Attendance rates in primary

According to the 2022 Rwanda Population and Housing Census, primary school attendance is high, with a national Net Attendance Rate (NAR) of 89.3%, slightly higher in urban areas (92.2%) than rural (89.7%), and marginally favoring girls (90.3%) over boys (88.4%). The Gross Attendance Rate (GAR) stands at 141.7%, indicating a significant number of children attending primary school outside the official age range of 6–11 years, likely due to late entry or repetition.

According to the RPHC2022, the percentage of females who have never attended school or are not yet in school (17.8%) is higher than that of males (14.9%).

Highest level of education attended

According to the RPHC2022, the overall non-attendance rate (never been to school or not yet attended school) for the population aged 3 years and above in Rwanda is 16.4%, which is significantly lower than the 2012 census figure of 25.5%. The percentage of females who have never attended school or are not yet in school (17.8%) is higher than that of males (14.9%). The majority of individuals who have never attended school or are not yet in school are located in rural areas (18.3%).

Primary school pupils by school status

According to administrative data compiled by the Ministry of education, the following table provides a trend of Primary school pupils by school status (Pupils in Public schools, Pupils in Government-subsidized schools, Pupils in Private schools) since 2018:

Description/Year	2018	2019	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
Total pupils	2,503,705	2,512,465	2,729,116	2,742,551	2,838,343
Male	1,259,344	1,268,996	1,370,022	1,384,332	1,445,412

Female	1,244,361	1,243,469	1,359,094	1,358,219	1,392,931
%Of Male	50.3%	50.5%	50.2%	50.5%	50.9%
%Of Female	49.7%	49.5%	49.8%	49.5%	49.1%
Pupils in Public schools	790,906	812,077	1,063,617	1,097,453	1,143,847
Male	397,253	409,920	534,244	553,802	582,517
Female	393,653	402,157	529,373	543,651	561,330
Pupils in Government-subsidized schools	1,609,471	1,592,142	1,532,460	1,507,756	1,537,759
Male	810,129	804,421	768,918	761619	783814
Female	799,342	787,721	763,542	746137	753945
Pupils in Private schools	103,328	108,246	133,039	137,342	156,737
Male	51,962	54,655	66,860	68,911	79,081
Female	51,366	53,591	66,179	68,431	77,656

Secondary education

According to the RPHC2022, for lower secondary education, Rwanda has an overall completion rate of 19.5%, with females (21.6%) having higher rates than males (17.3%). In urban areas, the completion rate is 25.1%, exceeding the national average, while in rural areas, it is lower at 17.2%. At the upper secondary level, the national completion rate is 16.6%, with females (17.5%) having a slightly higher rate

than males (15.7%). Urban areas exhibit significantly higher completion rates (27.8%), whereas rural areas have much lower rates (11.0%).

Upper secondary education

According to the RPHC2022, the upper secondary education attainment is 8.0%, for the total population aged 15 years and above. The percentage of males who have attained upper secondary education is 8.4%, whereas, for females, it's slightly lower at 7.7%.

Language literacy

According to the RPHC2022, out of the total population aged 15 years, which is 8,289,582, 21.2% (1,760,444 individuals) are illiterate, while 78.8% (6,529,138 individuals) are literate. The illiteracy rate for males is 19.0% with an 81.0% literacy rate, while for females, the illiteracy rate is higher at 23.3% with a 76.7% literacy rate. This indicates a gender disparity in literacy rates, with a higher percentage of males being literate compared to females. In urban areas, the illiteracy rate is 10.2%, indicating a higher literacy rate of 89.8%, while in rural areas, the illiteracy rate is higher at 25.8% with a 74.2% literacy rate. About 54.0% is literate in Kinyarwanda only. About 14.1% of this population is literate in both Kinyarwanda and English, about 1.9% in Kinyarwanda and French while about 4.1% is literate in Kinyarwanda, English and French. The remaining 4.7% do so in other languages or in a combination of these three languages with others (including Kinyarwanda and Swahili).

Comparison of literacy rates Females vs Males

According to the RPHC2022, Males have a lower illiteracy rate of 19.0% and a higher literacy rate of 81.0%, while females have a higher illiteracy rate of 23.3% and a lower literacy rate of 76.7%.

Comparison of literacy rates Urban vs Rural areas

In urban areas, the illiteracy rate is lower at 10.2%, indicating a higher literacy rate of 89.8%. In contrast, in rural areas, the illiteracy rate is higher at 25.8%, with a literacy rate of 74.2%.

Data sources

RPHC5 Thematic Report: Educational Characteristics of the population

Rwanda Statistical Yearbook - 2024 (P. 28-31)

Integrated Household Living Conditions Survey 6 (EICV 6)

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