Other	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.2
Water on premises	95.1	20.6	46.3	43.1
Missing	na	0.2	0.1	0.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Treatment of drinking water<sup>1</sup></b>				
Boiled	20.3	5.2	10.4	10.5
Bleach/chlorine	1.1	2.0	1.7	1.6
Strained through cloth	na	0.3	0.2	0.2
Ceramic, sand, or other filter	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2
Other	0.5	1.6	1.2	1.3
No treatment	78.1	91.1	86.6	86.6
Number	3,201	6,084	9,285	41,323
na = Not applicable				
<sup>1</sup> Respondents may report multiple treatment methods so the sum may exceed 100 percent.				

## 2.4.2 Sanitation Facilities and Waste Disposal

Table 2.7 presents information on the proportion of households that have access to hygienic sanitation facilities by type of toilet/latrine. Hygienic status is determined on the basis of type of facility and whether it is used by only one household (improved) or shared with other households (unimproved). Forty percent of households in Zimbabwe have improved toilet facilities that are not shared with other households, of which 19 percent flush to a piped sewer system, 2 percent flush to a septic tank, and

less than 1 percent flush to a pit latrine. Nineteen percent of households use some type of a latrine that is not shared with other households.

Most households with improved facilities in urban areas (57 percent) have flush toilets. In rural areas, the most common improved, non-shared toilet is either the ventilated improved pit (VIP) latrine or the Blair toilet (22 percent). The most common unimproved facilities in urban households are toilets shared by more than one household (39 percent). More than four in ten households in rural areas have no toilet facility. This proportion increased from 40 percent in the 1999 ZDHS to 45 percent in 2005-06 ZDHS.

Table 2.7 Household sanitation facilities

Percent distribution of households by type of toilet/latrine facilities, according to residence, and the percent distribution of the de jure population by type of toilet facilities, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Type of toilet/ latrine facility	Residence		Total	De jure population
	Urban	Rural		
<b>Improved, not shared</b>	58.5	30.5	40.1	42.0
Flush/pour flush to piped sewer system	52.1	1.2	18.8	19.0
Flush/pour flush to septic tank	4.0	0.8	1.9	1.9
Flush/pour flush to pit latrine	0.7	0.1	0.3	0.3
Ventilated improved pit (VIP) latrine/Blair toilet	1.3	21.6	14.6	15.8
Pit latrine with slab	0.4	6.5	4.4	4.9
Composting toilet	na	0.1	0.1	0.1
<b>Not improved</b>	41.4	69.6	59.8	58.0
Any facility shared with other households	38.8	17.0	24.5	19.7
Flush/pour flush not to sewer/septic tank/pit latrine	1.2	0.0	0.4	0.3
Pit latrine without slab/open pit	0.3	7.3	4.9	5.6
Bucket	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.2
No facility/bush/field	0.2	44.9	29.5	31.9
Other	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Missing	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number	3,201	6,084	9,285	41,323

na = Not applicable

### 2.4.3 Other Household Characteristics

Information on household characteristics such as availability of electricity, type of flooring material, number of rooms for sleeping, type of fuel used for cooking, place for cooking, fuel, and type of fire/stove among households using biomass fuel are shown in Table 2.8. The physical characteristics of the household reflect the household's economic condition and have an important bearing on environmental exposure to disease.

Thirty-seven percent of households in Zimbabwe have access to electricity. There is a significant difference in access to electricity between urban and rural areas. In urban areas, 91 percent of households have electricity versus 9 percent in rural areas.

The most commonly used flooring material is cement (65 percent), followed by earth, sand, or dung (31 percent). In urban areas, 90 percent of households have cement floors, compared with 52 percent in rural areas. Earth, sand, or dung floors are found in 48 percent of rural households.

Data were collected on the number of sleeping rooms per household. Thirty-seven percent of households have one room used for sleeping, while 36 percent have two rooms and 26 percent have three or more rooms. The number of rooms used for sleeping does not vary much by place of residence.

The most common fuels used for cooking are wood (66 percent), followed by electricity (33 percent). In rural areas, 95 percent of households use wood for cooking, compared with 11 percent in urban areas. The most common cooking fuel used among urban households is electricity (88 percent); only 4 percent of rural households use electricity for cooking.

Forty-three percent of households in Zimbabwe cook in the house, 48 percent cook in a separate building, and 9 percent cook outdoors. Eighty percent of urban households cook in the house, compared with 23 percent of rural households. On the other hand, 68 percent of rural households cook in a separate building, versus 10 percent of urban households.

More than six out of ten households in Zimbabwe use biomass fuel (67 percent). The majority (97 percent) of those households use an open fire or stove that does not have a chimney or hood.

#### 2.4.4 Household Durable Goods

Information on ownership of durable goods and other possessions is presented in Table 2.9 by residence. In general, ownership of household effects, means of transportation, and agricultural land and farm animals is a rough measure of a household's socioeconomic status.

Table 2.8 Household characteristics

Percent distribution of households by household characteristics, according to residence, and percent distribution of the de jure population by household characteristics, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Household characteristic	Residence		Total	De jure population
	Urban	Rural		
<b>Electricity</b>				
Yes	91.4	8.7	37.2	33.8
No	8.6	91.2	62.7	66.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Flooring material</b>				
Earth, sand, dung	0.2	47.7	31.3	34.3
Wood planks	0.3	na	0.1	0.2
Parquet, polished wood	1.3	na	0.5	0.5
Vinyl, asphalt strips	0.2	na	0.1	0.1
Ceramic tiles	2.7	0.1	1.0	1.0
Cement	90.2	51.7	64.9	61.8
Carpet	4.8	0.4	1.9	1.9
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Rooms used for sleeping</b>				
One	37.2	37.4	37.4	25.1
Two	34.8	36.8	36.1	38.3
Three or more	27.3	25.2	25.9	35.9
Missing	0.7	0.5	0.6	0.6
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Type of dwelling unit</b>				
Traditional	na	49.7	32.6	35.1
Mixed	0.3	34.8	22.9	25.5
Detached	57.1	9.2	25.8	23.3
Semi-detached	34.0	4.2	14.5	12.8
Flat/town home	7.4	1.5	3.5	2.9
Shack	0.7	0.3	0.4	0.3
Other	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Any windows</b>	98.0	86.7	90.6	90.4
Windows with glass	96.3	42.8	61.2	58.6
Windows with screens	44.1	22.2	29.8	28.9
Windows with curtains/shutters	82.7	37.4	53.0	51.0
<b>Cooking fuel</b>				
Electricity	87.9	3.5	32.6	29.7
Paraffin/kerosene	0.6	na	0.2	0.1
Coal, lignite	na	0.2	0.1	0.1
Charcoal	na	0.2	0.1	0.1
Wood	11.2	95.3	66.3	69.3
Straw/shrubs/grass	0.1	0.6	0.4	0.5
Animal dung	na	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Place for cooking</b>				
In the house	80.3	22.7	42.6	40.9
In a separate building	10.2	67.8	47.9	50.8
Outdoors	9.3	9.4	9.3	8.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of households	3,201	6,084	9,285	41,323
<b>Type of fire/stove among households using solid fuel<sup>1</sup></b>				
Closed stove with chimney	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.1
Open fire/stove with chimney	5.6	2.8	3.0	2.7
Open fire/stove without chimney or hood	92.6	96.9	96.6	97.1
Other	1.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Number of households using biomass fuel	383	5,866	6,249	29,039

<sup>1</sup> Includes kerosene, coal/lignite, charcoal, wood/straw/shrubs/grass, and animal dung  
na = Not applicable

Table 2.9 shows that among household effects, 48 percent of households have a radio, 31 percent have a television, 14 percent have a mobile telephone, and 8 percent have a non-mobile phone. With reference to means of transportation, 25 percent of households have a bicycle, 18 percent have an animal-drawn cart, 1 percent have a motorcycle or scooter, 6 percent have a car or truck, and less than 1 percent have a boat with a motor. Sixty-seven percent of households own agricultural land and 60 percent own farm animals.

The proportion of households with durable goods varies by urban-rural residence. Urban households are more likely than rural households to own modern conveniences powered by electricity, such as a radio (78 percent and 33 percent, respectively) and a television (70 percent and 10 percent, respectively).

The most common means of transportation owned by households in both urban and rural areas is the bicycle (29 percent in urban areas compared with 23 percent in rural areas). Urban households own more modern means of transportation than rural households, such as a car or truck (14 percent compared with 2 percent, respectively) and a motorcycle or scooter (2 percent compared with 1 percent, respectively). Among urban households, 28 percent own agricultural land compared with 88 percent in rural areas.

In Zimbabwe, 35 percent of households have a bank account. Households in urban areas are almost four times as likely than households in rural areas to have a bank account (67 percent compared with 18 percent).

Possessions	Residence		Total	De jure population
	Urban	Rural		
<b>Household effects</b>				
Radio	77.5	32.9	48.3	49.1
Television	70.4	10.4	31.1	31.6
Mobile telephone	34.5	2.7	13.7	13.9
Non-mobile telephone	22.2	1.0	8.3	8.5
<b>Means of transportation</b>				
Bicycle	28.5	23.4	25.1	28.0
Animal-drawn cart	4.8	24.4	17.7	21.7
Motorcycle/scooter	1.7	0.8	1.1	1.2
Car/truck	14.1	2.1	6.3	6.8
Boat with a motor	0.8	0.2	0.4	0.4
Wheelbarrow	19.8	38.2	31.9	35.8
<b>Ownership of agricultural land</b>	27.6	87.7	67.0	71.9
<b>Ownership of farm animals<sup>1</sup></b>	22.4	80.1	60.2	66.5
<b>Ownership of bank account</b>	67.2	18.3	35.2	33.9
Number of households	3,201	6,084	9,285	41,323

<sup>1</sup> Cattle, horses, donkeys, goats, sheep, or chickens

## 2.5 HOUSEHOLD WEALTH

One of the background characteristics used throughout this report is a wealth index. Information on household assets was used to create an index representing the wealth of the households interviewed in the 2005-06 ZDHS. The wealth index was developed and tested in a large number of countries in relation to inequalities in household income, use of health services, and health outcomes (Rutstein et al., 2000). It

is an index of wealth that is consistent with expenditure and income measures (Rutstein, 1999). The economic index was constructed using household asset data including ownership of a number of consumer items ranging from a television to a bicycle or car, as well as dwelling characteristics, such as source of drinking water, sanitation facilities, and type of flooring material.

Each asset was assigned a weight or factor score generated through principal components analysis. The resulting asset scores were standardized in relation to a normal distribution with a mean of zero and a standard deviation of one (Gwatkin et al., 2000). Each household was then assigned a score for each asset, and the scores were summed for each household. Individuals were ranked according to the score of the household in which they resided. The sample was then divided into quintiles from one (lowest) to five (highest). A single asset index was developed on the basis of data from the entire country sample and used in all the tabulations presented.

Wealth quintiles are expressed in terms of quintiles of individuals in the population, rather than quintiles of individuals at risk for any one health or population indicator. For example, the quintile rates for infant mortality refer to the infant mortality rates per 1,000 live births among all people in the population quintile concerned, as distinct from quintiles of live births or newly born infants, who constitute the only members of the population at risk of mortality during infancy.

Table 2.10 presents the wealth quintiles by residence and province. Almost all of the urban population is represented in the fourth and highest quintiles (98 percent) while about six in ten households in rural areas are in the lowest and second wealth quintiles. Sixty-one percent of the population in urban areas is in the highest wealth quintile, in contrast to 1 percent in the rural areas. The wealth quintile distribution among provinces shows large variations. As expected, the two urban provinces, Bulawayo and Harare, have the largest proportions in the highest wealth quintile (67 and 63 percent, respectively). In contrast, Matabeleland North and Masvingo have the largest proportions in the lowest wealth quintile (56 and 32 percent, respectively).

Residence/ province	Wealth quintile					Total	Number
	Lowest	Second	Middle	Fourth	Highest		
<b>Residence</b>							
Urban	na	na	1.5	37.9	60.5	100.0	13,087
Rural	29.3	29.3	28.5	11.7	1.2	100.0	28,236
<b>Province</b>							
Manicaland	16.4	21.6	31.2	22.0	8.7	100.0	5,166
Mashonaland Central	23.4	32.7	25.8	13.2	4.9	100.0	4,329
Mashonaland East	9.8	22.4	34.6	23.2	9.9	100.0	3,772
Mashonaland West	21.7	23.4	18.5	21.8	14.7	100.0	4,140
Matabeleland North	55.6	24.0	8.1	7.7	4.6	100.0	3,043
Matabeleland South	20.2	24.9	32.2	12.7	10.0	100.0	2,205
Midlands	25.6	21.4	22.1	15.4	15.4	100.0	5,731
Masvingo	31.7	29.4	22.7	12.7	3.5	100.0	4,818
Harare	na	na	2.5	34.4	63.1	100.0	5,577
Bulawayo	na	na	na	33.5	66.5	100.0	2,540
Total	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	20.0	100.0	41,323
na = Not applicable							

## 2.6 BIRTH REGISTRATION

The registration of births is the inscription of the facts of each birth into an official log kept at the registrar's office. Information on the registration of births was collected in the household interview, where respondents were asked if their child under age five had a birth certificate. If they responded that the child did not have a birth certificate, an additional question was posed to ascertain if the child's birth had ever been registered with the municipal or local authorities. Table 2.11 shows the percentage of children less than five years of age whose births were officially registered, and the percentage who had a birth certificate at the time of the survey.

The total proportion of children whose births were registered was 74 percent. Thirty-eight percent had a birth certificate and 36 percent did not. There is little variation by age or sex. Urban residents are more likely to register the births of their children (83 percent) than rural residents (71 percent). Children in Midlands (83 percent), Masvingo (83 percent), Harare (82 percent), Bulawayo (81 percent), and Manicaland (81 percent) had the highest proportion of registered births. Children in Mashonaland East were least likely to have their births registered (58 percent). Households in the highest wealth quintile were most likely to register their children's births, and households in the lowest quintile were the least likely (85 percent compared with 67 percent).

Table 2.11 Birth registration of children under age five

Percentage of de jure children under five years of age whose births are registered with the civil authorities, according to background characteristics, Zimbabwe 2005-2006

Background characteristic	Percentage of children whose births are registered			Number of children
	Has a birth certificate	Did not have a birth certificate	Total registered	
<b>Age</b>				
<2	27.2	46.0	73.2	2,265
2-4	44.3	30.1	74.4	3,544
<b>Sex</b>				
Male	38.5	35.5	73.9	2,911
Female	36.8	37.1	74.0	2,898
<b>Residence</b>				
Urban	57.1	25.6	82.7	1,557
Rural	30.5	40.2	70.7	4,251
<b>Province</b>				
Manicaland	30.5	50.2	80.7	753
Mashonaland Central	40.0	23.6	63.7	664
Mashonaland East	40.3	17.9	58.1	483
Mashonaland West	32.7	29.7	62.4	604
Matabeleland North	40.2	29.0	69.1	432
Matabeleland South	40.1	23.9	64.0	307
Midlands	32.0	51.0	83.0	867
Masvingo	23.6	59.1	82.7	747
Harare	58.0	23.5	81.6	679
Bulawayo	56.9	24.0	80.9	272
<b>Wealth quintile</b>				
Lowest	20.5	46.3	66.8	1,383
Second	31.7	39.3	70.9	1,303
Middle	35.1	38.0	73.1	1,119
Fourth	46.1	32.1	78.2	1,097
Highest	65.2	19.8	85.0	907
Total	37.7	36.3	73.9	5,809