



GHANA STATISTICAL SERVICE MONTHLY PRESS RELEASE



www.statsghana.gov.gh

No. 01 October 2022

About 80,000 girls in Ghana aged 12 to 17 years already married or living with a man

Ghana Statistical Service profiles girls as the world marks 10th anniversary of the International Day of the Girl

Nationally, **79,733 girls in Ghana aged 12 to 17¹ have been in union i.e. married² or living together with a man** according to the 2021 Population and Housing Census (PHC). Out of this number, **25,999 are girls of Junior High School going age (12 to 14 years)**. **The regions with the highest percentage of girls ever in union are North East (13.0%), Savannah (10.9%) and Northern (10.6%) all with rates more than twice the national average (4.0%).**

Despite free and compulsory universal basic education, **almost a quarter of a million girls (244,731) aged 6 to 14 years have never attended school at all**. Three out of every 10 of these girls are in the **Northern Region which has the highest number of girls who have never attended school (73,516) followed by the Savannah (27,930) and North East (22,857) regions**. These three regions also have the highest percent of girls currently not attending school (never attended or attended in the past) with **Savannah leading all regions with 40.2% followed by the North East Region (29.3%) and the Northern Region (28.5%)**. The national figure is 7.8% which represents 285,271 girls aged 6 to 14 years that are not attending school. **Three out of every four girls (75.8%) aged 6 to 14 years not attending school are living in rural areas**.

Further, **99,150 girls under 15 years are engaged in economic activity** with half of them (49.7%) out of school. **Half (49.9%) of girls engaged in economic activity are in the Northern (22,647), Oti (17,694), and North East (9,153) regions** which have the highest share of girls in economic activity.

On the International Day of the Girl, the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) released these statistics based on the 2021 Population and Housing Census dataset. The aim is to

¹ The census questionnaire collected information on marriage for persons 12 years and older.

² Marriage of children is prohibited under Section 14 of the 1998 Children's Act which states that "The minimum age of marriage of whatever kind shall be eighteen years."

highlight challenges preventing young girls from reaching their full potential such as early marriage, and lack of access to educational and other opportunities.

The 2021 PHC General Reports which present disaggregated data by gender on thematic areas from the census questionnaire such as Background Characteristics; Literacy and Education; Economic Activity; Difficulty in Performing Activities; Information and Communication Technology; and Fertility and Mortality are available to download from www.census2021.statsghana.gov.gh

About the Ghana Statistical Service

The Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) provides comprehensive, reliable, quality, relevant, accurate and timely statistical information to guide national development as stipulated in Section 3 of the Statistical Service Act, 2019 (Act 1003). The organisation's vision is to be a trusted provider of statistical services for good governance and its mission being the efficient production and management of quality official statistics based on international standards, using competent staff for evidence-based decision-making, in support of national development.

The Statistical Service produces monthly and quarterly data on important economic indicators such as inflation, Consumer Price Index (CPI), Producer Price Index (PPI), and Gross Domestic Product (GDP). GSS also regularly generates periodic population, housing, demographic and economic data at the locality, district, and national levels from routine surveys and censuses. The statistics generated by GSS can be utilised by a wide cross-section of users including the public sector, businesses, academia, civil society organisations and development partners. For more information on the statistics generated by GSS visit www.statsghana.gov.gh.

----- End of press release -----

Annex: Supplementary Charts

Figure 1: Girls aged 12 to 17 years ever in union

	Region	Population of girls 12 to 17 years ever in union	Percent of girls 12 to 17 years ever in union
1	Northern	14,031	10.6%
2	Ashanti	9,767	2.7%
3	Greater Accra	6,063	1.9%
4	Upper East	5,848	6.7%
5	North East	5,536	13.0%
6	Upper West	5,009	8.5%
7	Central	4,932	2.5%
8	Western	4,534	3.4%
9	Eastern	4,520	2.2%
10	Savannah	4,188	10.9%
11	Volta	3,667	3.2%
12	Bono East	3,356	4.4%
13	Oti	2,424	4.9%
14	Bono	2,323	3.0%
15	Western North	2,267	3.9%
16	Ahafo	1,268	3.3%

In union refers to marriage or living together with a man

Figure 2: Out-of-school girls aged 6 to 14 years

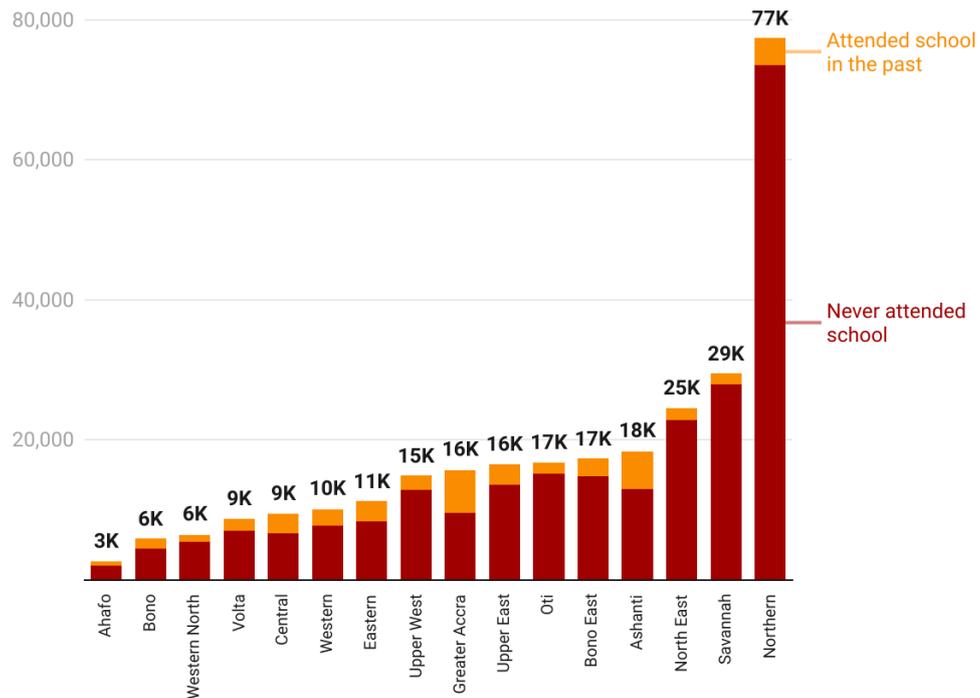


Figure 3: Schooling status of girls engaged in economic activity

