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for every child

Gender equality means that girls and boys, women and men, enjoy the same rights, resources, opportunities and protections. Investments in gender equality contribute to lifelong positive outcomes for children and their communities and have considerable inter-generational payoffs because children's rights and well-being often depend on women's rights and well-being. This snapshot shows key dimensions of gender equality during the lifecycle: 1) the first decade of life (0-9 years of age) when gender disparities are often small, particularly in early childhood; 2) the second decade of childhood (10-19 years of age) when gender disparities become more pronounced with the onset of puberty and the consolidation of gender norms; and 3) adulthood, when gender disparities impacts both the wellbeing of women and girls and boys.

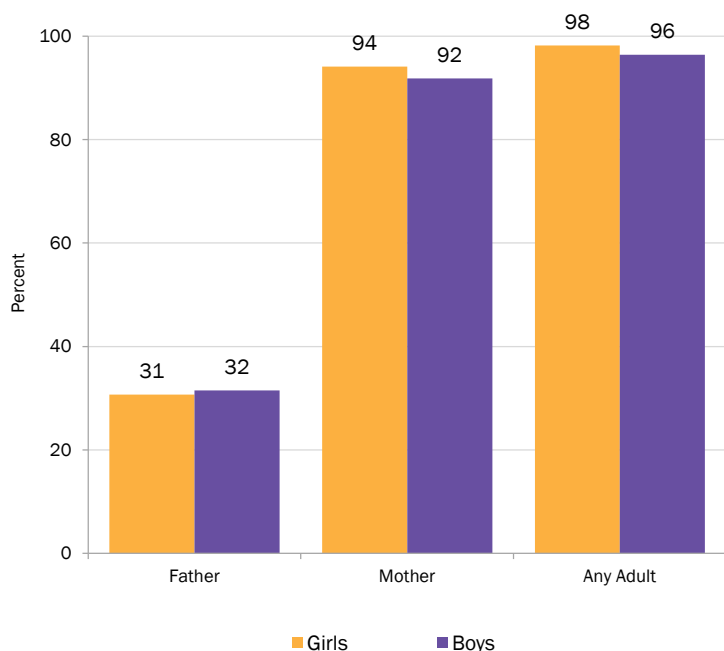
Every Girl & Boy Thrives: The First Decade of Life

A particularly rapid development of a person's intellectual abilities occurs in the first 3-4 years of its life, and the upbringing of a child in the family is a determining factor during this period. Children with restricted cognitive development during early life are at risk for later neuropsychological problems, poor school achievement, early school drop-out, low-skilled employment, and poor care of their own children. Stimulation and interaction with parents and caregivers can jumpstart brain development and promote well-being in early childhood. This is also the period of development when gender socialization, or the process of learning cultural roles according to one's sex, manifests. Caregivers, particularly fathers, may respond to, and interact with, sons and daughters differently.

Children should be physically healthy, mentally developed, emotionally balanced and socially adapted.

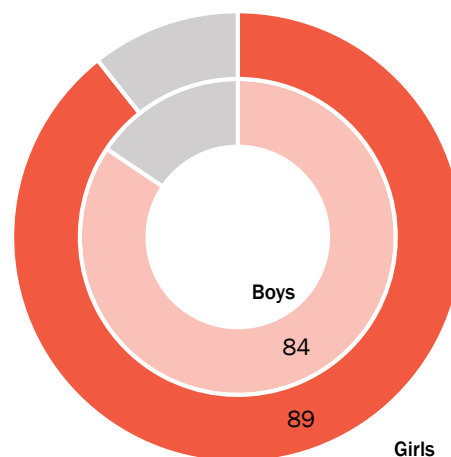
Support for Learning

Percentage of children age 2-4 years with whom adult household members engaged in activities* that promote learning and school readiness during the last three days



Early Childhood Development Index (SDG 4.2.1)

Percentage of children age 3-4 years who are developmentally on track in at least 3 of the following 4 domains: literacy-numeracy, physical, social-emotional, and learning domains

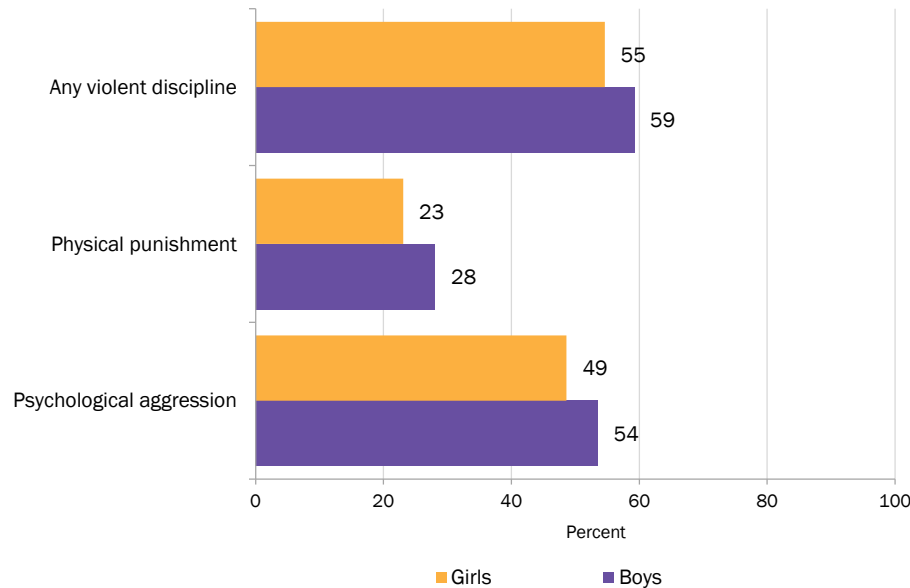


* reading books to the child; telling stories to the child; singing songs to the child; taking the child outside the home; playing with the child; and naming, counting or drawing things with the child.

Every Girl & Boy Is Protected From Violence & Exploitation: The First Decade of Life

Violent Discipline (SDG 16.2.1)

Percentage of children age 1-14* years who experienced violent discipline



Girls and boys face similar risks of experiencing violent discipline -which includes physical punishment and psychological aggression- by all adults in the household. Gender inequality and domestic violence are among the factors associated with an elevated risk of violence against both girls and boys.

Physical punishment: Shaking, hitting or slapping a child on the hand/arm/leg, hitting on the bottom or elsewhere on the body with a hard object, spanking or hitting on the bottom with a bare hand, hitting or slapping on the face, head or ears, and hitting or beating hard and repeatedly.

Psychological aggression: Shouting, yelling or screaming at a child, as well as calling a child offensive names such as 'dumb' or 'lazy'.

* The age group 1-14 spans the first and second decades of life.

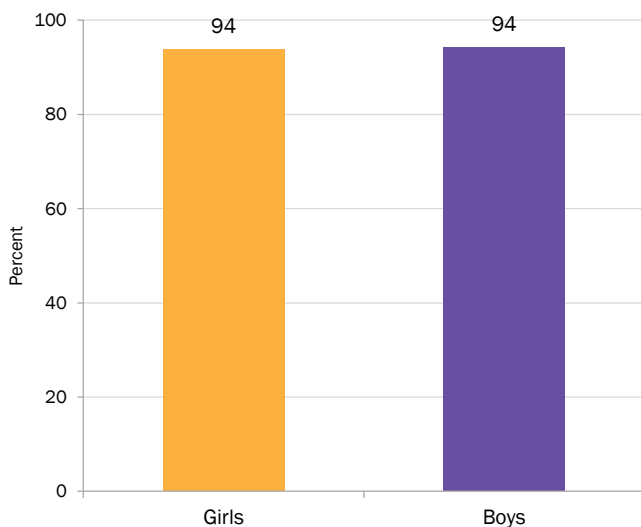
Every Girl & Boy Learns: The First Decade of Life

Investment in good quality early childhood education services prior to entering school improves learning outcomes for children. It also enhances the efficiency of the school system by reducing repetition and drop-out.

Primary education provides the foundation for a lifetime of learning.

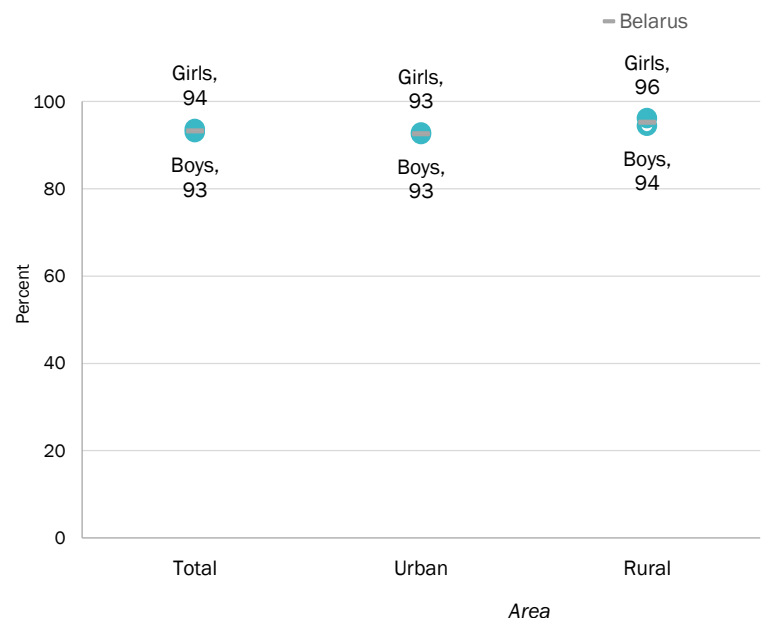
Participation Rate in Organized Learning (SDG 4.2.2)

Percent distribution of children age one year younger than the official primary school entry age at the beginning of the school year, by attendance to education, and attendance to an early childhood education programme or primary education (adjusted net attendance ratio)



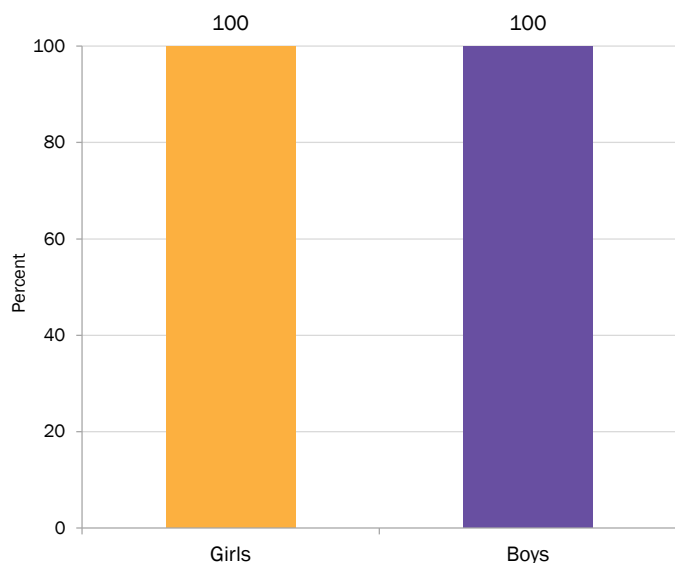
Primary School Attendance

Percentage of children of primary school age attending primary or secondary school (adjusted net attendance ratio), by main disaggregates



Primary Completion

Percentage of children age 3 to 5 years above the intended age for the last grade of primary school who have completed primary education



Key Messages

- Adult household members were involved in the activities related to education and preparation of children for school (the involvement of fathers was 31 percent) – with 98 percent of the girls and 96 percent of the boys aged 2-4 years – during three days before the survey.
- Almost 9 in 10 children (84 percent of the boys and 89 percent of the girls) aged 3-4 years were developmentally on track.
- Half of the children (49 percent of the girls and 54 percent of the boys) aged 1-14 years experienced psychological aggression by adults; almost one-third of the boys (28 percent) and 23 percent of the girls aged 1-14 years experienced physical punishment.
- 94 percent of girls and boys (who were one year younger than the primary school entry age) were covered by general pre-primary education or attended primary schools.
- 93 percent of children (94 percent of the girls and 93 percent of the boys) of the primary-school age attended primary or secondary schools.
- In Belarus, all children who started to attend primary schools complete the primary school. 100 percent of such children complete the primary school education.

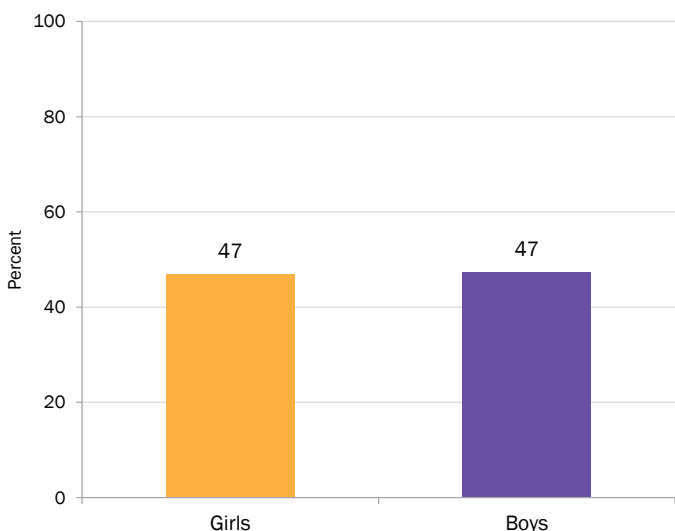
Every Adolescent Girl & Boy Survives & Thrives: The Second Decade of Life

One of the most important prerequisites for reducing the rate of HIV infection is accurate knowledge of how HIV is transmitted and strategies for preventing transmission. Correct information is the first step towards raising awareness and giving adolescents the tools to protect themselves from infection

The risk of adverse health and social consequences is the use by adolescents of alcohol with its intoxicating, toxic, addictive properties and increasing the likelihood of developing noncommunicable diseases at a later age. In addition to the chronic diseases that can develop in people who consume excessive amounts of alcoholic beverages, excessive alcohol consumption destroys family relationships, negatively affects the proper child *кyфкштп*, and thus negatively affects the state of society.

Comprehensive Knowledge of HIV

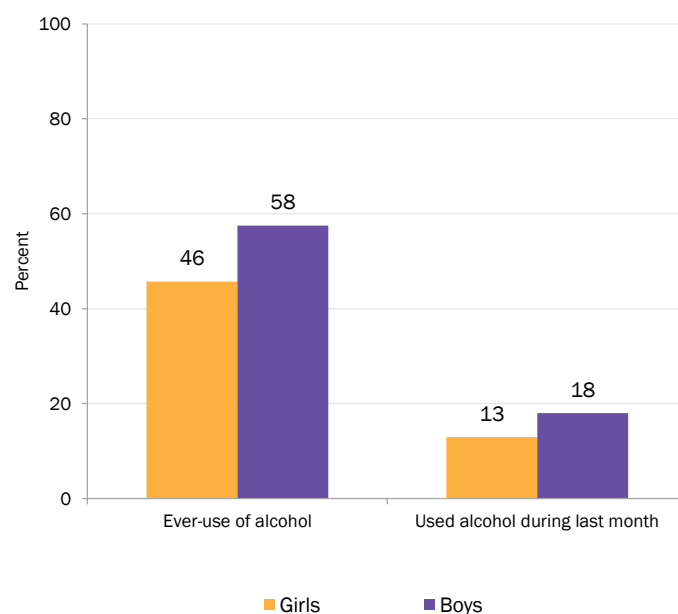
Percent of girls and boys age 15-19 who have comprehensive knowledge of HIV*



* Know of the two ways of HIV prevention (having only one faithful uninfected partner and using a condom every time), who know that a healthy looking person can be HIV-positive, and who reject the two most common misconceptions, and any other local misconception

Alcohol Use

Percent of girls and boys age 15-19 who used alcohol



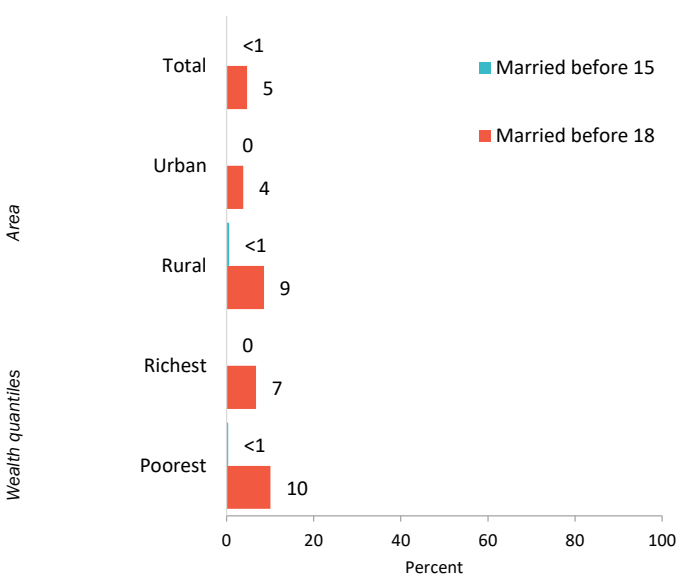
Every Adolescent Girl & Boy is Protected from Violence & Exploitation: The Second Decade of Life

Adolescence presents unique vulnerabilities to violence and exploitation for girls. In many countries, marriage before the age of 18 is a reality for girls due to the interaction of several factors that place a girl at risk, including poverty, social norms. Child marriage often compromises a girl's development due to early pregnancy and social isolation, interrupting her schooling, and limiting her opportunities for career and vocational advancement. It also often involves a substantial age difference between the girl and her partner, thus further disempowering her and putting her at greater risk of partner violence, lack of agency. Attitudes about wife beating serve as a marker for the social acceptability of intimate partner violence. Acceptance of wife beating among adolescent girls and boys suggests that it can be difficult for married girls who experience violence to seek assistance and for unmarried girls to identify and negotiate healthy and equitable relationships.

Gender-based discrimination is one of the discrimination forms adolescent girls face, and it has long-lasting and far-reaching effects on their personal trajectories as well as on all aspects of social and economic development.

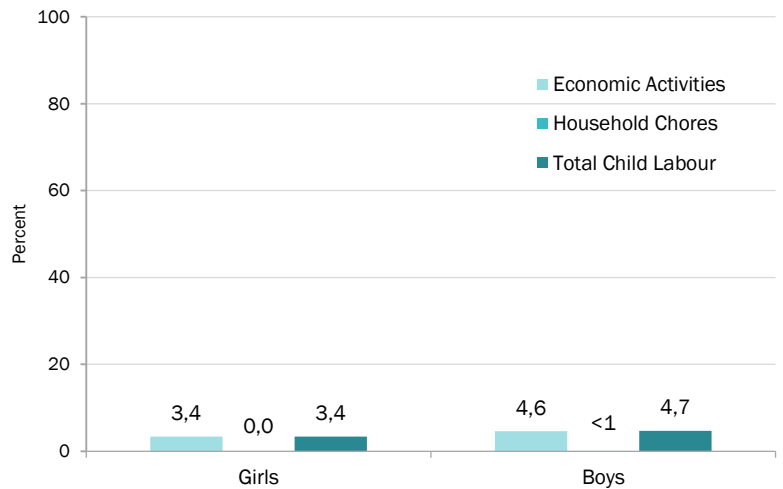
Child Marriage (SDG 5.3.1)

Percentage of women aged 20 to 24 years who were first married or in union before age 15 and before age 18, by main disaggregates



Child Labour (SDG 8.7.1)

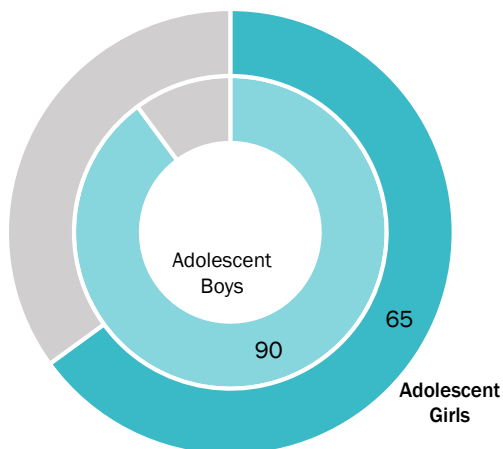
Percentage of children age 5 to 17 years*, engaged in child labour**, by type of activity



* Indicator includes children in the first & second decade of life.
 ** Child labour: age 5 to 11 years: At least 1 hour of economic activities or 21 hours of unpaid household services per week; age 12 to 14 years: At least 14 hours of economic activities or 21 hours of unpaid household services per week; age 15 to 17 years: At least 43 hours of economic activities.

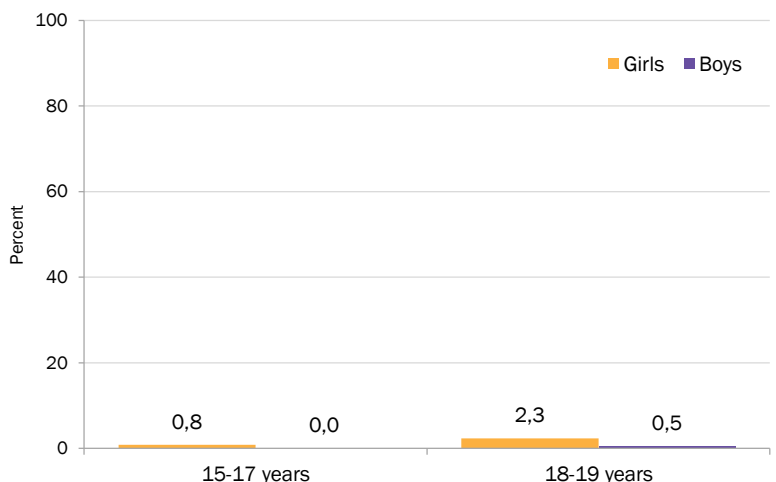
Feelings of Safety (SDG 16.1.4)

Percentage of adolescents age 15-19 who feel safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark



Attitudes towards Domestic Violence

Percentage of adolescents age 15-19 years who justify wife beating for any of the following reasons: she goes out without telling him; she neglects the children; she argues with him; she refuses sex with him; she burns the food



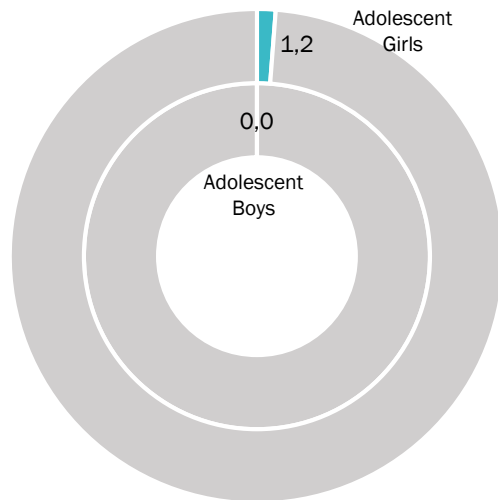
Every Adolescent Girl & Boy has an Equitable Chance in Life: The Second Decade of Life

To become empowered, adolescent girls and boys need to be engaged in the decisions affecting their lives and communities. People's sense of security and freedom from the fear of crime influences how they move about those communities, access services and economic opportunities and participate in public life. Adolescent girls and boys are likely to have different perceptions of personal safety due to different gender-based vulnerabilities to sexual violence and other crimes.

Life satisfaction measures an individual's perceived level of well-being or how an individual feels about their life as a whole. Measuring adolescent girls' and boy's satisfaction with their lives can provide important insights into their mental health during a stage of life when gender norms consolidate and girls and boys experience different risk factors for mental health disorders.

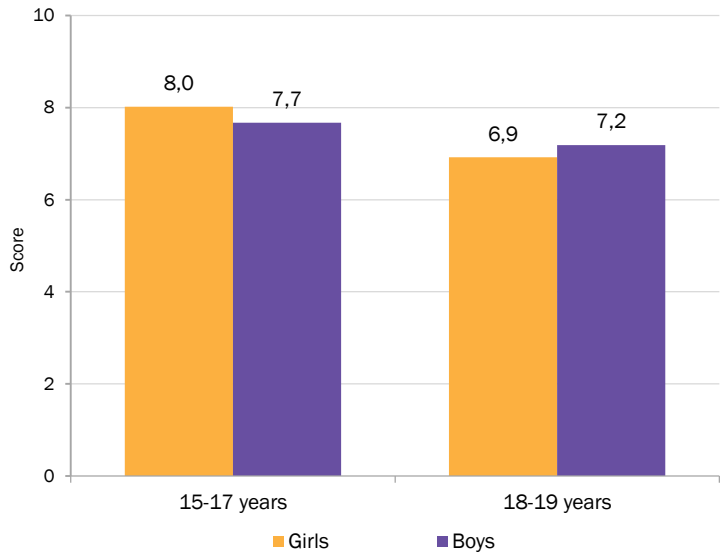
Discrimination & Harassment

Percentage of adolescent girls and boys age 15-19 years who have ever felt discriminated or harassed based on their gender



Life Satisfaction

Among adolescents age 15-19, average life satisfaction score on a scale of 0 to 10, by sex and age group

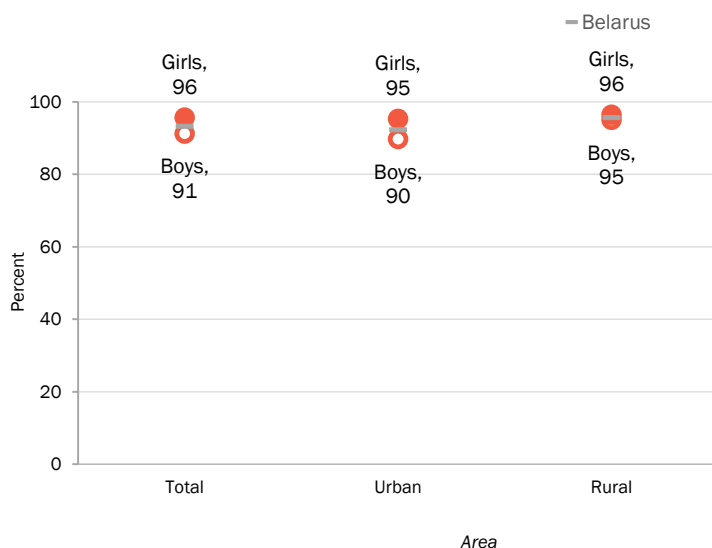


Every Adolescent Girl & Boy Learns: The Second Decade of Life

Education is an important tool in improving the well-being of boys and girls, empowering women, protecting children from hazardous work and sexual exploitation, reducing the number of child marriages, child and maternal mortality. This is the potential of the state, which contributes to the economic development of the country.

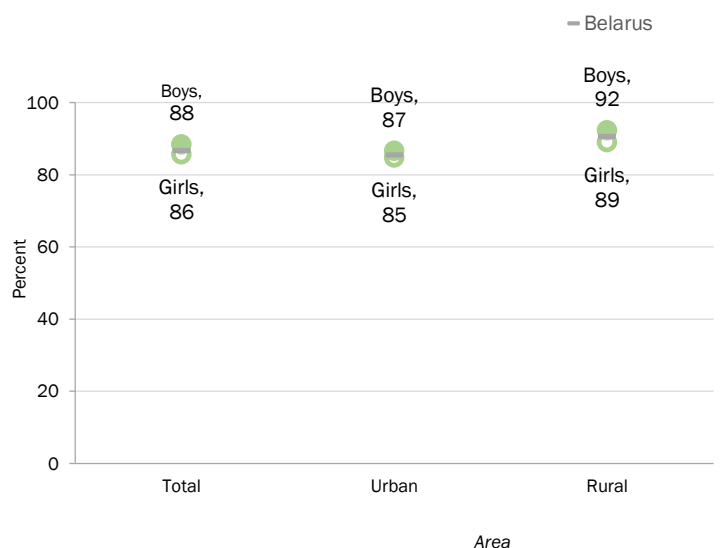
General basic (Lower secondary) Attendance

Percentage of children of general basic (lower secondary) school age attending general basic (lower secondary) school or higher (adjusted net attendance ratio), by main disaggregates



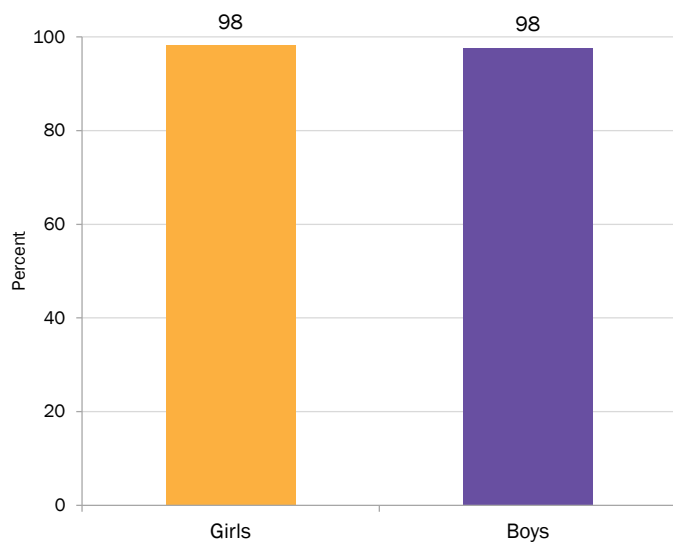
General Secondary School Attendance

Percentage of children of general secondary school age attending general secondary school or higher (adjusted net attendance ratio), by main disaggregates



General Basic (Lower Secondary) Completion

Percentage of children who age 3 to 5 years above the intended age for the last grade of lower secondary school who have completed lower secondary education



Key Messages

- Half of the boys and girls aged 15-19 years (47 percent each) had proper knowledge about HIV transmission.
- 46 percent of the girls and 58 percent of the boys aged 15-19 years had ever used alcohol.
- 13 percent of the girls and 18 percent of the boys aged 15-19 years consumed at least one drink of alcohol in the last month.
- In Belarus, 5 percent of the women aged 20-24 years had their first marriage or began cohabitation before age 18.
- Two-thirds of the girls (65 percent) and 90 percent of the boys aged 15-19 years feel safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark.
- 1.2 percent of the girls and 0.2 percent of the boys aged 15-19 years thought that the husband/partner had the right to hit the women/partner in some situations.
- The average score of life satisfaction among young women aged 15-19 years was 7.7 points, and among men – 7.5 points.

Gender Equality in Adulthood

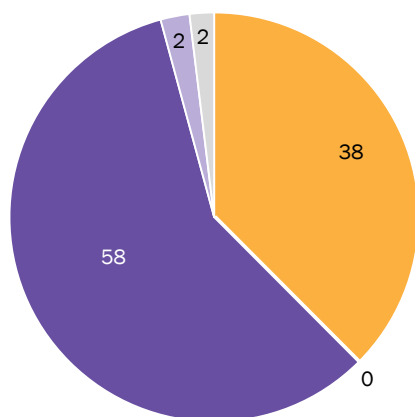
To survive and thrive, all children require care and support from women and men. Care and support can be substantively improved by fostering gender equality, an important goal in its own right, and by reducing the gender-related barriers. Gender-related barriers include women's and girls' disproportionate lack of information, knowledge and technology, resources, and safety and mobility, as well as the gender division of labour and gender norms.

The internalization of gender norms around masculine and feminine expectations and behaviours may influence women's and men's attitudes toward intimate partner violence and physical punishment of children as well as self-perceptions of well-being, including life satisfaction and expectations for the future.

Time on Household Chores: Water Collection

Who collects water?

Percent distribution of household members without drinking water on premises by person usually collecting drinking water used in the household

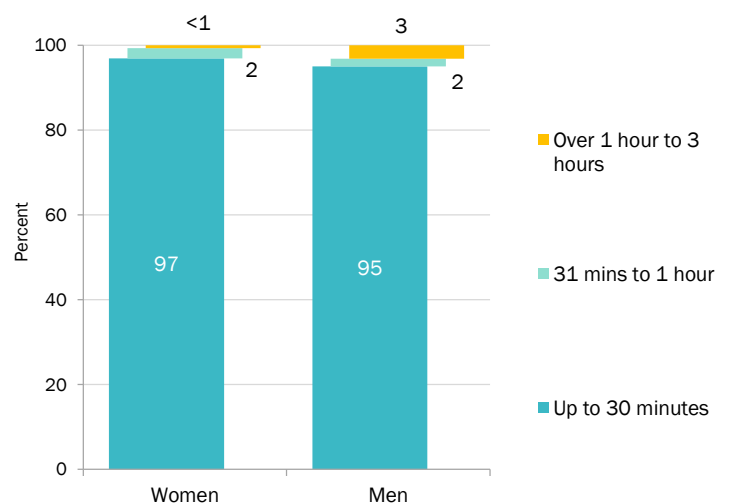


- Women 15+
- Men 15+
- Boys <15
- DK/Missing/Members do not collect

Note: Girls under 15 years were not marked as a person usually collecting drinking water used in the household

Time spent on water collection

Percent distribution of average amount of time spent collecting water per day by sex of person primarily responsible for water collection in households without drinking water on premises

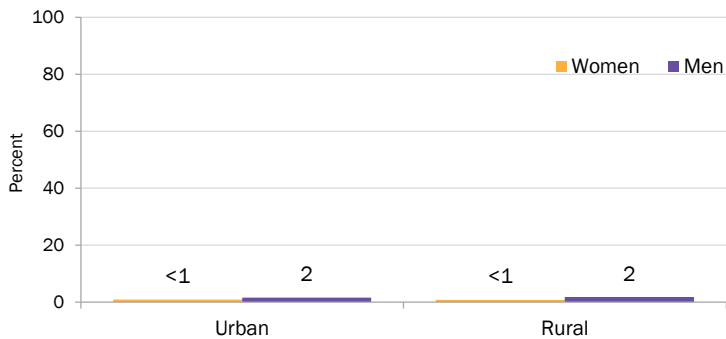


Note: there are no cases for categories "over 3 hours" and "DK/Missing"

Safety & Security

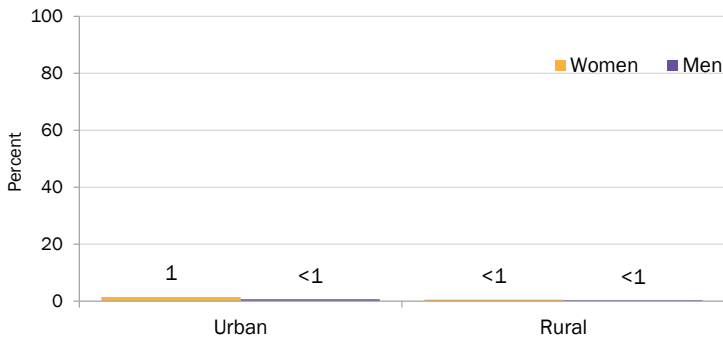
Victimisation

Percentage of adults age 15-49 who experienced physical violence of robbery or assault in the last year



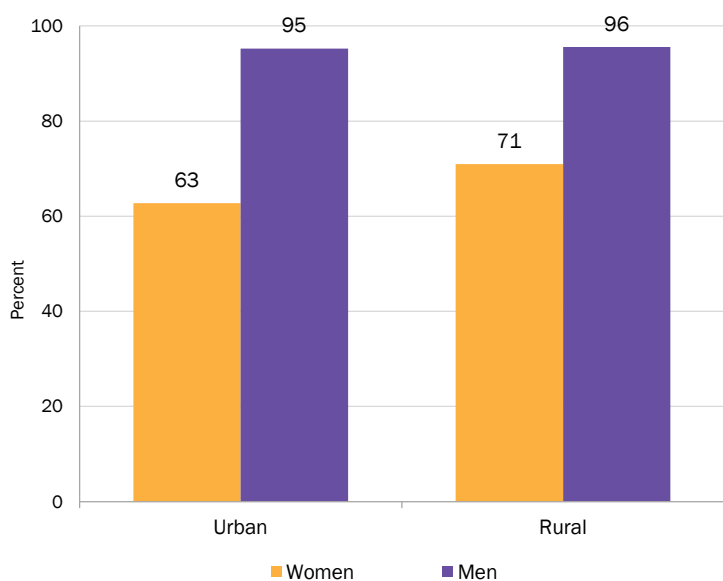
Discrimination & harassment

Percentage of adults age 15-49 who have ever personally felt discriminated or harassed based on their gender



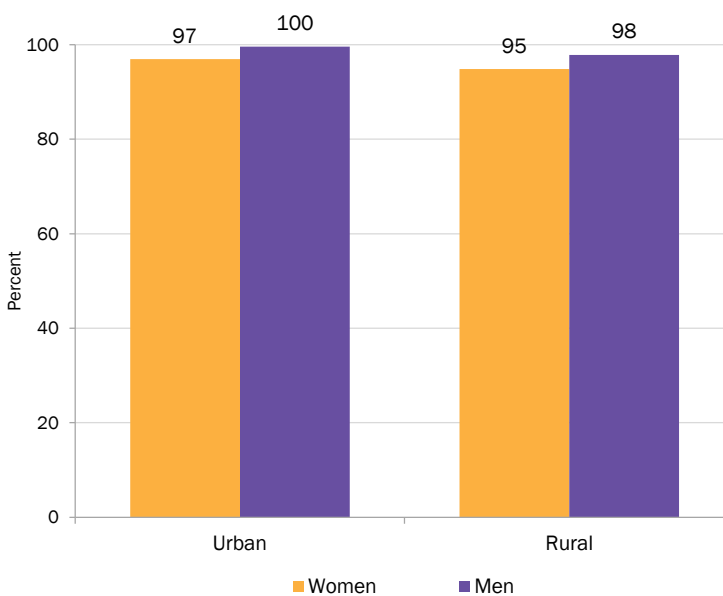
Feeling safe while walking alone (SDG 16.1.4)

Percentage of adults who feel safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark



Feeling safety while being at home alone

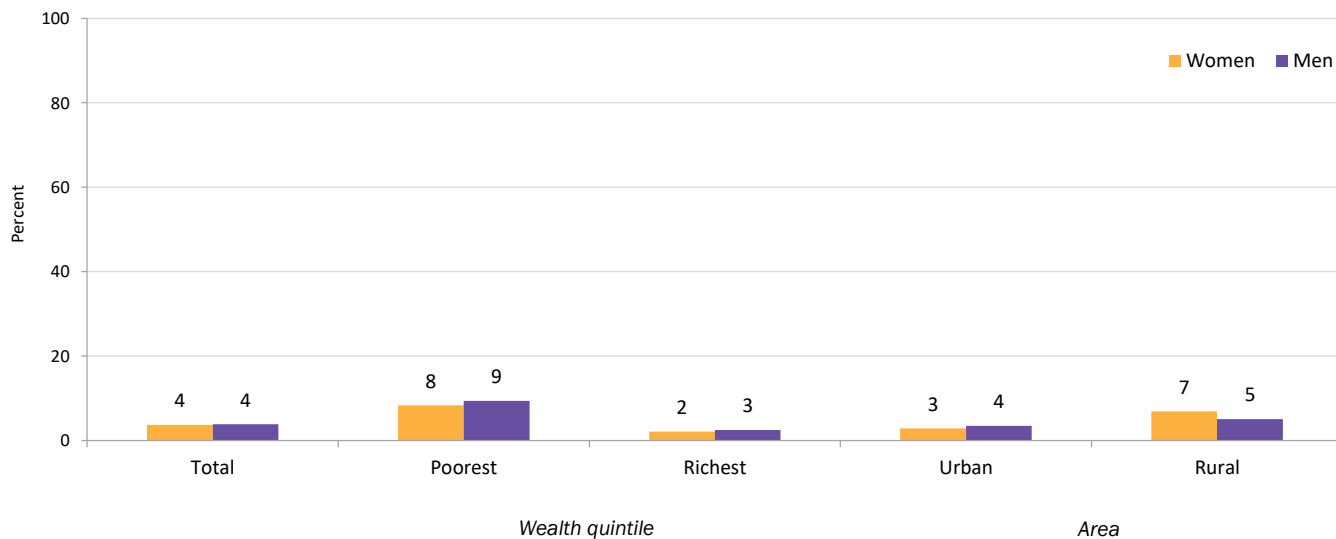
Percentage of adults (age 15-49) who feel safe being home alone after dark



Feminine & masculine attitudes & expectations

Attitudes toward domestic violence

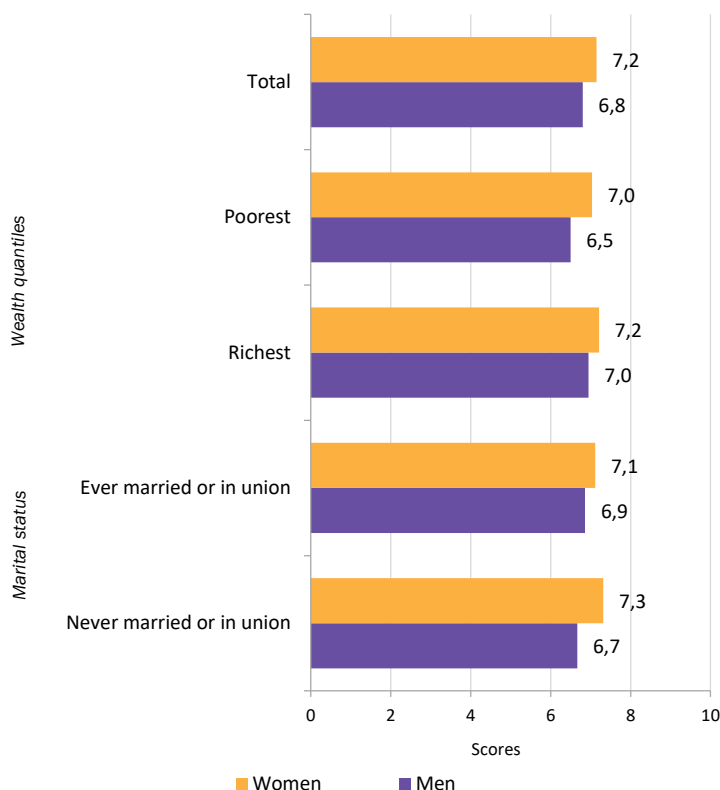
Percentage of adults age 15-49 who justify wife beating for any of the following reasons: she goes out without telling him; she neglects the children; she argues with him; she refuses sex with him; she burns the food



Feminine & masculine attitudes & expectations

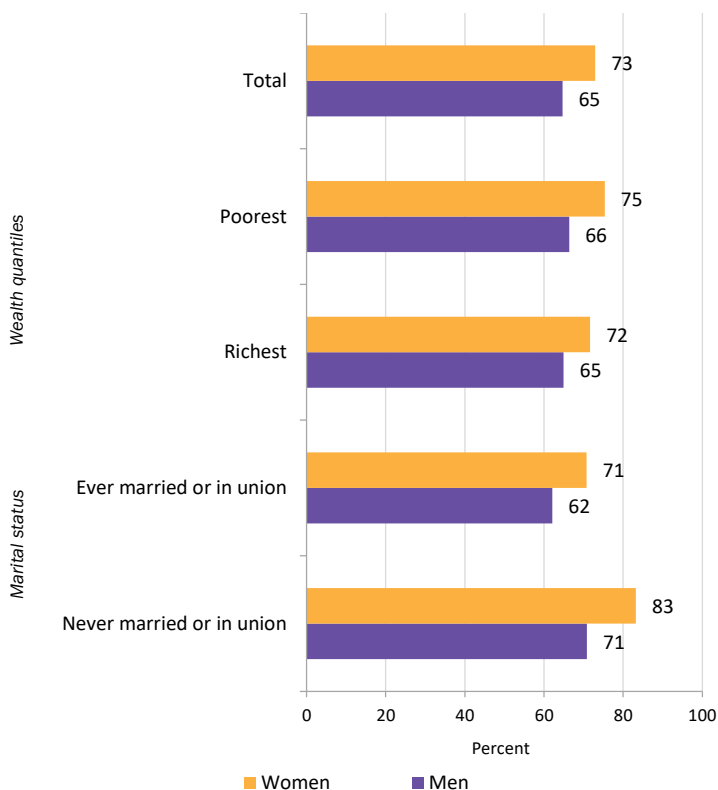
Life satisfaction

Among adults age 15-49, average life satisfaction score on a scale of 0 to 10. Higher scores indicate higher satisfaction levels.



Perceptions of a better life

Percentage of adults age 15-49 who expect that their lives will get better in one year.



Key Messages

- Literacy in the Republic of Belarus was comprehensive: the proportion of literate men and women aged 15-49 years was 100 percent (Section Sample coverage and characteristics of respondents in the Survey Findings Report).
- 1 percent of women and 2 percent of men aged 15-49 years were victims of physical violence when they were robbed or attacked in the last year.
- 1 percent of women and men aged 15-49 years faced gender-based discrimination or harassment.
- 65 percent of women and 95 percent of men aged 15-49 years in urban areas feel safe walking alone in their neighbourhood after dark.
- 97 percent of women and men aged 15-49 years felt safe staying alone at home at night-time.
- 4 percent of men and 4 percent of women aged 15-49 years thought that the husband/partner had the right to hit the women/partner in some situations.
- The average score of life satisfaction among men and women aged 15-49 years was 7 points.
- Two-thirds (65 percent) of men and 73 percent of women aged 15-49 years thought that their life would become better during next year.



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The objective of this snapshot is to disseminate selected findings from the Belarus MICS 2019 related to Gender Equality. Data from this snapshot can be found in table TC.10.1., TC.11.1., TM 3.1., TM 3.2., TM 3.3., TM 3.4., TM 11.1W, PR 2.1., PR 2.2., PR 6.1W., PR 6.1M-ssp, PR 7.1W., PR 7.1M-ssp, PR 8.1W., PR 8.1M-ssp, LN 1.2., LN 2.3., LN 2.4., LN 2.6., LN 2.7., EQ 3.1W., EQ 3.1M-ssp, EQ 4.1W., EQ 4.1M-ssp, EQ 4.2W., EQ 4.2M-ssp, WS 1.3., WS 1.4., SR 6.1W., SR 6.1M-ssp, SR 10.3W., SR 10.3M-ssp, SR 10.4

and in the Survey Findings Report. Further statistical snapshots and the Survey Findings Report for this and other surveys are available on belstat.gov.by and mics.unicef.org/surveys.