2022 Liberia Population and Housing Census

Analytical report on

Children, adolescents and youth

June 2024

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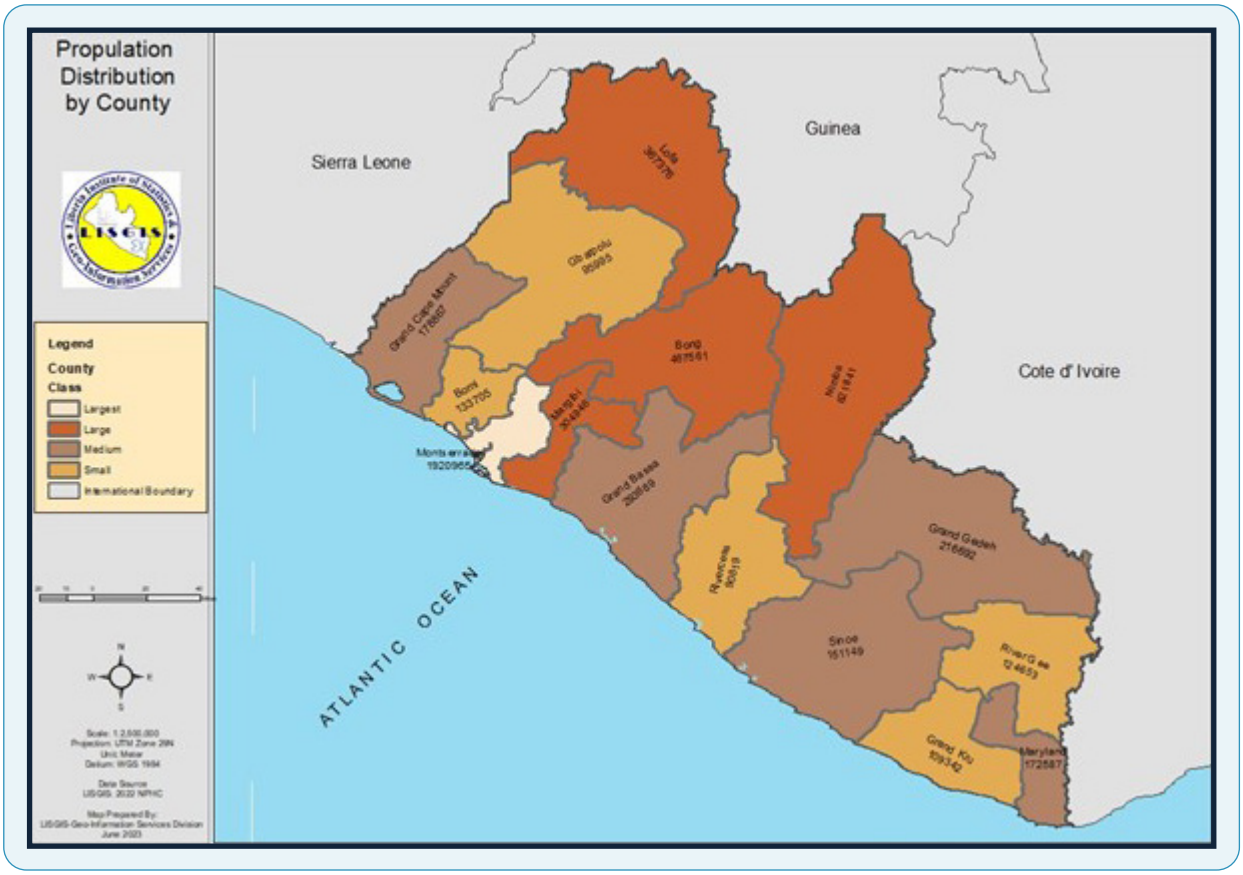
Administrative map of Liberia



Foreword

The 2022 National Population and Housing Census is the fifth and first digital census with the full deployment of ICT techniques and followed the UN Recommended Principles for the 2020 round of censuses. The basis for the conduct of the census is Article 39 of the 1986 Constitution of the Republic of Liberia. On October 10, 2022, the Government of Liberia initiated "an Act Authorizing the Executive Branch of Government to conduct the 2022 Liberia Population and Housing Census".

Hence, following the successful implementation of the 2022 Liberia Population and Housing Census, the Liberia Institute of Statistics & Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) produced 14 thematic reports. These reports summarized the country's demographic, social, and economic sectors. The publication of the thematic reports is consistent with the United Nations (UN) International Standards of releasing National Census results and thematic reports.

The 14 thematic reports form a primary source of socio-economic and demographic data at various levels and provide relevant information to foster national development, good governance, and resource distribution. The results presented in this thematic report will form a solid basis for the successes and challenges in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as support the implementation of the development of the Africa Union Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want; Transforming Our World and other national and international programs.

I am pleased that the thematic reports helped to guide our national development plan. I would like to appreciate the support received from development partners and individuals during the entire process of writing the thematic report.

On behalf of the Census Commission and Board of Directors of LISGIS, I thank the Government of Liberia and our development partners for providing the required resources for conducting the census. Thanks also go to the national and international experts who worked very hard to complete these thematic reports.

Special appreciation for the success of the census goes to Hon. Samuel D. Tweah, Jr., former Chairman of the Census Commission, the Census Commission, the Steering Committee, the Census Secretariat, other national and international experts, census staff, and all respondents who provided the required information as well as all stakeholders for their commitment, motivation, and support to the National Population and Housing Census process.

I look forward to the continued support and guidance of development partners to engender sustainable development in our country.

Hon. Dehpue Y. Zuo
Deputy Minister for Economic Management
& Chairman of the Board
Ministry of Finance and Development Planning

Preface

The Liberia Institute of Statistics & Geo-Information Services (LISGIS) conducted the fifth and first fully digital census in November 2022. The 2022 National Population and Housing Census data was collected using Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) technology. Data were collected using tablets and later transmitted to LISGIS's server electronically.

The 14 thematic areas identified provide a comprehensive understanding of the population. These thematic areas are a) Population Distribution and Size b) Children, Adolescents, and Youth c) People with disabilities and older people d) Migration and Urbanization e) Labor force and Employment, f) Education, and Literacy g) Agricultural Population, h) Non-monetary poverty i) Housing conditions and facilities j) Mortality, k) Fertility, l) Marriages/Nuptiality, m) Gender Dimensions, and n) Population Projections. I would also like to thank the national and international experts for preparing the thematic reports.

Though the Government contributed immense resources to the 2022 National Census exercise, the requirements were enormous and beyond the capacity of the Government and LISGIS. It is with pleasure that we recognize and appreciate the support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Swedish Government, the World Bank, the United States Aid for International Development (USAID), the Irish Government, the Government of Ghana, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other partners whose timely and continuous interventions gave stimulus to the execution of the 2022 Liberia Population and Housing Census including the preparation of the reports.

Special gratitude goes to the general public for their cooperation and support. We are indebted to personnel and the management of LISGIS, national and international experts, supervisors, and enumerators for successfully conducting the 2022 National Population and Housing Census.

Richard F. Ngafuan
Director General
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Introduction

Liberia has not analysed data on children, adolescents and youth from previous censuses. This report is to bridge the data gap between previous censuses and the 2022 one by analysing the social, economic and demographic characteristics of children, adolescents and youth, who collectively constitute more than a third of the total population. The objective is to identify their specific needs and make policy recommendations to address them.

The report classifies children into three groups as 0-9 years, 0-14 years and 0-17 years, adolescents refer to persons aged 10-19 years while the youth are classified into ages 15-24 years (to conform to the international definition) and 15-35 years (in accordance with the Liberia National Youth Policy and the African Union). For each of the agreed age categories there is a starting point for the data collection so even though there are uniform ages throughout, where appropriate, there are indications in each case where the data start and end.

Population size and distribution

Young people between the ages of 0 and 35 years make up about 74.5 per cent of the total population of Liberia. Children 0-17 years accounted for 41.5 per cent of the total population, adolescents 10-19 years were 35.6 per cent while the youth 15-24 years and 15-35 years constituted 23.6 per cent and 41.7 per cent, respectively. Females were a little over 50.0 per cent. In urban areas, females formed a majority (52.0 per cent) but in rural areas the proportion of males (51.0 per cent) was higher than females (49.0 per cent). Across the counties, with the exception of Margibi, Maryland, Montserrado and River Gee, the proportion of young persons living in rural areas was higher than those in urban areas.

Living arrangements

Almost four in five children in Liberia were reported as sons/daughters of their heads of household. In terms of urban-rural variation, children reported as sons/daughters of their heads of household in rural areas were higher (82.3 per cent) compared to their urban counterparts (75.7 per cent). None of the children under 10 years was reported as head of household or married to the head of household. A negligible proportion of adolescents (10-19 years) were, however, reported as heads of household or married to the head of household. At least 70.0 per cent of adolescents were recorded as sons/daughters to the head of household and this was the same for urban and rural areas. About one in 10 of the youth aged 15-24 years was head of household compared to a fifth of the youth aged 15-35 years. The youth aged 15-35 years who were married (spouse) to the head of household were about double (11.5 per cent) that of the youth aged 15-24 years (6.1 per cent).

Housing

Over a third of children, 27.6 per cent of adolescents and about 24.0 per cent of the youth lived in dwelling units owned by household members. About a third of children and youth lived in houses whose main outer walls were made of cement. More than four in five of young persons dwelt in houses with zinc roof. More than half of young persons dwelt in houses with concrete floor while about a third lived in houses with mud floor. The main source of lighting for households of young persons was Chinese rechargeable light. The other two major sources of light were the Liberia Electricity Company (LEC) and generator. Close to half of young persons were recorded in households that used water from pipes outside their houses. The main source of cooking fuel for households of young persons was charcoal, followed by firewood.

Literacy and education attainment

Female children were more literate than male children while male adolescents and youth were more literate than their female counterparts. Irrespective of age, literacy was higher for both males and females residing in urban than rural areas. There is, therefore, a huge gap in educational attainment between urban and rural areas. A third of children never attended school while about 10.0 per cent of adolescents and over 12.0 per cent of youth dropped out of school. At the county level, over a third of children in each county had no education. Grand Bassa County is the worst affected with over half of her children and over two-fifths each of her adolescents and youth without education.

Marital status

About 2.0 per cent of either male or female children had ever married. More females were in monogamous marriage than males and there were higher proportions of young persons in marriage in rural than urban areas. Adolescents 15-19 years contributed 10.0 per cent, while the youth aged 25-29 years contributed 21.1 per cent of the total fertility of Liberia in 2022.

Employment

At least 8.2 per cent of male and 6.9 per cent of female children aged 5-9 years were employees while at least 47.0 per cent of young persons were own-account workers. In terms of employment status across the counties, salary workers were the least, irrespective of age group. The proportion of male salary workers was higher than their female counterparts at all age groups.

Information, Communication and Technology

Young persons in urban households had more access to the computer than their counterparts in rural households. The situation was the same at the county level. Of all the counties, young persons in households in Gbarpolu and River Gee had the lowest access to computers. Less than half of households in rural areas of Liberia had ownership of mobile phones. Urban households in Gbarpolu County had the lowest (just above 50.0 per cent) ownership of mobile phones while Bong County's rural households had the lowest ownership (less than 40.0 per cent) of mobile phones compared to the other 14 counties.

Disability

There were higher proportions pf females with disability than males in all the age groups. Male and female children aged 5–9 years constituted the highest percentage with disability of 16.4 per cent (for either male or female). Generally, a higher proportion of adolescent males had disability than their female counterparts. Disability was also higher in communication, remembering, self-care and albinism among all the children's groups and among the youth group 15-24 years. Disability in sight was quite high among the youth.

In all the counties, with the exception of Grand Bassa, Grand Cape Mount and Grand Kru, which reported higher proportions of disability among female children, all the other counties reported relatively higher proportions of male children with disability than their female counterparts. For the youth groups and in all the counties except Grand Gedeh there was higher proportion of female youth with disability than their male counterparts. Maryland recorded the highest proportion of both male (6.4 per cent) and female (7.6 per cent) youth with disability.

In terms of marital status, disability was highest among the widowed with about a third reported to have some form of disability, followed by the divorced and then separated.

Policy recommendations

In the light of the results produced, a number of recommendations are presented to address the challenges identified in the analysis. Expansion of educational infrastructure at all levels is recommended to ensure that all persons of school-going age have access to primary school education. Vigorous educational campaigns should be embarked upon the Government and its agencies to educate parents and young persons on the importance of education to improve enrolment at the various levels of education. The Government should also expand educational infrastructure with well trained teachers to enhance teaching and learning.

The Government should strengthen and adequately fund the National Housing Authority to invest in the construction of affordable rental housing facilities in fast-expanding cities and towns to provide decent accommodation for workers at affordable rates.

The National Health Policy, as part of the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) should be vigorously implemented to provide adolescent reproductive health rights and services to all eligible young people in the country.

The Government should create jobs, and or the enabling environment for job opportunities. Entrepreneurial programmes should be integrated into tertiary-level education to equip more graduates from the tertiary institutions to undertake their own private-sector initiatives with support of government.

The Government is encouraged to expand electricity infrastructure to all areas in Liberia,especially the rural areas to facilitate use of computers and mobile phones. The Government should partner the Liberia Telecommunication Authority (LTA), the LEC and

mobile phone service providers to decentralize their services to the rural areas.

There should be an intensification of public education on the causes of disability while embarking on strict enforcement of laws and policies on disability to integrate persons with disabilities effectively in the society. The National Action Plan on Disability, 2023-2027, should be effectively implemented. These recommendations, if vigorously implemented would help address the challenges identified in the report.

Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1 Background

The population of Liberia has been growing rapidly. The growth rate from 1962 to 1974 was 3.3 per cent per annum. This increased to 3.4 per cent per annum between 1974 and 1984. Between 1984 and 2008, the growth rate fell to 2.1 per cent but increased to 3.0 per cent between 2008 and 2022. This rapid growth implies that the Liberian population is youthful and has implications for the development of the country. How well the youthful population would be managed to inure to the benefit of Liberia would depend, to a large extent, on the implementation of appropriate policies to address the resulting changes from the youthful population. For that matter, an analysis of the characteristics of children, adolescents and youth is important to provide policymakers with empirical evidence to formulate and implement desired policies.

Liberia, in its 176 years history of existence has conducted a total of four (4) National Population and Housing Censuses in 1962, 1974, 1984 and 2008. The successful conduct of the 2022 census not only saw Liberia comply with its Constitutional mandate under Article 39, but also complied with the international stipulated decennial periodicity of the exercise for the 2020 Round of Population Censuses (2015-2024) under the United Nations. This census is, therefore, justifiable after more than 14 years since the last census to provide current and reliable data for planning and formulation of policies.

Historical evidence shows high rates of overage enrolment, high dropouts and out-of-school children. In 2013, 71.2 per cent of Liberians experienced multi-dimensional poverty affecting children the most. Furthermore, more than 85 per cent of Liberia's social safety net budget comes from donor contributions and any cuts affect delivery of essential services to the most vulnerable, including children. Even though UNICEF and other development partners support institutions dealing with children's issues, for example, provision of essential services and capacity strengthening, challenges still persist. A deeper understanding of the issues of young persons in Liberia calls for analysis of their social, economic and demographic characteristics.

1.2 Relevance of the analysis, situation of the evolutionary framework for policy

The 2022 Liberia National Population and Housing Census is the fifth modern and first digital census conducted in Liberia. The 2022 census adopted electronic tablets to collect the data through the Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) technique. Census enumeration commenced on 12th November (Census Night) and was completed on 20th December 2022.

The population of children 0-17 years was recorded as 2,176,918, constituting 41.5 per cent of the total population. Also, over 75 per cent of the population is of age 0–35 years, while over 65 per cent is between ages 15 and 35 years. This comprises the youth population and the potential productive workforce component of the Liberian population. This component of the population, for the most part, however, can be generally characterized as experiencing high levels of poverty, illiteracy, unemployment and underemployment due to little or no marketable skills, adolescent pregnancy, substance and drug abuse and high infant and maternal mortality.

The future of any country depends on the population size of its young people as well as investments made in providing their development needs. The population of young people needs to be analysed to inform policymakers in designing policies that could effectively address their specific needs. It is also important to identify the unique differences in the characteristics of children, adolescents and youth within this population because each of these three categories is distinct from each other with some overlaps. Policies that address the challenges faced by these sub-groups of the young population need to be related to their demographic and socio-economic characteristics so as to address them adequately.

For children under age five years, challenges that policymakers seek to address include infant mortality, health and school enrolment, birth registration and vaccinations against killer diseases. In contrast, challenges faced by adolescents would require policy interventions targeting adolescent sexual health, early marriages, adolescent pregnancy, youth employment, tertiary and vocational education as well as drug or substance abuse.

However, some of the needs of these differing age groups of young people do overlap; allowing institutions responsible for their welfare and development to conceive and implement programs in an integrated manner to ensure no one is left behind. In order to determine where these overlaps occur, data analysis must bring out the characteristics and needs of the different youthful age groups so they can be targeted effectively in policy-related actions.

Young people living in rural areas have different needs from those residing in urban areas based on marked differences in infrastructure and community facilities such as health, education or housing facilities. Policies, therefore, need to target young people living in rural and urban areas differently.

Thus, the need to harness the demographic dividend for youth empowerment and national development in Liberia cannot be over-emphasized. This thematic analysis of the 2022 LPHC on children, adolescents and youth is intended to highlight the important issues that require to be included in efforts towards their empowerment to be actively involved in national development. The Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD), which is the national development plan sets a solid foundation to begin the process of harnessing the demographic dividend for youth empowerment and national development in Liberia.

One major challenge is that the PAPD ended in 2023, coupled with the uncoordinated, non-integration and weak implementation modalities of available programs and policies such as the National Youth Policy, Youth Employment Programme and Youth Empowerment for Demographic Dividend (YEDD), etc.

This report is important because Liberia has not analysed data on children, adolescents and youth from the previous censuses. This is the first of its kind, and by looking closely at the social, economic and demographic characteristics of these young population sub-groups that collectively constitute more than a third of the total population of the country, it is possible to identify their specific needs and make recommendations on how these needs can be addressed through relevant policies and programs. The inclusion of data on children for analysis makes this report very relevant and presents a unique opportunity to bring census analysis in Liberia to be comparable with countries in Africa and elsewhere.

1.3 The concept of children, adolescents and youth

The concept of children differs among countries. There are also overlaps in the definition and classification of children, adolescents and youth. The United Nations defines children as persons less than 18 years of age. According to the 1986 Constitution of Liberia, a child is any person below the age of 18 years, i.e., the age of majority at which one is entitled to vote in national and local elections. The term child or children based on the Constitution, therefore, refers to individuals from birth to the age of 17 years, which is consistent with international definition in most democracies worldwide. By the time they are 18 years, young persons are expected to have developed sufficient intellectual, emotional and physical maturity.

On the other hand, persons less than 15 years are classified demographically as children and are considered to be dependent on the working age population 15-64 years. In contrast, the term “adolescent” is often used synonymously with “teenager” but in this report adolescents have been defined as persons of age 10-19 years. In the demographic and health surveys, data are collected on persons 15-49 years with respect to fertility where the 15-19-year-olds are taken as representing the adolescents because persons below the age of 15 years are not surveyed.

From this presentation, there are obvious overlaps across the different classifications of children, adolescents and youth used in the report. At the same time, sociologically, the period of transition from childhood into adulthood may not necessarily depend on a person’s age.

The definition of youth varies also from country to country. Generally, the period between childhood and adulthood is called either adolescence or youth. The United Nations defines the youth to encompass all persons 15-24 years. This appears to be a universal definition. However, due to differences in national policies, this may vary between countries. In Liberia, the National Youth Policy classifies all persons 15-35 years as constituting the youth of the country. This means, the youth overlap adolescents and children between 15 and 19 years and beyond the 24-year-old cut-off used by the United Nations.

Unfortunately, the 2008 Census Thematic Report did not cover children and youth aged 25-35 years but provided broad definitions of adolescents and youth as young adolescents ranging from

age 10 to 14 years based on the reasoning that at this stage of life, children are young and youthful, and largely depend on their parents for their physical, emotional and social needs and support. Older adolescents were classified as persons of age 15-19 years, viewed as the beginning of the onset of puberty, which is accompanied by rapid physical growth and maturation, ushering the individual into assuming the responsibilities of adulthood. Young adults were also defined to include persons of age 20-24 years, when they are presumed to have entered adulthood by taking on some responsibilities at higher levels including marriage and or the formation of families.

The Ghana 2010 Census Thematic Report classified children as 0-17, with those less than 15 years as dependent. It also considered adolescents as 10-19 years, with 15-19 representing adolescents in the Demographic and Health Survey (DHS). The Ghana report again classified youth in two ways as 15-24 years and 15-35 years. The Sierra Leone Census classified children as 0-9 and 0-17 simultaneously. It also classified adolescents as 10-19 years and youth as 15-35 years. There are, therefore, obvious overlaps across all these groups, which are well acknowledged in this report.

In the light of these foregoing overlaps, and in an attempt to conform to national and international policies, the analysis in this report classifies children into three groups as 0-9 years, 0-14 years and 0-17 years, while those aged 10-19 years constitute the adolescent population. On the other hand, the population considered as youth is classified at two levels: 15-24 years, to conform to the international definition and 15-35 years, in accordance with the National Youth Policy (NYP) definition in Liberia and the African Union. For each of the agreed age categories there is a starting point for the data collection so even though there are uniform ages throughout, where appropriate, there are indications in each case where the data start and end.

1.4 Objectives of the thematic report

The needs of children are quite different from those of adolescents, which also vary from the interests of the youth, although there may be overlaps. This large segment of the population made up of children, adolescents and youth is very important in the social, economic and political decision-making of the country today. This stems from the fact that considering their large size and diverse nature, major decisions cannot but take account of their peculiar interests or risk reducing the relevance of the decisions.

Children, adolescents and youth are quite diverse by age and spatial distribution and, therefore, there cannot be one uniform set of policies or programs that can sufficiently address the challenges they face. This calls for a critical analysis of their variation by gender and geographical location in the country.

Such analysis should attempt to bring out a clearer distinction among them for policy intervention purposes. This is because the analysis presents a vivid description of each group not only by age but by spatial location in the country. Again, considering the obvious overlaps, the analysis would enable relevant stakeholders understand how institutions, agencies and departments involved in addressing issues pertaining to the three groups of young people could coordinate their efforts to complement each other while avoiding unnecessary duplications and waste of scarce resources.

The Government of Liberia is embarking on policy initiatives that affect different segments of the population particularly young people. The implementation of these policy initiatives such as the NYP, YEDD and those in the education and health sectors would require evidence-based analysis and information to ensure their effective implementation. This means that the distribution of the three groups of young people in the country by age and sex, residence and county as well as by education, marital status and economic activity would be of critical importance.

Against this backdrop, the aim of the analysis is the presentation of a comprehensive socio-demographic and economic description of children, adolescents and youth in the country, pointing out their varying needs and their geographical spread in order to recommend appropriate policy interventions. The analysis specifically seeks to:

i. classify children, adolescents and youth in the country and differentiate them based on their respective demographic, social and economic characteristics;

ii. 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;

iii. study the extent to which available social services are accessible to these young people;

iv. examine the rural-urban gaps that exist pertaining to the growth and development of children, adolescents and youth in the country; and

v. present policy recommendations to address the implications of the situation of children, adolescents and youth.

1.5 Methodology

The analysis in this report uses the results of the 2022 Liberian Population and Housing Census. The success of a statistical activity depends on how well it contributes to meeting the information needs of the users. Relevant sources with various methodologies have been consulted including desk review of available materials in institutional libraries and consultations with experts.

The analysis utilized basic descriptive analytical methods to present results using tables on rates and percentages as well as graphs to describe the characteristics of children, adolescents and youth based on the 2022 Population and Housing Census data. This analysis is largely limited to the use of rates and proportions to present the results. It, however, utilized comparative analysis of trends from previous censuses in Liberia and other recent censuses in the sub-region. Liberia's previous censuses did not analyse data on children in the thematic report, hence, this report utilizes comparative analysis with recent censuses in the sub-region.

1.6 Limitations of the study

The 2022 Population and Housing Census did not collect data on reproductive health indicators to allow deeper analysis. Therefore, this analysis only provides a general picture of the socio-economic and demographic profile of children, adolescents and youth as have been defined.

1.7 Structure of the report

The report is organized into nine chapters. Chapter 1 presents the introduction, which includes the background and overview of the importance of the 2022 LPHC, the relevance of the theme, importance of the results for policy making, objectives, sources of data and limitations of the report. Chapter 2 provides information by population size, age-sex, household structure, spatial distribution and living arrangements. Chapter 3 looks at housing characteristics, analysing the type of tenancy arrangement, ownership of dwelling, housing conditions and ownership of amenities. In Chapter 4, the report discusses literacy, school attendance and educational attainment by age-sex and place of residence. Chapter 5 covers marital status, fertility, contribution of adolescents and youth to total fertility, age at first birth and children ever born. Chapter 6 discusses economic and employment characteristics while Chapter 7 covers Information, Communication and Technology (ICT), emphasizing on household ownership of computer, and mobile phone by urban-rural and county variations. Chapter 8 looks at disability with respect to spatial variation by type of place of residence, county of residence, and marital status. Chapter 9 finally presents the conclusion, policy implications and recommendations to inform policy actions.

Chapter 2: Population size, age-sex distribution and household structure

2.1 Population size and age-sex distribution

The population of Liberia according to the 2022 Population and Housing Census was 5,250,187. Young people between the ages 0 and 35 years make up about 74.5 per cent of the total population of Liberia, which means that about three out of every four Liberians can be classified as a young person for the purpose of this report. Children 0-17 years account for 41.5 per cent of the total population, while adolescents 10-19 years account for 35.6 per cent. On the other hand, the youthful population of 15-24 years constitute 23.6 per cent, while the age group 15-35 represents 41.7 per cent.

Children: Table 2.1 shows that female children were slightly more than the males, with females 0-14 years representing 50.2 per cent while the males were 49.8 per cent. Similarly, for children 0-9 years and 0-17 years, the females are a little more than half. In the urban areas a similar pattern is observed with females accounting for about 52.0 per cent for each of the three age groups of children while the males account for about 48.0 per cent. The reverse is, however, the case in the rural areas where male children are in the majority (about 52.0 per cent) in each of the age groups with the females forming about 48.0 per cent.

Adolescents: The composition of the adolescent population by sex is similar to that of children. Here, the male population was in the minority while the females constituted the majority. Again, by type of place of residence, female adolescents (51.9 per cent) outnumbered their male counterparts (48.1 per cent) in urban areas but in the rural areas, the reverse was the case where the males (51.1 per cent) were more than the females (48.5 per cent).

Youth: A pattern similar to that observed in children and adolescents pertain to the youth groups. For all localities and urban areas, more than half of the youth population were females but in the rural areas, males (50.4 per cent) outnumbered the females (49.6 per cent).

Table 2.1: Percentage distribution of young persons by age-sex and type of place of residence

Age group	All localities			Urban			Rural		
	Total population	Percent		Total population	Percent		Total population	Percent	
		Male	Female		Male	Female		Male	Female
0-9	1,164,556	49.6	50.4	600,784	48.5	51.5	563,772	51.3	48.7
0-14	1,797,178	49.8	50.2	960,088	48.2	51.8	837,090	51.6	48.4
0-17	2,176,918	49.8	50.2	1,181,892	48.2	51.8	995,026	51.7	48.3
10-19	1,271,085	49.7	50.3	730,816	48.1	51.9	540,269	51.5	48.5
15-24	1,237,999	49.2	50.8	717,590	48.4	51.6	520,409	50.4	49.6
15-35	2,189,306	49.3	50.7	1,264,015	48.4	51.6	925,291	50.4	49.6

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

2.2 Spatial distribution of young people

Tables 2.2 and 2.3 present the percentage distribution of young people in Liberia by county of residence, sex and type of place of residence. For each county, the percentage distribution of the specified groups has been computed as a percentage of the total county population. This percentage is then split into urban and rural.

Table 2.2: Percentage distribution of children by county of residence, age and type of place of residence

County of residence	Total County population	0-9 years			0-14 years			0-17 years		
		% of total county pop	% Urban	% Rural	% of total county pop	% Urban	% Rural	% of total county pop	% Urban	% Rural
Bomi	133,705	23.0	24.7	75.3	34.4	26.1	73.9	41.0	26.7	73.3
Bong	467,561	23.4	30.1	69.9	34.6	32.4	67.6	41.1	33.4	66.6
Gbarpolu	95,995	22.5	9.4	90.6	33.0	9.9	90.1	39.2	10.1	89.9
Grand Bassa	293,689	24.1	28.4	71.6	35.5	30.3	69.7	42.1	31.1	68.9
Grand Cape Mount	178,867	20.5	24.3	75.7	30.7	25.1	74.9	36.9	25.1	74.9
Grand Gedeh	216,692	17.7	47.4	52.6	28.8	46.8	53.2	36.0	46.6	53.4
Grand Kru	109,342	21.7	6.0	94.0	34.5	6.4	93.6	42.2	6.6	93.4
Lofa	367,376	22.9	21.9	78.1	34.9	22.8	77.2	42.6	23.4	76.6
Margibi	304,946	22.1	53.1	46.9	34.6	55.2	44.8	42.1	56.0	44.0
Maryland	172,587	22.1	58.5	41.5	35.5	60.1	39.9	43.6	61.4	38.6
Montserrado	1,920,965	20.6	90.6	9.4	32.8	91.0	9.0	40.4	91.2	8.8
Nimba	621,841	26.7	31.8	68.2	39.6	33.4	66.6	46.6	34.4	65.6
River Cess	90,819	25.4	10.4	89.6	37.3	11.0	89.0	43.7	11.6	88.4
River Gee	124,653	20.9	51.7	48.3	33.7	52.4	47.6	41.1	52.6	47.4
Sinoe	151,149	21.6	18.2	81.8	33.7	18.7	81.3	41.3	19.1	80.9

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

Children: The highest proportion of each children's group out of the county population was in Nimba County. For example, 26.7 per cent, 39.6 per cent and 46.6 per cent of children 0-9 years, 0-14 years and 0-17 years, respectively, were in Nimba County. In contrast, the lowest proportion of children aged 0-9 years (17.7 per cent), children aged 0-14 years (28.8 per cent) and children aged 0-17 years (36.0 per cent) were found in Grand Gedeh County. Grand Kru County had the highest proportion of children of all age groups living in rural areas. For example, about nine in 10 children aged 0-9 years, 0-14 years 0-17 years in Grand Kru County were in rural areas. Montserrado County had the highest proportion of children in urban areas (91.0 per cent) and the lowest in rural areas (9.0 per cent).

Adolescents: The percentage distribution of adolescents by county of residence, age and type of place of residence has been analysed and the results presented in Table 2.3.

Table 2.3: Percentage distribution of adolescents and youth by county of residence, age and type of place of residence

County of residence	Total County population	10-19 years			15-24 years			15-35 years		
		% of total county pop	% Urban	% Rural	% of total county pop	% Urban	% Rural	% of total county pop	% Urban	% Rural
Bomi	133,705	22.5	29.6	70.4	21.3	29.4	70.6	38.1	28.2	71.8
Bong	467,561	22.2	37.7	62.3	21.8	37.7	62.3	39.3	35.6	64.4
Gbarpolu	95,995	21.0	11.0	89.0	20.9	10.6	89.4	39.0	9.3	90.7
Grand Bassa	293,689	22.5	35.0	65.0	21.7	35.0	65.0	38.2	33.8	66.2
Grand Cape Mount	178,867	21.2	25.9	74.1	23.6	26.1	73.9	44.2	27.7	72.3
Grand Gedeh	216,692	23.7	45.5	54.5	25.8	43.4	56.6	45.0	41.1	58.9
Grand Kru	109,342	25.7	7.4	92.6	24.8	7.1	92.9	42.1	6.8	93.2
Lofa	367,376	25.2	25.8	74.2	24.8	26.6	73.4	42.6	25.3	74.7
Margibi	304,946	25.0	59.3	40.7	23.7	59.9	40.1	40.2	59.7	40.3
Maryland	172,587	27.1	64.8	35.2	24.9	67.4	32.6	41.7	66.7	33.3
Montserrado	1,920,965	24.8	91.8	8.2	24.5	92.3	7.7	44.3	92.6	7.4
Nimba	621,841	24.5	38.5	61.5	21.6	39.4	60.6	37.3	37.4	62.6
River Cess	90,819	22.5	13.5	86.5	20.4	14.1	85.9	36.0	13.8	86.2
River Gee	124,653	25.4	53.4	46.6	25.1	52.0	48.0	42.1	50.3	49.7
Sinoe	151,149	24.8	20.1	79.9	25.1	19.4	80.6	42.2	17.8	82.2

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

The county that had the highest proportion of adolescents is Maryland (27.1%) while the lowest proportion was in Gbarpolu County (21.0%). As in the children's groups, with the exception of Margibi, Maryland, Montserrado and River Gee, all the counties had a higher proportion of their adolescent population residing in rural areas. Montserrado had as high as 91.8 per cent of adolescents in urban areas and just about 8.2 per cent in rural areas. In contrast, Grand Kru County had about 93.0 per cent of her adolescents in rural areas with only 7.4 per cent in urban areas. The differences by urban and rural places of residence could reflect how largely urban or rural each county is and so the largely urban counties tend to have a huge proportion of the adolescents in urban areas in the counties and vice versa.

Youth: In Table 2.3, the proportion of the total county population of youth aged 15-24 years and 15-35 years ranges from the highest of 25.8 per cent and 45.0 per cent, respectively, in Grand Gedeh County to the lowest of 20.4 per cent for youth aged 15-24 and 36.0 per cent for the youth aged 15-35 years in River Cess County. In terms of urban-rural distribution, the pattern observed is similar to those found in children and adolescents. With the exception of Margibi, Maryland, Montserrado and River Gee counties, the rest of the counties recorded more than half of their youth population residing in rural areas.

Montserrado had the highest youth population in urban areas (92.3 per cent and 92.6 per cent for youth groups 15-24 years and 15-35 years, respectively) and the lowest in rural areas (7.7 per cent and 7.4 per cent, respectively). In contrast, Grand Kru recorded the highest proportion of youth in rural areas (92.9 per cent and 93.2 per cent for youth aged 15-24 years and 15-35 years, respectively) and the lowest proportion of youth in urban areas (7.1 per cent and 6.8 per cent, respectively).

2.3 Living arrangements

Household living arrangement refers to whether or not the person lives with another person or persons and, if so, whether or not he or she is related to that person or persons. It is derived from responses from questions about the relationships among the people who live in the households. This examines the young people regarding their status particularly as heads of household or as a spouse or partner to the head of household. The analysis of the results is presented in Tables 2.4 to 2.8.

Table 2.4: Percentage distribution of population of children aged 0-9 years by relationship to head of household, sex and type of place of residence

Relationship to head of household	Total			Urban			Rural		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Head	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Spouse	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Son/Daughter	79.0	78.9	78.9	75.8	75.7	75.7	82.2	82.4	82.3
Other Spouse	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Parent	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Grand Child	11.9	11.8	11.8	13.0	12.7	12.9	10.8	10.7	10.7
Servant	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1
Ward	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Other relative	7.7	8.0	7.8	9.5	9.9	9.8	5.8	5.8	5.8
Non relative	1.3	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.5	1.1	1.0	1.0
Institutional	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

Children: In Table 2.4, children less than 10 years are examined in terms of their relationship to the head of household, comparing them by urban-rural place of residence. As expected, the results show that almost four in five children in Liberia were reported as sons/daughters of their heads of household. In terms of urban-rural variations, children reported as sons/daughters of their heads of households in rural areas were higher (about 82.0 per cent) compared to their urban counterparts (about 76.0 per cent) reported as sons/daughters of their heads of households. However, the proportion of children reported as grandchildren and other relative was higher in urban than in rural areas.

About 12.0 per cent of children were also reported as grandchildren of the head of household with those recorded in urban areas (11.3 per cent) slightly higher than those recorded in rural areas (9.7 per cent). About 8.0 per cent of the children were reported as other relative of the head of household, the proportion being higher in urban (11.4 per cent) than in rural (6.6 per cent) areas of Liberia. Not much variation is observed between urban male and female or rural male and female. As expected, none of the children was reported as head of household or married. In Tables 2.5 and 2.6, a pattern similar to that seen in children aged 0-9 years is observed.

Table 2.5: Percentage distribution of population of children 0-14 years by relationship to head of household, sex and type of place of residence

Relationship to head of household	Total			Urban			Rural		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Head	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Spouse	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1
Son/Daughter	78.7	78.4	78.5	75.4	75.3	75.4	82.1	82.2	82.2
Other Spouse	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Parent	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Grand Child	10.6	10.5	10.6	11.5	11.2	11.3	9.7	9.7	9.7
Servant	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Ward	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Other relative	8.9	9.3	9.1	11.1	11.6	11.4	6.6	6.6	6.6
Non relative	1.4	1.3	1.4	1.6	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.1	1.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

A high proportion of children were reported as sons/daughters to their heads of households followed by grandchildren and other relatives. The proportion of children reported as sons/daughters of the head of household was higher in rural than in urban areas but the proportion of children reported as grandchildren and other relative of the head of household was higher in urban than in rural areas. A negligible proportion of the children 0-14 years was reported as head of household (0.4 per cent) or married (0.1 per cent each).

Table 2.6: Percentage distribution of population of children 0-17 years by relationship to head of household, sex and type of place of residence

Relationship to head of household	Total			Urban			Rural		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Head	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4
Spouse	0.1	0.6	0.3	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.8	0.5
Son/Daughter	77.7	77.3	77.5	74.3	74.3	74.3	81.5	81.1	81.3
Other Spouse	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1
Grand Child	9.8	9.6	9.7	10.5	10.2	10.3	9.0	8.9	8.9
Servant	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Ward	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
Other relative	10.2	10.3	10.2	12.7	12.8	12.7	7.4	7.2	7.3
Non relative	1.6	1.4	1.5	1.7	1.6	1.7	1.4	1.2	1.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

Further analysis on the relationship of young persons to heads of household is presented in Table 2.7 with particular reference to the person being either the head of household, spouse or son/daughter. The purpose of this analysis is to help gauge the extent to which young persons are in charge of households and how early marriages take place among young people in Liberia. The analysis is limited to adolescents (10-19 years) and youth (15-35 years) since children (0-17 years) had already been separately discussed.

Adolescents: The results in Table 2.7 indicates that a negligible proportion of adolescents (10-19 years) were reported as heads of households. Overall, just about 2.0 per cent were heads of households with rural heads (2.1 per cent) slightly higher than their urban counterparts (1.8 per cent). There were slight variations between males and females with female adolescent heads slightly higher than male adolescent heads irrespective of the type of place of residence. Only 1.6 per cent of the adolescents were recorded to be in marriage with the proportion being higher in rural than urban areas with higher proportions for females than males irrespective of the type of place of residence. Over 70.0 per cent of adolescents were reported as sons/daughters of the heads of household. The proportion of sons/daughters were higher in rural (77.1 per cent) than in urban (70.5 per cent) areas. While there was virtually no variation between males and females in urban areas, in the rural areas, the proportion of males was higher (78.9 per cent) than females (75.2 per cent).

Table 2.7: Percentage distribution of adolescents and youth by relationship to head of household, sex and type of place of residence

Relationship to head of household	Total			Urban			Rural		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
10-19	**632,338**	**638,747**	**1,271,085**	**350,200**	**380,616**	**730,816**	**282,138**	**258,131**	**540,269**
Head	1.8	2.1	2.0	1.8	1.9	1.8	1.9	2.4	2.1
Spouse	0.3	2.8	1.6	0.3	1.8	1.0	0.4	4.4	2.3
Son/daughter	74.3	72.3	73.3	70.6	70.4	70.5	78.9	75.2	77.1
Other	23.5	22.7	23.1	27.3	26.0	26.6	18.9	17.9	18.4
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
15-24	**609,515**	**628,484**	**1,237,999**	**347,320**	**370,270**	**717,590**	**262,195**	**258,214**	**520,409**
Head	10.3	8.8	9.6	10.0	9.2	9.6	10.8	8.3	9.5
Spouse	1.1	11.0	6.1	0.9	8.0	4.6	1.4	15.2	8.2
Son/daughter	61.5	56.1	58.7	57.9	55.0	56.4	66.3	57.7	62.0
Other	27.1	24.2	25.6	31.2	27.9	29.5	21.6	18.8	20.2
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
15-35	**1,078,630**	**1,110,676**	**2,189,306**	**612,485**	**651,530**	**1,264,015**	**466,145**	**459,146**	**925,291**
Head	25.8	16.4	21.0	25.9	18.1	21.9	25.7	14.1	19.9
Spouse	2.9	19.9	11.5	2.6	15.8	9.4	3.2	25.8	14.4
Son/daughter	46.2	41.3	43.7	43.1	40.2	41.6	50.2	42.9	46.6
Other	25.1	22.4	23.7	28.4	26.0	27.1	20.9	17.3	19.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

Youth: About one in 10 (9.6 per cent) of the youth aged 15-24 years was head of household compared to a fifth (21.0%) of the youth aged 15-35 years who were heads of households. The data in Table 2.7 also reveal that the youth aged 15-35 years who were married (spouse) to the head of household were about double (11.5%) that of the youth aged 15-24 years (6.1%). The proportion of youth who were sons/daughters of the head of household was higher for age group 15-24 years than age group 15-35 years. In terms of male-female distribution, the proportion of male heads of household was higher than their female counterparts. For example, for the youth aged 15-35 years, the proportion of male heads of household was 25.8 per cent compared to 16.4 per cent for the females. In terms of being a spouse to the head of household, however, the proportion of female youth aged 15-24 years was 11.0 per cent compared to only 1.1 per cent of their male counterparts. The comparison by type of place of residence and sex also reveals a similar pattern as has been described above.

The percentage distribution of the population of young persons by relationship to head of household, age and county of residence is presented in Table 2.8.

Table 2.8: Percentage distribution of population of young persons by relationship to head of household, age and county of residence

Relationship to head of household	Bomi	Bong	Gbarpolu	Grand Bassa	Grand Cape M	Grand Gedeh	Grand Kru	Lofa	Margibi	Maryland	Montserrado	Nimba	River Cess	River Gee	Sinoe
0-9															
Head	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Spouse	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Son/ Daughter	82.3	76.9	79.3	83.8	78.9	80.5	85.2	77.9	80.5	81.8	75.7	80.9	83.0	82.2	83.9
Other	17.7	23.1	20.7	16.2	21.1	19.5	14.8	22.1	19.5	18.2	24.3	19.1	17.0	17.8	16.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
0-14															
Head	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Spouse	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Son/ Daughter	80.2	76.8	78.7	83.8	77.3	80.0	84.4	78.2	80.4	80.7	75.5	80.5	82.7	82.3	83.9
Other	19.5	23.1	21.1	16.0	22.4	19.8	15.4	21.6	19.3	19.2	24.4	19.4	17.2	17.5	15.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
0-17															
Head	0.9	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.3	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4
Spouse	0.5	0.3	0.5	0.6	0.6	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.7	0.5	0.5
Son/ Daughter	78.6	76.0	77.4	82.8	75.7	78.7	83.3	77.5	79.5	79.6	74.6	79.5	81.2	81.3	82.8
Other	19.9	23.2	21.6	16.1	23.1	20.6	16.0	21.7	19.7	19.9	24.8	19.8	17.6	17.9	16.3
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
10-19															
Head	4.7	2.3	2.5	2.2	2.8	1.5	1.3	1.7	2.2	1.5	1.7	2.2	3.0	1.7	1.7
Spouse	2.8	1.7	2.7	2.7	2.8	1.5	1.7	1.8	1.6	1.2	1.0	1.7	3.8	1.9	2.0
Son/ Daughter	69.7	72.0	71.6	78.5	68.2	74.3	79.2	74.8	75.7	75.1	71.0	74.9	74.4	77.7	79.2
Other	22.8	24.0	23.3	16.5	26.1	22.7	17.8	21.7	20.5	22.2	26.4	21.3	18.8	18.7	17.1
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Relationship to head of household	Bomi	Bong	Gbarpolu	Grand Bassa	Grand Cape M	Grand Gedeh	Grand Kru	Lofa	Margibi	Maryland	Montserrado	Nimba	River Cess	River Gee	Sinoe
15-24															
Head	17.8	10.6	10.6	10.6	11.8	6.9	6.6	7.3	10.2	9.0	9.2	10.4	13.0	8.1	7.8
Spouse	9.5	6.4	10.0	9.4	9.6	5.6	5.3	6.6	5.9	5.1	4.5	6.7	12.6	6.5	7.3
Son/ Daughter	51.3	57.9	53.6	62.2	51.5	59.2	66.9	63.8	61.2	62.5	56.4	60.8	53.2	63.5	64.2
Other	21.3	25.1	25.9	17.8	27.1	28.3	21.2	22.3	22.7	23.5	29.9	22.1	21.2	21.8	20.7
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
15-35															
Head	29.8	21.6	21.1	22.1	23.5	14.9	15.8	17.6	21.4	20.2	22.3	20.7	23.4	16.4	16.8
Spouse	15.6	12.4	15.4	16.2	14.8	10.7	10.8	12.5	11.4	10.7	9.4	12.4	19.1	11.7	12.7
Son/ Daughter	36.4	43.1	38.2	45.6	37.4	46.3	52.8	49.8	46.1	48.1	40.6	47.0	37.8	51.5	49.7
Other	18.2	22.9	25.2	16.1	24.4	28.1	20.5	20.1	21.1	21.0	27.7	20.0	19.7	20.5	20.8
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

Children: There was no child below age 10 years who was either head of household or spouse in any of the 15 counties. Children who were sons/daughters of the head of household formed the highest proportion of at least 75.0 per cent in each of the counties. There is less than 1.0 per cent of children aged 0-14 years and 0-17 years who were either head of household or spouse to the head of household.

Adolescents: Bomi County had the highest proportion of adolescent heads of household (4.7 per cent) and spouse to the head of household (2.8 per cent), followed by River Cess County with 3.0 per cent as heads of household and 3.8 per cent as spouses to the head of household. In contrast, Grand Kru County had the lowest proportion (1.3 per cent) as adolescent heads of household while Maryland had the lowest proportion as spouses to the head of household.

Youth: In all the counties, the proportion of youth aged 15-24 years who were heads of household was about half that of those aged 15-35 years with the exception of Bomi County. Bomi County had the highest proportion of the youth aged 15-24 years (17.8 per cent) and others of age 15-35 years (29.8 per cent) who were heads of household. In contrast, for the youth group 15-24 years, Grand Kru recorded the lowest proportion (6.6 per cent) as heads of household while for age 15-35 years, Grand Gedeh (14.9 per cent) recorded the lowest proportion as heads of household in relation to the other counties.

The results further reveal that, the proportion of youth who were spouses to the head of household was higher for those of age 15-35 years compared to the 15–24-year group. For example, River Cess County recorded the highest proportion of youth who were spouses to the head of household, 12.6 per cent for the youth 15-24 years and 19.1 per cent for those 15-35 years. On the other hand, Montserrado County had the lowest proportion of youth who were spouses to the head of household, 4.5 per cent and 9.4 per cent, respectively for the 15-24 and 15-35 age groups.

The analysis in this chapter has shown that females formed a little over 50.0 per cent of young persons. It also has shown that in urban areas, females formed the majority but in rural areas the proportion of males was higher than females in all the age groups of young people in the country. At the county level, the results also suggest that with the exception of Margibi, Maryland, Montserrado and River Gee, the proportion of young persons living in rural areas was higher than those living in urban areas in the rest of the counties.

Chapter 3: Housing characteristics

3.1 Introduction

Housing conditions affect human health and well-being. The quality of the home and availability of, or access to, basic amenities in the dwelling, as well as the environmental sanitation of the dwelling, among other factors, may influence the health and standard of living of young people.

Ownership or status of tenure of the household dwelling may also affect the quality of the dwelling unit. For example, some dwellings lack access to sanitation facilities such as toilet and bathing facilities because landlords do not provide them for tenants. Provision of facilities and amenities may also be largely dependent on whether the occupier owns the unit or not. Young children need basic facilities within their dwellings, as some may not be able to access public facilities located at a distance.

This chapter examines ownership of dwelling units that accommodate young people in the conditions that affect their standard of living. When households do not own their dwelling units, they pay for their accommodation or live on the goodwill of owners who may be their relatives. Inability of people to acquire or own their dwelling units or rent decent housing accommodation, possibly due to financial challenges, could lead to situations where young people may grow up in improvised housing structures such as makeshift structures where access to basic housing facilities may be completely absent.

3.2 Type of dwelling units

According to the 2022 census final report, about two-thirds (63.3 per cent) of households owned their dwellings while more than 28.0 per cent were living in rented and mortgaged houses. Only 0.5 per cent of households were living in homes provided by government. However, there was no question on the type of dwelling unit in the census questionnaire.

3.3 Type of holding/tenancy arrangement and ownership of dwelling

The type of holding or tenancy arrangement can sometimes provide an indication of the standard of living of the household in which young people live. An analysis of the distribution of children, adolescents and youth population by ownership of dwelling is presented in Table 3.1.

3.1: Percentage distribution of young persons by age Group and ownership of dwelling

Ownership of dwelling	Age group					
	0-9	0-14	0-17	10-19	15-24	15-35
Purchased	**5.3**	**6.0**	**5.3**	**4.3**	**3.7**	**3.7**
Constructed by household member	44.0	43.8	36.8	27.6	23.8	26.7
Inherited	17.0	17.6	22.0	26.0	23.5	20.3
Mortgaged/NHA	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Rented	23.7	22.9	24.8	29.7	37.5	38.9
Government (Provided)	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4
Private Company (Provided)	**2.8**	**2.4**	**1.8**	**1.1**	**1.0**	**1.3**
Private Individual (Provided)	2.4	2.4	2.7	2.8	2.6	2.3
Squatter	2.8	2.6	3.7	4.8	4.7	4.0
Gifted	1.2	1.3	1.8	2.6	2.4	1.8
Other	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.3
Total percent	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total	**6,727**	**11,006**	**19,708**	**29,819**	**120,960**	**461,565**

Children: More children lived in dwellings constructed by household members but the proportion decreases from age 0-9 through to age 0-17. For instance, while 44.0 per cent of children aged 0-9 years and 0-14 years lived in dwelling units constructed by household members, just over a third (36.7 per cent) of children aged 0-17 years lived in dwelling units constructed by household members. Over 17.0 per cent and close to a quarter of children lived in inherited and rented dwelling units respectively and about 3.0 per cent of children were squatters.

Adolescents: About 28.0 per cent of adolescents lived in dwellings constructed by household members while 26.0 per cent lived in inherited dwellings. About 30.0 per cent lived in rented dwellings and about 5.0 per cent of the adolescents were squatters.

Youth: The pattern seen in children and adolescents is also observed in the youth. Over one-fifth of the youth were living in dwelling units constructed by household members or inherited dwelling units while close to two-fifth lived in rented dwelling units. At least 4.0 per cent of the youth were squatters.

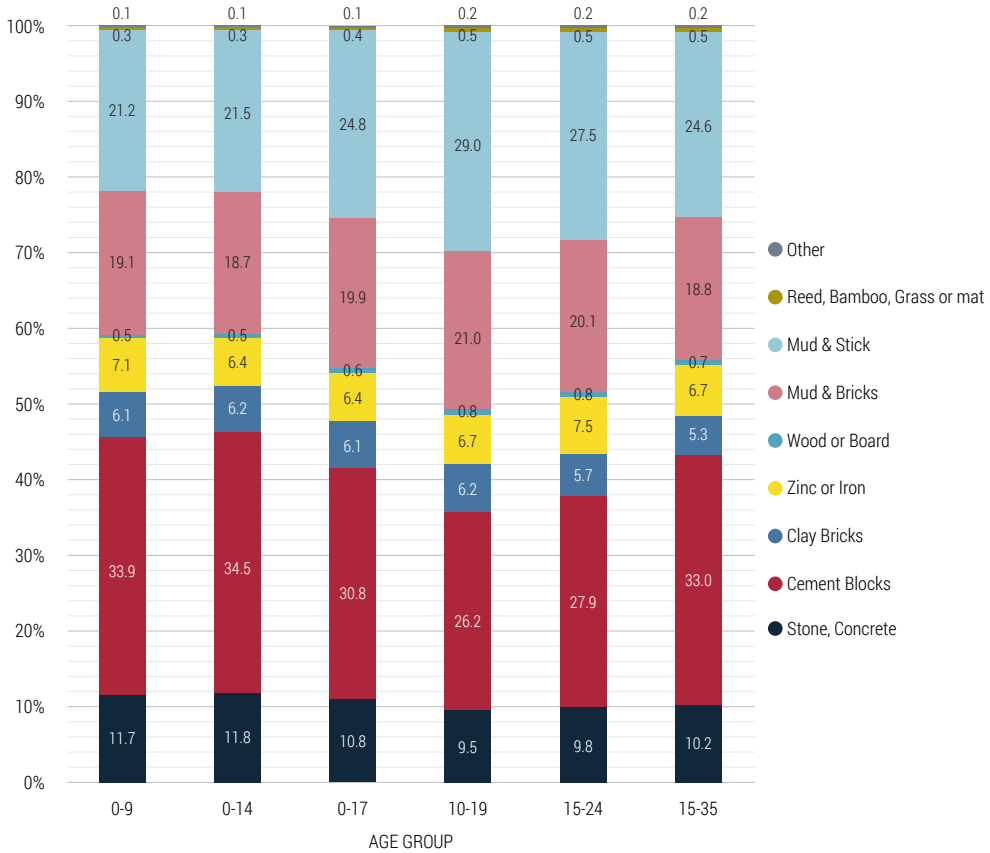
3.4 Main construction material for household structure

The type of material used in constructing the structure of the dwelling unit affects the well-being of the young persons who live in it. Concrete floors are generally easier to clean than mud floors and so crawling infants are more likely to contract diseases from mud floors than from concrete floors. The type of construction material also serves as an indicator of the level of income or standard of living of the household to which young people belong. As the purchasing power of households improves, their ability to purchase more expensive construction materials for their dwelling units increases.

3.4.1 Main construction material of outer wall

Figure 3.1 shows the distribution of young persons by age group and main construction materials used for the outer walls of household structure.

Figure 3.1: Percentage distribution of young persons by age group and main construction material of outer wall of household structure



Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

Children: Over 30.0 per cent of children were living in dwelling units whose main construction material for the outer walls was cement blocks. About 20.0 per cent of children each dwelt in structures with mud and sticks, and mud and bricks, respectively, as the main construction material of their outer walls. A further 11.0 per cent of children lived in structures having wood or board as their main outer wall. Under 10.0 per cent of children lived in structures whose main construction material of outer walls were zinc or iron sheets. Just about 31.0 per cent of children aged 0-17 years lived in structures with cement blocks as the main construction material for the outer walls. About a quarter (24.8 per cent) of children in the same age group lived in structures whose main construction material for outer walls was mud and sticks.

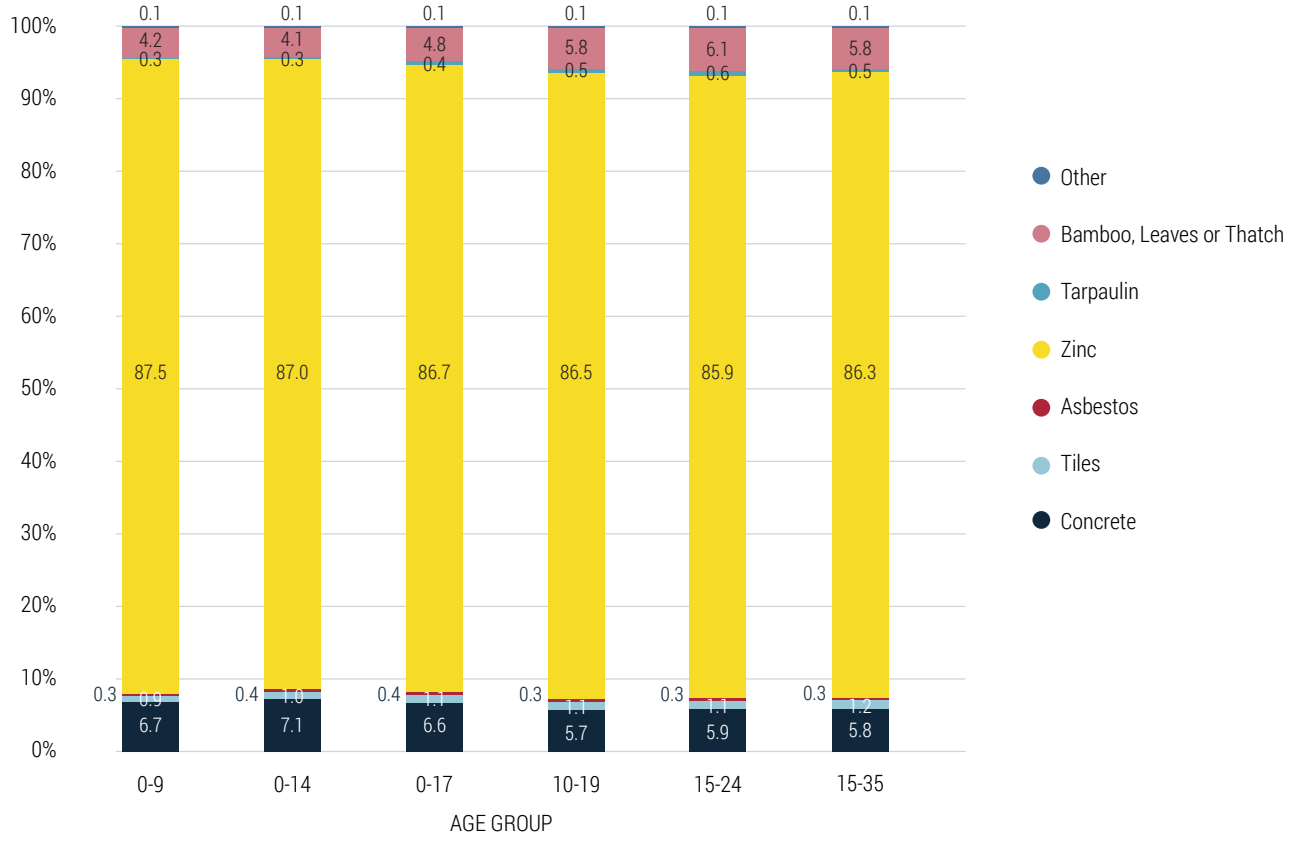
Adolescents: The highest proportion of adolescents (29.0 per cent) lived in structures whose main construction material of outer wall was mud and sticks, followed by 26.2 per cent in structures with cement blocks as their main outer walls. A fifth of adolescents lived in structures with mud and bricks as main construction material of their outer walls while one in 10 of the adolescents dwelt in structures constructed with wood or board.

Youth: The pattern observed is the same as seen for children and adolescents. About 30.0 per cent of the youth lived in structures with main construction material of outer walls being cement blocks, about a quarter were in in structures with mud and sticks as the main construction material for outer walls, about 20.0 per cent had mud and bricks as main outer walls while one in 10 dwelt in structures constructed with wood or board.

3.4.2 Main construction material of roof of household structure

Figure 3.2 shows the distribution of young persons by age group and main construction material of roofing for the housing structures that accommodated young persons in the country. Overall, zinc is the main roofing materials used by a majority of the different groups of young persons in the country.

Figure 3.2: Percentage distribution of young persons by age group and main construction material of roof of household structure



Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

Children: About 87 per cent of the children were enumerated in households with zinc as the main construction material for the roof. This is followed by concrete roofing structures where almost one in 10 of the children were housed.

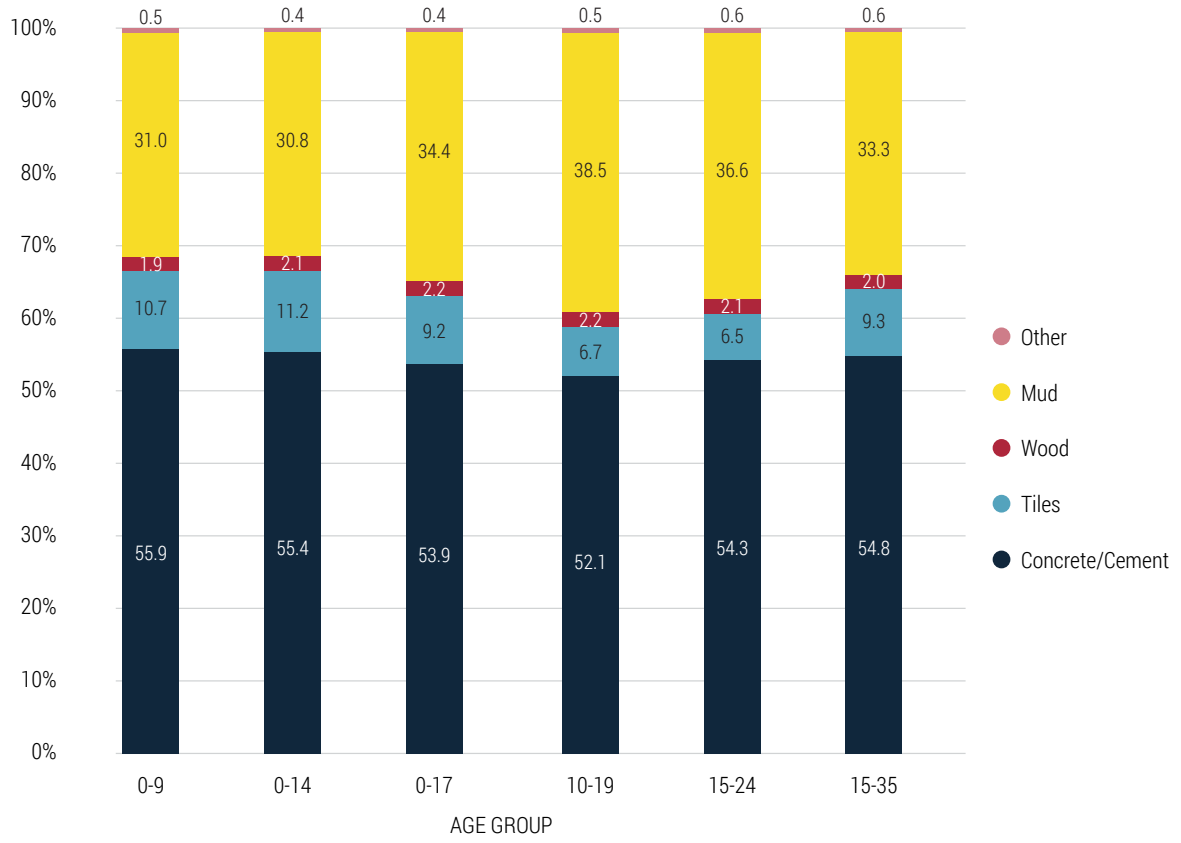
Adolescents: There is not much variation between children and adolescents. About the same proportion (87 per cent) of adolescents aged 10-19 years were recorded in households with zinc compared to 6.0 per cent for concrete.

Youth: Housing arrangement in terms of roofing among the youth groups is similar to children and adolescents. About 86.0 per cent and 6.0 per cent of the youth lived in structures which had zinc and concrete respectively as their roof.

3.4.3 Main construction material of floor of household structure

An analysis of data on main construction material of floor of household structures is presented in Figure 3.3.

Figure 3.3: Percentage distribution of young persons by age group and main construction material of floor of household structure



Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

Children: The results in Figure 3.3 indicate that more than half of children in Liberia were living in dwellings whose main floor was made of cement/concrete. About a third of them was reported to be resident in homes with floors constructed with mud. Less than five per cent of the children were in households whose dwellings had materials other than cement/concrete and mud used for its construction.

Adolescents: A relatively higher proportion of adolescents were reported to be from households with cement/concrete floors. On the other hand, almost 40.0 per cent of the adolescents were reported to be resident in households with mud as the main material used for the housing floor.

Youth: The pattern observed in children and adolescents pertains to the youth with over half of their numbers residing in structures whose floors were concrete and a third in structures that had wood for their floor.

3.5 Household facilities and utilities

The availability of improved household facilities and utilities is important for the welfare of young persons. They provide suitable hygienic conditions for the proper growth and health care of young persons. The 2022 census solicited information on main source of water supply for drinking, fuel for lighting, fuel for cooking and main human waste disposal system. These have been analysed in subsequent sections.

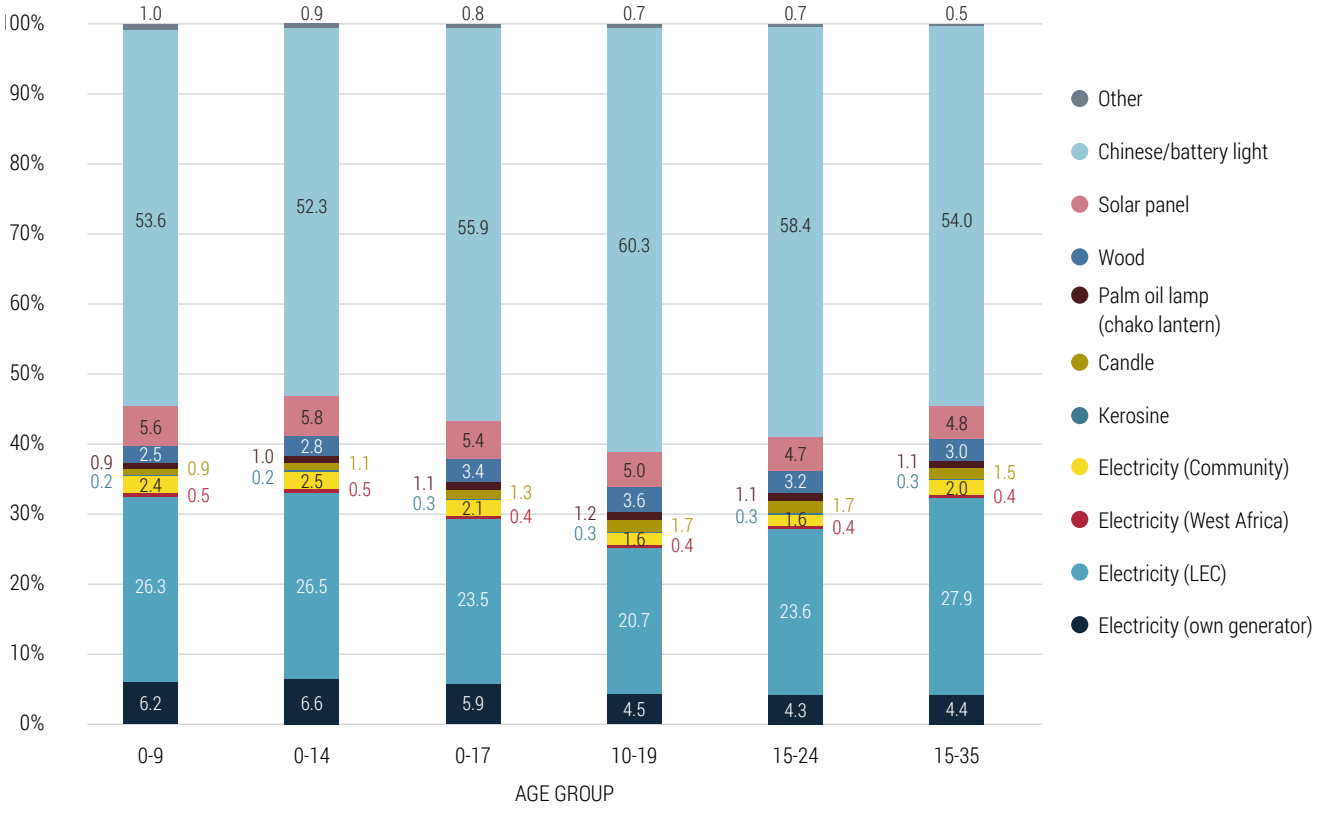
3.5.1 Main source of lighting for dwelling

Children: In Figure 3.4, the results of analysis of the main source of lighting for dwellings within which young persons lived have been presented. The indication is that the main source of lighting for dwellings housing children was Chinese rechargeable light. For example, over half of the children lived in dwellings which used Chinese rechargeable light as the main source of lighting. The other two major sources of lighting for children were Liberia Electricity Company (LEC) (25 per cent) and own generator (6.2 per cent).

Adolescents: Three-fifth of adolescents lived in houses whose main source of lighting was Chinese rechargeable light. A fifth also dwelt in houses which used electricity from the national grid with a further 5.0 per cent benefitting from electricity from household generators.

Youth: The pattern seen in dwellings of children and adolescents is observed in those occupied by the youth. Figure 3.4 reveals that close to three-fifth of the youth aged 15-24 and over half of those of age 15-35 years were living in dwellings with Chinese light as the main source of lighting, which is higher compared to that recorded among children. On the other hand, a relatively lower proportion of the youth (about 4.0 per cent) was reported to be living in houses which use own generator.

Figure 3.4: Percentage distribution of young persons and main source of lighting

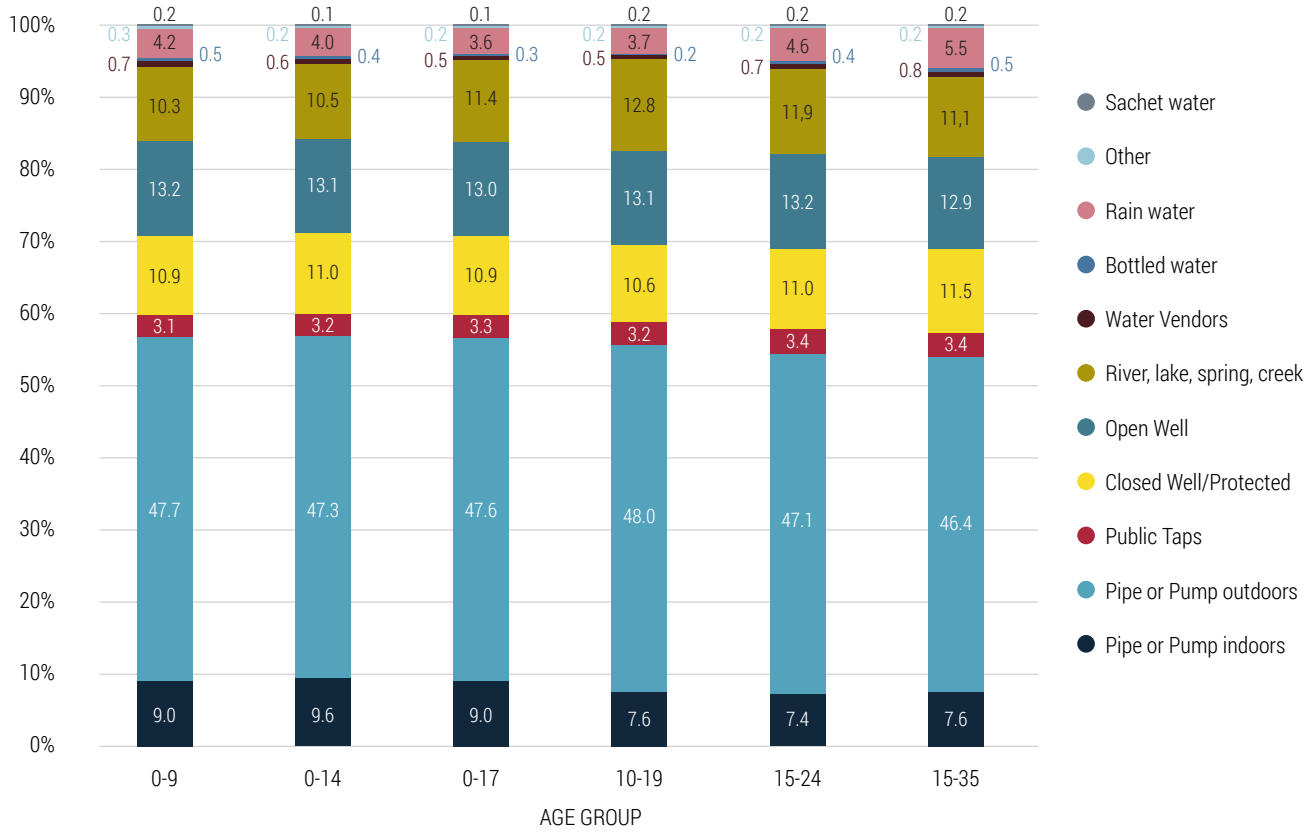


Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

3.5.2 Main source of drinking water for household

A safe source of drinking water is particularly important for children. This is because untreated drinking water poses health risks, including diarrhoea--related infections. To ascertain which water source served as the main drinking water for households in Liberia, data were collected on all available sources of water. The results are presented in Figure 3.5.

Figure 3.5: Percentage distribution of young persons by age group and main source of drinking water



Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

Children: Figure 3.5 shows that about 48.0 per cent of children were living in households where their main source of drinking water came from pipe/pump outside their dwelling. About 10.0 per cent each of households used river, lake, spring, creek, open well, closed well/protected, and indoor pipe or pump as the main source of drinking water.

Adolescents: It is shown in Figure 3.5 that about the same proportion of adolescents (48.0 per cent) as children were living in households whose main source of drinking water was from pipe/pump outside their house. However, the proportion of adolescents living in houses with indoor pipe/pump (7.6 per cent) as the main source of drinking water was about the same as the youth (7.4 per cent) but lower than that of children (about 9.0 per cent). The highest proportion (12.8 per cent) of adolescents living in dwellings using river/creek/lake as main source should be of concern, as these sources of drinking water are unsafe.

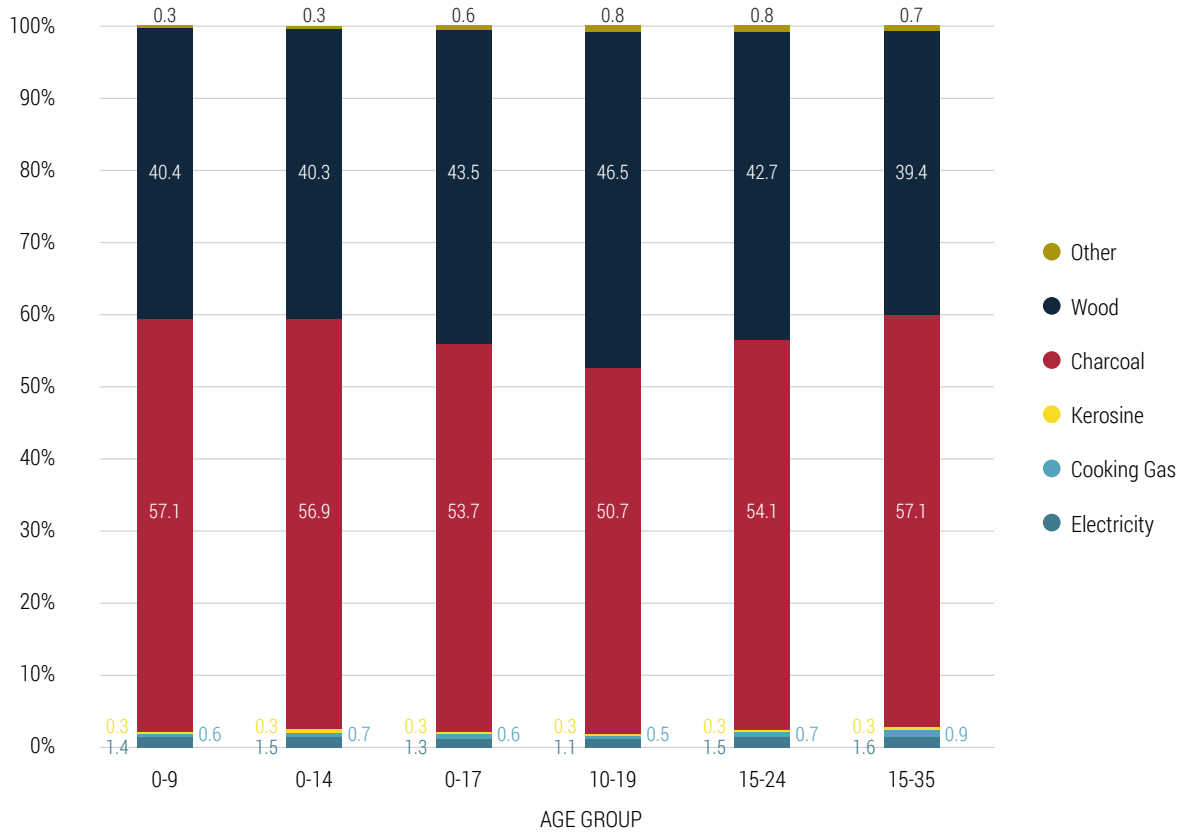
Youth: Among the youth groups, a much higher proportion is reported to use pipe/pump outdoor water as a main source of drinking. About 47.1 per cent and 46.4 per cent of youth groups 15-24 and 15-35 years, respectively, were reported to use pipe/pump water outside their house. The 15-35 year-age group resided in houses that recorded the lowest use of indoor pipe/pump water as their main source of drinking water. Figure 3.5 also shows that like the children and adolescents, one in 10 youth dwelt in houses that used river/creek/lake as the main source of drinking water.

3.5.3 Main source of fuel for cooking

The main source of cooking fuel is another indicator of the standard of living of the households in which a young person lives, particularly as higher income households tend not to use less safe fuels, like wood or charcoal. This is because they are less safe for a child's well-being because of the air pollution they cause. This is especially true when cooking is done indoors. In addition, charcoal and wood fires are traditionally prepared close to the ground level which makes them unsafe for children. The use of wood sometimes requires gathering of wood by household members, including children, who could otherwise have used that time for other productive uses. Aside all these, they are not eco-friendly as their use results in degradation of the environment through forest depletion.

The census collected data on the sources of cooking fuel in Liberia. Figure 3.6 presents the results of the analysis for households of young persons.

Figure 3.6: Percentage distribution of young persons by age group and main source of fuel for cooking



Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

Children: As high as 57.0 per cent of children were enumerated in households that used charcoal as their main source of cooking fuel and a further 40.0 per cent dwelt in households that used firewood as their main source of cooking fuel. Less than 1.0 per cent of households used gas as their main source of cooking fuel.

Adolescents: The pattern seen in households of adolescents is similar to those observed in households of children. The variation, however, is that a slightly lower proportion of adolescents (51.0 per cent) was reported to belong to households using charcoal as the main source of cooking fuel. In contrast, a higher proportion of adolescents (47.0 per cent) than children (about 40.0 per cent) lived in households that were using wood as the main source of cooking fuel. Only about 1.3 per cent of adolescents lived in households that used electricity as the main source of cooking fuel.

Youth: The results for youth do not show much variation from the pattern reported for children and adolescents. About 54.1 per cent of youth

aged 15-24 years and 57.1 per cent of youth aged 15-35 years resided in households that used charcoal as the main source of cooking fuel. Almost about 40.0 per cent of the youth also dwelt in households using wood as the main source of fuel for cooking, while just 1.6 per cent of them lived in households using electricity as the main source of fuel for cooking.

3.6 Method of waste disposal

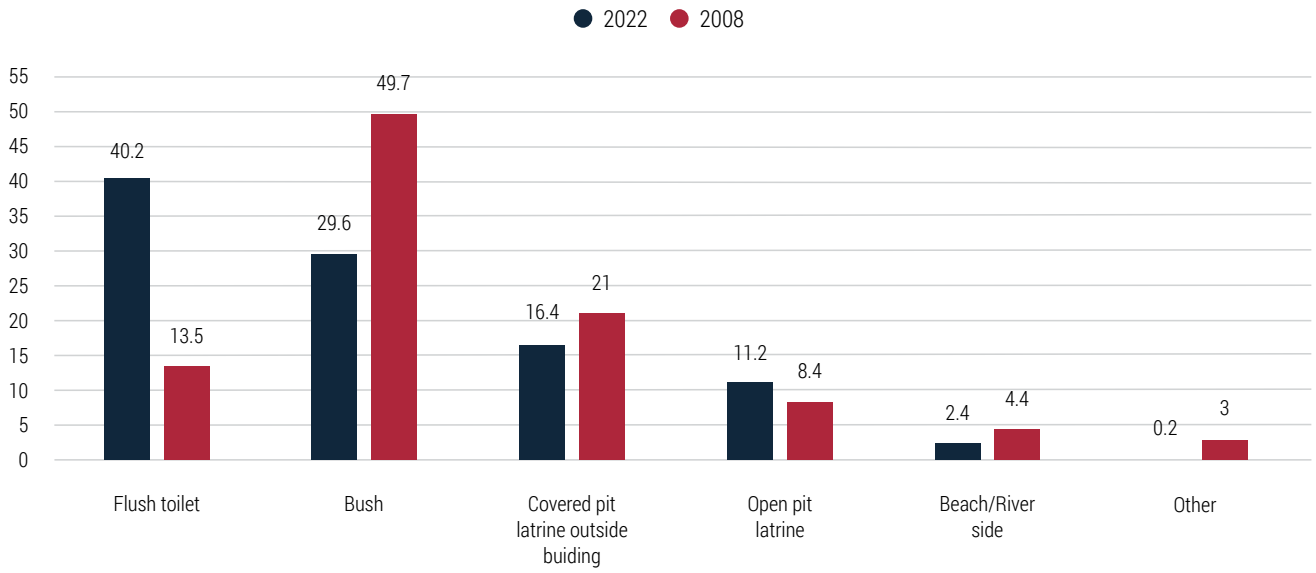
The health of a nation depends very much on sanitation of its communities, including the mode of waste disposal. Safe waste disposal is important for the health of children as many preventable diseases could be avoided. This will enable young persons to grow healthy and be able to perform their roles, be it in education and training or participation in economic activities for the benefit of society.

The 2022 PHC collected information on human waste disposal and the results are presented in section 3.5.1. However, the results were not disaggregated by age groups.

3.6.1 Type of toilet facility for household

About 40.2 per cent of households use flush toilet facility and about 30.0 per cent use the open defecation (bush). The proportion of households that use flush toilet facility was 13.5 per cent in 2008 indicating a significant increase of 26.7 percentage points. (Figure 3.7).

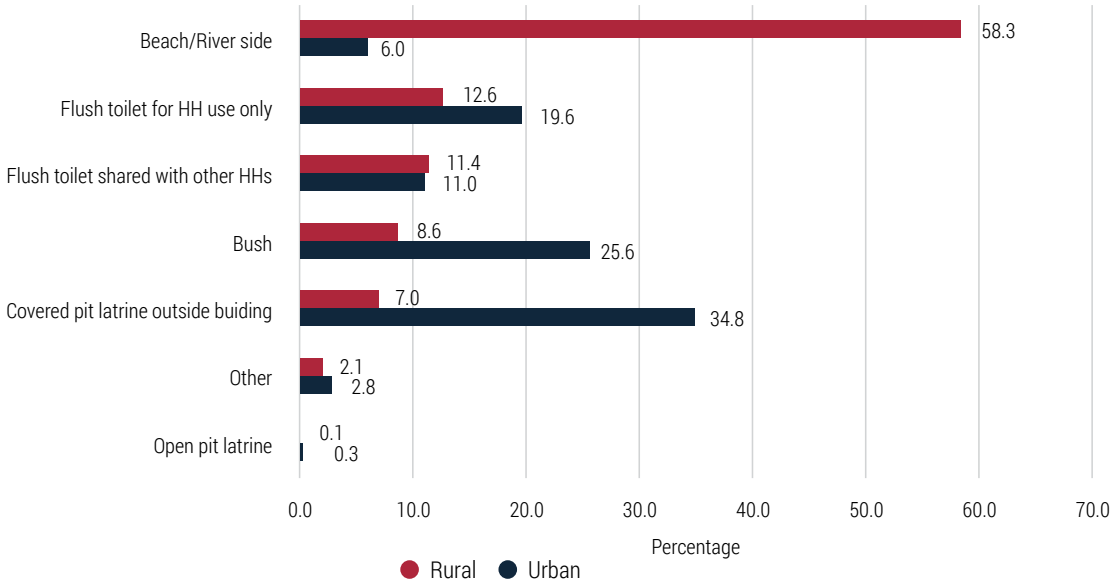
Figure 3.7: Percentage distribution of households by type of toilet facility



Sources: 2022 Census Final Report, 2008 Census Report

On the other hand, more children, adolescents and youth use the bush (49.7 per cent) as means of waste disposal in 2008 than in 2022 (29.6 per cent). More than half of the households in the rural areas use beach/river side for their human waste disposal while more than a quarter of the households in urban areas used the bush.

Figure 3.8: Percentage distribution of households by type of toilet facility and place of residence



To sum up, it was observed that more children than adolescents and youth lived in dwellings constructed by members of households while more adolescents and youth than children lived in rented houses. At least 3.0 per cent of young persons lived as squatters.

One in five young persons lived in houses with outer walls made with mud and sticks while over a fifth lived in structures made of wood and boards. Over a third of young persons resided in houses whose floor were made of mud.

Less than 30.0 per cent of young persons were enumerated in houses that used electricity as the main source of lighting. Over half of young persons lived in houses that used Chinese light as their main source of lighting. One in every 10 young persons was enumerated in households that used river, lake, spring and creek as main source of drinking water. Two main sources of cooking fuel used by houses occupied by young persons were charcoal and firewood. Open defecation was also high among young persons.

Chapter 4: Literacy and educational attainment

4.1 Introduction

In this chapter, an analysis has been made on educational attainment and literacy status of children, adolescents and youth. Education and literacy are key characteristics of the population and they determine the human resource development potential of a country particularly in relation to children, adolescents and youth. The quality of the country's human resource base reflects the quality of the education system. An analysis of education and literacy status is, therefore, important to unearth current and potential challenges in education that may impinge on the proper formation of young persons and consequently impact future socio-economic development of the country. On literacy, the census solicited a No/Yes response to the question: "Can … read and write a simple sentence in any language?" from persons aged 5 years and older. It did not go further to solicit information on which languages those who responded "Yes" were literate in. This chapter, therefore, only makes a distinction between young persons who were literate and those not literate. The chapter also analyses the level of education attained by children, adolescents and youth. On education, the census collected data from persons three years or older. Throughout the analysis in this chapter, a comparison is made by sex, type of place of residence and county to bring out any differences that may highlight gaps which call for policy action to address the challenges so identified.

4.2 Literacy levels

Table 4.1 presents the distribution of population of young persons aged 5-35 years by literacy level, age group and sex.

Table 4.1: Literacy levels by age and sex

Age group	Male				Female			
	Literate	Not literate	Percent	Total	Literate	Not literate	Percent	Total
5-9	48.7	51.3	100.0	493735	50.5	49.5	100.0	493706
5-14	52.7	47.3	100.0	621639	54.6	45.4	100.0	623201
5-17	57.2	42.8	100.0	810604	58.7	41.3	100.0	813428
10-19	68.1	31.9	100.0	924956	67.1	32.9	100.0	942607
15-24	70.5	29.5	100.0	608603	67.7	32.3	100.0	627434
15-35	68.9	31.1	100.0	1076279	62.3	37.7	100.0	1108854

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

Children: Literacy was higher for female than male children for all children's groups. For example, 50.5 per cent of female children aged 5-9 years was literate compared to 48.7 per cent of male children of the same age.

Adolescents: There was little difference in literacy status between male adolescents and their female counterparts. A little over two-thirds (68.1 per cent) of male adolescents were literate compared to 67.1 per cent of female adolescents. There is, therefore, little gender gap in adolescent literacy in the country.

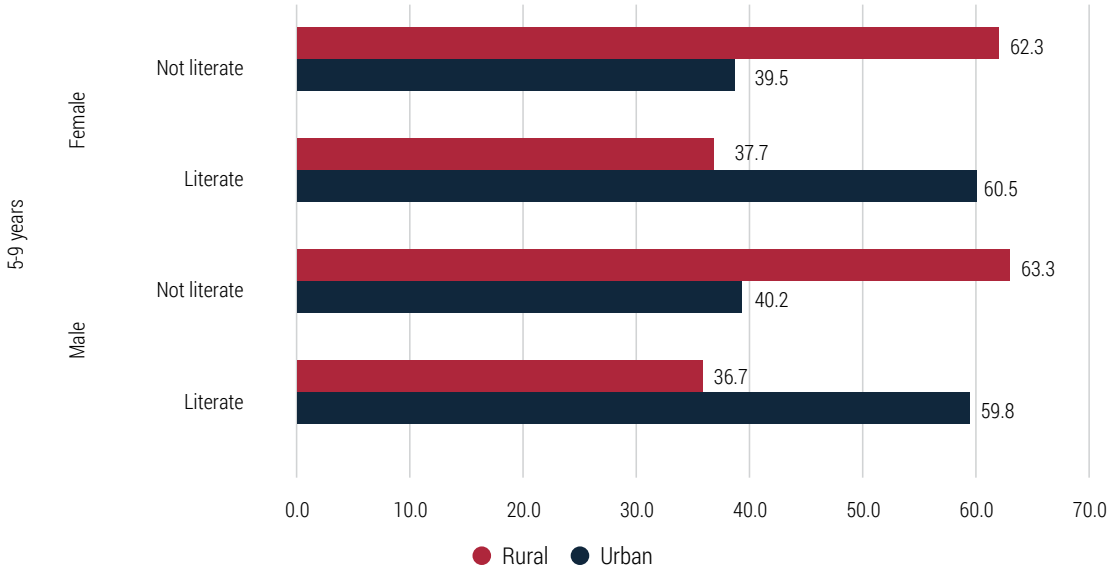
Youth: Male youth were more literate than their female counterparts. For example, while about 71.0 per cent of male youth aged 15-24 was literate, about 69.0 per cent of female youth of the same age was literate.

4.3 Literacy and type of place of residence

An analysis of literacy is shown by age-sex and type of place of residence. The objective is to reveal any differentials that may exist between urban and rural dwellers. It is also to show any variations between males and females in urban areas and between males and females in rural areas. The results are to inform relevant policy actions to bridge any gaps by gender and place of residence. The summary table of results is in appendix Table 7.

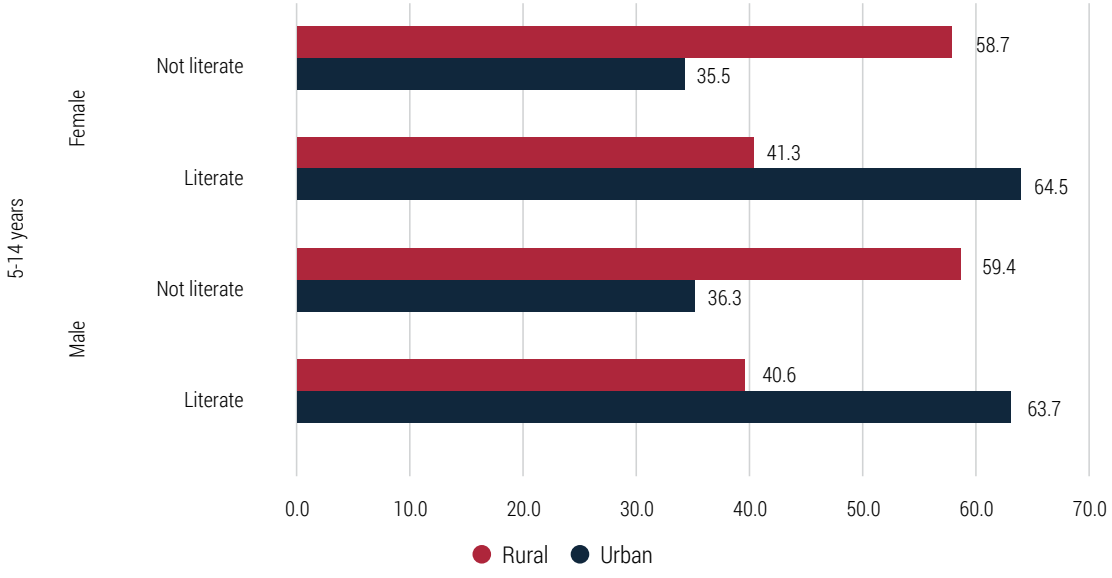
Children: From the three groups of children, Figures 4.1 to 4.3 show that irrespective of age, children in urban areas were more literate than those in rural areas. This may be due to greater availability of educational facilities which may be closer in proximity to children in urban than rural areas. It is interesting to note that for all the age groups, female children in urban areas were more literate than their male counterparts while for non-literate children males in rural areas accounted for a higher percentage.

Figure 4.1: Literacy status of children 5-9 years by sex and type of place of residence



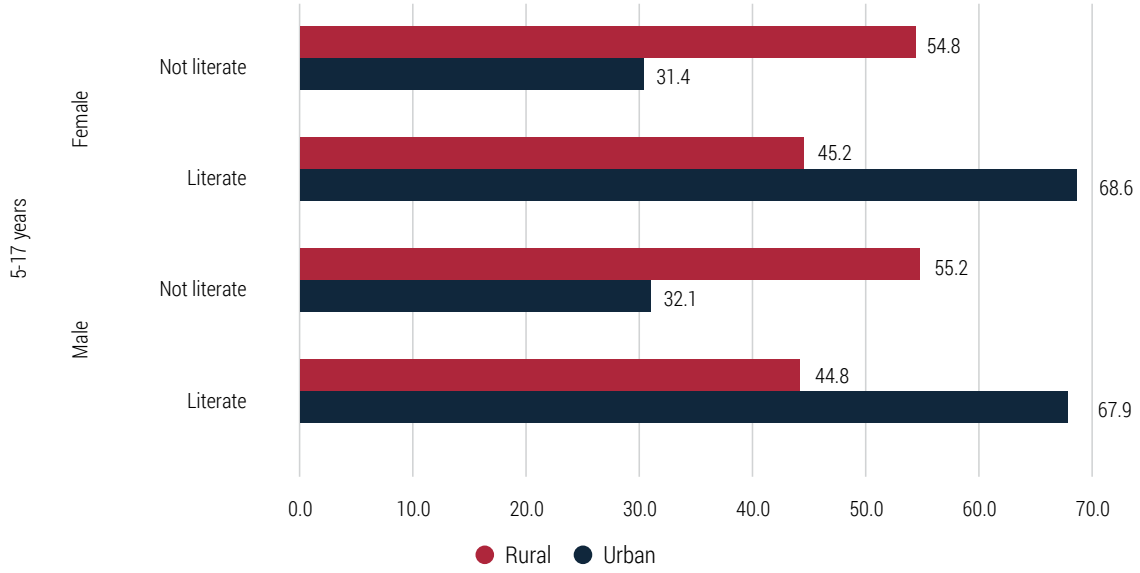
Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

Figure 4.2: Literacy status of children 5-14 years by sex and type of place of residence



Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

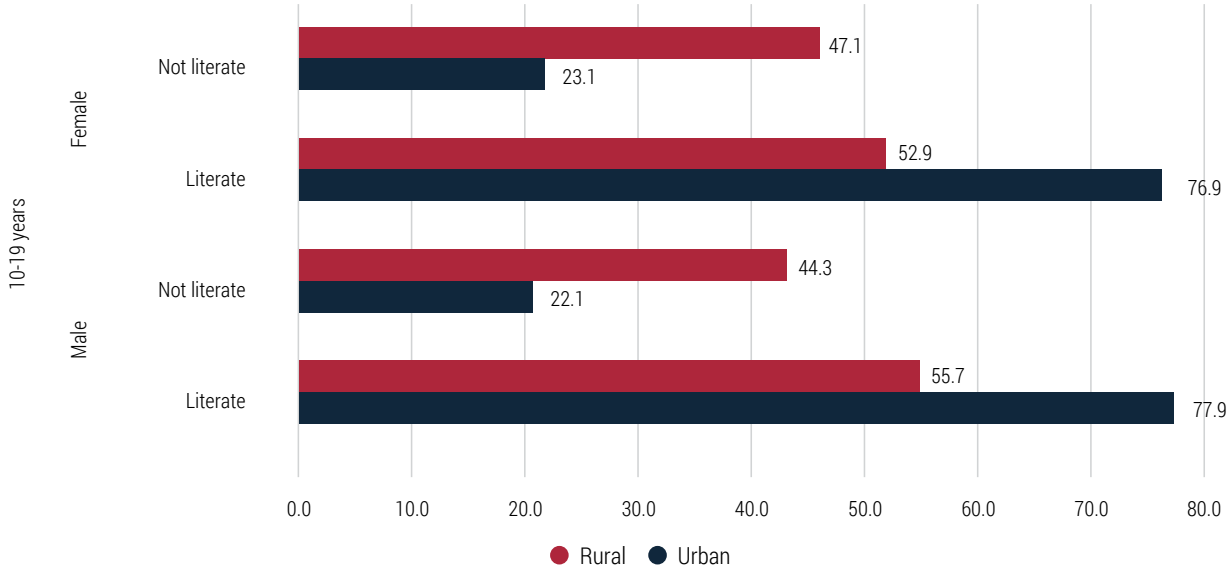
Figure 4.3: Literacy status of children 5-17 years by sex and type of place of residence



Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

Adolescents: Figure 4.4 presents literacy status of adolescents in Liberia by sex and type of place of residence. The results indicate that adolescents in urban areas were more literate (females – 76.9 per cent, males 77.9 per cent) compared to their rural counterparts (females – 52.9 per cent, males – 55.7 per cent).

Figure 4.4: Literacy status of adolescents by sex and type of place of residence

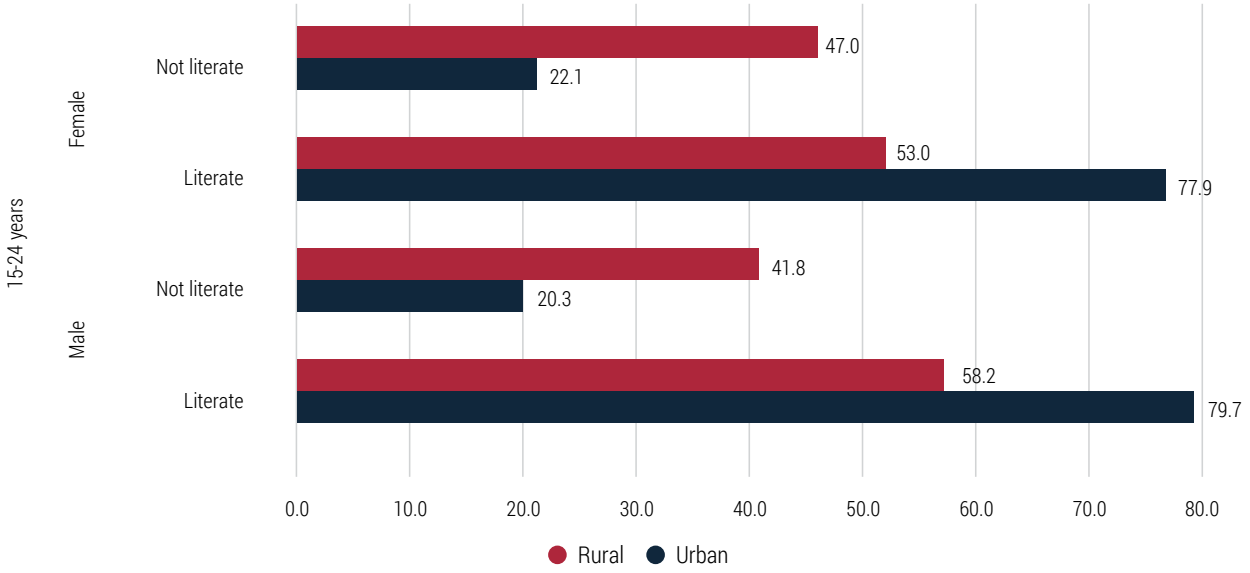


Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

Youth: In Figure 4.5, literacy was higher in urban than rural areas. For example, within the age group 15-24 years, about eight in 10 (79.7 per cent) males in urban areas were literate compared to a relatively lower proportion of their female (77.9 per cent) counterparts. Similarly, in the rural areas, males (58.2 per cent) recorded a higher literacy rate than the females (53.0 per cent). It is also true that literacy was higher among males and females in urban areas compared to their counterparts in the rural areas.

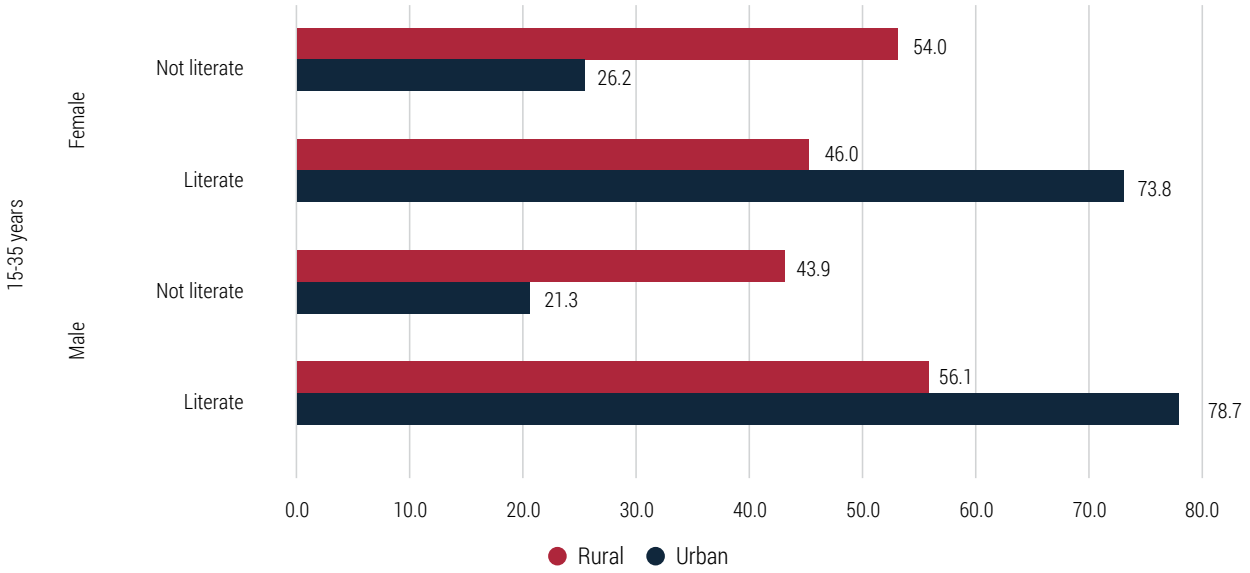
The same pattern is shown among the youth group 15-35 years, where 78.7 per cent of urban males were literate compared to 73.8 per cent of their urban female counterparts (Figure 4.6). Again, in the rural areas, 56.1 per cent of the males were literate in comparison with 53.0 per cent of the females.

Figure 4.5: Literacy status of youth 15-24 years by sex and type of place of residence



Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

Figure 4.6: Literacy status of youth 15-35 years by sex and type of place of residence



Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

4.4 Literacy status at the county of residence

Literacy rates tend to vary from one place to another. Such variations may be influenced by a number of factors including the county's availability of and proximity to educational facilities, affordability of the cost associated with the schooling and the willingness of parents/guardians to allow their children or wards to take advantage of the facilities. In this section, literacy by sex and county has been analysed for different age groups of young persons to highlight spatial differentials among them.

Children: Table 4.2 presents the distribution of children by literacy, county of residence, age and sex. In general, literacy was higher for female children than for males. Among children aged 5-9 years, only Grand Gedeh County had male literacy (44.5 per cent) slightly higher than females (44.1 per cent). Male literacy (41.5 per cent) was also slightly higher than female literacy (41.4 per cent) in only Gbarpolu County for children aged 5-14 years. For children aged 5-17 years, however, four counties; Gbarpolu, Grand Gedeh, Lofa and Sinoe had slightly higher male literacy than their female counterparts. For example, male literacy for Sinoe County was 44.9 per cent compared to 44.6 per cent for females. For all the children's groups, Montserrado County had the highest male and female literacy rates. In contrast, for each of the children's groups, Grand Bassa County recorded the lowest literacy rates for both males (40.7 per cent) and females (42.2 per cent) for age group 5-17 years.

Table 4.2: Per cent distribution of population of children by literacy, age-sex and county of residence

County of residence	Male				Female			
	Literate	Not literate	Percent	Total	Literate	Not literate	Percent	Total
5-9								
Bomi	46.1	53.9	100.0	13,443	47.1	52.9	100.0	11,529
Bong	33.9	66.1	100.0	44,918	35.6	64.4	100.0	42,154
Gbarpolu	37.6	62.4	100.0	8,864	37.9	62.1	100.0	8,285
Grand Bassa	32.9	67.1	100.0	28,548	34.9	65.1	100.0	26,424
Grand Cape Mount	34.6	65.4	100.0	16,267	36.9	63.1	100.0	14,232
Grand Gedeh	44.5	55.5	100.0	16,880	44.1	55.9	100.0	17,483
Grand Kru	43.0	57.0	100.0	10,765	43.7	56.3	100.0	10,278
Lofa	47.9	52.1	100.0	38,200	47.8	52.2	100.0	36,335
Margibi	48.5	51.5	100.0	28,510	49.1	50.9	100.0	29,206
Maryland	47.0	53.0	100.0	17,417	47.4	52.6	100.0	17,636
Montserrado	62.6	37.4	100.0	167,530	63.3	36.7	100.0	182,508
Nimba	45.1	54.9	100.0	67,203	47.0	53.0	100.0	64,810
River Cess	34.5	65.5	100.0	9,677	37.5	62.5	100.0	8,455
River Gee	42.8	57.2	100.0	11,641	43.9	56.1	100.0	11,064
Sinoe	35.4	64.6	100.0	13,872	35.6	64.4	100.0	13,307
5-14								
Bomi	50.6	49.4	100.0	16,660	51.5	48.5	100.0	14,351
Bong	38.0	62.0	100.0	55,935	39.6	60.4	100.0	52,108
Gbarpolu	41.5	58.5	100.0	10,983	41.4	58.6	100.0	10,217
Grand Bassa	36.7	63.3	100.0	35,622	38.5	61.5	100.0	32,836
Grand Cape Mount	38.0	62.0	100.0	20,096	40.3	59.7	100.0	17,505
Grand Gedeh	49.3	50.7	100.0	22,071	49.2	50.8	100.0	22,704

County of residence	Male				Female			
	Literate	Not literate	Percent	Total	Literate	Not literate	Percent	Total
Grand Kru	47.3	52.7	100.0	13,897	48.1	51.9	100.0	13,069
Lofa	50.9	49.1	100.0	46,734	50.9	49.1	100.0	44,368
Margibi	52.5	47.5	100.0	36,285	53.4	46.6	100.0	37,119
Maryland	51.1	48.9	100.0	22,390	52.1	47.9	100.0	22,363
Montserrado	66.3	33.7	100.0	211,760	67.1	32.9	100.0	234,862
Nimba	49.5	50.5	100.0	83,987	51.3	48.7	100.0	80,067
River Cess	39.7	60.3	100.0	12,082	41.7	58.3	100.0	10,277
River Gee	48.3	51.7	100.0	15,233	49.0	51.0	100.0	14,383
Sinoe	39.5	60.5	100.0	17,904	40.0	60.0	100.0	16,972
5-17								
Bomi	54.9	45.1	100.0	21,179	55.9	44.1	100.0	18,559
Bong	42.3	57.7	100.0	71,454	43.6	56.4	100.0	66,898
Gbarpolu	45.7	54.3	100.0	14,102	45.0	55.0	100.0	13,015
Grand Bassa	40.7	59.3	100.0	45,623	42.2	57.8	100.0	42,443
Grand Cape Mount	41.9	58.1	100.0	26,041	43.7	56.3	100.0	22,767
Grand Gedeh	54.8	45.2	100.0	30,115	54.4	45.6	100.0	30,313
Grand Kru	51.8	48.2	100.0	18,348	52.1	47.9	100.0	17,006
Lofa	54.3	45.7	100.0	61,197	54.1	45.9	100.0	58,121
Margibi	57.2	42.8	100.0	47,671	57.7	42.3	100.0	48,724
Maryland	56.0	44.0	100.0	29,324	57.5	42.5	100.0	29,453
Montserrado	70.3	29.7	100.0	280,019	70.9	29.1	100.0	310,727
Nimba	54.2	45.8	100.0	106,362	55.6	44.4	100.0	101,123
River Cess	44.9	55.1	100.0	15,225	46.0	54.0	100.0	12,933
River Gee	53.4	46.6	100.0	20,120	53.6	46.4	100.0	18,805
Sinoe	44.9	55.1	100.0	23,824	44.6	55.4	100.0	22,541

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

Table 4.3 presents the percentage distribution of adolescents and youth by literacy, county of residence, age and sex.

Table 4.3: Percentage distribution of adolescents and youth by literacy, age-sex and county of residence

County of residence	Male				Female			
	Literate	Not literate	Percent	Total	Literate	Not literate	Percent	Total
10-19								
Bomi	66.9	33.1	100.0	21,881	63.9	36.1	100.0	21,770
Bong	54.1	45.9	100.0	77,649	52.1	47.9	100.0	76,496
Gbarpolu	55.8	44.2	100.0	15,380	51.6	48.4	100.0	14,779
Grand Bassa	51.1	48.9	100.0	49,318	49.6	50.4	100.0	47,724
Grand Cape Mount	50.3	49.7	100.0	31,213	49.1	50.9	100.0	28,942
Grand Gedeh	64.7	35.3	100.0	41,652	64.8	35.2	100.0	38,285
Grand Kru	62.8	37.2	100.0	21,286	60.3	39.7	100.0	19,788
Lofa	62.5	37.5	100.0	67,832	58.3	41.7	100.0	66,937
Margibi	68.6	31.4	100.0	53,963	66.0	34.0	100.0	56,278
Maryland	68.3	31.7	100.0	32,937	68.5	31.5	100.0	33,114
Montserrado	79.8	20.2	100.0	334,448	78.6	21.4	100.0	369,171
Nimba	67.7	32.3	100.0	108,341	66.8	33.2	100.0	105,848
River Cess	59.7	40.3	100.0	15,491	56.3	43.7	100.0	13,799
River Gee	63.9	36.1	100.0	24,659	63.0	37.0	100.0	22,466
Sinoe	56.9	43.1	100.0	28,906	54.4	45.6	100.0	27,210
15-24								
Bomi	69.1	30.9	100.0	13,639	63.4	36.6	100.0	14,807
Bong	57.1	42.9	100.0	50,034	52.4	47.6	100.0	51,772
Gbarpolu	57.5	42.5	100.0	10,108	51.3	48.7	100.0	9,915
Grand Bassa	53.5	46.5	100.0	31,648	49.7	50.3	100.0	32,044
Grand Cape Mount	51.3	48.7	100.0	21,456	48.3	51.7	100.0	20,650
Grand Gedeh	66.6	33.4	100.0	29,645	66.6	33.4	100.0	26,190
Grand Kru	65.7	34.3	100.0	13,945	60.7	39.3	100.0	13,124
Lofa	63.6	36.4	100.0	44,918	57.1	42.9	100.0	45,908
Margibi	71.4	28.6	100.0	35,049	66.7	33.3	100.0	37,134
Maryland	72.1	27.9	100.0	21,320	70.9	29.1	100.0	21,635
Montserrado	81.4	18.6	100.0	224,802	79.4	20.6	100.0	244,272
Nimba	71.5	28.5	100.0	66,616	68.3	31.7	100.0	67,710

County of residence	Male				Female			
	Literate	Not literate	Percent	Total	Literate	Not literate	Percent	Total
River Cess	64.1	35.9	100.0	9,532	57.2	42.8	100.0	9,009
River Gee	66.0	34.0	100.0	16,403	64.4	35.6	100.0	14,904
Sinoe	60.7	39.3	100.0	19,488	56.5	43.5	100.0	18,360
15-35								
Bomi	64.8	35.2	100.0	24,540	55.0	45.0	100.0	26,244
Bong	54.7	45.3	100.0	88,323	45.3	54.7	100.0	94,703
Gbarpolu	54.3	45.7	100.0	19,403	42.8	57.2	100.0	17,937
Grand Bassa	52.0	48.0	100.0	55,365	44.2	55.8	100.0	56,722
Grand Cape Mount	50.2	49.8	100.0	40,623	42.5	57.5	100.0	38,223
Grand Gedeh	63.9	36.1	100.0	52,457	61.8	38.2	100.0	44,913
Grand Kru	64.9	35.1	100.0	23,832	55.5	44.5	100.0	22,195
Lofa	60.2	39.8	100.0	75,812	47.9	52.1	100.0	80,546
Margibi	69.1	30.9	100.0	59,064	61.0	39.0	100.0	63,385
Maryland	71.2	28.8	100.0	35,763	64.6	35.4	100.0	36,027
Montserrado	80.5	19.5	100.0	408,679	75.7	24.3	100.0	440,134
Nimba	69.5	30.5	100.0	114,390	62.2	37.8	100.0	117,042
River Cess	62.1	37.9	100.0	16,840	49.3	50.7	100.0	15,801
River Gee	64.9	35.1	100.0	27,928	58.0	42.0	100.0	24,546
Sinoe	60.4	39.6	100.0	33,260	52.0	48.0	100.0	30,436

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

Adolescents: Across the counties, adolescent male literacy was higher than female literacy except for two counties, Grand Gedeh and Maryland where female literacy was marginally higher than that for males. For example, in Maryland County, 68.5 per cent of females were literate compared to 68.3 per cent of males. Montserrado County had the highest male (79.8 per cent) and female (78.6 per cent) adolescent literacy rates while Grand Cape Mount had the lowest male (50.3 per cent) and female (49.1 per cent) adolescent literacy rates.

Youth: Among the youth groups and in all the counties, higher proportions of males were literate than females. Montserrado County had the highest proportion of both male and female youth being literate. For example, among the 15-24 age group, 81.4 per cent and 79.4 per cent of males and females, respectively in Montserrado were literate. In contrast, among the youth, Grand Cape Mount County had the lowest proportion of both males and females being literate. Furthermore, among the youth group 15-35 years, Grand Cape Mount County recorded male and female literacy rate of 50.2 per cent and 42.5 per cent, respectively.

4.5 School attendance

School attendance refers to the attendance of a person in a regular education institution, either public or private, for formal instruction at any level of education at the time of the census or during the last school year. In the 2022 Liberia Population and

Housing Census, school attendance status was categorized into four as never attended, completed, drop out and currently attending. The question was asked of persons three years and older. The distribution of population of young persons 3-35 years has been classified into school attendance status by sex and the results presented in Table 4.4.

Table 4.4: Percentage distribution of population of young persons by school attendance status and age-sex

Status of school attendance	3-9		3-14		3-17		10-19		15-24		15-35	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Never attended	36.6	35.1	33.8	32.2	31.0	29.6	22.3	23.5	22.4	25.2	24.7	31.2
Completed	2.4	2.1	2.5	2.3	3.0	2.7	10.2	9.4	13.8	12.6	23.4	18.8
Drop out	2.1	1.8	2.3	2.1	3.1	3.1	8.9	10.3	12.0	14.1	16.8	17.7
Currently attending	58.9	61.0	61.3	63.4	62.9	64.5	58.6	56.8	51.8	48.1	35.1	32.3
Total %	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total number	**614,127**	**619,646**	**742,267**	**749,369**	**931,491**	**939,885**	**926,418**	**944,203**	**609,540**	**628,459**	**1,078,480**	**1,110,826**

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

Children: From Table 4.4, at least a third of children, irrespective of the age group, never attended school. At least 60.0 per cent of children are currently attending school with the proportion increasing with age. The children who drop out of school range from 2.1 per cent for male children aged 3-9 years to 3.1 per cent for their counterparts of 3-17 years while among the females, it ranges from 1.8 per cent for those aged 3-9 years to 3.1 per cent for others of 3-17 years.

Adolescents: A little over a fifth of adolescents had never attended school. About 59.0 per cent of the males and 57.0 per cent of the females are currently attending school. Female adolescents who are drop out constituted 10.3 per cent compared to 8.9 per cent of male adolescents.

Youth: For the youth groups, a higher proportion of females had never attended school compared to their male counterparts. For instance, among the youth aged 15-35 years, almost a third (31.2 pe cent) had never attended school as against a quarter (24.7 per cent) of the males. Also, 23.4 per cent of male youth aged 15-35 years had completed school compared to 18.8 per cent of their female counterparts. About half of the youth aged 15-24 years were currently attending school compared to about a third of the youth aged 15-35 years.

4.6 Education attainment

Educational attainment is the highest level of education one attains on completion of the highest level of schooling. For instance, one attending secondary school is said to have attained secondary school education if the one completed the final year of secondary education. Data on educational attainment are necessary to determine skills of the human resources and hence, the level of human development in the country. The 2022 LPHC collected data on educational attainment of persons three years or older. The analysis, therefore, presents results for the population of children's groups (3-9, 3-14 and 3-17 years), adolescents (10-19 years) and youth groups (15-24 and 15-35 years). In the analysis, comparisons have been made by sex and type of place of residence. Comparison has also been made among the counties of residence of young persons by educational attainment and age-sex.

Table 4.5 presents the results of the distribution of young persons by educational attainment, age and sex.

Table 4.5: Percentage distribution of population of young persons by age-sex and educational attainment

Educational attainment	3-9		3-14		3-17		10-19		15-24		15-35	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
None	42.2	40.6	38.9	37.2	35.4	34.0	24.4	25.5	23.9	26.6	26.0	32.5
Preschool	31.6	32.4	29.1	29.7	25.3	25.6	11.3	10.9	6.0	5.8	4.5	4.6
Primary	25.7	26.7	30.5	31.8	33.6	34.5	39.1	39.4	33.2	32.5	25.9	25.5
Secondary	0.4	0.2	1.4	1.3	5.6	5.8	25.1	24.2	36.8	35.0	39.3	34.3
University	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.0	4.0	2.9
Other tertiary	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2	0.2
Total %	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Total Number	**619,413**	**623,564**	**747,462**	**753,174**	**936,550**	**943,540**	**925,605**	**943,330**	**608,972**	**627,899**	**1,077,164**	**1,109,746**

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

Children: From Table 4.5, the proportion of males and females in the children's age groups over the different levels of educational attainment is not too different. Over a third of children in each of the different age groups, both males and females, had no education. About a third of children aged 3-9 years and 3-14 years had attained preschool while for children aged 3-17 years it was about a quarter. About 6.0 per cent of children aged 3-17 years had attained secondary school education. Since the census did not make a distinction between Junior and Senior Secondary, considering the age group, most of the children who had attained secondary education may actually have attained junior secondary rather than senior secondary.

Adolescents: There is not much difference between males and females who had attained the different levels of education. For instance, 24.4 per cent of males and 25.5 per cent of females had no education while 39.1 per cent of males and 39.4 per cent of females had attained primary education.

Youth: For the youth groups (15-24 and 15-35 years), the results do not suggest big gender gaps at all levels of education as the proportion of females is slightly higher than males. For instance, for those in age group 15-24 years, 23.9 per cent of males and 26.6 per cent of females had no education. Among the youth aged 15-24 years, a relatively higher proportion of males (33.2 per cent) had primary education compared to their female counterparts (32.5 per cent). This is also the case for secondary school attainment and applies to the youth group 15-35 years. A relatively higher proportion of males (4.2 per cent) than females (3.1 per cent) had attained university and other tertiary education, signifying a small gender imbalance in the level of educational attainment among the youth group 15-35 years at the highest level.

Table 4.6 presents the comparison of educational attainment of young persons in Liberia by age-sex and type of place of residence.

Table 4.6: Percentage distribution of population of young persons by age-sex, educational attainment and type of locality

Type of locality	No education	Preschool	Primary	Secondary	University	Other tertiary	Total %	Total Number
Male								
Urban								
3-9	30.2	36.7	32.2	0.6	0.2	0.0	100.0	319,152
3-14	27.4	33.0	37.4	2.1	0.2	0.0	100.0	388,858
3-17	24.3	27.8	39.5	8.3	0.2	0.0	100.0	495,674
10-19	15.2	10.2	40.8	33.6	0.1	0.0	100.0	517,403
15-24	14.9	5.0	31.8	48.2	0.1	0.0	100.0	347,037
15-35	16.3	3.6	23.6	49.9	6.2	0.3	100.0	611,624
Rural								
3-9	54.9	26.1	18.7	0.2	0.0	0.0	100.0	300,261
3-14	51.4	24.9	23.0	0.7	0.0	0.0	100.0	358,604
3-17	47.8	22.5	27.0	2.7	0.0	0.0	100.0	440,876
10-19	36.0	12.7	36.8	14.4	0.0	0.0	100.0	408,202
15-24	35.8	7.4	35.0	21.7	0.0	0.0	100.0	261,935
15-35	38.7	5.7	29.0	25.3	1.2	0.1	100.0	465,540
Female								
Urban								
3-9	29.4	37.1	33.1	0.3	0.0	0.0	100.0	342,606
3-14	26.4	33.0	38.6	1.9	0.0	0.0	100.0	421,785
3-17	23.5	27.7	40.4	8.3	0.0	0.0	100.0	536,633
10-19	16.1	10.2	41.5	32.2	0.0	0.0	100.0	558,655
15-24	16.7	4.9	31.8	46.6	0.0	0.0	100.0	369,995
15-35	21.0	3.8	24.6	45.7	4.6	0.3	100.0	651,099
Rural								
3-9	54.4	26.7	18.8	0.1	0.0	0.0	100.0	280,958
3-14	51.0	25.4	23.0	0.5	0.0	0.0	100.0	331,389
3-17	47.9	22.7	26.8	2.6	0.0	0.0	100.0	406,907
10-19	39.0	12.0	36.3	12.7	0.0	0.0	100.0	384,675
15-24	41.0	7.2	33.5	18.3	0.0	0.0	100.0	257,904
15-35	48.8	5.6	26.8	18.0	0.7	0.0	100.0	458,647

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

Children: The results in Table 4.6 show that there is huge gap in educational attainment between urban and rural areas. For example, among the age group 3-9 years, while a third of the urban children (male and female) had no education, more than half of rural children had no education. The situation is the same for children's groups 3-14 years and 3-17 years. There is, however, not much variation between male and female children within urban and rural areas.

Adolescents: A pattern similar to children is observed for the adolescents. Table 4.6 reveals a higher level of educational attainment among urban-dwelling adolescents compared to their rural-dwelling counterparts. For example, 15.2 per cent of urban-dwelling adolescent males and 16.1 per cent of urban-dwelling adolescent females had no education compared to 36.0 per cent and 39.0 per cent of rural-dwelling adolescent males and females, respectively. Urban-dwelling adolescent males (40.8 per cent) with primary as their highest educational attainment were about 4.0 percentage points above their rural male (36.8 per cent) counterparts. Similarly, urban female adolescents (41.5 per cent) with highest educational attainment as primary were about 5.0 percentage points above their female rural counterparts (36.3 per cent). In terms of secondary educational attainment, urban male adolescents accounted for a relatively higher proportion (33.6 per cent) than their urban female adolescents (32.2 per cent), while rural male adolescents were 14.4 per cent as against their rural female adolescents at 12.7 per cent.

Youth: A similar pattern as observed for the children and adolescents pertains to the youth. At all levels of educational attainment, male youth aged 15-24 years were better represented than their female counterparts irrespective of their type of place of residence. For example, 48.2 per cent of male youth in urban areas had secondary as their highest educational attainment compared to 46.6 per cent of urban female youth. For the youth group 15-35 years, however, urban females with Preschool and primary as their highest educational attainment were better represented, accounting for 3.8 per cent and 24.6 per cent respectively compared to 3.6 per cent and 23.6 per cent for their urban male youth counterparts.

4.7 Educational attainment at the county level

In this section, differences in educational attainment by county of residence have been discussed. Male-female variations in educational attainment have also been noted. Educational attainment among children is presented in Tables 4.7, 4.8 and 4.9 by sex and county of residence.

Children: A comparison of educational attainment among children aged 3-9 years is presented in Table 4.7.

Table 4.7: Percentage distribution of children 3-9 years by educational attainment, sex and county of residence

County of residence	Male					Female				
	No education	Pre-school	Primary	%	Total number	No education	Pre-school	Primary	%	Total number
Bomi	42.1	33.5	24.4	100.0	16,799	42.7	32.3	24.9	100.0	14,954
Bong	62.1	25.0	12.8	100.0	56,773	61.0	26.0	13.0	100.0	54,811
Gbarpolu	53.2	25.1	21.8	100.0	11,315	52.1	25.4	22.5	100.0	10,733
Grand Bassa	64.1	20.4	15.5	100.0	36,285	62.2	21.8	16.0	100.0	34,516
Grand Cape Mount	52.5	23.9	23.7	100.0	20,546	49.4	26.8	23.7	100.0	18,452
Grand Gedeh	41.9	31.9	26.2	100.0	21,251	42.2	31.3	26.5	100.0	21,984
Grand Kru	52.6	26.4	21.0	100.0	13,242	51.5	27.0	21.4	100.0	12,922
Lofa	45.9	26.7	27.4	100.0	47,016	46.0	27.4	26.6	100.0	45,892
Margibi	42.6	30.7	26.7	100.0	35,578	41.0	31.6	27.4	100.0	36,466

County of residence	Male					Female				
	No education	Pre-school	Primary	%	Total number	No education	Pre-school	Primary	%	Total number
Maryland	42.5	31.1	26.4	100.0	21,284	42.3	31.2	26.5	100.0	21,737
Montserrado	26.4	37.7	35.9	100.0	206,119	25.4	37.7	36.8	100.0	224,068
Nimba	46.3	35.4	18.3	100.0	85,507	44.7	36.4	18.9	100.0	83,510
River Cess	58.4	27.8	13.9	100.0	12,237	56.4	29.4	14.2	100.0	10,912
River Gee	50.9	30.2	18.9	100.0	14,371	50.7	30.4	19.0	100.0	13,956
Sinoe	50.7	26.0	23.3	100.0	17,525	50.8	25.6	23.6	100.0	17,048

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

Generally, with the exception of Montserrado County, all the other counties had at least two-fifth of their children with no education. Eight out of the 15 counties had more than half of their children aged 3-9 years with no education. This ranges from 50.7 per cent in Sinoe County to 64.1 per cent in Grand Bassa County. The results also show that for either males or females, Grand Bassa County has the highest proportions of children with no education (64.1 per cent among males and 62.2 per cent among females). In contrast, Montserrado County has the lowest proportions of children with no education among either males (26.4 per cent) or females (25.4 per cent). A comparison between male and female children in educational attainment in each county does not show wide variations except for the primary school attainment where the females had a little urge over the males.

For comparison of educational attainment among children aged 3-14 years, the results are presented in Table 4.8. All the counties except Montserrado (23.3 per cent each for male and female) had at least 38.0 per cent of their children with no education. Grand Bassa County again, had the highest proportion of its children with no education (60.3 per cent for males and 58.6 per cent for females). For almost all the counties, the proportion of male children aged 3-14 years with secondary education is slightly higher than their female counterparts.

Table 4.8: Percentage distribution of children 3-14 years by educational attainment, sex and county of residence

County of residence	Male						Female					
	No education	Pre-school	Primary	Secondary	%	Total number	No education	Pre-school	Primary	Secondary	%	Total number
Bomi	38.3	31.0	29.5	1.2	100.0	20,090	38.9	30.0	30.0	1.2	100.0	17,828
Bong	58.0	24.7	16.7	0.6	100.0	67,925	57.1	25.6	16.9	0.4	100.0	64,821
Gbarpolu	49.4	23.3	26.6	0.7	100.0	13,471	49.3	23.5	26.6	0.6	100.0	12,677
Grand Bassa	60.3	19.5	19.3	0.8	100.0	43,486	58.6	20.8	19.9	0.7	100.0	40,990
Grand Cape Mount	49.8	21.5	27.6	1.1	100.0	24,514	46.7	24.4	28.0	0.9	100.0	21,771
Grand Gedeh	38.1	28.5	32.1	1.4	100.0	26,515	38.5	28.2	32.3	1.0	100.0	27,235
Grand Kru	47.9	25.3	26.3	0.5	100.0	16,393	47.4	25.6	26.6	0.5	100.0	15,724
Lofa	43.1	24.8	31.2	0.9	100.0	55,699	43.3	25.3	30.7	0.7	100.0	54,009
Margibi	39.1	27.6	31.8	1.5	100.0	43,559	37.6	28.4	32.9	1.2	100.0	44,450

County of residence	Male						Female					
	No education	Pre-school	Primary	Secondary	%	Total number	No education	Pre-school	Primary	Secondary	%	Total number
Maryland	38.7	28.4	31.7	1.2	100.0	26,332	38.2	28.8	32.0	1.1	100.0	26,525
Montserrado	23.7	33.2	40.7	2.4	100.0	251,782	22.8	32.9	42.1	2.3	100.0	277,238
Nimba	42.2	33.9	23.1	0.7	100.0	102,486	40.9	34.8	23.7	0.6	100.0	98,892
River Cess	53.8	26.9	19.0	0.3	100.0	14,661	52.5	28.4	18.8	0.3	100.0	12,737
River Gee	45.8	29.0	24.4	0.8	100.0	18,001	46.0	29.1	24.3	0.6	100.0	17,287
Sinoe	47.0	24.1	28.2	0.8	100.0	21,604	47.1	23.5	28.8	0.6	100.0	20,729

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

The educational attainment among children aged 3-17 years by county of residence is presented in Table 4.9. With the exception of Montserrado County where about a fifth of the children (male and female) had no education, over a third of children (male and female) in each county had no education.

It is observed that for each of the counties about 2.0 per cent of children had attained secondary education with the highest proportion of 9.6 per cent (male and female) recorded in Montserrado County and the lowest of 1.8 per cent in River Cess County.

Table 4.9: Percentage distribution of children 3-17 years by educational attainment, sex and county of residence

County	No Educ	Preschool	Primary	Secondary	University	Other tertiary	%	Total Number
Male								
Bomi	35.0	27.0	33.4	4.5	0.1	0.0	100.0	24,626
Bong	53.8	23.0	20.7	2.4	0.0	0.0	100.0	83,496
Grand Bassa	56.4	17.8	22.9	2.8	0.1	0.0	100.0	53,525
Gbarpolu	46.1	20.4	30.5	2.9	0.0	0.0	100.0	16,601
Grand Cape Mount	47.2	18.5	30.0	4.2	0.1	0.0	100.0	30,483
Grand Gedeh	34.4	24.0	35.5	6.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	34,575
Grand Kru	43.6	22.7	30.8	2.9	0.0	0.0	100.0	20,848
Lofa	40.2	21.3	34.4	4.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	70,193
Margibi	35.2	23.6	35.3	5.7	0.1	0.0	100.0	55,020
Maryland	34.9	24.7	35.2	5.2	0.0	0.0	100.0	33,283
Montserrado	21.1	27.5	41.7	9.4	0.2	0.0	100.0	320,751
Nimba	38.3	30.8	27.8	3.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	124,919
River Cess	49.3	25.0	24.1	1.6	0.0	0.0	100.0	17,807
River Gee	41.4	26.3	28.9	3.4	0.0	0.0	100.0	22,889
Sinoe	43.0	21.0	32.7	3.3	0.0	0.0	100.0	27,534

County	No Educ	Preschool	Primary	Secondary	University	Other tertiary	%	Total Number
Female								
Bomi	35.6	26.0	33.8	4.5	0.1	0.0	100.0	22,051
Bong	53.2	23.6	21.0	2.1	0.0	0.0	100.0	79,649
Grand Bassa	55.1	18.6	23.5	2.8	0.0	0.0	100.0	50,614
Gbarpolu	46.6	20.5	30.3	2.6	0.0	0.0	100.0	15,481
Grand Cape Mount	44.5	20.9	30.5	4.2	0.0	0.0	100.0	27,040
Grand Gedeh	34.9	23.9	35.8	5.4	0.0	0.0	100.0	34,853
Grand Kru	43.6	23.0	30.6	2.7	0.0	0.0	100.0	19,662
Lofa	40.6	21.8	33.9	3.6	0.0	0.0	100.0	67,778
Margibi	34.1	24.2	36.1	5.5	0.0	0.0	100.0	56,071
Maryland	34.1	24.8	35.6	5.5	0.0	0.0	100.0	33,621
Montserrado	20.4	27.1	42.7	9.7	0.1	0.0	100.0	353,342
Nimba	37.3	31.6	28.1	3.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	119,972
River Cess	48.8	26.0	23.3	1.9	0.0	0.0	100.0	15,393
River Gee	42.1	26.3	28.6	3.1	0.0	0.0	100.0	21,713
Sinoe	43.6	20.4	33.0	3.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	26,300

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

Adolescents: In Table 4.10, a comparison of educational attainment among adolescents by county of residence has been made. From the results, we notice a higher proportion of adolescents with no education compared to those with secondary education for both males and females in all the counties. Nine counties made up of Bong, Gbarpolu, Grand Bassa, Grand Cape Mount, Grand Kru, Lofa, River Cess, River Gee and Sinoe had at least a third of their adolescents (male and females) with no education. There is also a concentration of adolescents at the primary level of educational attainment in all the counties. Not much variation is observed between male and female adolescents by levels of educational attainment in each of the counties.

Table 4.10: Percentage distribution of adolescents by educational attainment, sex and county of residence

County	No Educ	Preschool	Primary	Secondary	University	Other tertiary	%	Total Number
Male								
Bomi	23.7	12.7	42.6	20.9	0.1	0.0	100.0	21,906
Bong	39.4	15.5	31.8	13.3	0.1	0.0	100.0	77,718
Gbarpolu	35.1	9.6	39.8	15.4	0.1	0.0	100.0	15,389
Grand Bassa	43.1	10.8	31.6	14.4	0.0	0.0	100.0	49,346
Grand Cape Mount	41.2	6.6	32.6	19.4	0.1	0.0	100.0	31,293

County	No Educ	Preschool	Primary	Secondary	University	Other tertiary	%	Total Number
Grand Gedeh	26.6	9.5	38.6	25.2	0.0	0.0	100.0	41,675
Grand Kru	30.4	13.7	40.5	15.4	0.0	0.0	100.0	21,295
Lofa	31.3	9.4	39.8	19.5	0.0	0.0	100.0	67,873
Margibi	23.2	10.2	41.6	24.9	0.1	0.0	100.0	54,007
Maryland	22.7	11.7	41.9	23.7	0.0	0.0	100.0	32,946
Montserrado	13.3	8.6	40.6	37.3	0.2	0.0	100.0	334,661
Nimba	23.6	18.6	41.1	16.7	0.0	0.0	100.0	108,404
River Cess	32.4	17.4	38.7	11.6	0.0	0.0	100.0	15,495
River Gee	29.7	15.5	37.5	17.3	0.0	0.0	100.0	24,672
Sinoe	31.5	10.1	41.4	17.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	28,925
Female								
Bomi	27.5	11.0	41.3	20.0	0.1	0.0	100.0	21,795
Bong	41.7	15.0	31.2	12.1	0.0	0.0	100.0	76,582
Gbarpolu	40.3	8.3	38.8	12.5	0.0	0.0	100.0	14,794
Grand Bassa	44.7	10.4	31.3	13.5	0.0	0.0	100.0	47,779
Grand Cape Mount	41.1	7.2	33.4	18.3	0.0	0.0	100.0	28,979
Grand Gedeh	25.9	10.1	41.2	22.8	0.0	0.0	100.0	38,312
Grand Kru	33.2	13.4	40.1	13.3	0.0	0.0	100.0	19,795
Lofa	35.7	9.0	38.6	16.7	0.0	0.0	100.0	66,993
Margibi	25.8	10.0	41.7	22.5	0.0	0.0	100.0	56,310
Maryland	22.9	11.5	42.0	23.5	0.0	0.0	100.0	33,142
Montserrado	14.4	8.6	41.1	35.8	0.0	0.0	100.0	369,407
Nimba	24.9	17.6	41.4	16.1	0.0	0.0	100.0	105,929
River Cess	36.3	15.9	37.0	10.9	0.0	0.0	100.0	13,802
River Gee	30.9	15.3	38.2	15.6	0.0	0.0	100.0	22,482
Sinoe	33.5	9.7	42.3	14.4	0.0	0.0	100.0	27,229

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

Youth: Educational attainment among the youth is presented in Tables 4.11 and 4.12 by sex and county of residence. In Table 4.11, the highest proportion of males with no education is found in Grand Cape Mount County (42.8 per cent) and the lowest is in Montserrado County (13.3 per cent). In contrast, the results for females indicate that Grand Bassa County (45.8 per cent) has the highest and Montserrado (15.1 per cent) the lowest proportion of youth with no education. At the county level, however, a small proportion of youth had attained university education.

Table 4.11: Percentage distribution of youth 15-24 by educational attainment, sex and county of residence

County	No education	Preschool	Primary	Secondary	University	Other tertiary	%	Total Number
Male								
Bomi	23.9	5.8	38.0	32.2	0.1	0.0	100.0	13,652
Bong	37.9	9.6	32.5	20.0	0.1	0.0	100.0	50,086
Gbarpolu	36.0	5.1	36.1	22.8	0.1	0.0	100.0	10,113
Grand Bassa	41.8	6.4	30.1	21.6	0.0	0.0	100.0	31,665
Grand Cape Mount	42.8	3.2	26.5	27.3	0.1	0.0	100.0	21,469
Grand Gedeh	27.1	5.3	33.1	34.4	0.0	0.0	100.0	29,654
Grand Kru	29.0	9.0	39.1	22.9	0.0	0.0	100.0	13,948
Lofa	31.5	5.1	34.8	28.6	0.1	0.0	100.0	44,939
Margibi	22.1	5.2	35.7	36.9	0.1	0.0	100.0	35,083
Maryland	21.6	6.3	36.5	35.5	0.0	0.0	100.0	21,326
Montserrado	13.3	4.0	29.4	53.3	0.1	0.0	100.0	224,934
Nimba	22.6	10.5	40.7	26.2	0.0	0.0	100.0	66,659
River Cess	30.5	10.7	40.3	18.5	0.0	0.0	100.0	9,535
River Gee	29.6	9.3	35.8	25.3	0.0	0.0	100.0	16,413
Sinoe	30.5	5.7	39.4	24.5	0.0	0.0	100.0	19,496
Female								
Bomi	29.9	5.9	35.9	28.2	0.1	0.0	100.0	14,820
Bong	42.8	9.3	30.5	17.3	0.0	0.0	100.0	51,827
Gbarpolu	42.6	4.4	35.1	17.9	0.0	0.0	100.0	9,926
Grand Bassa	45.8	6.2	28.5	19.4	0.0	0.0	100.0	32,077
Grand Cape Mount	44.4	3.7	27.1	24.8	0.0	0.0	100.0	20,678
Grand Gedeh	26.5	5.4	35.7	32.3	0.0	0.0	100.0	26,209
Grand Kru	33.9	9.0	37.6	19.5	0.0	0.0	100.0	13,130
Lofa	38.2	5.1	33.1	23.7	0.0	0.0	100.0	45,946
Margibi	26.8	5.1	35.2	32.9	0.0	0.0	100.0	37,151
Maryland	23.0	6.1	36.0	34.9	0.0	0.0	100.0	21,650
Montserrado	15.1	3.8	29.2	51.8	0.0	0.0	100.0	244,429
Nimba	25.7	10.1	39.8	24.3	0.0	0.0	100.0	67,760
River Cess	37.4	9.7	36.7	16.2	0.0	0.0	100.0	9,012
River Gee	31.3	9.2	36.6	22.9	0.0	0.0	100.0	14,913
Sinoe	34.1	5.6	39.6	20.7	0.0	0.0	100.0	18,371

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

Table 4.12 presents the results of educational attainment of youth aged 15-35 years by sex and county of residence. In general, there are higher proportions of females than males in the counties without education. The county with the highest proportion of male youth aged 15-35 years with no education is Grand Cape Mount (44.4%) while Montserrado (14.5%) had the lowest. In terms of female youth, Grand Bassa County had the highest proportion (52.1%) with no education while Montserrado had the lowest of 19.1 per cent without education.

Table 4.12: Per cent distribution of youth 15-35 by educational attainment, sex and county of residence

County	No education	Preschool	Primary	Secondary	University	Other tertiary	%	Total Number
Male								
Bomi	29.3	4.4	29.5	34.1	2.6	0.2	100.0	24,571
Bong	40.9	7.1	26.3	23.6	1.9	0.1	100.0	88,416
Gbarpolu	39.7	3.8	28.4	26.5	1.5	0.1	100.0	19,414
Grand Bassa	43.6	5.0	24.9	24.5	1.9	0.1	100.0	55,413
Grand Cape Mount	44.4	2.3	20.6	30.0	2.5	0.2	100.0	40,672
Grand Gedeh	30.7	4.1	26.8	36.8	1.5	0.1	100.0	52,476
Grand Kru	30.3	7.1	32.6	28.6	1.2	0.0	100.0	23,837
Lofa	35.5	4.0	27.4	31.1	1.8	0.2	100.0	75,860
Margibi	24.9	4.1	28.4	39.3	3.3	0.2	100.0	59,134
Maryland	23.3	4.9	29.3	38.4	4.0	0.1	100.0	35,779
Montserrado	14.5	2.9	21.5	53.3	7.3	0.4	100.0	409,049
Nimba	25.4	7.8	33.7	31.1	1.9	0.1	100.0	114,476
River Cess	33.3	8.1	33.6	23.7	1.2	0.1	100.0	16,849
River Gee	30.9	6.9	30.5	30.6	1.1	0.0	100.0	27,944
Sinoe	31.7	4.4	32.2	30.3	1.4	0.1	100.0	33,274
Female								
Bomi	39.4	4.7	27.7	26.7	1.4	0.1	100.0	26,280
Bong	50.5	6.9	23.6	17.8	1.1	0.0	100.0	94,787
Gbarpolu	51.5	3.5	27.1	17.1	0.8	0.0	100.0	17,959
Grand Bassa	52.1	4.8	22.2	19.6	1.3	0.0	100.0	56,777
Grand Cape Mount	51.1	2.7	21.2	23.7	1.1	0.1	100.0	38,272
Grand Gedeh	31.9	4.6	29.6	32.8	1.0	0.1	100.0	44,943
Grand Kru	39.7	7.1	31.3	21.4	0.4	0.0	100.0	22,207
Lofa	48.1	4.0	25.0	21.9	0.9	0.1	100.0	80,628
Margibi	32.9	4.1	28.1	32.7	2.1	0.1	100.0	63,426
Maryland	29.9	4.9	28.9	33.9	2.3	0.1	100.0	36,061

County	No education	Preschool	Primary	Secondary	University	Other tertiary	%	Total Number
Montserrado	19.1	3.1	22.3	49.6	5.6	0.3	100.0	440,447
Nimba	32.5	8.0	33.0	25.4	1.1	0.0	100.0	117,142
River Cess	46.3	7.6	29.4	16.0	0.8	0.0	100.0	15,804
River Gee	37.7	7.4	31.1	23.3	0.5	0.0	100.0	24,559
Sinoe	39.9	4.6	32.5	22.3	0.6	0.0	100.0	30,454

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

For each of the counties, we observe a higher proportion of male than female youth aged 15-35 years with secondary education. The same is true for university and other tertiary educational attainment. For example, Montserrado County had the highest proportion of males (7.7 per cent) while River Gee County (1.1 per cent) recorded the lowest proportion among males with university and other tertiary education. In contrast, the results indicate that the highest and lowest proportion of female youth aged 15-35 years with university and other tertiary education were Montserrado County (5.6%) and Grand Kru County (0.4%), respectively.

In sum, female children were more literate than male children while male adolescents and male youth were more literate than their female counterparts. Irrespective of age, literacy was higher for both males and females residing in urban than rural areas. There is, therefore, a huge gap in educational attainment between urban and rural areas. A third of children never attended school while about 10.0 per cent of adolescents and over 12.0 per cent of youth dropped out of school. At the county level, over a third of children in each county had no education. Grand Bassa County is the worst affected with over half of her children and more than two-fifths each of her adolescents and youth with no education.

Chapter 5: Marital status and fertility

5.1 Introduction

There has been a steady decline in fertility in Liberia since 1984. Fertility fell from 7.1 in the 1984 Census to 5.8 in the 2008 census. It increased slightly to 5.9 in 2009 (MIS Survey, 2009) and since then has fallen to 3.9 according to the 2022 census. Fertility is associated with marital status particularly the proportion of the population that is married at any particular point in time. This is because fertility of women in marital unions tends to be higher than those not in unions. For this reason, an analysis of marital status in important in understanding the fertility behaviour of the population. Since the analysis involves young people most of whom may be attending school, the expectation is that they would not contribute to fertility. However, this assumption may not hold on account of early marriages which are quite high in Africa and for that matter in Liberia coupled with low use of modern contraception. In the case of adolescents who are sexually active, the non-use of modern contraception would result in their contribution to fertility. In instances where unwanted pregnancies occur, the resort to unapproved practices to terminate the pregnancy may have serious consequences for their reproductive health. This chapter, therefore, examines the population of young persons in Liberia by their marital status and their contribution to fertility in the country.

5.2 Marital status

The question on marital status in the 2022 Liberia Population and Housing Census was asked to persons 12 years and above. The analysis will, therefore, not cover children less than 12 years old but children 12-14, 12-17, adolescents 12-19 and youth 15-24 and 15-35 years. Table 5.1 presents the distribution of young persons by age-sex and marital status. The results indicate that, at the national level, as age increases, the proportion of people who report never being married declines while the percentage of persons who get married increases.

Table 5.1: Percentage distribution of population of young persons by marital status and age-sex

Marital status	12-14		12-17		12-19		15-24		15-35	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Never married	97.8	97.7	97.5	96	92.8	85.4	91.1	81.5	77.5	68.3
Married monogamous	1.4	1.4	1.5	2.6	5.1	10.8	6.3	13.9	17.8	25.1
Married polygamous	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.6	0.4	0.8	1.1	1.4
Separated	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.9
Divorced	0	0.1	0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2
Widow/ widower	0	0.2	0	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.6
Consensual Union	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.9	1.4	2.3	1.6	2.9	2.6	3.6
Total %	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Total Number	199,374	199,691	387,901	389,458	806,793	825,701	607,419	626,010	1,073,874	1,106,160

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

Children: From Table 5.1, about 98.0 per cent of both male and female children aged 12-14 years and about 98.0 per cent of male and 96.0 per cent of female children aged 12-17 years were never married. About one per cent of male and female children aged 12-14 years, about two per cent of male and about three per cent of female children aged 12-17 years were in monogamous marriages.

Adolescents: Table 5.1 shows that about 93.0 per cent of male and 85.0 per cent of female adolescents aged 12-19 years have never been married. About seven per cent of male adolescents are in marital unions (5.1 per cent in monogamous marriages and 1.4 per cent in consensual unions) while as high as 13 per cent of female adolescents are in marital unions (10.8 per cent in monogamous marriages and 2.3 per cent in consensual union).

Youth: While over 90.0 per cent of male and 80.0 per cent of female youth aged 15-24 years have never been married, about eight per cent of male and 17.0 per cent of female youths were in marital unions (monogamous and consensual union). For the youth aged 15-35 years, 78.0 per cent and 68.0 per cent of males and females respectively were never married while one-fifth (20.4 per cent) of male and almost three in 10 (28.7 per cent) of female youth aged 15-35 years were in marital unions. The data also indicate that at almost all ages, higher proportions of females were in marital unions than males.

In Table 5.2, a comparison is made between young persons in urban and rural areas with respect to marital status.

Table 5.2: Percentage distribution of population of young persons by marital status, sex and type of locality of residence

Type of locality	Never married	Married monogamous	Married polygamous	Separated	Divorced	Widow/ widower	Consensual Union	%	Total
Male									
Urban									
12-14	97.9	1.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.6	100.0	107,841
12-17	97.8	1.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.6	100.0	214,374
12-19	94.8	3.4	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.1	1.2	100.0	454,080
15-24	93.9	4.1	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.1	1.4	100.0	346,239
15-35	82.3	13.8	1.0	0.3	0.1	0.1	2.4	100.0	609,773
Rural									
12-14	97.6	1.6	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.3	100.0	91,533
12-17	97.1	1.9	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.5	100.0	173,527
12-19	90.1	7.3	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.1	1.5	100.0	352,713
15-24	87.5	9.3	0.6	0.5	0.1	0.1	1.9	100.0	261,180
15-35	71.2	23.1	1.3	1.2	0.2	0.2	2.9	100.0	464,101
Female									
Urban									
12-14	98.0	1.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.6	100.0	120,438
12-17	97.2	1.6	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.8	100.0	234,948
12-19	89.4	7.6	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.2	2.0	100.0	489,389
15-24	86.6	9.7	0.7	0.3	0.1	0.2	2.5	100.0	368,951
15-35	74.9	19.6	1.2	0.5	0.1	0.4	3.2	100.0	649,062
Rural									

Type of locality	Never married	Married monogamous	Married polygamous	Separated	Divorced	Widow/ widower	Consensual Union	%	Total
12-14	97.2	1.8	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.5	100.0	79,253
12-17	94.1	4.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.2	1.0	100.0	154,510
12-19	79.5	15.6	0.8	0.7	0.1	0.4	2.8	100.0	336,312
15-24	74.1	19.9	1.0	0.8	0.2	0.5	3.5	100.0	257,059
15-35	58.7	32.9	1.7	1.5	0.3	0.8	4.1	100.0	457,098

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

Children: Table 5.2 shows that nine in 10 children in urban or rural areas have never been married. Male children aged 12-14 and 12-17 years in urban areas who were in monogamous marriages were lower (about 1.2 per cent) compared to their rural male counterparts (about 1.6%). The data also reveal that a relatively higher proportion of 4.1 per cent of female children aged 12-17 years in rural areas was in monogamous marriages. This suggests that marriages still take place contrary to the legal age for marriage in Liberia which is 18 years. The results also indicate a higher rate of early marriage in rural than urban areas.

Adolescents: Higher proportions of male adolescents in rural areas were in monogamous marriages (7.3 per cent) than in urban areas (3.4 per cent). Similarly, a relatively higher proportion of male adolescents (1.5 per cent) were in consensual unions compared to their male counterparts in urban areas (1.2 per cent). Compared to their male counterparts, the proportion of females in urban and rural areas who were in monogamous marriages and consensual unions were about double those of the males. For instance, as high as 15.6 per cent of female adolescents in rural areas were in monogamous marriage compared to 7.6 per cent in urban areas. The respective proportions of females in rural and urban areas in consensual unions were 2.8 per cent and 2.0 per cent.

Youth: From Table 5.2, irrespective of the type of place of residence and age group, more female youth were in marital unions than male youth. While male youth aged 15-24 and 15-35 years in urban areas in monogamous marriage accounted for 4.1 per cent and 13.8 per cent respectively, their female counterparts in urban areas in monogamous marriage were 9.7 per cent and 19.6 per cent respectively. Again, one in five female youth aged 15-24 years and over a third of their counterparts aged 15-35 years in rural areas were in monogamous marriages compared to one in 10 male youth aged 15-24 years and one-fifth of their counterparts aged 15-35 in rural areas. Furthermore, the data show that a higher proportion of female youth (4.1 per cent in rural areas) was in consensual unions compared to 2.9 per cent of their male counterparts.

The analysis further examines the county differentials in marital status between male and female children, adolescents and youth in Liberia. The results have been presented in Tables 5.3–5.7.

Children: The results from Table 5.3 show that all the counties recorded monogamous marriages among children aged 12-14 years with the highest proportions of 3.0 per cent and 2.8 per cent recorded for male and female children, respectively in Grand Cape Mount County. In contrast, the lowest proportion (about 1.0 per cent) was recorded in Maryland County. It is interesting to note that one per cent of male and female children aged 12-14 years have divorced in River Gee County.

Table 5.3: Distribution of population aged 12-14 years by marital status, sex and county of residence

County	Never married	Married monogamous	Married polygamous	Separated	Divorced	Widow/ widower	Consensual Union	%	Total
Male									
Bomi	98.1	1.6	0.2	-	0.0	-	0.1	100.0	5,084
Bong	97.1	1.6	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	1.1	100.0	17,319
Gbarpolu	98.2	1.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.3	100.0	3,317
Grand Bassa	96.9	2.1	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.5	100.0	11,251
Grand Cape Mount	96.3	3.0	0.3	0.1	-	0.0	0.3	100.0	6,181
Grand Gedeh	98.3	1.2	0.1	0.1	-	0.0	0.4	100.0	7,965
Grand Kru	98.8	0.9	0.0	0.1	-	0.0	0.1	100.0	4,757
Lofa	96.6	2.1	0.2	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.5	100.0	13,550
Margibi	98.1	1.5	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.3	100.0	12,033
Maryland	98.3	0.9	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.4	100.0	7,527
Montserrado	98.0	1.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.4	100.0	68,801
Nimba	97.9	1.0	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.7	100.0	26,185
River Cess	98.8	1.0	0.1	0.0	-	0.0	-	100.0	3,706
River Gee	97.4	1.3	0.1	0.0	0.9	0.0	0.3	100.0	5,418
Sinoe	98.1	1.5	0.1	0.2	-	-	0.1	100.0	6,280
Female									
Bomi	97.3	2.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.0	100.0	4,426
Bong	96.8	1.6	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	1.1	100.0	15,706
Gbarpolu	97.4	1.6	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.4	100.0	3,072
Grand Bassa	96.6	2.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.6	100.0	9,991
Grand Cape Mount	96.6	2.8	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	100.0	5,224
Grand Gedeh	98.1	1.2	0.1	0.1	-	0.1	0.5	100.0	7,924
Grand Kru	98.0	1.3	0.1	0.3	-	0.1	0.2	100.0	4,251
Lofa	95.9	2.3	0.2	0.4	0.1	0.4	0.7	100.0	12,487
Margibi	98.1	1.2	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.4	100.0	12,163
Maryland	98.2	1.2	0.1	0.1	-	0.1	0.4	100.0	7,347
Montserrado	98.1	1.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.5	100.0	79,551
Nimba	97.7	1.2	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.7	100.0	23,878
River Cess	98.4	1.5	-	0.0	0.1	0.0	-	100.0	2,948
River Gee	96.7	1.6	0.0	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.6	100.0	4,999
Sinoe	98.5	1.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	100.0	5,724

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

From Table 5.4, the pattern of marital status of children aged 12-17 years by sex and county was not different from that of children aged 12-14 years in Table 5.3. While Grand Cape Mount County recorded the highest proportion of 3.2 per cent of male children aged 12-17 years in monogamous marriage, River Cess County recorded the highest (8.0 per cent) for female children of the same age group in monogamous marriage. Montserrado County recorded the lowest percentage (1.2 per cent for males and 1.0 per cent for females) of her children aged 12-17 years in monogamous marriage.

Table 5.4: Distribution of population aged 12-17 years by marital status, sex and county of residence

County	Never married	Married monogamous	Married polygamous	Separated	Divorced	Widow/ widower	Consensual Union	%	Total
Male									
Bomi	97.7	1.9	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	100.0	9,595
Bong	96.8	1.7	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	1.2	100.0	32,758
Gbarpolu	97.7	1.8	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	100.0	6,426
Grand Bassa	96.6	2.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.7	100.0	21,238
Grand Cape Mount	96.0	3.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.3	100.0	12,118
Grand Gedeh	97.8	1.4	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.5	100.0	15,992
Grand Kru	98.2	1.2	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.3	100.0	9,194
Lofa	96.3	2.3	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.6	100.0	27,970
Margibi	97.9	1.6	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.4	100.0	23,401
Maryland	98.1	1.0	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.5	100.0	14,443
Montserrado	98.0	1.2	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.5	100.0	136,924
Nimba	97.4	1.3	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.9	100.0	48,507
River Cess	98.3	1.5	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	100.0	6,845
River Gee	97.0	1.4	0.1	0.0	0.8	0.0	0.5	100.0	10,301
Sinoe	97.8	1.6	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.3	100.0	12,189
Female									
Bomi	94.8	4.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.3	0.2	100.0	8,624
Bong	94.8	2.8	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.3	1.7	100.0	30,452
Gbarpolu	94.7	3.9	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.3	0.5	100.0	5,859
Grand Bassa	93.4	5.0	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.9	100.0	19,572
Grand Cape Mount	93.8	5.1	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.3	100.0	10,476
Grand Gedeh	96.5	2.3	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.8	100.0	15,521
Grand Kru	95.8	2.9	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.1	0.6	100.0	8,182
Lofa	93.5	4.1	0.3	0.4	0.1	0.5	1.1	100.0	26,186
Margibi	97.1	2.0	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.5	100.0	23,744

County	Never married	Married monogamous	Married polygamous	Separated	Divorced	Widow/ widower	Consensual Union	%	Total
Maryland	97.2	1.8	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.6	100.0	14,405
Montserrado	97.4	1.5	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.2	0.6	100.0	155,237
Nimba	94.9	2.7	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.2	1.9	100.0	44,901
River Cess	91.1	8.0	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.5	100.0	5,599
River Gee	94.0	3.6	0.2	0.1	0.8	0.1	1.2	100.0	9,416
Sinoe	95.5	3.6	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.5	100.0	11,284

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

Adolescents: Table 5.5 presents the marital status of adolescents aged 12-19 years by sex and county of residence.

Table 5.5: Percentage distribution of adolescents 12-19 years by marital status, sex and county of residence

County	Never married	Married monogamous	Married polygamous	Separated	Divorced	Widow/ widower	Consensual Union	%	Total
Male									
Bomi	91.7	7.2	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.4	100.0	18,692
Bong	91.3	5.7	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	2.4	100.0	67,164
Gbarpolu	90.5	8.1	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.7	100.0	13,403
Grand Bassa	89.2	8.7	0.6	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.9	100.0	42,853
Grand Cape Mount	88.5	8.8	1.1	0.9	0.1	0.1	0.5	100.0	27,593
Grand Gedeh	92.0	5.3	0.3	0.6	0.0	0.0	1.7	100.0	37,569
Grand Kru	92.7	4.9	0.2	0.4	0.0	0.0	1.7	100.0	18,680
Lofa	90.0	7.0	0.6	0.7	0.1	0.2	1.4	100.0	58,357
Margibi	94.3	4.6	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.8	100.0	47,027
Maryland	95.1	3.7	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.8	100.0	28,798
Montserrado	95.6	3.1	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.8	100.0	293,200
Nimba	90.5	5.8	0.5	0.3	0.0	0.0	2.9	100.0	92,687
River Cess	87.1	11.2	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.9	100.0	13,228
River Gee	89.5	5.8	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.0	3.5	100.0	21,799
Sinoe	92.5	6.0	0.4	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.8	100.0	25,743

County	Never married	Married monogamous	Married polygamous	Separated	Divorced	Widow/ widower	Consensual Union	%	Total
Female									
Bomi	79.3	17.1	0.9	0.4	0.2	1.0	1.1	100.0	19,185
Bong	83.2	11.3	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.6	4.1	100.0	67,355
Gbarpolu	79.8	17.7	0.5	0.3	0.2	0.3	1.2	100.0	12,952
Grand Bassa	78.5	17.9	0.9	0.8	0.2	0.2	1.4	100.0	41,954
Grand Cape Mount	75.5	21.1	1.3	0.7	0.2	0.6	0.7	100.0	25,831
Grand Gedeh	85.6	10.8	0.5	0.7	0.1	0.1	2.3	100.0	34,073
Grand Kru	84.2	11.3	0.4	0.8	0.0	0.1	3.2	100.0	17,358
Lofa	79.9	14.7	1.0	1.1	0.2	0.6	2.5	100.0	58,248
Margibi	88.8	8.9	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.3	1.4	100.0	49,235
Maryland	88.3	9.3	0.6	0.4	0.0	0.1	1.3	100.0	28,921
Montserrado	90.6	7.0	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.2	1.5	100.0	323,227
Nimba	81.6	11.2	0.7	0.5	0.1	0.2	5.7	100.0	91,475
River Cess	70.4	25.7	0.8	0.8	0.2	0.2	1.8	100.0	11,949
River Gee	78.5	14.3	1.0	0.4	0.4	0.2	5.2	100.0	19,880
Sinoe	83.4	13.8	1.0	0.4	0.0	0.1	1.3	100.0	24,058

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

With the exception of River Cess County, which had a lower proportion of 70.4 per cent of its adolescent females never been married, all other counties had over 70.0 per cent of their male and female adolescents never been married. River Cess County recorded the highest proportion of her adolescents (male: 11.2 per cent; female: 26.0 per cent) in monogamous marriage while the lowest proportion of 3.1 per cent male adolescents and 7.0 per cent female adolescents in monogamous marriages were recorded in Montserrado County. The proportion of male adolescents in consensual marriage was highest in River Gee County (3.5 per cent) but for females the highest was in Nimba County (5.7 per cent).

Youth: Table 5.6 focuses on marital status of youth aged 15-24 years by sex and county. In general, over 80.0 per cent of male youth and over 70.0 per cent of female youth have never been married. The proportion for River Cess County (61.2 per cent) for female youth who have never been married is, however, the lowest. River Cess County had about a third (33.6 per cent) of its female youth in monogamous marriage as against only 15.1 per cent of the male youth. Consensual union was more common for females (7.5 per cent) in Nimba County.

Table 5.6: Percentage distribution of youth 15-24 years by marital status, sex and county of residence

County	Never married	Married monogamous	Married polygamous	Separated	Divorced	Widow/ widower	Consensual Union	%	Total
Male									
Bomi	89.4	9.3	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.5	100.0	13,608
Bong	89.2	7.1	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1	2.9	100.0	49,845
Gbarpolu	88.0	10.3	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.9	100.0	10,086
Grand Bassa	86.4	11.1	0.7	0.6	0.1	0.1	1.0	100.0	31,602
Grand Cape Mount	86.3	10.4	1.3	1.1	0.2	0.1	0.6	100.0	21,412
Grand Gedeh	90.4	6.5	0.3	0.7	0.0	0.0	2.1	100.0	29,604
Grand Kru	90.7	6.3	0.3	0.5	0.0	0.0	2.3	100.0	13,923
Lofa	88.1	8.5	0.7	0.8	0.1	0.3	1.7	100.0	44,807
Margibi	93.0	5.6	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.9	100.0	34,994
Maryland	93.9	4.7	0.3	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.9	100.0	21,271
Montserrado	94.9	3.6	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.1	1.0	100.0	224,399
Nimba	87.5	7.7	0.6	0.3	0.0	0.0	3.8	100.0	66,502
River Cess	82.5	15.1	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.1	1.3	100.0	9,522
River Gee	86.9	7.3	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.0	4.6	100.0	16,381
Sinoe	90.7	7.5	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.0	1.0	100.0	19,463
Female									
Bomi	73.9	21.5	1.2	0.5	0.2	1.2	1.4	100.0	14,759
Bong	79.1	14.2	0.4	0.5	0.1	0.7	5.0	100.0	51,649
Gbarpolu	74.4	22.7	0.6	0.4	0.2	0.2	1.5	100.0	9,880
Grand Bassa	72.8	22.8	1.2	1.0	0.2	0.3	1.6	100.0	31,963
Grand Cape Mount	70.1	25.7	1.5	0.9	0.2	0.7	0.8	100.0	20,607
Grand Gedeh	81.8	13.7	0.6	0.9	0.1	0.1	2.8	100.0	26,149
Grand Kru	79.7	14.5	0.6	1.0	0.0	0.1	4.1	100.0	13,107
Lofa	75.6	18.0	1.3	1.3	0.2	0.7	3.0	100.0	45,761
Margibi	85.8	11.5	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.3	1.7	100.0	37,072
Maryland	84.9	12.0	0.8	0.5	0.0	0.2	1.6	100.0	21,574
Montserrado	88.1	9.0	0.6	0.2	0.0	0.3	1.8	100.0	243,676
Nimba	76.0	14.7	0.9	0.6	0.1	0.3	7.5	100.0	67,597
River Cess	61.2	33.6	1.1	1.1	0.3	0.3	2.5	100.0	9,001
River Gee	72.4	18.6	1.4	0.5	0.3	0.2	6.7	100.0	14,881
Sinoe	78.7	17.7	1.3	0.5	0.0	0.1	1.6	100.0	18,334

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

In Table 5.7, the highest percentage of monogamous marriage was recorded by River Cess County (32.3 per cent for males and 47.1 per cent for females) and the lowest was for Montserrado County (13.3 per cent for males and 19.0 per cent for females). Marital separation appeared quite visible in all the counties with over half of them recording about 2.0 per cent of their youth in the category.

Table 5.7: Percentage distribution of youth 15-35 years by marital status, sex and county of residence

County	Never married	Married monogamous	Married polygamous	Separated	Divorced	Widow/ widower	Consensual Union	%	Total
Male									
Bomi	73.3	23.3	1.4	0.5	0.2	0.3	1.0	100.0	24,456
Bong	75.2	18.6	0.8	0.6	0.2	0.2	4.4	100.0	88,038
Gbarpolu	73.7	23.4	0.7	0.7	0.3	0.1	1.1	100.0	19,361
Grand Bassa	69.0	26.3	1.4	1.4	0.3	0.2	1.3	100.0	55,263
Grand Cape Mount	69.2	25.4	2.0	1.8	0.5	0.2	0.8	100.0	40,533
Grand Gedeh	77.2	17.2	0.9	1.4	0.1	0.1	3.1	100.0	52,380
Grand Kru	75.3	18.6	1.0	1.4	0.0	0.1	3.6	100.0	23,804
Lofa	71.6	21.9	1.8	1.4	0.3	0.4	2.5	100.0	75,597
Margibi	81.3	15.9	0.7	0.4	0.1	0.1	1.5	100.0	58,958
Maryland	81.4	15.5	1.1	0.5	0.0	0.1	1.4	100.0	35,690
Montserrado	83.5	13.3	0.9	0.2	0.1	0.1	1.8	100.0	407,704
Nimba	71.3	20.3	1.3	0.8	0.1	0.1	6.1	100.0	114,174
River Cess	63.2	32.3	1.0	1.2	0.5	0.1	1.7	100.0	16,814
River Gee	71.6	19.4	1.5	1.0	0.2	0.1	6.1	100.0	27,886
Sinoe	76.4	19.5	1.5	1.1	0.0	0.1	1.4	100.0	33,216
Female									
Bomi	60.7	32.9	2.1	1.0	0.3	1.4	1.7	100.0	26,155
Bong	65.4	25.8	0.8	1.0	0.3	1.0	5.7	100.0	94,484
Gbarpolu	59.9	36.2	0.9	0.7	0.4	0.4	1.6	100.0	17,874
Grand Bassa	57.3	36.4	1.8	1.7	0.4	0.7	1.7	100.0	56,587
Grand Cape Mount	53.8	39.7	2.4	1.6	0.6	1.0	0.9	100.0	38,113
Grand Gedeh	67.1	26.2	1.3	1.6	0.1	0.2	3.4	100.0	44,842
Grand Kru	64.4	27.7	1.2	1.7	0.1	0.2	4.8	100.0	22,166
Lofa	58.7	31.5	2.4	2.2	0.5	1.2	3.4	100.0	80,238
Margibi	73.6	22.2	0.9	0.6	0.2	0.4	2.1	100.0	63,262
Maryland	72.1	23.2	1.4	0.9	0.1	0.4	2.0	100.0	35,908

County	Never married	Married monogamous	Married polygamous	Separated	Divorced	Widow/ widower	Consensual Union	%	Total
Montserrado	76.4	19.0	1.2	0.4	0.1	0.4	2.5	100.0	439,005
Nimba	62.1	25.5	1.4	1.2	0.1	0.5	9.3	100.0	116,830
River Cess	46.2	47.1	1.3	1.9	0.6	0.5	2.4	100.0	15,783
River Gee	58.0	30.5	2.3	1.2	0.2	0.4	7.5	100.0	24,518
Sinoe	64.8	29.5	2.1	1.4	0.1	0.2	1.8	100.0	30,395

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

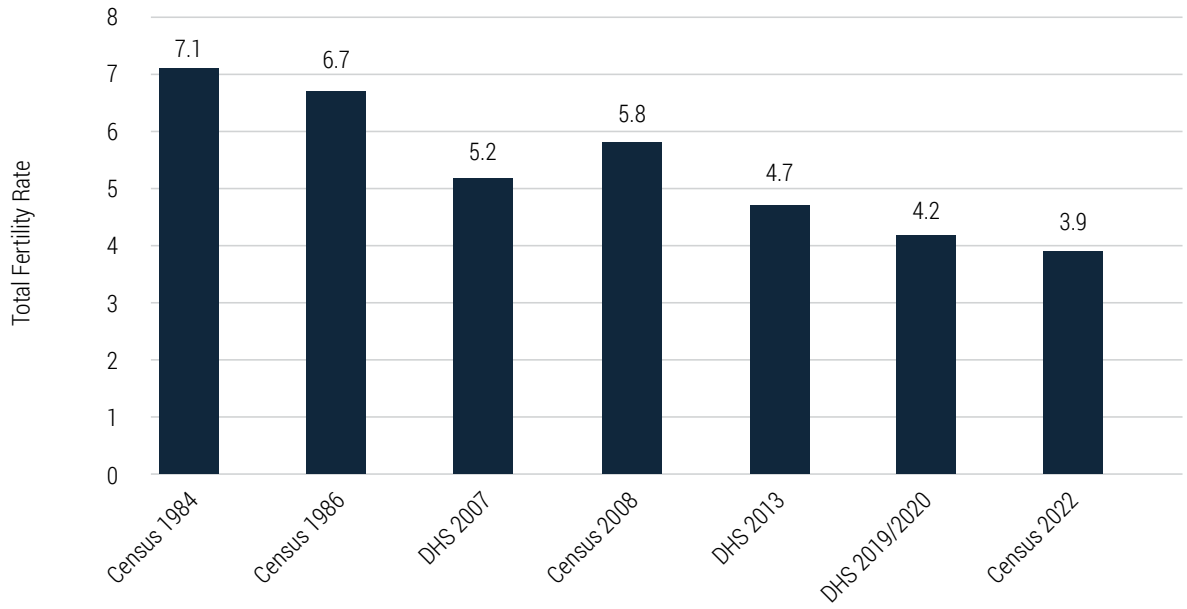
5.3 Trends in adolescent and youth fertility in Liberia

This section discusses the contribution of adolescents aged 15-19 years and youth aged 20-24 years, 25-29 years and 30-34 years to total fertility in Liberia. This will be done by analysing the relative contribution of adolescents and youth to current births (births in the last 12 months) and to children ever born and by county.

Available evidence shows that childbirth starts very early and by the time they are youth they have produced at least one child on average[1]. This shows their contribution to total fertility in Liberia and hence, the need to analysis the fertility of these young persons to enable policymakers take appropriate action to improve their reproductive health and rights including provision of reproductive health services and reduction of adolescent and/or unwanted pregnancies.

Overall, as indicated in Figure 5.1(appendix Table 8), total fertility in Liberia has fallen from 1984 through to 2022. In 1984, a total fertility rate (TFR) of 7.1 was recorded by the census. This fell to 6.7 in 1986 and further reduced to 5.2 in the 2007 DHS. In 2008 when the census was conducted, the TFR was 5.8 and since then it has fallen steadily to 3.9 in 2022.

Figure 5.1: Fertility trends in Liberia

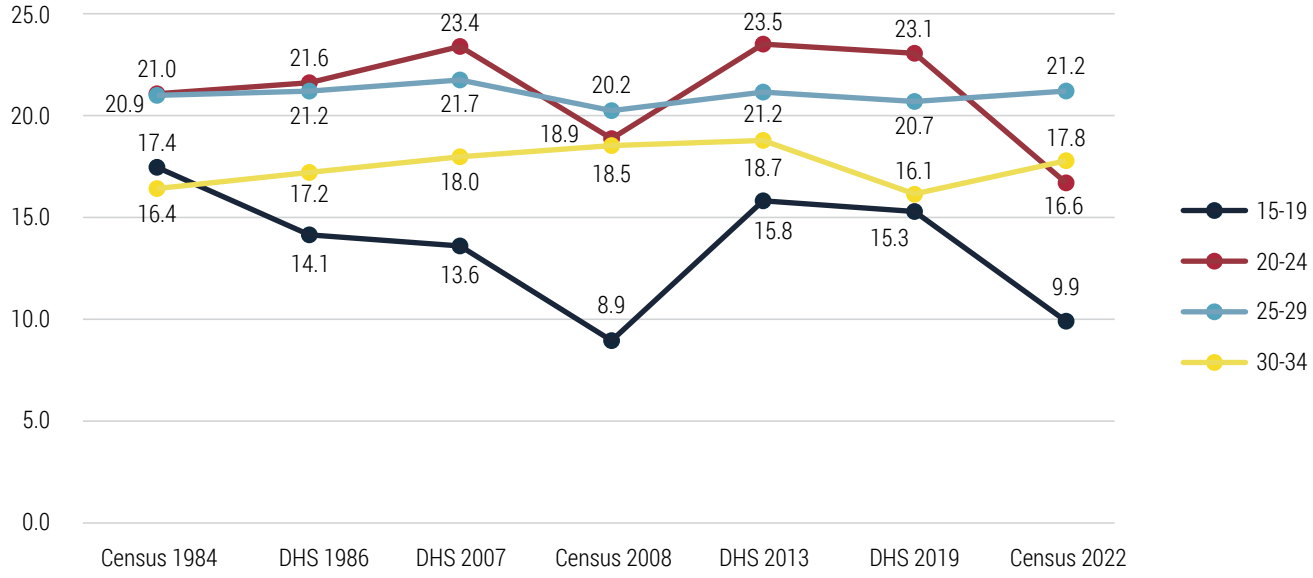


Sources: LISGIS, Liberia Censuses and Demographic and Health Surveys

1 LISGIS. 2011. 2008 Population and Housing Census. Analytical Report of Youth and Adolescents. Monrovia

Figure 5.2 shows the relative contribution of adolescents aged 15-19 years and youth aged 20-24 years, 25-29 years and 30-34 years to total fertility of Liberia (appendix Table 9).

Figure 5.2: Relative contribution of adolescents and youth to total fertility



Sources: LISGIS, Liberia Censuses and Demographic and Health Surveys

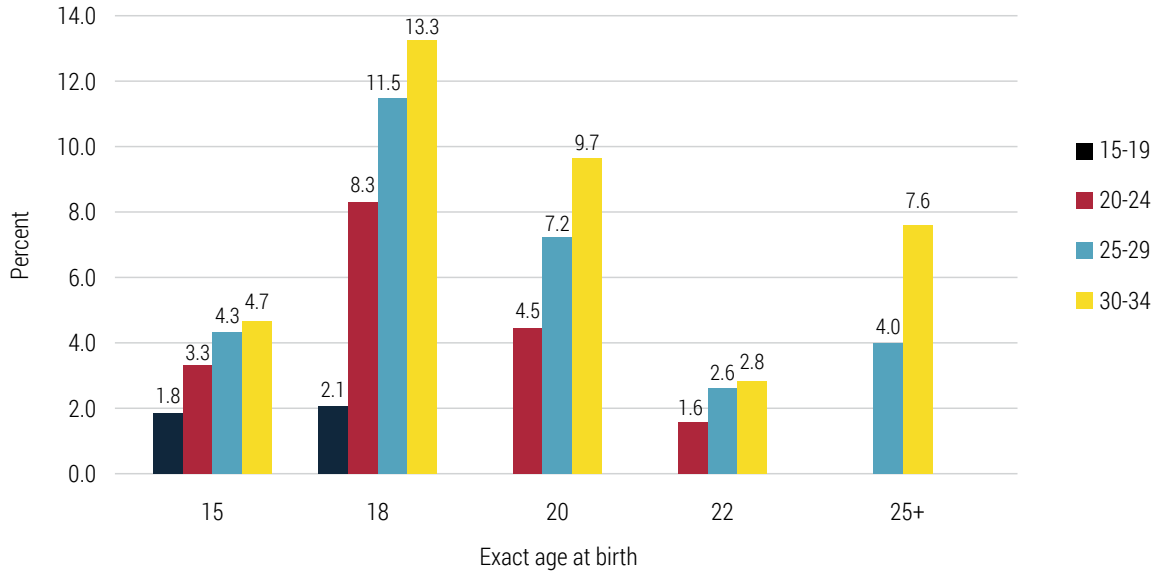
Adolescents: From 1984 the contribution of adolescents 15-19 years to total fertility has fallen from 16.4 per cent to 9.9 per cent.

Youth: The contribution to total fertility by the youth aged 20-24 years was highest in 2013 accounting for 23.5 per cent. The contribution of the youth 25-29 years has been relatively stable, contributing 20.0 per cent in 1984 and 21.1 per cent in 2022. The youth aged 25-29 years were the highest (21.2 per cent) contributor to total fertility in 2022.

5.4 Age at first birth

One of the factors that determine the level of fertility in a population is the age at first birth. Women who marry early are typically exposed to the risk of pregnancy for a longer period, especially when there is little or no contraceptive use. Thus, early childbearing generally leads to a larger family size than later onset of childbearing. Figure 5.3 (appendix Table 10) presents information on adolescents and youth in Liberia by age at first birth in 2022. The results indicate that age at first birth has increased in the most recent period. For instance, the occurrence of first births at the age of 18 years or below has fallen from 13.3 per cent among the older cohort of women aged 30-34 years to 8.3 per cent among the youngest cohort 20-24 years for whom complete information is available. The reduction in the percentage of women giving birth early implies that more young women are postponing childbearing.

Figure 5.3: Per cent of adolescents and youth by exact age at first birth, 2022



Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

The 2022 Liberia census collected information on births in the last 12 months prior to the census from all women 12-49 years. The data define the current fertility among Liberian women. Table 5.8 analyses fertility regarding the contribution of young persons to current fertility by age group.

Table 5.8: Percentage contribution of young persons to births in the last 12 months

Age group	Total		Urban		Rural	
	Births	%	Births	%	Births	%
12-14	164	0.3	66	0.2	98	0.3
15-19	9,944	15.7	4,410	13.5	5,534	18.1
20-24	16,781	26.6	9,022	27.7	7,759	25.4
25-29	13,487	21.4	7,602	23.3	5,885	19.3
30-34	11,092	17.6	5,986	18.4	5,106	16.7
35-49	11,697	18.5	5,523	16.9	6,174	20.2
Total births	63,165	100.0	32,609	100.0	30,556	100.0

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

Children: From Table 5.8, a negligible percentage of 0.3 of total fertility was contributed by children aged 12-14 years. The breakdown into urban and rural shows children in rural areas contributed relatively more to fertility than their urban counterparts.

Adolescents: Adolescents (15-19 years) contributed 15.7 per cent to Liberia's fertility. In terms of type of place of residence, adolescents in rural areas contributed 18.0 per cent while those in urban areas contributed 13.5 per cent. The differences observed may be due to differences in education and family planning services which are higher in urban areas than in rural areas.

Youth: The highest contribution to fertility was by the youth aged 20-24 years, which amounted to 26.6 per cent with the urban areas contributing a higher proportion of 27.7 per cent to fertility as against 25.4 per cent by their rural counterparts. After age 20-24, the contribution of the youth to fertility fell with age. Youth aged 25-29 years contributed about a fifth with those in urban areas contributing 23.3 per cent and their rural counterparts contributing 19.3 per cent. Youth aged 30-34 years contributed 17.6 per cent to fertility. In terms of urban and rural differences, urban youth contributed 18.4 per cent while rural youth aged 30-34 years contributed 16.7 per cent to fertility. The urban youth contributed higher percentages to fertility than their rural counterparts even though they had better access to educational facilities and family planning services than those in the rural areas. This could be the result of the larger number of youth in urban areas compared to that in the rural areas.

A comparison is made of young persons' contribution to fertility in the last 12 months by county. Table 5.9 presents the results.

Children: The contribution of children 12-14 years to fertility of the counties was minimal. Only three counties, Gbarpolu, Grand Gedeh and Sinoe had just about one per cent contribution to their fertility by children aged 12-14 years.

Adolescents: For each of the counties, contribution of fertility by adolescents was over 10.0 per cent. The contribution of adolescents to fertility was highest in Bomi County (21.0 per cent) and lowest in Montserrado (12.0 per cent).

Table 5.9: Percentage contribution of young persons to births in last 12 months by county

County	12-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-49	%	Total births
Bomi	0.1	20.7	29.8	18.6	14.4	16.4	100.0	1,752
Bong	0.3	19.0	25.8	19.0	17.5	18.4	100.0	5,050
Gbarpolu	0.9	18.4	29.4	18.3	15.8	17.2	100.0	1,206
Grand Bassa	0.2	16.6	26.1	20.8	17.0	19.3	100.0	4,294
Grand Cape Mount	0.1	16.8	27.6	20.4	17.7	17.4	100.0	1,748
Grand Gedeh	0.6	14.4	23.8	18.2	18.1	24.9	100.0	2,162
Grand Kru	0.4	16.6	23.1	18.5	17.9	23.5	100.0	1,358
Lofa	0.4	16.2	26.5	21.7	17.8	17.4	100.0	2,928
Margibi	0.2	18.0	27.7	20.1	16.2	17.8	100.0	3,219
Maryland	0.3	19.2	27.2	20.6	14.8	17.9	100.0	2,107
Montserrado	0.2	12.0	27.7	24.5	19.1	16.5	100.0	21,847
Nimba	0.2	17.8	24.6	20.3	17.1	20.0	100.0	10,218
River Cess	0.3	20.1	25.3	18.9	16.4	19.0	100.0	1,830
River Gee	0.2	18.0	27.7	18.7	16.4	19.0	100.0	1,525
Sinoe	0.7	18.1	26.5	17.5	15.4	21.8	100.0	1,757
Sinoe	90.7	7.5	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.0	1.0	100.0

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

Youth: The contribution to fertility of the counties was highest for youth aged 20-24 years. The contribution to county fertility fell beyond age group 20-24. Youth aged 20-24 years in each of the counties contributed almost a third to fertility of their respective counties. Bomi had the highest contribution of about 30.0 per cent to its fertility while the lowest contribution of 23.1 per cent was recorded in Grand Kru County. The youth aged 25-29 years contributed about a fifth to fertility of their respective counties while the contribution of the youth aged 30-34 years to their respective county fertility was just under 20.0 per cent.

5.5 Children ever born

The 2022 Liberia Population and Housing Census collected information on children ever born from all women. The data covered all births by women at the time of the census. The data are presented in Table 5.10. As expected, the total number of children ever born was higher in rural areas (1,523,727) than the urban (1,461,733).

Table 5.10: Contribution of young persons to children ever born and mean number of children ever born

Age group	Percent contribution to CEB			Mean CEB		
	Total	Urban	Rural	Total	Urban	Rural
12-14	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
15-19	2.6	2.1	3.1	0.2	0.2	0.4
20-24	9.3	9.0	9.5	0.9	0.7	1.1
25-29	13.7	14.6	12.8	1.8	1.6	2.2
30-34	19.5	20.2	18.8	2.7	2.4	3.0
35-49	55.0	54.1	55.9	4.2	3.8	4.9
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	-	-	-
Total births	2,986,184	1,462,065	1,524,119	-	-	-

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

Children: The results presented in Table 5.10 show negligible contribution of children to total number of children ever born. This is expected because of their young ages in addition to being below the legal age for marriage, considering that births are higher in marriages than outside. Their contribution is, therefore, far less than 1.0 per cent. The same situation is the case for urban and rural areas with no differences between them.

Adolescents: Adolescents aged 15-19 years contributed 2.6 per cent to the overall children ever born with urban and rural areas recording 2.1 per cent and 3.1 per cent, respectively. The mean children ever born was, however, higher in rural (0.4 per cent) than urban areas (0.2 per cent) among the adolescents.

Youth: In terms of youth contribution to children ever born, the per cent contribution increases with age. While the youth aged 20-24 years contributed almost a tenth, their counterparts of 24-29 years contributed 13.7 per cent while others aged 30-34 years contributed about one in five (19.5 per cent) of the total number of children ever born. The urban-rural situation followed the same trend but the contribution of rural areas was higher than that for the urban youth of age 20-24 years. In contrast, for age groups 25-29 and 30-34 years, the contribution of the urban areas was higher than that of the rural areas. As far as the mean number of children ever born is concerned, the rural areas have higher means than the urban at all the youth age groups.

The contribution of children, adolescents and youth groups to the number of children ever born by county is presented in Table 5.11.

Table 5.11: Per cent contribution of young persons to children ever born by county

County	12-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-49	%	Total births
Bomi	0.0	3.4	10.9	12.5	18.0	55.2	100.0	83,531
Bong	0.0	3.2	9.6	13.2	19.8	54.2	100.0	285,578
Gbarpolu	0.0	2.7	9.7	12.2	19.2	56.2	100.0	56,879
Grand Bassa	0.0	2.8	9.4	13.2	19.0	55.6	100.0	179,618
Grand Cape Mount	0.0	4.7	12.5	14.9	21.1	46.8	100.0	112,212
Grand Gedeh	0.0	2.2	8.4	11.3	19.0	59.1	100.0	111,618
Grand Kru	0.0	2.4	8.8	12.5	18.8	57.5	100.0	69,518
Lofa	0.0	3.4	10.3	14.6	20.4	51.3	100.0	214,555
Margibi	0.0	2.8	9.3	12.8	18.5	56.6	100.0	162,997
Maryland	0.0	1.9	7.7	13.0	17.7	59.7	100.0	104,922
Montserrado	0.0	2.0	8.8	14.8	20.6	53.8	100.0	973,696
Nimba	0.0	2.6	9.1	13.4	18.5	56.4	100.0	393,299
River Cess	0.0	2.7	8.6	12.6	16.9	59.2	100.0	66,496
River Gee	0.0	2.2	8.7	11.6	16.8	60.7	100.0	75,697
Sinoe	0.0	2.7	9.7	12.2	19.2	56.2	100.0	95,568
Sinoe	90.7	7.5	0.5	0.2	0.0	0.0	1.0	100.0

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

From the table, in percentage terms, children aged 12-14 years made virtually no contribution to life-time fertility of any of the counties. The analysis will, therefore, focus on adolescents and the youth groups.

Adolescents: The contribution of adolescents to life-time fertility varied from Grand Cape Mount County (4.7%) as the highest to 1.9 per cent in Maryland County as the lowest.

Youth: In each county, the youth groups' contribution to life-time fertility increases with age of the youth. Among the youth aged 20-24 years, the highest contribution to life-time fertility was recorded in Grand Cape Mount County (12.5 per cent), followed by Bomi (10.9 per cent) and Lofa (10.3 per cent) counties while Maryland (7.7 per cent) recorded the lowest. Among the youth aged 25-29 years, the highest contribution to life-time fertility was again recorded in Grand Cape Mount County (14.9 per cent) while the lowest of 11.3 per cent was recorded in Grand Gedeh County.

For the older youth group (30-34 years), Grand Cape Mount County (21.0 per cent) recorded the highest contribution to children ever born, with Montserrado and Lofa counties following with about 20.6 per cent and 20.4 per cent, respectively while River Gee (16.8 per cent) recorded the lowest contribution.

The analysis in this chapter has shown that about 2.0 per cent of either male or female children had ever married. More females were in monogamous marriages than males and there were higher proportions of young persons in marriage in rural than urban areas. At the county level, within each county more females were in marriage compared to their urban counterparts. Adolescents 15-19 years contributed 10.0 per cent, while the youth aged 25-29 years contributed 21.1 per cent to the total fertility of Liberia in 2022.

Chapter 6: Economic and employment characteristics

6.1 Introduction

It is the avowed aim of every government to create jobs and job opportunities for its citizens. This objective becomes even more important for a developing country like Liberia where the population is youthful and thus injection into the labour force has been substantial year-on-year. It is, therefore, not surprising that the Government of Liberia devoted Pillar Two of her national development plan: "The PAPD 2018-2023[2]" to "The Economy and Jobs". Among others, it captured under this pillar: Decent work and economic growth (SDG Goal 8), Industry, innovation and infrastructure (Goal 9) and Reduced inequalities (Goal 10). The availability of jobs and the engagement of labour including eligible youth in economic activities would improve economic growth and eventually have mutual beneficial effects on the country and its citizens. In this chapter, the employment characteristics of young persons have been examined and issues of child labour, if any, and their variation by county have been highlighted.

6.2 Employment status

Questions on the type of economic activity persons were engaged in were asked of respondents five years or older. The questions elicited responses from only those who performed any economic activity seven days prior to the census. This section, therefore, examines the target population to find out the kind of work they engaged in at the time of the census, that is, work or employment status. Throughout the discussion, a comparison is made by gender and county among children, adolescents and youth. The distribution of the population of young persons by employment status and age-sex has been presented in Table 6.1.

Table 6.1: Percentage distribution of the employed population of young people by age-sex and employment status

Employment status	Male						Female					
	5-9	5-14	5-17	10-19	15-24	15-35	5-9	5-14	5-17	10-19	15-24	15-35
Employee	8.2	7.8	8.8	10.5	18.0	25.2	6.9	6.7	7.1	7.7	11.6	15.8
Own-account worker	50.1	48.3	48.7	49.3	51.0	47.0	50.9	48.4	49.3	51.2	55.3	54.2
Contributing family worker	41.7	43.9	42.5	40.2	31.0	27.8	42.2	44.9	43.6	41.2	33.1	30.0
Total %	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Total Number	17,402	45,201	72,886	83,683	133,233	321,326	16,524	40,862	66,132	77,095	133,307	277,662

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

Children: From Table 6.1, about 8.0 per cent of male children and about 7.0 per cent of female children ware employees. These results suggest the existence of child work in Liberia. This could also be due to data errors in the census. For children aged 5-9 years, over half (50.1 per cent) of males and 50.9 per cent of females were own-account workers. About 48.0 per cent each of male and female children aged

2 Ministry of Finance and Development Planning. 2018. Pro-poor Agenda for Prosperity and Development (PAPD) A Five Year National Development Plan Towards Accelerated, Inclusive and Sustainable Development (July 2018 - June 2023). Monrovia. Liberia.

5-14 years were own-account workers and about 49.0 per cent each of male and female children aged 5-17 years were own-account workers. Two out of every five children were contributing family workers. The expectation was for children contributing to family work to be higher than own-account workers since children's participation in household chores is considered part of the socialization process of the children as they grow from childhood to adulthood but it is rather the opposite. Further research would be necessary to determine the kind of own-account work these children were engaged in to establish whether they do them as part-time or full-time at the expense of their education.

Adolescents: About 11.0 per cent of male and about 8.0 per cent of female adolescents were employees while 49.3 per cent of male and 51.2 per cent of female adolescents were own-account workers. Two-fifth each of male and female adolescents were contributing family workers.

Youth: Among the youth, a higher proportion of males than females were employees, while females accounted for a higher proportion of own-account workers and contributing family workers. For example, a quarter of male youth aged 15-35 years were employees compared to about 16.0 per cent of female youth of the same age bracket. About 54.0 per cent of female and 47.0 per cent of male youth aged 15-35 years were own-account workers. While 30.0 per cent of female youth aged 15-35 years were contributing family workers, 27.8 per cent of their male counterparts in the same age group were contributing family workers.

6.3 Spatial variation in employment status

Children: Table 6.2 presents the results of employment status of children 5-9 years by sex and county of residence.

Table 6.2: Percentage distribution of employed children 5-9 years by sex, county of residence and employment status

County/Sex	Salary workers	Own account worker	Contributing family workers	Total %	Total Number
Male					
Bomi	17.5	47.0	35.5	100.0	217
Bong	6.1	52.2	41.7	100.0	3,059
Gbarpolu	4.5	64.5	30.9	100.0	220
Grand Bassa	8.5	52.8	38.7	100.0	1,089
Grand Cape Mount	13.2	52.6	34.1	100.0	340
Grand Gedeh	12.2	56.2	31.6	100.0	427
Grand Kru	3.2	35.1	61.7	100.0	893
Lofa	3.5	54.7	41.8	100.0	5,474
Margibi	15.0	48.4	36.6	100.0	432
Maryland	4.6	42.3	53.2	100.0	284
Montserrado	24.4	36.7	38.9	100.0	2,060
Nimba	6.1	55.3	38.6	100.0	2,183
River Cess	6.8	59.6	33.5	100.0	161
River Gee	6.7	32.4	60.9	100.0	253
Sinoe	13.5	35.8	50.6	100.0	310

County/Sex	Salary workers	Own account worker	Contributing family workers	Total %	Total Number
Female					
Bomi	10.7	54.0	35.3	100.0	150
Bong	5.7	52.8	41.4	100.0	2,896
Gbarpolu	4.0	69.3	26.7	100.0	176
Grand Bassa	6.5	55.5	38.1	100.0	925
Grand Cape Mount	11.0	50.4	38.6	100.0	264
Grand Gedeh	14.8	52.5	32.7	100.0	474
Grand Kru	3.5	32.4	64.1	100.0	822
Lofa	3.3	54.9	41.8	100.0	5,600
Margibi	18.4	49.4	32.2	100.0	429
Maryland	8.7	38.2	53.1	100.0	254
Montserrado	18.2	40.8	41.0	100.0	1,846
Nimba	4.8	55.1	40.1	100.0	2,046
River Cess	5.8	60.4	33.8	100.0	139
River Gee	5.4	30.4	64.2	100.0	260
Sinoe	7.4	34.6	58.0	100.0	243

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

The results from Table 6.2 show that own-account work and contributing family work were the two prominent employment statuses at the county level for children 5-9 years. This holds for either males or females with some variations among the counties. Gbarpolu County had the highest proportion of its children (64.5 per cent of males and 69.3 per cent of females) doing their own work while River Gee County recorded the lowest proportion (32.4 per cent of males and 30.4 per cent of females) as own-account workers. Contributing family workers were more prominent in Grand Kru County (61.7. per cent of males) and River Gee County (64.2 per cent of females) compared to Gbarpolu County which had the lowest of 30.9 per cent of males and 26.7 per cent of females. Two counties namely; Margibi and Montserrado had at least 15.0 per cent of their children (male and females) engaged in salary work. Montserrado had as high as 24.4 per cent of male and 18.2 per cent of female children engaged in salary work. There are wide variations between males and females. For example, Margibi County had 15.0 per cent of males compared to 18.4 per cent of females in salary work. It is not clear what kind of salary work the children under 10 years were engaged in, but it could suggest child work at play, which could deprive them of education. It could also be due to data errors and because it is widespread in all the counties, it may require further investigation since it may not be realistic for children below 10 years to claim to be salary workers.

The distribution of population of children 5-14 years by sex, county and employment status is presented in Table 6.3.

Table 6.3: Percentage distribution of employed children 5-14 years by sex, county of residence and employment status

County/Sex	Salary workers	Own account worker	Contributing family workers	Total %	Total Number
Male					
Bomi	12.3	43.5	44.2	100.0	625
Bong	5.6	50.6	43.8	100.0	7,900
Gbarpolu	5.5	62.3	32.3	100.0	567
Grand Bassa	7.3	51.0	41.7	100.0	2,823
Grand Cape Mount	14.6	46.2	39.2	100.0	903
Grand Gedeh	13.6	53.0	33.4	100.0	1,265
Grand Kru	3.2	32.2	64.5	100.0	2,375
Lofa	3.6	54.4	42.0	100.0	12,994
Margibi	14.7	46.8	38.5	100.0	1,078
Maryland	5.5	37.1	57.4	100.0	957
Montserrado	23.0	36.2	40.8	100.0	5,179
Nimba	5.4	52.8	41.8	100.0	6,142
River Cess	7.8	55.2	37.0	100.0	489
River Gee	6.1	27.9	66.1	100.0	975
Sinoe	10.7	36.7	52.6	100.0	929
Female					
Bomi	9.5	45.3	45.3	100.0	455
Bong	5.1	50.5	44.3	100.0	6,856
Gbarpolu	5.1	64.3	30.6	100.0	468
Grand Bassa	7.1	51.6	41.3	100.0	2,244
Grand Cape Mount	11.6	44.0	44.4	100.0	673
Grand Gedeh	15.8	49.8	34.4	100.0	1,244
Grand Kru	3.5	30.7	65.8	100.0	2,187
Lofa	3.4	54.1	42.5	100.0	12,820
Margibi	15.7	46.9	37.4	100.0	1,045
Maryland	6.9	34.5	58.6	100.0	777
Montserrado	16.8	38.0	45.1	100.0	4,914
Nimba	4.2	53.1	42.7	100.0	5,153

County/Sex	Salary workers	Own account worker	Contributing family workers	Total %	Total Number
River Cess	4.4	58.3	37.3	100.0	386
River Gee	4.5	27.5	68.0	100.0	870
Sinoe	8.4	36.6	54.9	100.0	770

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

Three counties, Grand Cape Mount (14.6 per cent), Margibi (14.7 per cent) and Montserrado (23.0 per cent) had at least about 15.0 per cent of their male children aged 5-14 years engaged as salary workers while Grand Gedeh, Margibi and Montserrado had at least 15.0 per cent of their female children 5-14 years engaged in salary work. Grand Kru County had the lowest percentage (3.2 per cent) of male children and Lofa the lowest percentage (3.4 per cent) of female children aged 5-14 years engaged as salary workers. These figures, however, require further investigation considering the very young ages of the children involved. The highest proportion of own-account workers was found in Gbarpolu County with male and female own-account workers representing 62.3 per cent and 64.3 per cent, respectively. The county that recorded the lowest proportion of male (27.9 per cent) and female (27.5 per cent) own-account workers was River Gee County. River Gee County had the highest proportion of male (66.1 per cent) and female (68.0 per cent) contributing family workers.. In contrast, Gbarpolu County had the lowest proportion of male (32.3 per cent) and female (30.6 per cent) contributing family workers.

In Table 6.4, the distribution of population of children 5-17 years by sex, county of residence and employment status is presented.

Table 6.4: Percentage distribution of employed children 5-17 years by sex, county of residence and employment status

County/Sex	Salary workers	Own account worker	Contributing family workers	Total %	Total Number
Male					
Bomi	11.3	45.5	43.2	100.0	1,098
Bong	6.0	51.3	42.7	100.0	11,869
Gbarpolu	7.9	60.8	31.3	100.0	1,059
Grand Bassa	7.8	51.9	40.4	100.0	4,562
Grand Cape Mount	15.9	46.1	38.0	100.0	1,541
Grand Gedeh	15.9	50.7	33.4	100.0	2,322
Grand Kru	3.9	33.3	62.8	100.0	3,526
Lofa	3.9	54.9	41.2	100.0	19,519
Margibi	15.6	45.6	38.8	100.0	1,932
Maryland	6.8	38.1	55.2	100.0	1,642
Montserrado	23.2	37.5	39.4	100.0	9,852
Nimba	5.6	54.2	40.2	100.0	9,737
River Cess	8.0	55.1	36.9	100.0	936
River Gee	6.2	31.4	62.5	100.0	1,665
Sinoe	12.9	38.6	48.6	100.0	1,626

County/Sex	Salary workers	Own account worker	Contributing family workers	Total %	Total Number
Female					
Bomi	8.9	46.7	44.4	100.0	895
Bong	5.3	52.1	42.6	100.0	10,454
Gbarpolu	6.8	63.7	29.5	100.0	852
Grand Bassa	7.1	52.5	40.4	100.0	3,774
Grand Cape Mount	13.1	44.8	42.1	100.0	1,205
Grand Gedeh	15.4	50.1	34.5	100.0	2,161
Grand Kru	3.7	31.6	64.7	100.0	3,177
Lofa	3.6	54.3	42.1	100.0	19,343
Margibi	14.2	47.8	38.1	100.0	1,794
Maryland	5.6	36.7	57.7	100.0	1,317
Montserrado	16.5	39.8	43.6	100.0	9,063
Nimba	4.5	55.2	40.3	100.0	8,357
River Cess	3.8	60.0	36.2	100.0	810
River Gee	5.3	29.9	64.8	100.0	1,516
Sinoe	7.9	39.6	52.5	100.0	1,414

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

The pattern in the younger age groups of 5-9 years and 5-14 years is observed here. Montserrado County had both male (23.2 per cent) and female (16.5 per cent) dominance in salary workers. Lofa County was reported to have the lowest proportion of its children aged 5-17 years in salary work (3.9 per cent male and 3.6 per cent female). Own-account workers and contributing family workers formed the majority of the employment categories in each of the counties. As far as own-account workers are concerned, Gbarpolu County had the highest proportion of her children (males 60.8 per cent, females 63.7 per cent) engaged as such compared to River Gee County with the lowest proportion of male (31.4 per cent) and female (29.9 per cent) children aged 5-17 years engaged as own-account workers. About 62.8 per cent of male children and 64.8 per cent of female children aged 5-17 years were reported as contributing family workers in Grand Kru and River Gee Counties respectively. . In contrast, the lowest proportion of 31.1 per cent of male and 29.5 per cent of female children aged 5-17 years were recorded in Gbarpolu County as contributing family workers.

Adolescents: The employment status of adolescents by sex and county of residence is presented in Table 6.5. In each county, the proportion of male adolescent salary workers was higher than female adolescent salary workers. For example, in Grand Cape Mount County the proportion of male adolescent salary workers was 18.6 per cent compared to 15.3 per cent of their female counterparts. Lofa County reported the lowest proportion of its adolescent males (4.2 per cent) in salary work while Grand Kru and River Cess each reported 3.9 per cent of their female adolescents in salary work. The results also show that own-account workers were more prominent. The proportion of female adolescent own-account workers was higher than their male counterparts in each of the counties except Grand Kru, Lofa, Maryland and River Gee Counties. Gbarpolu County had the highest proportion of its males (60.9 per cent) and females (63.7 per cent) engaged in own-account work compared to the lowest of 34.5 per cent of male adolescents in River Gee County and 32.7 per cent of female adolescents in Grand Kru County.

Table 6.5: Percentage distribution of employed adolescents 10-19 years by sex, county of residence and employment status

County/Sex	Salary workers	Own account worker	Contributing family workers	Total %	Total Number
Male					
Bomi	11.3	48.8	39.9	100.0	1,370
Bong	6.3	52.9	40.8	100.0	12,143
Gbarpolu	9.9	60.9	29.2	100.0	1,334
Grand Bassa	9.2	53.5	37.3	100.0	5,184
Grand Cape Mount	18.6	45.5	35.9	100.0	2,121
Grand Gedeh	16.3	49.5	34.1	100.0	3,369
Grand Kru	4.9	34.8	60.3	100.0	3,605
Lofa	4.2	55.4	40.5	100.0	19,405
Margibi	16.5	47.1	36.4	100.0	2,537
Maryland	8.5	40.2	51.2	100.0	2,094
Montserrado	24.6	39.2	36.2	100.0	14,323
Nimba	6.1	56.0	37.9	100.0	10,746
River Cess	8.8	55.1	36.0	100.0	1,357
River Gee	7.1	34.5	58.3	100.0	2,088
Sinoe	14.3	40.4	45.2	100.0	2,007
Female					
Bomi	7.7	51.5	40.7	100.0	1,308
Bong	5.4	54.8	39.8	100.0	11,213
Gbarpolu	7.4	63.7	28.9	100.0	1,157
Grand Bassa	7.4	54.2	38.3	100.0	4,584
Grand Cape Mount	15.3	46.6	38.1	100.0	1,730
Grand Gedeh	14.7	50.1	35.2	100.0	2,782
Grand Kru	3.9	32.7	63.4	100.0	3,169
Lofa	4.0	55.3	40.8	100.0	19,394
Margibi	12.1	50.0	37.9	100.0	2,424
Maryland	5.1	39.9	55.0	100.0	1,650
Montserrado	16.1	43.6	40.3	100.0	12,877
Nimba	4.4	58.7	36.9	100.0	9,844
River Cess	3.9	60.7	35.4	100.0	1,277
River Gee	6.2	33.7	60.1	100.0	1,967
Sinoe	8.5	43.1	48.4	100.0	1,719

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

Grand Kru County stood out as the county with the highest proportion of its male (60.3 per cent) and female (63.4%) adolescents engaged as contributing family workers. In contrast, Gbarpolu County recorded the lowest proportion of 29.2 per cent of male and 28.9 per cent of female adolescents engaged as contributing family workers.

Youth: Tables 6.6 and 6.7 show an analysis of the employment structure of youth by county of residence among the 15-24 and 15-35 age groups respectively.

Table 6.6: Percentage distribution of youth 15-24 years by sex, county of residence and employment status

County/Sex	Salary workers	Own account worker	Contributing family workers	Total %	Total Number
Male					
Bomi	16.5	53.3	30.2	100.0	3,026
Bong	9.6	59.0	31.5	100.0	17,864
Gbarpolu	13.1	61.2	25.7	100.0	2,988
Grand Bassa	15.0	55.5	29.5	100.0	9,868
Grand Cape Mount	22.7	46.5	30.8	100.0	5,775
Grand Gedeh	16.7	50.1	33.2	100.0	9,587
Grand Kru	9.1	42.0	48.9	100.0	5,139
Lofa	5.2	58.2	36.6	100.0	25,370
Margibi	21.8	46.9	31.3	100.0	6,559
Maryland	14.0	44.8	41.2	100.0	4,018
Montserrado	29.6	40.2	30.2	100.0	45,661
Nimba	8.3	62.4	29.4	100.0	17,760
River Cess	10.0	55.9	34.1	100.0	3,929
River Gee	11.9	43.2	44.9	100.0	4,278
Sinoe	21.4	42.1	36.5	100.0	4,611
Female					
Bomi	9.8	58.5	31.7	100.0	3,033
Bong	7.0	61.9	31.1	100.0	17,649
Gbarpolu	9.0	65.4	25.6	100.0	2,493
Grand Bassa	9.2	59.0	31.8	100.0	8,888
Grand Cape Mount	16.8	51.2	32.0	100.0	4,673
Grand Gedeh	13.4	51.1	35.5	100.0	6,426
Grand Kru	5.6	39.8	54.6	100.0	4,131
Lofa	5.0	58.2	36.9	100.0	26,838
Margibi	14.0	53.0	33.1	100.0	6,104

County/Sex	Salary workers	Own account worker	Contributing family workers	Total %	Total Number
Maryland	8.1	49.3	42.5	100.0	3,248
Montserrado	18.9	48.2	32.8	100.0	41,320
Nimba	5.5	65.1	29.3	100.0	17,790
River Cess	4.8	60.1	35.0	100.0	3,433
River Gee	8.5	42.3	49.2	100.0	3,661
Sinoe	11.6	48.3	40.1	100.0	3,375

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

In Table 6.6, it is clear that own-account work is prominent among the youth 15-24 years. Among the counties, Nimba County had the highest proportion (62.4 per cent) of male youth engaged in own-account work while Gbarpolu had the highest proportion (65.4 per cent) of female youth engaged in own-account work. In comparison, the lowest proportion (40.2%) of male youth in Montserrado County and about 40.0 per cent of female youth in Grand Kru County were own-account workers.

There was male dominance in salary workers relative to females. Among the males, the proportion of salary workers was highest in Montserrado County (29.6 per cent), followed by Grand Cape Mount (22.7 per cent), Margibi (21.8 per cent) and Sinoe (21.4 per cent)., Among the females, again the proportion of salary workers was highest in Montserrado (18.9 per cent), followed by Grand Cape Mount (16.8 per cent) and Margibi (14.0 per cent). Lofa County had the lowest proportion of the male (5.2 per cent) youth and female (5.0 per cent) in salary work. Grand Kru County had the highest proportion of 48.9 per cent of male and 54.6 per cent of female contributing family workers while Gbarpolu had the lowest proportion (25.7%) of male and 25.6 per cent of female youth contributing family workers.

In Table 6.7, the employment structure of the youth 15-35 years by county of residence is discussed.

Table 6.7: Percentage distribution of youth 15-35 years by sex, county of residence and employment status

County/Sex	Salary workers	Own account worker	Contributing family workers	Total %	Total Number
Male					
Bomi	23.0	51.9	25.1	100.0	9,497
Bong	13.5	61.4	25.0	100.0	42,455
Gbarpolu	15.8	61.0	23.2	100.0	8,623
Grand Bassa	21.2	52.7	26.2	100.0	26,904
Grand Cape Mount	25.9	46.0	28.1	100.0	18,245
Grand Gedeh	17.4	50.3	32.3	100.0	27,702
Grand Kru	13.3	45.4	41.3	100.0	12,310
Lofa	7.1	59.0	33.9	100.0	51,705
Margibi	28.1	42.9	29.0	100.0	21,339
Maryland	19.9	46.4	33.8	100.0	11,797
Montserrado	33.7	37.1	29.2	100.0	175,271

County/Sex	Salary workers	Own account worker	Contributing family workers	Total %	Total Number
Nimba	12.2	62.9	25.0	100.0	47,058
River Cess	12.2	53.8	33.9	100.0	10,894
River Gee	14.4	46.0	39.6	100.0	12,130
Sinoe	25.9	41.0	33.1	100.0	13,741
Female					
Bomi	12.5	58.9	28.6	100.0	8,219
Bong	8.5	65.5	26.0	100.0	42,307
Gbarpolu	9.6	66.1	24.3	100.0	6,386
Grand Bassa	12.3	58.8	28.9	100.0	22,810
Grand Cape Mount	15.7	53.5	30.8	100.0	13,478
Grand Gedeh	13.4	51.4	35.2	100.0	18,364
Grand Kru	8.5	44.8	46.6	100.0	9,445
Lofa	5.3	59.7	34.9	100.0	54,995
Margibi	15.7	52.4	32.0	100.0	18,133
Maryland	12.8	52.0	35.3	100.0	9,899
Montserrado	21.4	47.3	31.3	100.0	153,588
Nimba	7.0	67.1	25.9	100.0	43,852
River Cess	6.2	58.7	35.0	100.0	8,583
River Gee	9.6	46.9	43.5	100.0	9,410
Sinoe	16.0	48.7	35.3	100.0	9,343

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

Lofa County had the lowest proportion of her males (7.1 per cent) and females (5.3 per cent) engaged as salary workers compared to Montserrado County, which had the highest proportion of males (33.7 per cent) and females (21.4 per cent) as salary workers. Own-account work is predominant among both males and females. About 63.0 per cent and 67.1 per cent of Nimba's male and female youth respectively aged 15-35 years constituted the highest own-account workers while Montserrado had the lowest proportion (37.1 per cent) of male youth own-account workers and River Gee County had the lowest proportion (46.9 per cent) of female youth own-account workers. The highest proportion of 41.3 per cent of male contributing family workers was recorded in Grand Kru County while the lowest of 23.2 per cent of male contributing family workers was recorded in Gbarpolu County. Among the females, Grand Kru County recorded the highest proportion of 46.6 per cent contributing family workers while Gbarpolu again recorded the lowest contributing family workers of 24.3 per cent.

As highlights, the analysis has established that at least 8.2 per cent of male and 6.9 per cent of female children aged 5-9 years were employees. At least 47.0 per cent of young persons were own-account workers. In terms of employment status across the counties, salary workers were the least irrespective of age group. The proportion of male salary workers was higher than their female counterparts at all age groups.

Chapter 7: Information and communication technology

7.1 Introduction

ICT is now the pivot around which the world economy revolves. To function effectively in the global economy, countries have resorted to enacting policies and embarking on infrastructural development in ICT. As a consequence, Liberia formulated the National Telecommunications ICT Policy of 2020 to lay the basis for future policy development. With the emergence of new priorities critical to the sustainable development of ICT, the Liberia ICT Policy (2019-2024)[3] was adopted. Among its key objectives are:

a. use ICT to drive inclusion of women, marginalized and indigenous groups;

b. support human capacity-building and local innovation in science, digital skills and technology leading to the creation of new jobs; and

c. enable citizens of Liberia to explore the full use of the broadband services to make them a competitive, knowledge-driven and well-informed society.

However, there is paucity of information on the coverage of ownership of basic ICT resources such as computers and mobile phones among children, adolescents and youth in Liberia. This section, therefore, seeks to address this gap by examining the data collected on household ownership and use of computers and mobile phones among the Liberian population.

7.2 Household ownership of computer

The 2022 census sought to find out the ownership of computers (desktop or laptop) by the household, that is, whether a member of the household to which children, adolescents and youth belonged owned one. Table 7.1 presents the results of the distribution of young people by household ownership of computers and type of place of residence in Liberia.

Table 7.1: Percentage distribution of population of young people by household ownership of computer and type of place of residence

Age group	Total country				Urban				Rural			
	Yes %	No %	Total %	Total number	Yes %	No %	Total %	Total number	Yes %	No %	Total %	Total number
0-9	6.5	93.5	100.0	1,054,043	10.7	89.3	100.0	540,813	1.9	98.1	100.0	513,230
0-14	7.1	92.9	100.0	1,783,332	11.5	88.5	100.0	951,669	2.1	97.9	100.0	831,663
0-17	7.5	92.5	100.0	2,159,001	11.9	88.1	100.0	1,170,894	2.2	97.8	100.0	988,107
10-19	8.5	91.5	100.0	1,360,410	13.1	86.9	100.0	777,550	2.5	97.5	100.0	582,860
15-24	9.0	91.0	100.0	1,218,612	13.7	86.3	100.0	704,197	2.7	97.3	100.0	514,415
15-35	9.0	91.0	100.0	2,149,908	13.6	86.4	100.0	1,235,783	2.7	97.3	100.0	914,125

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

3 Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications. 2018. Liberia Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Policy (2019-2024). Monrovia. Liberia

Children: The results in Table 7.1 shows that about 7.0 per cent of children lived in households with a computer. It further indicates that in urban areas about one in 10 children aged 0-9 years were living in households with a computer as compared to two in hundred in rural areas. For children aged 0-14 years or 0-17 years, almost 12.0 per cent were living in households with a computer compared to two in hundred in rural areas. The big gap between the urban and rural areas may be due to the generally lack of electricity in rural areas which make the use of computers difficult. Additionally, the non-literate population is generally higher in rural than urban areas and therefore, many rural households may be handicapped in finding use for computers compared to their urban counterparts.

Adolescents: The data indicate that 8.5 per cent of adolescents were in households with a computer. About 13.1 per cent of adolescents in urban areas were living in households with a computer compared to about 3.0 per cent of their counterparts in rural areas.

Youth: The situation for youth groups is not too different from that of the adolescents. About 9.0 per cent of the youth lived in households with a computer. For each of the youth groups in urban areas, only about 14.0 per cent each were living in households with a computer compared to just 3.0 per cent of their rural counterparts. The implication of this is that of limited use of ICT especially in the rural areas, due to low access to electricity from the national grid.

7.3 County variation in computer ownership

Tables 7.2 to 7.7 present data on household ownership of computers by county and type of place of residence in respect of each of the age groups.

Table 7.2: Percentage distribution of children 0-9 years by household ownership of computer, county of residence and type of place of residence

County	Total country				Urban				Rural			
	Yes %	No %	Total %	Total number	Yes %	No %	Total %	Total number	Yes %	No %	Total %	Total number
Bomi	2.6	97.4	100.0	28622	6.1	93.9	100.0	6,911	1.5	98.5	100.0	21,711
Bong	3.0	97.0	100.0	100220	6.5	93.5	100.0	29,952	1.5	98.5	100.0	70,268
Gbarpolu	1.7	98.3	100.0	19504	3.4	96.6	100.0	1,799	1.5	98.5	100.0	17,705
Grand Bassa	3.2	96.8	100.0	64074	7.3	92.7	100.0	17,920	1.6	98.4	100.0	46,154
Grand Cape Mount	2.0	98.0	100.0	33296	3.4	96.6	100.0	8,123	1.6	98.4	100.0	25,173
Grand Gedeh	3.7	96.3	100.0	34292	5.9	94.1	100.0	16,219	1.8	98.2	100.0	18,073
Grand Kru	2.0	98.0	100.0	21252	5.1	94.9	100.0	1,246	1.8	98.2	100.0	20,006
Lofa	2.9	97.1	100.0	75881	6.0	94.0	100.0	16,390	2.1	97.9	100.0	59,491
Margibi	7.0	93.0	100.0	60465	10.5	89.5	100.0	31,745	3.1	96.9	100.0	28,720
Maryland	3.5	96.5	100.0	34584	5.0	95.0	100.0	20,177	1.5	98.5	100.0	14,407
Montserrado	12.8	87.2	100.0	357382	13.6	86.4	100.0	323,498	5.1	94.9	100.0	33,884
Nimba	2.9	97.1	100.0	150432	6.4	93.6	100.0	47,329	1.4	98.6	100.0	103,103
River Cess	1.8	98.2	100.0	21173	5.2	94.8	100.0	2,172	1.4	98.6	100.0	19,001
River Gee	2.3	97.7	100.0	23506	2.9	97.1	100.0	12,068	1.6	98.4	100.0	11,438
Sinoe	2.7	97.3	100.0	29360	4.7	95.3	100.0	5,264	2.3	97.7	100.0	24,096

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

Children: Tables 7.2 to 7.4 show results of children by household ownership of computer, county and type of place of residence. For children aged 0-9 years, about 13.0 per cent lived in Montserrado households with a computer while about 14.0 per cent each of children aged 0-14 and 0-17 respectively in the same county lived in households with a computer. In contrast, Gbarpolu recorded the lowest proportion (1.7 per cent) of children aged 0-9 years living in households with a computer. Furthermore, only 1.8 per cent each of children aged 0-14 years and 0-17 years lived in households with a computer in the same county. Children in households in urban areas had access to computer than their rural counterparts in all the counties. For example, the highest proportion of children (14.5 per cent) living in households with ownership of computer in urban areas was recorded in Montserrado County, followed by Margibi County with 11.4 per cent. River Gee County had the lowest proportion of children in urban areas (3.0 per cent) living in households with computer.

Table 7.3: Percentage distribution of population of children 0-14 years by household ownership of computer, county of residence and type of place of residence

County	Total country				Urban				Rural			
	Yes %	No %	Total %	Total number	Yes %	No %	Total %	Total number	Yes %	No %	Total %	Total number
Bomi	2.9	97.1	100.0	45,654	6.9	93.1	100.0	11,931	1.5	98.5	100.0	33,723
Bong	3.4	96.6	100.0	160,509	7.0	93.0	100.0	51,979	1.6	98.4	100.0	108,530
Gbarpolu	1.8	98.2	100.0	31,443	3.3	96.7	100.0	3,116	1.6	98.4	100.0	28,327
Grand Bassa	3.7	96.3	100.0	103,344	8.0	92.0	100.0	31,374	1.8	98.2	100.0	71,970
Grand Cape Mount	2.2	97.8	100.0	54,332	3.5	96.5	100.0	13,643	1.8	98.2	100.0	40,689
Grand Gedeh	3.7	96.3	100.0	61,782	5.9	94.1	100.0	28,803	1.7	98.3	100.0	32,979
Grand Kru	2.3	97.7	100.0	37,588	5.5	94.5	100.0	2,399	2.0	98.0	100.0	35,189
Lofa	3.1	96.9	100.0	127,663	6.3	93.7	100.0	29,089	2.2	97.8	100.0	98,574
Margibi	7.8	92.2	100.0	104,574	11.4	88.6	100.0	57,586	3.4	96.6	100.0	46,988
Maryland	3.7	96.3	100.0	60,988	5.3	94.7	100.0	36,630	1.4	98.6	100.0	24,358
Montserrado	13.8	86.2	100.0	625,100	14.6	85.4	100.0	568,623	5.7	94.3	100.0	56,477
Nimba	3.3	96.7	100.0	244,364	6.9	93.1	100.0	81,536	1.5	98.5	100.0	162,828
River Cess	2.0	98.0	100.0	33,726	6.5	93.5	100.0	3,705	1.4	98.6	100.0	30,021
River Gee	2.3	97.7	100.0	41,727	3.0	97.0	100.0	21,832	1.5	98.5	100.0	19,895
Sinoe	2.8	97.2	100.0	50,538	5.1	94.9	100.0	9,423	2.3	97.7	100.0	41,115

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

Table 7.4: Percentage distribution of population of children 0-17 years by household ownership of computer, county of residence and type of place of residence

County	Total country				Urban				Rural			
	Yes %	No %	Total %	Total number	Yes %	No %	Total %	Total number	Yes %	No %	Total %	Total number
Bomi	3.0	97.0	100.0	54,302	7.0	93.0	100.0	14,538	1.6	98.4	100.0	39,764
Bong	3.5	96.5	100.0	190,572	7.3	92.7	100.0	63,724	1.6	98.4	100.0	126,848
Gbarpolu	1.8	98.2	100.0	37,304	3.2	96.8	100.0	3,777	1.7	98.3	100.0	33,527
Grand Bassa	3.9	96.1	100.0	122,864	8.4	91.6	100.0	38,321	1.8	98.2	100.0	84,543
Grand Cape Mount	2.4	97.6	100.0	65,404	3.8	96.2	100.0	16,493	1.9	98.1	100.0	48,911
Grand Gedeh	3.7	96.3	100.0	77,303	6.0	94.0	100.0	35,900	1.7	98.3	100.0	41,403
Grand Kru	2.3	97.7	100.0	45,944	5.6	94.4	100.0	3,010	2.0	98.0	100.0	42,934
Lofa	3.2	96.8	100.0	155,753	6.6	93.4	100.0	36,381	2.2	97.8	100.0	119,372
Margibi	8.2	91.8	100.0	127,159	11.9	88.1	100.0	71,053	3.6	96.4	100.0	56,106
Maryland	3.8	96.2	100.0	74,981	5.3	94.7	100.0	46,019	1.4	98.6	100.0	28,962
Montserrado	14.3	85.7	100.0	767,523	15.1	84.9	100.0	699,779	6.1	93.9	100.0	67,744
Nimba	3.5	96.5	100.0	287,501	7.3	92.7	100.0	98,798	1.5	98.5	100.0	188,703
River Cess	2.1	97.9	100.0	39,502	6.7	93.3	100.0	4,555	1.5	98.5	100.0	34,947
River Gee	2.3	97.7	100.0	50,979	3.1	96.9	100.0	26,786	1.4	98.6	100.0	24,193
Sinoe	2.9	97.1	100.0	61,910	5.3	94.7	100.0	11,760	2.4	97.6	100.0	50,150

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

The results of the distribution of adolescents by household ownership of computer, county and type of place of residence are shown in Table 7.5.

Table 7.5: Percentage distribution of population of adolescents 10-19 years by household ownership of computer, county of residence and type of place of residence

County	Total country				Urban				Rural			
	Yes %	No %	Total %	Total number	Yes %	No %	Total %	Total number	Yes %	No %	Total %	Total number
Bomi	3.5	96.5	100.0	31,760	7.7	92.3	100.0	9,475	1.8	98.2	100.0	22,285
Bong	4.2	95.8	100.0	111,221	8.1	91.9	100.0	41,637	1.9	98.1	100.0	69,584
Gbarpolu	1.9	98.1	100.0	21,840	3.0	97.0	100.0	2,411	1.8	98.2	100.0	19,429

County	Total country				Urban				Rural			
	Yes %	No %	Total %	Total number	Yes %	No %	Total %	Total number	Yes %	No %	Total %	Total number
Grand Bassa	4.7	95.3	100.0	71,805	9.7	90.3	100.0	25,013	2.0	98.0	100.0	46,792
Grand Cape Mount	2.8	97.2	100.0	40,517	4.2	95.8	100.0	10,503	2.2	97.8	100.0	30,014
Grand Gedeh	3.8	96.2	100.0	54,464	6.2	93.8	100.0	24,762	1.7	98.3	100.0	29,702
Grand Kru	2.5	97.5	100.0	30,298	6.1	93.9	100.0	2,201	2.3	97.7	100.0	28,097
Lofa	3.6	96.4	100.0	99,959	7.2	92.8	100.0	25,616	2.3	97.7	100.0	74,343
Margibi	9.4	90.6	100.0	81,473	13.0	87.0	100.0	48,085	4.2	95.8	100.0	33,388
Maryland	4.1	95.9	100.0	49,888	5.5	94.5	100.0	32,163	1.4	98.6	100.0	17,725
Montserrado	15.8	84.2	100.0	504,982	16.5	83.5	100.0	463,322	7.1	92.9	100.0	41,660
Nimba	4.2	95.8	100.0	165,934	8.1	91.9	100.0	63,269	1.7	98.3	100.0	102,665
River Cess	2.5	97.5	100.0	22,168	8.0	92.0	100.0	2,938	1.7	98.3	100.0	19,230
River Gee	2.3	97.7	100.0	33,893	3.2	96.8	100.0	18,093	1.3	98.7	100.0	15,800
Sinoe	3.1	96.9	100.0	40,208	5.7	94.3	100.0	8,062	2.5	97.5	100.0	32,146

Adolescents: In Table 7.5, the data shows that Montserrado County recorded the highest proportion (15.8%) of adolescents who lived in households with a computer while Gbarpolu County reported the lowest proportion (1.9%) of adolescents in households with a computer. Urban-rural differential is observed among households in all the counties. For example, urban households in Montserrado with ownership of computer was 16.5 per cent, the highest, compared to 7.1 per cent in the rural areas. Households with the lowest ownership of computer was in the Gbarpolu County (3.0 per cent). As far as rural households were concerned, again Montserrado had the highest proportion of households with ownership of computers in rural areas while River Gee County (1.3 per cent) had the lowest proportion of households in rural areas..

Youth: The variation in household ownership of computers by county and type of place of residence of youth presented in Tables 7.6 and 7.7 depicts a similar picture presented among children and adolescents in Liberia. Overall, the results indicate that the proportion of households of youth in each county that reported computer ownership was higher than those recorded among children and adolescents in Liberia and in urban and rural areas.

Table 7.6: Percentage distribution of population of youth 15-24 years by household ownership of computer, county of residence and type of place of residence

County	Total country				Urban				Rural			
	Yes %	No %	Total %	Total number	Yes %	No %	Total %	Total number	Yes %	No %	Total %	Total number
Bomi	3.5	96.5	100.0	28,037	7.0	93.0	100.0	8,274	2.0	98.0	100.0	19,763
Bong	4.7	95.3	100.0	100,632	8.5	91.5	100.0	37,983	2.3	97.7	100.0	62,649
Gbarpolu	2.1	97.9	100.0	19,783	2.4	97.6	100.0	2,106	2.1	97.9	100.0	17,677
Grand Bassa	4.9	95.1	100.0	63,239	10.5	89.5	100.0	22,139	2.0	98.0	100.0	41,100

County	Total country				Urban				Rural			
	Yes %	No %	Total %	Total number	Yes %	No %	Total %	Total number	Yes %	No %	Total %	Total number
Grand Cape Mount	3.4	96.6	100.0	41,329	5.6	94.4	100.0	10,893	2.6	97.4	100.0	30,436
Grand Gedeh	4.0	96.0	100.0	54,900	6.6	93.4	100.0	23,737	1.9	98.1	100.0	31,163
Grand Kru	2.7	97.3	100.0	26,911	7.7	92.3	100.0	1,901	2.3	97.7	100.0	25,010
Lofa	3.8	96.2	100.0	90,378	7.4	92.6	100.0	24,035	2.4	97.6	100.0	66,343
Margibi	9.8	90.2	100.0	71,131	13.3	86.7	100.0	42,491	4.5	95.5	100.0	28,640
Maryland	4.7	95.3	100.0	42,721	6.1	93.9	100.0	28,820	1.7	98.3	100.0	13,901
Montserrado	16.4	83.6	100.0	459,195	17.2	82.8	100.0	423,341	7.2	92.8	100.0	35,854
Nimba	4.5	95.5	100.0	133,487	8.2	91.8	100.0	52,547	2.1	97.9	100.0	80,940
River Cess	2.7	97.3	100.0	18,395	8.1	91.9	100.0	2,590	1.8	98.2	100.0	15,805
River Gee	2.6	97.4	100.0	31,005	3.6	96.4	100.0	16,082	1.5	98.5	100.0	14,923
Sinoe	3.4	96.6	100.0	37,469	5.9	94.1	100.0	7,258	2.8	97.2	100.0	30,211

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

While Montserrado County reported the highest proportion of 16.1 per cent of youth in households with a computer, Gbarpolu County recorded just two per cent of the youth in households with a computer. Furthermore, households in Montserrado County lead in ownership of computers in both urban and rural areas, recording 17.2 per cent and 7.2 per cent, respectively for the youth in age group 15-24 and 16.8 per cent and 7.3 per cent respectively for the youth aged 15-35 years (Table 7.7). About one in 10 of Grand Bassa County's youth in either youth groups (15-24 and 15-35 years) in urban areas lived in households owning computers while only two in hundred youth in rural areas of the same county lived in households with computers.

Table 7.7: Percentage distribution of population of youth 15-35 years by household ownership of computer, county and rural-urban residence

County	Total country				Urban				Rural			
	Yes %	No %	Total %	Total number	Yes %	No %	Total %	Total number	Yes %	No %	Total %	Total number
Bomi	3.7	96.3	100.0	50,006	7.6	92.4	100.0	14,154	2.2	97.8	100.0	35,852
Bong	4.5	95.5	100.0	180,959	8.6	91.4	100.0	64,520	2.3	97.7	100.0	116,439
Gbarpolu	2.2	97.8	100.0	36,817	2.6	97.4	100.0	3,407	2.2	97.8	100.0	33,410
Grand Bassa	4.9	95.1	100.0	111,174	10.7	89.3	100.0	37,633	1.9	98.1	100.0	73,541
Grand Cape Mount	3.7	96.3	100.0	77,434	6.1	93.9	100.0	21,624	2.7	97.3	100.0	55,810
Grand Gedeh	3.9	96.1	100.0	95,692	6.7	93.3	100.0	39,198	2.0	98.0	100.0	56,494
Grand Kru	3.0	97.0	100.0	45,740	8.2	91.8	100.0	3,114	2.7	97.3	100.0	42,626
Lofa	3.8	96.2	100.0	155,563	7.5	92.5	100.0	39,335	2.5	97.5	100.0	16,228

County	Total country				Urban				Rural			
	Yes %	No %	Total %	Total number	Yes %	No %	Total %	Total number	Yes %	No %	Total %	Total number
Margibi	9.5	90.5	100.0	120,925	13.1	86.9	100.0	72,094	4.3	95.7	100.0	48,831
Maryland	5.3	94.7	100.0	71,355	7.0	93.0	100.0	47,666	1.8	98.2	100.0	23,689
Montserrado	16.1	83.9	100.0	827,209	16.8	83.2	100.0	765,372	7.3	92.7	100.0	61,837
Nimba	4.4	95.6	100.0	229,911	8.2	91.8	100.0	86,041	2.1	97.9	100.0	143,870
River Cess	2.7	97.3	100.0	32,232	7.6	92.4	100.0	4,471	1.9	98.1	100.0	27,761
River Gee	2.6	97.4	100.0	51,850	3.5	96.5	100.0	25,957	1.8	98.2	100.0	25,893
Sinoe	3.6	96.4	100.0	63,041	6.1	93.9	100.0	11,197	3.1	96.9	100.0	51,844

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

In contrast, the lowest recorded ownership of computers for urban households for youth aged 15-24 years was 2.4 per cent in Gbarpolu and for rural youth of the same age group it was 1.5 per cent in River Gee. Comparable figures for the youth group 15-35 years were 2.6 per cent for Gbarpolu and 1.8 per cent each for River Gee and Maryland.

7.4 Ownership of mobile phones

The 2022 LPHC collected information on mobile phone ownership among all household members aged 13 years and above in Liberia. The results presented in Table 7.8 show the proportion of young persons by ownership of mobile phones and type of place of residence among children, adolescents and youth. The results indicate that ownership of mobile phones in Liberia is far higher in urban than rural areas across all age groups under consideration.

Table 7. 8: Percentage distribution of population of young people by household ownership of mobile phones and type of place of residence

Age group	Total country				Urban				Rural			
	Yes %	No %	Total %	Total number	Yes %	No %	Total %	Total number	Yes %	No %	Total %	Total number
13-14	68.9	31.1	100.0	255,430	84.5	15.5	100.0	147,529	47.5	52.5	100.0	107,901
13-17	68.7	31.3	100.0	631,099	84.3	15.7	100.0	366,754	46.9	53.1	100.0	264,345
13-19	68.3	31.7	100.0	886,551	84.1	15.9	100.0	514,223	46.5	53.5	100.0	372,328
15-24	66.8	33.2	100.0	1,218,612	83.0	17.0	100.0	704,197	44.6	55.4	100.0	514,415
15-35	66.4	33.6	100.0	2,149,908	82.8	17.2	100.0	1,235,783	44.1	55.9	100.0	914,125

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

Children: Table 7.8 shows the results of the distribution of young people by household ownership of mobile phones and type of place of residence. There is virtually no difference between younger children (13-14 years) with ownership of mobile phones and their older counterparts (13-17 years). About 69.0 per cent each of children aged 13-14 years and 13-17 years were enumerated in households with mobile phones. In terms of type of place of residence, more than four in five (84.4 per cent) of children of

either 13-14 years or 13-17 years, in urban areas had ownership of mobile phones compared to less than half (47.2 per cent) of their counterparts in rural areas.

Adolescents: Close to seven in 10 (68.3 per cent) of adolescents were reported to be in households with mobile phones. The level of ownership of mobile phones by adolescents in both urban and rural areas is not different from those of the children. About 84.1 per cent of adolescents had ownership of mobile phones compared to about 46.5 per cent of their rural counterparts.

Youth: There was relatively higher ownership of mobile phones among adolescents (68.3 per cent) than for the youth (66.0 per cent). Among the youth, 66.8 per cent of those aged 15-24 years had ownership of mobile phones compared to 66.4 per cent of their counterparts aged 15-35 years. While mobile phone ownership of the youth in urban areas was 83.0 per cent, in rural areas about 44.6 per cent of the youth aged 15-24 years and 44.1 per cent of those aged 15-35 years lived in households that owned mobile phones.

7.5 County Level Ownership in mobile Phone

This section examines household ownership of mobile phones among young people by county and type of place of residence. The results are presented in Tables 7.9 to 7.13.

Table 7.9: Per cent distribution of population of children 13-14 years by household ownership of mobile phones, county of residence and type of place of residence

County	Total country				Urban				Rural			
	Yes %	No %	Total %	Total number	Yes %	No %	Total %	Total number	Yes %	No %	Total %	Total number
Bomi	60.6	39.4	100.0	5,987	78.8	21.2	100.0	1,819	52.7	47.3	100.0	4,168
Bong	53.1	46.9	100.0	20,757	76.0	24.0	100.0	7,978	38.8	61.2	100.0	12,779
Gbarpolu	46.3	53.7	100.0	4,024	53.5	46.5	100.0	482	45.3	54.7	100.0	3,542
Grand Bassa	54.2	45.8	100.0	13,391	82.1	17.9	100.0	4,740	39.0	61.0	100.0	8,651
Grand Cape Mount	49.5	50.5	100.0	7,073	62.0	38.0	100.0	1,904	44.8	55.2	100.0	5,169
Grand Gedeh	52.2	47.8	100.0	10,304	72.0	28.0	100.0	4,665	35.9	64.1	100.0	5,639
Grand Kru	49.3	50.7	100.0	5,908	75.6	24.4	100.0	438	47.2	52.8	100.0	5,470
Lofa	49.4	50.6	100.0	16,510	68.7	31.3	100.0	4,162	42.9	57.1	100.0	12,348
Margibi	73.3	26.7	100.0	15,539	82.2	17.8	100.0	9,246	60.3	39.7	100.0	6,293
Maryland	68.0	32.0	100.0	9,688	74.2	25.8	100.0	6,142	57.4	42.6	100.0	3,546
Montserrado	88.6	11.4	100.0	95,661	90.1	9.9	100.0	87,844	70.9	29.1	100.0	7,817
Nimba	59.4	40.6	100.0	31,871	79.5	20.5	100.0	12,244	46.9	53.1	100.0	19,627
River Cess	56.2	43.8	100.0	4,209	71.0	29.0	100.0	589	53.8	46.2	100.0	3,620
River Gee	61.3	38.7	100.0	6,883	68.3	31.7	100.0	3,737	52.9	47.1	100.0	3,146
Sinoe	51.4	48.6	100.0	7,625	77.3	22.7	100.0	1,539	44.8	55.2	100.0	6,086

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

Children: Tables 7.9 and 7.10 show the distribution of children by household ownership of mobile phones, county and type of place of residence. Of all the counties, Montserrado County reported the highest proportion (about 88.0 per cent) of children in households with mobile phone ownership followed by Margibi County (73.0 per cent). The lowest proportion (about 46.0 per cent) of children in households with ownership of mobile phones was reported in Gbarpolu County. Children in urban areas have relatively higher proportion of their members with ownership of mobile phones in all counties in the country. For example, nine in 10 children in urban areas of Montserrado County lived in households with some members owning mobile phones. In contrast, seven in 10 children in rural areas of Montserrado lived in households that owned mobile phones. In urban areas of Liberia, all the counties except Gbarpolu (55.8 per cent), Grand Cape Mount (62.5 per cent), Lofa (68.3 per cent), and River Gee (67.3 per cent), had over 70.0 per cent of their households owning mobile phones. In the rural areas, however, the county that recorded the highest proportion of mobile phone ownership was Montserrado (70.5 per cent) while the lowest was recorded in Grand Gedeh (35.7 per cent).

Table 7.10: Per cent distribution of population of children 13-17 years by household ownership of mobile phones, county of residence and type of place of residence

County	Total country				Urban				Rural			
	Yes %	No %	Total %	Total number	Yes %	No %	Total %	Total number	Yes %	No %	Total %	Total number
Bomi	58.8	41.2	100.0	14,635	77.2	22.8	100.0	4,426	50.8	49.2	100.0	10,209
Bong	53.0	47.0	100.0	50,820	75.3	24.7	100.0	19,723	38.8	61.2	100.0	31,097
Gbarpolu	45.7	54.3	100.0	9,885	55.8	44.2	100.0	1,143	44.4	55.6	100.0	8,742
Grand Bassa	54.7	45.3	100.0	32,911	82.2	17.8	100.0	11,687	39.5	60.5	100.0	21,224
Grand Cape Mount	48.0	52.0	100.0	18,145	62.5	37.5	100.0	4,754	42.8	57.2	100.0	13,391
Grand Gedeh	52.7	47.3	100.0	25,825	73.0	27.0	100.0	11,762	35.7	64.3	100.0	14,063
Grand Kru	48.9	51.1	100.0	14,264	77.9	22.1	100.0	1,049	46.6	53.4	100.0	13,215
Lofa	48.7	51.3	100.0	44,600	68.3	31.7	100.0	11,454	42.0	58.0	100.0	33,146
Margibi	73.1	26.9	100.0	38,124	82.6	17.4	100.0	22,713	59.2	40.8	100.0	15,411
Maryland	67.9	32.1	100.0	23,681	73.9	26.1	100.0	15,531	56.4	43.6	100.0	8,150
Montserrado	88.4	11.6	100.0	238,084	90.0	10.0	100.0	219,000	70.5	29.5	100.0	19,084
Nimba	59.6	40.4	100.0	75,008	79.7	20.3	100.0	29,506	46.5	53.5	100.0	45,502
River Cess	56.0	44.0	100.0	9,985	70.8	29.2	100.0	1,439	53.5	46.5	100.0	8,546
River Gee	60.7	39.3	100.0	16,135	67.3	32.7	100.0	8,691	53.0	47.0	100.0	7,444
Sinoe	51.4	48.6	100.0	18,997	75.8	24.2	100.0	3,876	45.1	54.9	100.0	15,121

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

Adolescents: The distribution of adolescents by household ownership of mobile phones, county of residence and type of place of residence is shown in Table 7.11. The pattern seen in children is also observed in adolescents. Montserrado County reported the highest proportion (88.2%) of children while Gbarpolu recorded the lowest proportion (45.3%) of adolescents with mobile phone ownership. The urban advantage over rural in terms of ownership of mobile phones observed in the two groups of children is also visible among the adolescents. Mobile phone ownership in urban households among all the counties is higher than in rural areas. For example, mobile phone ownership in urban households of Grand Bassa (82.1%), Margibi (82.1%) and Montserrado (98.8%) are higher than their respective rural households with mobile phone ownership of 39.1 per cent, 58.5 per cent and 70.4 per cent, respectively.

Table 7.11: Percentage distribution of population of adolescents 13-19 years by household ownership of mobile phones, county of residence and type of place of residence

County	Total country				Urban				Rural			
	Yes %	No %	Total %	Total number	Yes %	No %	Total %	Total number	Yes %	No %	Total %	Total number
Bomi	58.3	41.7	100.0	20,715	76.7	23.3	100.0	6,274	50.3	49.7	100.0	14,441
Bong	52.8	47.2	100.0	71,689	75.4	24.6	100.0	27,588	38.6	61.4	100.0	44,101
Gbarpolu	45.3	54.7	100.0	13,925	56.2	43.8	100.0	1,576	43.9	56.1	100.0	12,349
Grand Bassa	54.3	45.7	100.0	45,926	82.1	17.9	100.0	16,299	39.1	60.9	100.0	29,627
Grand Cape Mount	46.6	53.4	100.0	26,554	60.3	39.7	100.0	6,887	41.8	58.2	100.0	19,667
Grand Gedeh	52.5	47.5	100.0	37,278	72.8	27.2	100.0	16,843	35.8	64.2	100.0	20,435
Grand Kru	48.7	51.3	100.0	19,870	77.1	22.9	100.0	1,486	46.4	53.6	100.0	18,384
Lofa	48.6	51.4	100.0	64,687	67.9	32.1	100.0	17,079	41.6	58.4	100.0	47,608
Margibi	72.7	27.3	100.0	52,903	82.3	17.7	100.0	31,490	58.5	41.5	100.0	21,413
Maryland	68.0	32.0	100.0	33,172	74.1	25.9	100.0	21,852	56.3	43.7	100.0	11,320
Montserrado	88.2	11.8	100.0	332,925	89.8	10.2	100.0	306,041	70.4	29.6	100.0	26,884
Nimba	59.2	40.8	100.0	103,873	79.5	20.5	100.0	41,306	45.9	54.1	100.0	62,567
River Cess	55.7	44.3	100.0	13,824	70.9	29.1	100.0	1,994	53.1	46.9	100.0	11,830
River Gee	60.4	39.6	100.0	22,555	66.8	33.2	100.0	12,066	53.0	47.0	100.0	10,489
Sinoe	51.0	49.0	100.0	26,655	75.9	24.1	100.0	5,442	44.6	55.4	100.0	21,213

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

Youth: Tables 7.12 and 7.13 cover youth groups 15-24 years and 15-35 years respectively by household ownership of mobile phones at the county of residence and type of place of residence.

Table 7.12: Percentage distribution of population of youth 15-24 years by household ownership of mobile phones, county of residence and type of place of residence

County	Total country				Urban				Rural			
	Yes %	No %	Total %	Total number	Yes %	No %	Total %	Total number	Yes %	No %	Total %	Total number
Bomi	56.2	43.8	100.0	28,037	75.8	24.2	100.0	8,274	48.1	51.9	100.0	19,763
Bong	51.3	48.7	100.0	100,632	74.4	25.6	100.0	37,983	37.3	62.7	100.0	62,649
Gbarpolu	43.1	56.9	100.0	19,783	54.3	45.7	100.0	2,106	41.7	58.3	100.0	17,677
Grand Bassa	52.6	47.4	100.0	63,239	80.7	19.3	100.0	22,139	37.5	62.5	100.0	41,100
Grand Cape Mount	45.5	54.5	100.0	41,329	60.5	39.5	100.0	10,893	40.1	59.9	100.0	30,436
Grand Gedeh	50.2	49.8	100.0	54,900	70.0	30.0	100.0	23,737	35.2	64.8	100.0	31,163
Grand Kru	47.5	52.5	100.0	26,911	76.8	23.2	100.0	1,901	45.3	54.7	100.0	25,010
Lofa	47.9	52.1	100.0	90,378	66.8	33.2	100.0	24,035	41.0	59.0	100.0	66,343
Margibi	70.4	29.6	100.0	71,131	80.9	19.1	100.0	42,491	54.8	45.2	100.0	28,640
Maryland	67.4	32.6	100.0	42,721	73.7	26.3	100.0	28,820	54.4	45.6	100.0	13,901
Montserrado	87.2	12.8	100.0	459,195	88.9	11.1	100.0	423,341	68.0	32.0	100.0	35,854
Nimba	57.2	42.8	100.0	133,487	77.7	22.3	100.0	52,547	43.9	56.1	100.0	80,940
River Cess	53.8	46.2	100.0	18,395	70.2	29.8	100.0	2,590	51.2	48.8	100.0	15,805
River Gee	58.6	41.4	100.0	31,005	65.4	34.6	100.0	16,082	51.2	48.8	100.0	14,923
Sinoe	49.5	50.5	100.0	37,469	75.5	24.5	100.0	7,258	43.3	56.7	100.0	30,211

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

The pattern of household ownership of mobile phones observed among the youth is similar to that among the adolescents and the children discussed earlier. As high as 87.0 per cent of youth in Montserrado County was recorded in households with mobile phone ownership followed by Margibi County with about 70.0 per cent ownership of mobile phones. In contrast, Gbarpolu County reported the lowest proportion of youth in households with mobile phone ownership, representing 43.1 per cent and about 42.0 per cent of the youth aged 15-24 years and 15-35 years respectively. Urban-dwelling youth had higher proportion of households with members owning mobile phones compared to their counterparts living in rural areas. As seen in earlier analysis, among the youth 15-24 years, Montserrado County had the highest proportion of households either in urban (88.9 per cent) or rural (68.0 per cent) areas that owned mobile phones. In contrast, Gbarpolu County recorded the lowest proportion of household ownership of mobile phones in urban areas (54.3 per cent) while Grand Gedeh County recorded the lowest proportion of households (35.2 per cent) owning mobile phones in rural areas.

Per the data in Table 7.13, there is virtually no difference in household ownership of mobile phones between the youth 15-35 years and those

aged 15-24 years. Urban households dominated ownership of mobile phones compared to their rural counterparts. This was the case in all the counties. Montserrado County once again had the highest proportion of households, either in urban (88.4 per cent) or rural (66.7 per cent) areas with ownership of mobile phones while Gbarpolu recorded the lowest in urban areas (55.1 per cent) and Grand Gedeh the lowest in rural areas (35.9 per cent).

Table 7.13: Percentage distribution of population of youth 15-35 years by household ownership of mobile phones, county of residence and type of place of residence

County	Total country				Urban				Rural			
	Yes %	No %	Total %	Total number	Yes %	No %	Total %	Total number	Yes %	No %	Total %	Total number
Bomi	56.0	44.0	100.0	50,006	76.8	23.2	100.0	14,154	47.8	52.2	100.0	35,852
Bong	50.0	50.0	100.0	180,959	73.5	26.5	100.0	64,520	37.0	63.0	100.0	116,439
Gbarpolu	41.9	58.1	100.0	36,817	55.1	44.9	100.0	3,407	40.5	59.5	100.0	33,410
Grand Bassa	51.4	48.6	100.0	111,174	79.6	20.4	100.0	37,633	36.9	63.1	100.0	73,541
Grand Cape Mount	46.4	53.6	100.0	77,434	60.7	39.3	100.0	21,624	40.8	59.2	100.0	55,810
Grand Gedeh	49.4	50.6	100.0	95,692	68.8	31.2	100.0	39,198	35.9	64.1	100.0	56,494
Grand Kru	47.8	52.2	100.0	45,740	76.8	23.2	100.0	3,114	45.7	54.3	100.0	42,626
Lofa	47.5	52.5	100.0	155,563	66.4	33.6	100.0	39,335	41.2	58.8	100.0	116,228
Margibi	69.0	31.0	100.0	120,925	80.0	20.0	100.0	72,094	52.6	47.4	100.0	48,831
Maryland	66.7	33.3	100.0	71,355	73.3	26.7	100.0	47,666	53.4	46.6	100.0	23,689
Montserrado	86.8	13.2	100.0	827,209	88.4	11.6	100.0	765,372	66.7	33.3	100.0	61,837
Nimba	56.2	43.8	100.0	229,911	77.4	22.6	100.0	86,041	43.5	56.5	100.0	143,870
River Cess	53.4	46.6	100.0	32,232	70.3	29.7	100.0	4,471	50.7	49.3	100.0	27,761
River Gee	58.6	41.4	100.0	51,850	66.1	33.9	100.0	25,957	51.0	49.0	100.0	25,893
Sinoe	49.3	50.7	100.0	63,041	75.4	24.6	100.0	11,197	43.7	56.3	100.0	51,844

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

In this chapter, the analysis has shown that young persons in urban households had more access to the computer than their counterparts in rural households. The situation was the same at the county level. Of all the counties, young persons in households in Gbarpolu and River Gee Counties had the lowest access to computers.

Less than half of households in rural areas of Liberia had ownership of mobile phones. Urban households in Gbarpolu County had the lowest (just above 50.0%) ownership of mobile phones while Bong County's rural households had the lowest ownership (less than 40.0%) of mobile phones among the 15 counties in the county.

Chapter 8: Disability

8.1 Introduction

A disability is any condition of the body or mind (impairment) that makes it more difficult for the person with the condition to do certain activities (activity limitation) and interact with the world around them (participation restrictions). Knowledge about the magnitude and the types of disability in the community can inform the kind of policies and assistance policymakers could offer in support of persons with disabilities (PWDs). Analysis of the disability status of children, adolescents and youth by sex and county, therefore, provides an important basis for the design of programmes of intervention to support such people.

Five years ago, while Liberia was among a number of pioneer nations that developed a National Action Plan (NAP) to ensure that PWDs were fully integrated and participated in various social, economic and political activities, the country is largely yet to turn these good intentions into tangible actions to benefit persons with disabilities. An evaluation of the first Liberia NAP on Disability Inclusion, 2018-2022, indicates that the country still has a long way to go in ensuring that people with disabilities are guaranteed of, and can fully enjoy their human rights. This analysis will provide the needed data for the development of the next disability inclusion plan (NAP).

The 2022 Population and Housing Census collected information on all persons five years and above with disability. The types of disability for which information was collected were sight, hearing, walking, remembering or concentrating, self-care, communicating and albinism. This chapter provides an analysis of the data on disability.

8.2 Types of disability

Table 8.1 presents the distribution of total population of young people with disability by age group and sex.

Table 8.1: Percentage distribution of population of young people in Liberia by age-sex and reported disability

Age-Sex	Total Census population	% with disability	% without disability	Type of disability								
				Sight	Hearing	Walking	Remembering	Self-care	Communication	Albinism	Total %	Total
Total												
5-9	511,624	16.4	83.6	5.4	7.4	10.0	17.3	33.5	17.3	9.1	100.0	83,820
5-14	1,247,241	11.8	88.2	7.0	9.3	10.2	16.5	28.1	15.7	13.2	100.0	147,064
5-17	1,626,969	10.8	89.2	8.0	10.1	10.7	16.3	25.5	14.9	14.5	100.0	176,217
10-19	1,374,099	8.3	91.7	11.2	12.7	11.7	15.4	17.1	12.4	19.5	100.0	114,317
15-24	1,238,021	9.0	91.0	14.3	14.0	14.1	15.5	12.1	10.7	19.3	100.0	111,830
15-35	2,189,302	10.3	89.7	16.0	13.9	15.9	15.3	11.4	10.1	17.4	100.0	26,519
Male												
5-9	254,580	16.4	83.6	5.3	7.4	9.9	17.4	33.6	17.5	9.0	100.0	41,773
5-14	622,430	11.8	88.2	6.9	9.2	10.1	16.5	28.4	15.8	13.1	100.0	73,743
5-17	811,607	10.8	89.2	7.7	10.0	10.5	16.2	26.0	15.1	14.5	100.0	87,820
10-19	683,488	8.2	91.8	10.5	12.7	11.4	15.2	17.8	12.7	19.8	100.0	56,354

Age-Sex	Total Census population	% with disability	% without disability	Type of disability								
				Sight	Hearing	Walking	Remembering	Self-care	Communication	Albinism	Total %	Total
15-24	609,538	8.7	91.3	13.0	14.4	13.7	15.3	12.6	11.1	20.0	100.0	52,970
15-35	1,078,625	9.9	90.1	14.7	14.2	15.1	15.2	12.1	10.5	18.3	100.0	106,576
Female												
5-9	257,044	16.4	83.6	5.4	7.4	10.2	17.3	33.3	17.2	9.2	100.0	42,047
5-14	624,811	11.7	88.3	7.1	9.4	10.4	16.6	27.7	15.6	13.2	100.0	73,321
5-17	815,362	10.8	89.2	8.3	10.1	10.8	16.4	25.1	14.8	14.4	100.0	88,397
10-19	690,611	8.4	91.6	11.9	12.7	12.0	15.6	16.4	12.2	19.3	100.0	57,963
15-24	628,483	9.4	90.6	15.5	13.7	14.6	15.6	11.6	10.4	18.7	100.0	58,860
15-35	1,110,677	10.8	89.2	17.2	13.6	16.6	15.5	10.9	9.7	16.5	100.0	119,943

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

Children: About 16.4 per cent of all children aged 5-9 years had disability. The most reported disability was self-care (33.5 per cent), followed by remembering and communication (17.3 per cent each). Disability within children aged 5-14 years and 5-17 years follow a similar pattern. Male and female children aged 5–9 years each reported disability of 16.4 per cent. A relatively higher proportion of disability in self-care and communication was reported in males than females at all the age groups. For example, while disability in self-care in male children aged 5-9 years was 33.6 per cent, females recorded 33.3 per cent.

Adolescents: Albinism (19.5 per cent) was the most reported disability in adolescents. About 8.3 per cent of all adolescents had disability. The pattern of disability in adolescents was similar to that reported in children with self-care (17.1 per cent) being the most reported disability in adolescents followed by remembering (15.4 per cent) and communication (12.4 per cent). Albinism in adolescent males and females was about a fifth and 19.3 per cent respectively.

Youth: About 9.0 per cent of youth aged 15-24 years had disability while one in 10 youth aged 15-35 years had disability. The most reported disability in the youth was albinism; 19.3 per cent for the youth aged 15-24 years and 17.4 per cent for the youth aged 15-35 years. The second most reported disability among the youth was remembering (about 15.0 per cent). In terms of male-female distribution, more albinism was reported in male youth than their female counterparts. For example, male youth aged 15-24 years with albinism was 20.0 per cent compared to 18.7 per cent in female youth aged 15-24 years. The next most reported disability among the youth was remembering which was 15.3 per cent for male youth and 15.6 per cent for female youth.

8.3 Spatial variation in disability at the county level

Tables 8.2 to 8.7 examine the proportion of each sex that was reported to have disability in each county in Liberia. The tables present the variations in each of the three groups of young persons in Liberia by sex and county of residence.

Table 8.2: Percentage distribution of population 5-9 years with disability by sex and county of residence

County	Total population			Population with disability			Percent with disability		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Bomi	7,374	6,501	13,875	743	706	1,449	10.1	10.9	10.4
Bong	24,025	23,400	47,425	1,715	1,729	3,444	7.1	7.4	7.3
Gbarpolu	4,760	4,456	9,216	439	430	869	9.2	9.6	9.4
Grand Bassa	14,749	14,257	29,006	1,183	1,065	2,248	8.0	7.5	7.8
Grand Cape Mount	8,697	7,738	16,435	621	482	1,103	7.1	6.2	6.7
Grand Gedeh	8,363	8,771	17,134	560	632	1,192	6.7	7.2	7.0
Grand Kru	5,363	5,234	10,597	648	617	1,265	12.1	11.8	11.9
Lofa	19,769	19,517	39,286	1,513	1,471	2,984	7.7	7.5	7.6
Margibi	14,210	14,689	28,899	933	937	1,870	6.6	6.4	6.5
Maryland	9,083	9,234	18,317	601	584	1,185	6.6	6.3	6.5
Montserrado	85,307	91,699	177,006	5,973	6,249	12,222	7.0	6.8	6.9
Nimba	35,060	34,681	69,741	3,194	3,065	6,259	9.1	8.8	9.0
River Cess	5,166	4,624	9,790	398	356	754	7.7	7.7	7.7
River Gee	5,725	5,624	11,349	275	228	503	4.8	4.1	4.4
Sinoe	6,929	6,619	13,548	553	524	1,077	8.0	7.9	7.9

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

Children: The results in Table 8.2 show that Grand Kru County had the highest proportion (11.9 per cent) of children aged 5-9 years with disability, followed by Bomi County (10.4 per cent) while River Gee County recorded the lowest proportion (4.4 per cent) of children aged 5-9 years with disability. It is observed that with the exception of Bomi, Bong, Gbarpolu and Grand Gedeh counties, which reported higher proportions of disability among female children aged 5-9 years, all other counties reported relatively higher proportions of male children of the same age group with disability than their female counterparts. Grand Kru County had the highest proportion of children with disability among either males (10.1 per cent) or females (10.9 per cent). In contrast, the lowest proportion of disability among male (4.8 per cent) or female (4.1 per cent) children was reported in River Gee County.

In Table 8.3, for both sexes, Grand Kru County reported 9.2 per cent of children aged 5-14 years with disability as the highest while River Gee (3.9 per cent) reported the lowest proportion with disability among children of the same age group. Eight out of the 15 counties reported higher proportion of male children 5-14 years with disability than their female counterparts while six counties made up of Bomi (7.8 per cent), Bong (5.6 per cent), Gbarpolu (7.1 per cent), Grand Gedeh (5.2 per cent), Margibi (4.8 per cent) and Maryland (6.1 per cent) reported higher proportions of their female children 5-14 years with disability than their male counterparts. The proportion with disability in Sinoe County for male and female children was, however, the same at 6.0 per cent. Overall, Grand Kru County had the highest proportion of male (9.4 per cent) and female (9.0 per cent) children with disability while River Gee County reported the lowest proportion of both male (4.0 per cent) and female (3.8 per cent) children of this age with disability.

Table 8.3: Percentage distribution of population 5-14 years with disability by sex and county of residence

County	Total population			Population with disability			Percent with disability		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Bomi	16,703	14,390	31,093	1,191	1,121	2,312	7.1	7.8	7.4
Bong	56,057	52,294	108,351	3,059	2,944	6,003	5.5	5.6	5.5
Gbarpolu	10,991	10,260	21,251	724	724	1,448	6.6	7.1	6.8
Grand Bassa	35,672	32,937	68,609	1,994	1,747	3,741	5.6	5.3	5.5
Grand Cape Mount	20,187	17,555	37,742	1,126	880	2,006	5.6	5.0	5.3
Grand Gedeh	22,091	22,750	44,841	1,077	1,182	2,259	4.9	5.2	5.0
Grand Kru	13,904	13,085	26,989	1,304	1,175	2,479	9.4	9.0	9.2
Lofa	46,799	44,490	91,289	2,694	2,487	5,181	5.8	5.6	5.7
Margibi	36,325	37,191	73,516	1,714	1,796	3,510	4.7	4.8	4.8
Maryland	22,393	22,438	44,831	1,322	1,360	2,682	5.9	6.1	6.0
Montserrado	211,948	235,436	447,384	10,602	11,450	22,052	5.0	4.9	4.9
Nimba	84,085	80,256	164,341	5,588	5,104	10,692	6.6	6.4	6.5
River Cess	12,100	10,296	22,396	611	490	1,101	5.0	4.8	4.9
River Gee	15,243	14,426	29,669	617	542	1,159	4.0	3.8	3.9
Sinoe	17,932	17,007	34,939	1,077	1,013	2,090	6.0	6.0	6.0

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

In Table 8.4, Grand Kru County (8.4 per cent) reported the highest while River Gee County (3.9 per cent) had the lowest proportion of children aged 5-17 years with disability. Seven counties reported higher proportions of their female children with disability than their male counterparts. These are Bomi, Bong, Gbarpolu, Grand Gedeh, Margibi, Maryland and Sinoe. Just as in the age group 5-14 years, for age 5-17 years, Grand Kru had the highest proportion of both male (8.5 per cent) and female (8.2 per cent) children with disability while River Gee had the lowest proportion of male (4.1 per cent) and female (3.8 per cent) children with disability.

Table 8.4: Percentage distribution of population 5-17 years with disability by sex and county of residence

County	Total population			Population with disability			Percent with disability		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Bomi	21,222	18,608	39,830	1,386	1,327	2,713	6.5	7.1	6.8
Bong	71,608	67,132	138,740	3,629	3,577	7,206	5.1	5.3	5.2
Gbarpolu	14,112	13,065	27,177	848	816	1,664	6.0	6.2	6.1
Grand Bassa	45,686	42,566	88,252	2,252	2,062	4,314	4.9	4.8	4.9
Grand Cape Mount	26,129	22,835	48,964	1,380	1,117	2,497	5.3	4.9	5.1

County	Total population			Population with disability			Percent with disability		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Grand Gedeh	30,142	30,370	60,512	1,356	1,450	2,806	4.5	4.8	4.6
Grand Kru	18,356	17,025	35,381	1,567	1,404	2,971	8.5	8.2	8.4
Lofa	61,283	58,264	119,547	3,162	2,980	6,142	5.2	5.1	5.1
Margibi	47,727	48,803	96,530	2,068	2,182	4,250	4.3	4.5	4.4
Maryland	29,336	29,532	58,868	1,728	1,845	3,573	5.9	6.2	6.1
Montserrado	280,293	311,411	591,704	12,772	14,044	26,816	4.6	4.5	4.5
Nimba	106,487	101,350	207,837	6,412	5,895	12,307	6.0	5.8	5.9
River Cess	15,245	12,956	28,201	689	573	1,262	4.5	4.4	4.5
River Gee	20,131	18,857	38,988	818	717	1,535	4.1	3.8	3.9
Sinoe	23,850	22,588	46,438	1,315	1,278	2,593	5.5	5.7	5.6

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

Adolescents: Table 8.5 presents the proportion of each sex of adolescents that was reported to have disability in each county in Liberia by county of residence. It shows that Grand Kru County recorded the highest proportion of 6.6 per cent, followed by Maryland with 6.0 per cent while River Cess County recorded the lowest disability (2.8 per cent) among adolescents. By sex, six counties (Grand Cape Mount, Grand Gedeh, Grand Kru, Lofa, Nimba and River Gee) reported higher proportions of male adolescents with disability than females while the rest of the counties reported higher proportions of female adolescents with disability than their male counterparts.
The highest proportion of both male (6.8 per cent) and female (6.5 per cent) adolescents with disability was recorded in Grand Kru County while the lowest of 2.8 per cent each for male and female adolescents was reported in River Cess County.

Table 8.5: Percentage distribution of adolescents 10-19 years with disability by sex and county of residence

County	Total population			Population with disability			Percent with disability		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Bomi	16,758	15,343	32,101	794	845	1,639	4.7	5.5	5.1
Bong	57,712	54,703	112,415	2,304	2,346	4,650	4.0	4.3	4.1
Gbarpolu	11,355	10,688	22,043	481	483	964	4.2	4.5	4.4
Grand Bassa	37,319	35,036	72,355	1,308	1,250	2,558	3.5	3.6	3.5
Grand Cape Mount	21,723	19,358	41,081	983	847	1,830	4.5	4.4	4.5
Grand Gedeh	27,741	27,228	54,969	1,041	1,021	2,062	3.8	3.7	3.8
Grand Kru	15,791	14,629	30,420	1,078	944	2,022	6.8	6.5	6.6
Lofa	51,364	49,091	100,455	1,991	1,876	3,867	3.9	3.8	3.8
Margibi	40,716	41,953	82,669	1,363	1,564	2,927	3.3	3.7	3.5
Maryland	24,897	25,185	50,082	1,429	1,591	3,020	5.7	6.3	6.0

County	Total population			Population with disability			Percent with disability		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Montserrado	242,017	269,306	511,323	8,484	9,689	18,173	3.5	3.6	3.6
Nimba	85,577	81,571	167,148	3,745	3,417	7,162	4.4	4.2	4.3
River Cess	11,994	10,296	22,290	341	292	633	2.8	2.8	2.8
River Gee	17,687	16,426	34,113	694	613	1,307	3.9	3.7	3.8
Sinoe	20,837	19,798	40,635	914	909	1,823	4.4	4.6	4.5

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

Youth: Tables 8.6 and 8.7 examine the distribution of youth 15-24 years and 15-35 years with disability by sex and county of residence

Table 8.6: Percentage distribution of youth 15-24 years with disability by sex and county of residence

County	Total population			Population with disability			Percent with disability		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Bomi	13,658	14,843	28,501	718	948	1,666	5.3	6.4	5.8
Bong	50,186	51,901	102,087	2,083	2,509	4,592	4.2	4.8	4.5
Gbarpolu	10,121	9,946	20,067	396	417	813	3.9	4.2	4.1
Grand Bassa	31,700	32,110	63,810	1,062	1,205	2,267	3.4	3.8	3.6
Grand Cape Mount	21,464	20,714	42,178	1,188	1,147	2,335	5.5	5.5	5.5
Grand Gedeh	29,678	26,219	55,897	1,204	974	2,178	4.1	3.7	3.9
Grand Kru	13,946	13,139	27,085	899	869	1,768	6.4	6.6	6.5
Lofa	44,974	46,007	90,981	1,729	1,887	3,616	3.8	4.1	4.0
Margibi	35,119	37,177	72,296	1,263	1,517	2,780	3.6	4.1	3.8
Maryland	21,351	21,652	43,003	1,356	1,645	3,001	6.4	7.6	7.0
Montserrado	225,131	244,627	469,758	8,452	10,010	18,462	3.8	4.1	3.9
Nimba	66,749	67,814	134,563	2,724	2,944	5,668	4.1	4.3	4.2
River Cess	9,537	9,024	18,561	333	374	707	3.5	4.1	3.8
River Gee	16,418	14,921	31,339	764	721	1,485	4.7	4.8	4.7
Sinoe	19,506	18,389	37,895	863	905	1,768	4.4	4.9	4.7

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

In Table 8.6, seven per cent of the youth aged 15-24 years in Maryland County had disability while the lowest proportion of disability in the same age group was reported in Grand Bassa County (3.6 per cent). For the youth groups in all the counties except Grand Gedeh, there was higher proportion of female youth with disability than their male counterparts. Maryland recorded the highest proportion of both male (6.4 per cent) and female (7.6 per cent) youth aged 15-24 years with disability while Grand Bassa reported the lowest proportion of male (3.4 per cent). In contrast, Grand Gedeh reported the lowest disability for female (3.8 per cent) youth aged 15-24 years. In Table 8.7, for both sexes combined, the highest disability of 8.4 per cent was recorded among the youth aged 15-35 years in Maryland. In contrast, Grand Bassa County recorded the least proportion of 4.2 per cent with disability among youth in this age group. The proportion of female youth aged 15-35 years with disability is higher than their male counterparts in all the counties except in Grand Gedeh County where the reverse is the case.

Table 8.7: Percentage distribution of youth 15-35 years with disability by sex and county of residence

County	Total population			Population with disability			Percent with disability		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
Bomi	24,598	26,318	50,916	1,539	1,984	3,523	6.3	7.5	6.9
Bong	88,601	94,930	183,531	4,324	5,501	9,825	4.9	5.8	5.4
Gbarpolu	19,442	17,985	37,427	944	971	1,915	4.9	5.4	5.1
Grand Bassa	55,511	56,818	112,329	2,157	2,575	4,732	3.9	4.5	4.2
Grand Cape Mount	40,708	38,330	79,038	2,341	2,298	4,639	5.8	6.0	5.9
Grand Gedeh	52,526	44,951	97,477	2,537	1,978	4,515	4.8	4.4	4.6
Grand Kru	23,847	22,222	46,069	1,871	1,919	3,790	7.8	8.6	8.2
Lofa	75,939	80,732	156,671	3,357	4,028	7,385	4.4	5.0	4.7
Margibi	59,219	63,464	122,683	2,532	3,015	5,547	4.3	4.8	4.5
Maryland	35,845	36,054	71,899	2,631	3,410	6,041	7.3	9.5	8.4
Montserrado	409,623	440,785	850,408	17,780	21,119	38,899	4.3	4.8	4.6
Nimba	114,633	117,230	231,863	5,586	6,342	11,928	4.9	5.4	5.1
River Cess	16,868	15,819	32,687	753	808	1,561	4.5	5.1	4.8
River Gee	27,960	24,568	52,528	1,614	1,541	3,155	5.8	6.3	6.0
Sinoe	33,305	30,471	63,776	1,685	1,736	3,421	5.1	5.7	5.4

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

8.4 Disability and marital status

The data show that reported disability was higher among females than males especially in the youth age groups 15-25 years and 15-35 years. It is also worthy to note that both males and females go through different life situations and therefore, are differently susceptible to disabilities of different kinds. One of such life situations that could make young people susceptible to one form of disability or another is marriage. In Liberia, marriage is, to a greater extent, universal as almost everyone is expected to marry at a point in time. For women, as they go through childbearing, they also go through different physical, mental and psychological circumstances which are quite different from men. The disability status could also determine whether or not they will marry. It is, therefore, important

to examine the extent to which a young person's marital status may influence his/her disability status in Liberia and vice versa.

The 2022 census asked questions on marriage to persons 12 years and older and so the analysis does not cover young people below age 12 years. The results of the analysis are presented in Table 8.8.

Table 8.8: Percentage distribution of population of young people in Liberia by disability, age and marital status

Disability	Never married	Married monogamous	Married polygamous	Separated	Divorced	Widowed	Consensual union
12-14							
With disability	3.7	7.2	7.9	8.8	8.9	32.3	4.7
Without disability	96.3	92.8	92.1	91.2	91.1	67.7	95.3
Total	387,581	3,856	353	498	191	285	1,950
12-17							
With disability	3.7	6.4	7.4	9.6	10.4	34.7	4.7
Without disability	96.3	93.6	92.6	90.4	89.6	65.3	95.3
Total	747,056	13,138	1,007	1,130	356	686	5,515
12-19							
With disability	3.7	5.8	8.2	9.7	14.2	36.5	4.8
Without disability	96.3	94.2	91.8	90.3	85.8	63.5	95.2
Total	975,338	31,668	2,120	1,900	471	1,110	10,933
15-24							
With disability	4.1	5.7	8.0	8.4	14.8	36.0	5.2
Without disability	95.9	94.3	92.0	91.6	85.2	64.0	94.8
Total	1,050,903	122,393	7,336	5,089	951	2,332	28,121
15-35							
With disability	4.6	6.2	7.3	8.4	11.6	30.4	5.8
Without disability	95.4	93.8	92.7	91.6	88.4	69.6	94.2
Total	1,557,651	467,682	27,291	17,747	3,812	7,346	67,653

Source: LISGIS, Liberia 2022 Population and Housing Census

Children: Table 8.8 shows that the never married reported the lowest proportion with disability (3.7 per cent). Disability was highest among the widowed with about a third reported to have some form of disability followed by the divorced and then separated. The high disability among these three marital groups (separated, divorced and widowed) could be that the marital separation, dissolution or widowhood may have triggered disability especially emotional disability depending on the circumstances that occasioned the event. Additionally, a sudden loss of a marital partner could trigger emotional and other forms of disability particularly among young women. This may explain the relatively high proportion of separated, widowed and especially divorced children who were reported to have disabilities.

Adolescents: Never married adolescents (12-19 years) reported the lowest proportion (3.7 per cent) with disability while over a third

(36.5 per cent) of widowed adolescents were reported to have disability. About 14.2 per cent of divorced women and 10.0 per cent of women separated were reported to have disability. The same reasons adduced as the underlying factors could be relevant in this case.

Youth: A similar pattern is seen among the youth with respect to disability just like that observed among the children and adolescent age groups. The never married recorded the lowest proportion with disability while the widowed reported the highest proportion with disability.

In sum, Chapter 8 has shown that male and female children aged 5–9 years reported the highest percentage with disability of 16.4 per cent (for either male or female). Disability was higher in communication, remembering, self-care and albinism. Disability in sight was also quite high among the youth.

By county, with the exception of Grand Bassa, Grand Cape Mount and Grand Kru, which reported higher proportions of disability among female children, all other counties reported relatively higher proportions of male children with disability than their female counterparts. For the youth groups and in all the counties except Grand Gedeh, there was higher proportion of female youth with disability than their male counterparts. Maryland recorded the highest proportion of both male youth with disability.

Disability was highest among the widowed with about a third reported to have some form of disability, followed by the divorced and then separated. This pattern is the same among the children, adolescents and the youth.

Chapter 9: Summary, policy implications and recommendations

9.1 Introduction

The analysis of the 2022 census data on children, adolescents and youth has brought to the fore, issues about young persons which need to be addressed to ensure their proper growth and development for the benefit of Liberia. The key issues have been isolated, their implications highlighted and policy recommendations suggested for consideration by policymakers.

9.2 Population size, age-sex distribution and household structure

The population of Liberia is made up of a large proportion of children, adolescents and youth. These young persons from ages 0 to 35 years make up 74.5 per cent of the total population of Liberia. Children 0-17 years accounted for 41.5 per cent of the total population, adolescents 10-19 years were 35.6 per cent while the youth 15-24 years and 15-35 years constituted 23.6 per cent and 41.7 per cent, respectively. Females constituted a little over 50.0 per cent of the population but in terms of urban-rural variation, they accounted for 52.0 per cent of the population of young persons in urban areas. In the rural areas, however, the proportion of males (51.0 per cent) was higher than females (49.0 per cent). At the county level, with the exception of Margibi, Maryland, Montserrado and River Gee, the proportion of young persons living in rural areas was higher than those living in urban areas.

The large population of young people may constitute a challenge or an economic opportunity for Liberia if well trained. However, before that stage is reached they would constitute a burden on the state, regarding their education and health. At the same time, the state must consider their economic well-being by expanding job opportunities and/or foster an enabling environment for the private sector to absorb the increasing number of these young people that will join the labour force on an annual basis.

To address these challenges, the government should continue to embark on educational infrastructure expansion at all levels to ensure that all persons of school-going age have access to primary school education. Development partners such as UNFPA should continue to support the Government to intensify the campaign about family planning to reduce fertility with long-term implications for the size of the population of children. In addition, the National Population Policy, the NYP and all other policies on children, adolescents and youth should be revised, funded and effectively implemented for the benefit of young persons and the entire population.

9.3 Housing characteristics

The analysis under housing revealed that over a third of children, 27.6 per cent of adolescents and about 24.0 per cent of the youth lived in dwelling units owned by household members. Most of these dwelling units are likely to be compound houses. The analysis showed that many of the houses had mud floors, rely mostly on unprotected water sources or pipe from outside the houses, depend mainly on Chinese rechargeable light for their lighting, use firewood as the main source of fuel for cooking and open defecation is the main source of disposal of human waste.

The implication of these unsatisfactory housing conditions is that living standards are low and the health of members of many households is also negatively affected. This is especially against the finding that the bush continues to be a common place of convenience for a substantial proportion of people in the country. It is important, therefore, for intensive public health education among the population for drastic attitudinal change. At the same time, there should be rigid enforcement of City ordinances and bylaws on the obligation of landlords and landladies particularly in the urban areas to include toilet facilities in their building plans.

The government should strengthen and adequately fund the National Housing Authority to invest in the construction of affordable rental housing facilities in fast-expanding cities and towns to provide decent accommodation for workers. This will go a long way to reduce the challenge many people are faced with

regarding the payment of huge rent, electricity, safe drinking water, cooking fuel and waste disposals. It is also important for the government to strengthen its partnership with private waste collection and disposal agencies to ensure that there are properly designated sites for dumping and collecting waste. It should also partner construction companies and other relevant housing related institutions to ensure housing construction follow the zoning laws and the use quality of materials and facilities.

9.4 Literacy and educational attainment

Examination of literacy among young persons in Liberia revealed that female children were more literate than male children while male adolescents and youth were more literate than their female counterparts. It was also established that irrespective of age, literacy was higher for both males and females residing in urban than rural areas. There is, therefore, a huge gap in educational attainment between urban and rural areas. A third of children never attended school while about 10.0 per cent of adolescents and over 12.0 per cent of youth dropped out of school. At the county level, over a third of children in each county had no education. Grand Bassa County is the worst affected with over half of children and over two-fifths each of adolescents and youth without education.

It is recommended that vigorous educational campaigns should be embarked upon to educate parents and young persons on the importance of education to improve enrolment at the various levels of education. The government should also expand educational infrastructure in rural areas to ensure close proximity to schools by children and post well trained teachers to these schools to enhance teaching and learning. The educational infrastructure should not be limited to the basic schools alone but also for secondary school to ensure increase in attendance by adolescents and youth. The government should also provide incentives such as free meals while in school and school uniforms to rural children, especially in the worst affected counties like Grand Bassa County to boost school enrolment.

9.5 Marital status, fertility and reproductive health

A higher proportion of females were in marriage than males and there were higher proportions of young persons in marriage in rural than urban areas. About 2.0 per cent of either male or female children had ever married. At the county level, within each county more females were in marriage compared to their male counterparts. Adolescents 15-19 years contributed 10.0 per cent, while the youth aged 25-29 years contributed over a fifth of the total fertility of Liberia in 2022.

On the basis of these findings, emphasis should be placed on education as a tool to reducing young people's exposure to early sex and pregnancy. To this end, the Government should ensure that all young persons have access to education at least up to the secondary level. Investment in education on family planning as a national developmental priority should also be pursued. The National Health Policy, as part of the Universal Health Coverage (UHC) makes provision for adolescent reproductive health rights and services. The policy should be vigorously implemented to improve family planning and reduce the risk of child and adolescent pregnancy while improving adolescent reproductive health and rights. Educational policies should also be reviewed with a view to removing all barriers that inhibit the education of school pupils on their sexual and reproductive health and rights.

9.6 Economic and employment characteristics

The results of the analysis on employment showed that contribution to family work and own-account work were the two most common employment statuses among children, adolescents and youth. At least 8.2 per cent of male and 6.9 per cent of female children aged 5-9 years were found to be employees while at least 47.0 per cent of young persons were own-account workers. The data suggest the existence of child work in Liberia and it is seen in all the counties. The data suggesting high percentages of children 5-9 years and 5-14 years as salary workers in Liberia may be arising probably due to data errors. Further investigation is recommended.

The prevalence of child work in the country requires a rigid enforcement of the child work law while intensifying public education to bring out the dangers in child labour. Once again, the full implementation of the laws where parents who do not send their children to school are prosecuted would be an important way out in dealing with the menace of child labour in the country.

The large proportion of adolescents and youth brings into focus the need for jobs or creation of enabling environment for job opportunities. Investing in their education and supporting the out-of-school with apprenticeship training, as well as youth-on-the job training could go a long way to address the

employment needs of young people. Again, since the public sector is limited in offering employment to a reservoir of young people, entrepreneurial programmes should be integrated into tertiary-level education to equip more graduates from the tertiary institutions to undertake their own private-sector initiatives. The state should, however, put in place appropriate frameworks and policies to support such initiatives.

9.7 Information, Communication and Technology

Household ownership of computers was examined among households to assess how accessible children, adolescents and youth were to computers. It was found that household ownership of computers was much higher in urban than rural areas. High rates of illiteracy, poor rural infrastructure especially electricity supply and affordability challenges could account for this variation in computer accessibility between the rural and urban areas. Of all the counties, young persons in households in Gbarpolu and River Gee Counties had the lowest access to computers that may be due to their remoteness.

The 2022 LPHC collected information on mobile phone ownership among all household members aged 13 years and above in Liberia. The results indicated that ownership of mobile phones in Liberia was far higher in urban than rural areas across all age groups. Urban households in Gbarpolu County had the lowest (just above 50.0 per cent) ownership of mobile phones while Bong County's rural households had the lowest ownership (less than 40.0 per cent) of mobile phones among the 15 counties.

The government is encouraged to expand electricity infrastructure to all areas on Liberia and especially the rural areas to make it possible for households who could afford computer to procure them for use by their children. Computer laboratories and internet cafes could also be set up especially in schools and towns without electricity and supplied with generating plants at the expense of the local government authority for the benefit of young persons in the communities. The use of such facilities should be guided by rules and regulations to ensure civility and avoidance of computer fraud.

In terms of use of mobile phones, the need to expand and improve mobile phone coverage to the rural areas is compelling. This should go along with the required infrastructural services such as affordable electricity, internet connectivity, economic investment for income generation, and educational facilities to promote and increase the ownership of mobile phones. The government needs to work with the Liberia Telecommunication Authority (LTA), the LEC and mobile phone service providers to decentralize their services to the rural areas.

9.8 Disability

There were higher proportions of females with disability than males in all age groups. Children aged 5–9 years reported the highest percentage (16.4 per cent) with disability. A higher proportion of adolescent males had disability than their female counterparts. Disability was higher in communication, remembering, self-care and albinism among children, adolescents and the youth group 15-24 years. Disability in sight was also quite high among the youth. The analysis also revealed that disability was highest among the widowed with about a third reported to have some form of disability, followed by the divorced and then separated.

At the county level, with the exception of Grand Bassa, Grand Cape Mount and Grand Kru Counties which reported higher proportion of disability among female children, all other counties reported relatively higher proportion of male children with disability than their female counterparts. For the youth groups and across all the counties except Grand Gedeh there was higher proportion of female youth with disability than their male counterparts. Maryland recorded the highest proportion of both male (6.4 per cent) and female (7.6 per cent) youth with disability.

In the light of these findings, it is recommended that public education on causes of disability should be intensified. Responsible government institutions should also ensure strict enforcement of laws and policies on disability in the country so as to integrate persons with disabilities effectively in the society. The successor plan to the National Action Plan on Disability Inclusion, 2018-2022, the NAP 2023-2027 should be effectively implemented. Furthermore, counselling should be intensified among persons with disabilities as an integral part of broader measures to address the challenges faced by persons with disabilities.

9.9 Conclusion

Besides forming a sizable proportion of the population, children, adolescents and youth are exposed to physical, social and reproductive health challenges and risks on account of differences in their

physiological make up. For this reason, attempts to address these challenges require careful and well-crafted interventions and programmes tailored to their peculiar situations and circumstances. Finally, it is envisaged that the recommendations contained in this report would be implemented while paying particular attention to the varying needs of children, adolescents and youth by policymakers to ensure they become valuable human resources for Liberia's development.

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Appendices

Table 1: Percentage distribution of young persons by age group and main construction material used for the outer walls of household structure

Age Group	Stone, Concrete	Cement Blocks	Clay Bricks	Zinc or Iron	Wood or Board	Mud & Bricks	Mud & Stick	Reed, Bamboo/ Grass or mat	Other	Total
0-9	11.7	33.9	6.1	7.1	0.5	19.1	21.2	0.3	0.1	6,727
0-14	11.8	34.5	6.2	6.4	0.5	18.7	21.5	0.3	0.1	11,006
0-17	10.8	30.8	6.1	6.4	0.6	19.9	24.8	0.4	0.1	19,708
10-19	9.5	26.2	6.2	6.7	0.8	21.0	29.0	0.5	0.2	29,819
15-24	9.8	27.9	5.7	7.5	0.8	20.1	27.5	0.5	0.2	120,960
15-35	10.2	33.0	5.3	6.7	0.7	18.8	24.6	0.5	0.2	461,565

Table 2: Percentage distribution of young persons by age group and main construction material of roof of household structure

Age group	Concrete	Tiles	Asbestos	Zinc	Tarpaulin	Bamboo, Leaves or Thatch	Other	Total
0-9	6.7	0.9	0.3	87.5	0.3	4.2	0.1	6,727
0-14	7.1	1.0	0.4	87.0	0.3	4.1	0.1	11,006
0-17	6.6	1.1	0.4	86.7	0.4	4.8	0.1	19,708
10-19	5.7	1.1	0.3	86.5	0.5	5.8	0.1	29,819
15-24	5.9	1.1	0.3	85.9	0.6	6.1	0.1	120,960
15-35	5.8	1.2	0.3	86.3	0.5	5.8	0.1	461,565

Table 3: Percentage distribution of young persons by age group and main construction material of floor of household structure

Age group	Concrete/ Cement	Tiles	Wood	Mud	Other	Total
0-9	55.9	10.7	1.9	31.0	0.5	6,727
0-14	55.4	11.2	2.1	30.8	0.4	11,006
0-17	53.9	9.2	2.2	34.4	0.4	19,708
10-19	52.1	6.7	2.2	38.5	0.5	29,819
15-24	54.3	6.5	2.1	36.6	0.6	120,960
15-35	54.8	9.3	2.0	33.3	0.6	461,565

Table 4: Percentage distribution of young persons and main source of lighting

Age group	Electricity (own)	Electricity (LEC)	Electricity (West Africa)	Electricity (Community)	Kerosene	Candle	Palm oil lamp (chako lantern)	Wood	Solar panel	Chinese/ battery light	Other	Total
0-9	6.2	26.3	0.5	2.4	0.2	0.9	0.9	2.5	5.6	53.6	1.0	6,727
0-14	6.6	26.5	0.5	2.5	0.2	1.1	1.0	2.8	5.8	52.3	0.9	11,006
0-17	5.9	23.5	0.4	2.1	0.3	1.3	1.1	3.4	5.4	55.9	0.8	19,708
10-19	4.5	20.7	0.4	1.6	0.3	1.7	1.2	3.6	5.0	60.3	0.7	29,819
15-24	4.3	23.6	0.4	1.6	0.3	1.7	1.1	3.2	4.7	58.4	0.7	120,960
15-35	4.4	27.9	0.4	2.0	0.3	1.5	1.1	3.0	4.8	54.0	0.5	461,565

Table 5: Percentage distribution of young persons and main source of drinking water

Age group	Pipe or Pump indoors	Pipe or Pump outdoors	Public Taps	Closed Well/ Protected	Open Well	River/ lake/ spring/ creek	Water Vendors	Bottled water	Rainwater	Sachet water	Other	Total
0-9	9.0	47.7	3.1	10.9	13.2	10.3	0.7	0.5	4.2	0.2	0.3	6,727
0-14	9.6	47.3	3.2	11.0	13.1	10.5	0.6	0.4	4.0	0.1	0.2	11,006
0-17	9.0	47.6	3.3	10.9	13.0	11.4	0.5	0.3	3.6	0.1	0.2	19,708
10-19	7.6	48.0	3.2	10.6	13.1	12.8	0.5	0.2	3.7	0.2	0.2	29,819
15-24	7.4	47.1	3.4	11.0	13.2	11.9	0.7	0.4	4.6	0.2	0.2	120,960
15-35	7.6	46.4	3.4	11.5	12.9	11.1	0.8	0.5	5.5	0.2	0.2	461,565

Table 6: Percentage distribution of young persons and main source of cooking fuel

Age group	Electricity	Cooking Gas	Kerosene	Charcoal	Wood	Other	Total
0-9	1.4	0.6	0.3	57.1	40.4	0.3	6,727
0-14	1.5	0.7	0.3	56.9	40.3	0.3	11,006
0-17	1.3	0.6	0.3	53.7	43.5	0.6	19,708
10-19	1.1	0.5	0.3	50.7	46.5	0.8	29,819
15-24	1.5	0.7	0.3	54.1	42.7	0.8	120,960
15-35	1.6	0.9	0.3	57.1	39.4	0.7	461,565

Table 7: Literacy status of young persons by sex and locality of residence

Age group	Locality of residence	Literate		Not literate		Total
		Male	Female	Male	Female	
05-09	Urban	28.8	31.4	19.3	20.5	534,121
	Rural	19.2	18.0	33.1	29.8	453,320
5-14	Urban	30.5	33.7	17.4	18.5	682,909
	Rural	21.3	19.6	31.2	27.9	561,931
5.17	Urban	32.5	35.7	15.4	16.3	904,439
	Rural	23.5	21.5	28.9	26.1	719,593
10-19	Urban	37.5	39.9	10.6	12.0	1,075,400
	Rural	28.7	25.7	22.8	22.9	792,163
15-24	Urban	38.6	40.2	9.8	11.4	716,612
	Rural	29.3	26.3	21.1	23.3	519,425
15-35	Urban	38.1	38.0	10.3	13.5	1,261,743
	Rural	28.2	22.8	22.1	26.8	923,390

Table 8: Fertility trends in Liberia

Data source	Total Fertility Rate (TFR)
Census 1984	7.1
DHS 1986	6.7
DHS 2007	5.2
Census 2008	5.8
DHS 2013	4.7
DHS 2019/2020	4.2
Census 2022	3.9

Table 9: Relative contribution of adolescents and youth to total fertility

Data source	15-19	20-24	25-29	30-34
Census 2022	9.9	16.6	21.2	17.8
DHS 2019	15.3	23.1	20.7	16.1
DHS 2013	15.8	23.5	21.2	18.7
Census 2008	8.9	18.9	20.2	18.5
DHS 2007	13.6	23.4	21.7	18.0
DHS 1986	14.1	21.6	21.2	17.2
Census 1984	17.4	21.0	20.9	16.4

Table 10: Per cent of adolescents and youth by exact age at first birth, 2022

	Exact age at first birth				
Age group	**15**	**18**	**20**	**22**	**25+**
15-19	1.8	2.1			
20-24	3.3	8.3	4.5	1.6	
25-29	4.3	11.5	7.2	2.6	4.0
30-34	4.7	13.3	9.7	2.8	7.6